### BRIEF SKETCH OF UNION COUNTY

Legislative Act of 1842 Under Which It Was Organized-Something About Its Climate and Sketch of Its Development—Its Pride Is Part People Played in the War Between the States.

BY COLIN G. SHAW. Monroe, Feb. 17 .- In 1842 Union County was formed and a seat of gov-ernment established at Labatt's Cross Roads, where the first session of the pleas and quarter sessions court was held, in the month of April, 1843, These sessions were continued until at the permanent county seat, Monroe, not being ready until January, when the first session of court

The first officers elected by the court were William Wilson, sheriff; Hugh Stewart, clerk of pleas and quarter sessions court; David A. Covclerk of the Superior Court; Joseph H. Wilson, county attorney; Thomas P. Dillon, register; James Blount, coroner. The first board of county commissioners was established in April, 1868, and the members elected were as follows: L. Burton Fincher, Elijah M. Walker, Calvin Trull, Elisha W. Griffin and Ezekiel Gurley. This board was empowered under the law, or rather the new Constitution of the State, to assume and perform certain duties that had previously occupied the attention of the county courts, such as settling claims against the county, appropriations for necessary

Prior to its establishment, according to records, the county was a portion of Bladen, Robeson, Anson, Richmond and Mecklenburg Counties. This is not verified. However, it is a known fact that Union was created from Mecklenburg and Anson Counties. A committee of Whigs and Democrats was appointed by the courts to es-tablish a name for the new county The result was a deadlock and no decision could be reached. Half of the committee wanting to call lina none surpass Monroe for advantit Clay and the other half Jackson. As there was no one to cast a de-

At a subsequent meeting, however, a mpromise was a sparsely settled region occupied zenship. It was considered, at that time, one of the poorest sections of the State and but little consideration was given by outsiders as to its de-When it became known that it was one of the most fertile and would produce a finer staple in cotton than any other land in the South, it began to be populated, and from that day, cotton has always sold in Monroe for a higher price than any town or city in the State. It is claimed by buyers in adjoining counties that it is because of the properties in the land that produces longer fibre in the lint and a whiter grade of cotton. This is perhaps true, but the spirit of the cotton brokers here at this day, at least, is to pay the top prices and about as much cotton is purchased from neighboring counties, and even from South Carolina farmers, as is raised in Union.

Topography of Union.
The topography of Union County might be described as a rolling surand very little depression, well tim- off and established of parts of the

bered with all kinds of wood, in many cases hundreds of acres, to this date, containing original forest pines that could be converted into fine that could be converted into fine lumber. The elevation above the sea and general contour combined furnish ample means for natural drains free from swamps and drainage basins that are so prominent in some of the counties of the State. The court house now at Monroe stands just 576 feet above the sea level, and variety, with here and there a trace of sandy loam and light gravel, all

at no point in the county will these figures vary more than 150 feet above or below. The soil is of a red clay strong clay subsoil. Fruitful fields have always followed a careful cultivation of the lands and nowhere in the State does the yield surpass Union in any ordinary crop unless it should be wheat in the western part of the State. Monroe.

' Although Monroe, the county seat of Union County, has been the central figure in its development and growth, the county's real importance more readily became known with the es tablishment of the first railroad here in 1874, when the Seaboard Air Line established the old Carolina Central from Wilmington to Charlotte. Land values immediately increased, new enterprises sprang into existence and the population of town and county greatly increased. In 1896 when the Seaboard completed connections between the northern cities and Atlanta, Ga., Monroe became a junction and a station of great importance on the main and, from a previous arrangement, a line of that railroad. With these add-meeting was held that lasted for sev-ed facilities for transportation the aded facilities for transportation the advance in conditions was very marked and among the cities of North Caro-

age in development and enterprise. At this day there is a harvest field ciding vote, the situation was peculiar. in her boundary for factories and enterprises untold. Advantages that was effected and each would necessitate pages of printed party agreed upon the name Union matter to enumerate lie unawakened thus the county was named. It in her borders and not many moons will escape until it will be heralded by a sturdy and a determined citi- to the world of the unparalleled advancement of Union County. Within the past-two or three years

there has been such a transformation in Monroe as well as the county, that former citizens are at hazards to rec ognize familiar places when they return here. The residences, streets, churches business houses and business blocks are in keeping with cities of far greater population and indus-tries. The schools and all public enterprises are well up to the requirements of the population and the in telligence and refinement of the whole county will equal those that have had far greater opportunities of develop ment than has Monroe or Union County.

Formation of Union. The Legislature in 1842 passed the following resolution: "Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby face, without any abrupt elevations Union, be and the same is hereby laid are subject to in the State."

counties of Meckienburg and Anson. (Here a description of the boundary is given.) A supplemental act was ed by the same General Assembly in January, 1843, as follows:

"Section 1.-Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the That the county of Union shall be and is Hereby invested with all the rights, privileges and immunities of the other counties in this State, except

that William Wilson, James A. Dunn, Silas Stewart, Moses Cuthbertson and James Marsh are hereby appointed commissioners to select and deter mine upon a site for a parmanent seat of justice for said county, who shall locate the same as near the center as a suitable location can be obmiles of the center of said county, equidistant from said extremities.

shall have power to purchase, or receive by donation for the county of Union, a tract of land consisting of Not less than 50 acres, nor more than 100, to be conveyed to the chairman of the county court of said county. and his successors in office upon which a town shall be laid off and called Monroe, where the court house and jail shall be erected, and where after the completion of said court be held and the clerks and register shall keep their offices. And the lic uses, shall whenever required by a pose, after due notice, the residue to larger cities. sale at public auction, upon a credit of one and two years, and shall take from the purchasers bonds and security for the purchase money, made payable to the chairman of the county court and his successors, and upon payment of the purchase money, the chairman or his successors shall execute titles therefor; which moneys shall be appropriated to the building of a court house and jail.

Section 4.—Be it further enacted that the justices of the peace and the officers of the militia, who within the limits of the county of Union, shall-continue to hold and exercis the official powers and auin and for said county, that have hitherto held and exercised the counties of Mecklenburg and

"Section 5 .- Be it further enacted, that the constables residing within the limits of the county of Union, shall continue to hold office and perform all duties appertaining thereto, until the first county court to be held enacted by the authority of the same, for said county, under the same rules, That a new county by the name of regulations and penalties as constables

Cross Roads until a seat of justice should be established for the said new county. At the first session they enjoined to elect all the officers of the new county that have already been named and enumerated, provided majority of said justices were

ent, and these officers to hold until their successors should be elected and qualified to serve. Political Formation. Before the formation of townships the affairs of Union County

managed by military districts, there being 13 of them, each containing a company of soldiers commanded by a as is hereafter provided.
"Section 2.—Be it further enacted. Captain. Owing to this fact the districts were known as Captains' Beats. and took the name of the Captain in their respective localities. At central points in each district voting places were established and returns were made from them in much the same manner as is now made from the voting precincts in the townships. 1869, after the new Constitution of the tained, provided it shall be within two State was framed under the Reconstruction act, the townships of Goose which center shall be taken to that Creek, New Salem, Sandy Ridge, point in a diagonal line, running from Lanes Creek. Jackson and Buford the northeast to the southeast ex- were laid off and their boundaries remity of said county, which is defined in addition to Monroe Township. In 1879 the township of Vance was formed from parts of Goose Creek Section 3.—Be it enacted that a majority of the said commissioners and Sandy Ridge and a few years shall have power to purchase or re- later Marshville Township was formed from portions of Lanes Creek and New Salem. These constitute the

townships of Union County to this date. Eight Incorporated Towns In addition to Monroe there are eight incorporated towns as follows Marshville, Wingate, Waxhaw, Unionville, Mineral Springs, Indian Trail, Benton Heights and Icemorlee, all situated on the railroad with the exhouse the courts of said county shall ception of Unionville. All these towns are thriving, progressive and co-operate with sister towns and the rural said commissioners shall lay off the districts for all that will advance the lots of said town, and after designa-citizenship of the county. Marshville ting such as shall be retained for pub-has a Chamber of Commerce and held Community Fair this Fall that the county court of said county, ex- would cope with those held in the

Union County has an area of 636 square miles, or 403,200 acres, and lies in the southern part of North Carolina and borders on the State of South Carolina. The soil is adapted to both general and specialized farming. The climate is healthful and favorable to agriculture and the rainfall is abundant and evenly distributed through-The best of water is out the year. obtained from deep wells, and in Monroe from artesian wells more than Sixteen soil types were mapped in

Inion County by B. B. Derrick, of the S. Department of Agriculture, and S. O. Perkins, of the State Department of Agriculture, in 1915. These have been grouped into series according to their origin, color and agricultural characteristics. They state that these soils have been formed by the weathering of underlying rocks, principally "Carolins Slates," granites, gneisses, schists, gabbros and various diorites, all of which are full of productiveness for all classes of crops.

Of 'he 400,000 acres of land there are less than 6,000 farms of open and cultivated land. Before the Civil War there were land holdings from 1,000 Section 6 authorizes the first Su- to 4,500 acres, but the latest statistics

perfor Court of law and equity to be show that the average land owner now held at labatt's Cross Roads on the has 74.1 acres of the farms utilized, second Monday in February, 1844. 43 per cent are operated by the own-

April, July and October, at Labatts of wires and practically every farm home has a direct communication to every point in the county. The tele-phone system inaugurated has connec-tion with the central at Monroe and thence to Charlotte and from there to any city in the United States. Climate.

The average date of the first killing frost is about November 1 each year and the last about March 15, thereby giving seven and a half months that the land can be utilized for almost any crop, and during the cold months, the temperature is of such a mild nature that vegetables and many crops of a like nature are grown. During the Winter the major portion of the grain is grown in the county and harvested in the early Summer and another crop of corn or peas is produced from the same land.

The county is noted for its improved stock and cattle and hogs. There are no common breeds of any variety in the county. Jersey and Gurnsey cows take the lead and mules are principally raised for the farms. Jersey red hogs and Berkshires are the favorites in the swine breeding.

Union County is free from debt and has special tax districts to maintain her splendid clay roads, possessing all the latest improved machinery, fully paid for, to do this work. The roads are of a clay variety, none having been macadamized, but they are kept in good condition the year round with a convict force, so that there are no impassable or bad roads at any time during the year.

Factories and industries flourish in Monroe and there are a number in operation here. There is a rich field, however, for many more and advantages are offered that are parallel elsewhere. Land is cheap in price and locations are ideal. The citizens furnish ample assistance and encouragement to all industries locat-

With the building of the new railroad from here to McBee, S. C., is anticipated at an early date, Monroe cannot be surpassed in transportation facilities and with all other conveniences combined ,the future bright for the development of the best county in the State and prospects are abundant for the bigger and better Monroe

Union County in Civil War. During the war between the States Union County furnished two thousand, five hundred men, the number being greatly in excess of the voting strength of the newly established county. Ten companies of infantry and one battalion of artillery were enrolled as volunteers for active service. The names and dates of enlistment are as follows: Company B, 15th Infantry, May, 1861; Company B, 26th Infantry, June, 1861; Com-pany F, 37th Infantry, October, 1861; pany F. 37th Infantry, October, 1861; Company D. 37th Infantry, September, 1861; Company B. 48th Infantry, February, 1862; Company F. 48th Infantry, March, 1862; Company I. 53d Infantry, March, 1862; Company C. 10th Battalion of Artillery, March, 1862. On April 8, 1916, Miss Virginia Davis, of this city, read a paper before the district meeting of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in this city, in which she stated in

part in regard to Union County's war record as follows: cord as follows:

"The natives of this country are a ships and sufferings of the Army in Southern breast."

Section 7 authorizes the justices of peace residing within the limits of peace residing within the limits of the new county to hold a court of pleas and quarter sessions on the first Menday in April. 1844, and continue the same on the first Monday in Connections. The county is a net work of wires and practically every farm. just this side of High Hill on the Concord road, is the center of the county and that spot was cor for the county seat, but Mr. Helms (not caring to have mischievous town boys so near his farm and as land brought from two and a half to four dollars per acre) wanted five dollars an acre for this land, and Mr. Chaney offered fifty acres, including

the present site of the court house, gratis, and it was accepted.
"The commissioners felt that they needed more land west of the cour house, but Mr. Chaney did not feel inclined to donate the twenty-five acres wanted, because they would inthree large apple trees which stood on the lot on which James T. Shute now lives. So the extra twentyfive acres and the trees were pur chased from Mr. Chancy for fifty dol-

"This county has the honor of havng given President Andrew Jackson to the Nation. ..

"Union County was in its youth, or scarcely of age, when the duty of preparing her sons for their work of death fell upon her in 1861. What an arduous task this must have been to change from the care of its fields to in camp. Yet our men entered heartily into the service and in less than a year 10 volunteer regimental companies and one artillery company, Tenth Batallion) commanded by Capt. C. M. T. McAulay, had taken up arms.

"Col. William McRae organized the first company to go from this county, Company B, Fifteenth North Carolina Regiment. They left in May 1861, and were followed by Company B. Twenty-sixth Regiment with Capt. J. J. C. Steele as commander. These were the only uniformed companies from this county. Company F. Thirty-fifth | wives and children. Rigement, with Dr. T. W. Redwine as captain, left in September and Oc-tober. Major John B. Ashcraft took Company D. Thirty-seventh Regiment This company had some expert sharpshooters, chief among whom was Bryant Williams, as strong and brave as a hearty frontiersman, who, while on duty at Spottsylvania Courthouse shot down 17 men. "There were seven companies to

colunteer between October, 1861, and March, 1862, six going at one and four of them in the Forty-eighth Regiment.
Other officers from this

were Col. Walkup, T. E. Ashcraft Doctor Alexander, Eber Jerome Frank Wyatt, Captain Richardson and C. A. Walden, who was later disabled and William Laney took his place Frank Wyatt was promoted to Colonel of his regiment and L. A. W. Turner succeeded him as captain. Colone Walkup had the honor of General conferred upon him two weeks before the surrender, and Capt, Frank Rich irdson was to succeed him as Colonel Major Ashcraft was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of his regiment about the same time, but neither ever took command. There were two mixed companies,

made up of Union and Mecklenburg men, with Captains Warren and Sid B. Alexander in charge. In the Spring of 1864 the Junior Reserves went to aid those already in the field.
"Our soldiers shared the glorious

fine mixture, having inherited the high standard of the Anson Regulators and the independent spirit of the Mecklenburg Signers. It was deinterest their courageous work in the

battle of Fredericksburg. "We have not forgotten the bare footed men, all tattered and torn, with clear eyes and strong, determined hearts, set upon the right, desperately disputing the bloody fields of Sharpsburg, and the sorrowful faces over the calamity at Chancellorsville,

son.

Gettysburg. "Our hearts thrill with pride when we remember the grand and u mayed march to the disaster of Gettysburg, where one of our companies in the Twenty-sixth Regiment, lost more men than any other in the engagement. They were literally torn to pieces. The only soldier to go over that stone wall was a Union County man, bearing his flag. Our soldiers were in that grand and undismayed march of Pickett and his division and Holts Division on the left, into the very mouths of the enemy's cannon a charge more glorious than that of the 'Light Brigade.' We dwell with delight upon the fortitude and patriotism that lived in those soldiers of Inion, defying the hand of adversity. None fought with more strength, none died with more glory.

"On July 4, 1910, we embalmed their memory in stone. With each returning Springtime, the graves of our soldiers blooms afresh as we lay our hands upon it.

"In the twilight of years to come th women of North Carolina will tell to their children and their children's children the old, but ever new, sto that has been swelling our hearts with pride and tenderest love for half a century.

"The year of 1861 found us happ and prosperous. The year of 1865 miserable and poverty-stricken. "The Home Guards had done splen did work in caring for the soldiers'

"Union County was fortunate in escaping Sherman's raid. Only a fragment of Kirkpatrick's cavalry dashed upon Monroe, from the Fox Place in South Carolina (now Pageland) and looted around an hour or two, for Wheeler's men were close upon their

"Back from trenches to the furrow, our soldiers came, their ranks painfully thinned, to take up the Reconstruction—as brave in peace as they were strong in war.
"Our county suffered comparatively

few of the indignities of 'carpet-bag'

"In 1867 there sprang up a political party called "The Union League," composed of the discontented element, the general kickers, and they were especially antagonistic to strong secessionists. They were designated by a little red string, worn in the button hole of the left lapel of the coat, and were commonly called 'Red Strings.' This party was very annoying but its days were numbered. Calvin and Brown Laney, Bill Blakeney and others were largely instrumental in sup-

"Let the years roll on and times and customs change; let new ideas, new methods and new pleasures attract our strict attention; let allurement of wealth and the fascinations of commerce absorb our best efforts, but we still will cherish the memory of our heroes, and the spirit of patriotism, truth and duty that inspired our

### HENDERSON GARAGE & MACHINE COMPANY

AUTOMOBILE REPAIRING AND SUPPLIES.

Full Accessories Full Force Mechanics

Ford Service

Quick Service Expert Mechanicians

Phone 256

25 North Church Street

MONROE, N. C.

Special Attention Given Traveling Men. Courteous Drivers, Well Acquainted With Roads in All Adjoining Counties.

B. C. HINSON 301 W. Franklin Street

Phone 227

MONROE, N .C.

# HAMILTON-LILES COMPANY

CLOTHING, SHOES AND GENTS FURNISHINGS.

H. S. & M. and Alco Clothing, Boyden and Steadfast Shoes, Stetson and Kline Hats. Duchess Trousers, 10c a button; \$1.00 a rip.

LEADERS IN QUALITY AND PRICES.

## HAMILTON-LILES COMPANY

Your Patronage Appreciated.

Main Street

MONROE, N. C.

CHOOSE A GOOD BANK

Of MONROE, N. C.

Has Over Half Million Dollars in Combined Resources, and will protect your interests in Deposits or accommo-

dations in Loans.

Four per cent on Time Deposits, Courteous Treatment and every consideration consistent with Safe Banking.

North Main Street

Monroe, N. C.

# Monroe Hardware Co. JOBBERS

### SHELF AND HEAVY HARDWARE

We have the largest stock of diversified Hardware in the history of our business and are prepared to make Quick Deliveries.

# Monroe Hardware Co.

The Largest Dealers in the State

Main, Franklin, Morgan, Hayne Sts. Monroe, N. C.

H. J. HINSON MANUFACTURER OF

SHOES, HARNESS AND SADDLES

SHOE REPAIRING A SPECIALTY No. 2 South Main Street

MONBOE, N. C.

## See Monroe First

A city of 8,000 population. Concrete sidewalks, sheet asphalt streets. On the main line of the great Southern Power Company and the Seaboard Air Line Railway Com-

Hydro-electric power in unlimited quantity at the lowest

Monroe offers exceptional advantages to Manufacturers, Investors and Farmers.

Monroe is recognized as the best cotton market in the State—35,000 bales produced annually in this county. Best opportunities for manufacturing sites, with a

plentiful supply of intelligent labor, climatic conditions and transportation facilities unsurpassed. There is now available a modern three-story brick building 65x200 feet with cement basement 65x117 feet, thoroughly equipped for electric power and fire protection,

For information, write,

and located on railroad siding.

MONROE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, H. Y. SCOTT, Secretary.

BANK ot UNION

MONROE, N. C.

Strength Safety,

Efficiency,

Service.

W. S. Blakeney . . . . President Warren Stack ..... Cashier

OVER 86,000 SATISFIED

### **KIMBALL** Piano Customers

Find a worn- out KIMBALL, you will get a new one in its place. In the Homes of the World's Greatest Artists. For sale by

# Company

Opposite Court House,

MONROE, N. C.

## E. G. Fletcher

EMPIRE and DIXIE Automobiles.

The cars of Quality and Service. Agency for Union and Anson Counties.

14-16 South Main St.

MONROE, N. C.

# Savings, Loan & Trust Company

Surplus, \$10,000

Fourteen Years' Successful Business. Four Per Cent on Time Deposits, Liberal in Loans and Appreciative of Patronage.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

# S. O. Blair, Vice President

J. T. Holloway Piano

No. 5 East Franklin St. MONROE, N. C.

Latest Model Machines, 300 Seating Capacity, Opera Folding Chairs, Steam Heat-The most Popular Films shown, Centrally Located.

Capital, \$25,000

R. B. Redwine, President

H. B. Clark, Cashler I. H. Blair, Mgr. Insurance Dept.

## Philadelphia Life Insurance Company

THE CAROLINA AGENCY WROTE

TWO MILLION DOLLARS INSURANCE IN 1916. And Have Planned to Write

THREE MILLION DOLLARS INSURANCE IN 1917.

Safest-Most Reliable-Popular and Perfect

Agents wanted in unoccupied territory.

Gordon Insurance and Investment Company

State Agents For North and South Carolina MONROE, N. C. Opera House Building.

GLOUCESTER

N. G. RUSSELL, Proprietor Comfortable Accomomdations, Home-like, Large Rooms and Table Service MONROE, N. C. North Main Street.

TRY THE DeLUXE CAFE

MONROE, N. C. :23 North Main Street

(Next Door to First National Bank) BEST SERVICE GOOD COOKS

**HELMS & ROSS, Proprietors.** 

J. H. LEE, President

D. A. HOUSTON, Cashier