

## FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMENCEMENT

Despite the Snow, Rain and Mud Many People Witness the Exercises.

HON. T. W. BICKETT WELCOMES VISITORS.

Supt. Best Make Splendid Speech—Miss Marion Hollingsworth, Wins Recitation Medal and Mr. Willie Shearon, Wins Declamation Medal—Successful Occasion.

In defiance of the snow, the rain and the mud the County Commencement exercises for Franklin county were held in Louisburg on Wednesday of last week, with fully three thousand people in attendance. The snow storm early in the morning was so dense that it was a great surprise to our people to see so many brave the ravages of the weather conditions, and come out especially among the little folks. The weather however delayed the crowds for two hours and also the band, which made its way through sleet and snow from Rocky Mount, a distance of forty miles or more. At first it was thought that only a small programme would be used and that the exercises would be held in the graded school auditorium but by 11 o'clock it was learned that this plan had to be abandoned and that a much more complete programme could be used.

The band arrived and about 12 o'clock Supt. Best gave instructions that the parade would form and the crowd would repair to the Farmers' Warehouse on Nash street, and the order of march was formed as follows:

Marshalls—Messrs. Maury Cralle, Henry Ruffin, Aubrey Waddell, James Massenburg.

J. T. Bailey's Brass Band of Rocky Mount.

School children of the county.

Louisburg Graded school pupils.

Students from Louisburg Female College.

Visitors.

It is hard to imagine a more loyal interest than was shown on this occasion in any matters of public interest, when it is taken to count that there were fully fifteen hundred in the line of march.

The column was in double order and the front were entering the Warehouse, a distance of five blocks, before the rear had left the Graded school grove and when all had arrived at the Warehouse it was difficult to find room in this large and commodious building.

At the Warehouse Supt. Best opened the exercises by requesting the audience to repeat the Lord's prayer in concert, after which "Carolina" was sung by the assembly and was led by Mr. Stentz, the choir leader of the series of meetings that were then going on at the Methodist church, the accompaniment being furnished by the Band. Supt. Best then introduced Hon. T. W. Bickett, in a very pretty little impromptu speech as our next Governor. Mr. Bickett did not attempt a set speech for the occasion, but in his usual happy and always witty manner he bade the visitors to Louisburg on this occasion a most hearty welcome telling them that "the doors had been unlocked and the keys thrown away for the day. To take what ever they wanted as the policemen had been instructed to stay blind and that he as Attorney-General would defend them in the enjoyment of one day, at least, in our midst." With this the occasion was turned over for the formal exercises, which were preceded by a most interesting and instructive speech by Supt. E. L. Best, which we give below:

"We have today gathered together to celebrate the closing of another successful school year. In reviewing the years work I find failures and mistakes and yet to my mind great things have been accomplished. Among many others the following are some of the efforts that your schools have made.

"Believing in the advantages of a longer term school three of our five months districts have planned for a special tax election to be held this spring, and we are fully confident that the election will be favored and that the tax will be levied in time for these schools next year. Thus for our efforts along this line.

"As a result of the interest that has been taken to increase the school fund, seven schools have already begun work on their school farms. This will mean much to these schools not only from a financial standpoint, but will greatly aid in keeping the interest of the community centered in the schools.

"Neither has the interest of the pupils been neglected, as during the year four original libraries, and one supplementary library has been established in the county.

"Feeling the great need of another high school the Board of Education last November, did what was necessary to establish such a school. We have done all that is in our power and now we are simply waiting for Dr. Joyner to secure the funds required from the State, which I know he will do as soon as possible.

"I know of nothing that will help

the schools to serve as a centre of community life more than the work of Betterment Associations. We have 13 such organizations in this county, seven of which were organized during this school year.

"I am not mentioning these facts for any glory to myself, to any teacher or any individual; but simply, because I feel that the tax payers of the county should be familiar with the efforts that the schools are making. Yes, I believe they should be thoroughly convinced as to whether or not they are getting value received. When we are able to prove to them that the taxes they pay to the school fund, is a good investment we need not fear of the results when we ask them for financial aid or support in any way.

"There are two other things that I wish to bring before you this morning. Little needs to be said as these two packages speak for themselves, the Diplomas for the seventh grade graduates, and the teachers' Certificates for the Reading Circle for 1914-1915.

"We should feel exceedingly proud of our graduating class this year. The Franklin county schools are giving today over 100 diplomas to our boys and girls. This means that they are ready for the high schools, and I trust the ordinary business of life. To the Seventh Grade Graduates I would like to say, that I sincerely trust that these diplomas are evidence that the girls know not only how to analyze a sentence, to see the beauty in Evangelism, to work an example in simple interest or to state the causes of the Civil War, but that you know also how much soda and salt to put in a biscuit in order to avoid indigestion, how to make an apron for a smaller sister, how much exercise and fresh air you should have for a healthy body, also how many pictures and what kind to use in the living room at home to make this room most attractive.

"To the boys may these diplomas be evidence that you are experts in choosing the right seed to plant, in knowing the sort of fertilizer to use, in making out a bill of timber for a three-room barn, in planning a pig pen so that the sun will shine on some part of it during every hour of the day. I hope you can equal our State Supt. Dr. J. Y. Joyner in sincerity and fervor when talking about good roads, telephones and all modern conveniences of the country home. Yes, I hope during these seven years in school you have received a new vision of country life its pleasures and possibilities, to that extent that you have already decided to make the country your home.

"And now lastly, there is nothing connected with the entire school year of which I am more proud than the contents of this little envelope. The time has been when school committees and Supt. thought that all was necessary to employ a person to teach school was simply to know that he or she held a high school or college diploma. Today they realize that a man will make as few mistakes in the court-room, without studying law, as he will make in the school-room without training. Therefore, the first question that a committee and Supt. asks today is, what professional or normal training has the applicant had? As a result of our teachers realizing this fact, they have thought enough of their professional growth to complete the Reading Circle Course this year. Over 60 teachers have passed a satisfactory examination on this work and before the middle of May I expect to be able to say that 50 per cent of all the teachers in the county hold these certificates.

"I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the teachers for their hearty support they have given to me this year.

"We need never fear for the schools of Franklin county so long as we can retain the spirit that we now have among our teachers.

"Let us all strive and do everything in our power, to lay safe plans for our schools next year. Let us work with this one thing in view, to make the coming year's work more successful than ever before."

At the conclusion of his speech Supt. Best announced the names of the following teachers who were entitled to receive a certificate for the successful completion of the Reading Circle Course:

Bessie Woodliff, Lola Long, Olivia Johnson, Mrs. R. J. Conyers, Marvin Keith, Beulah Stallings, F. Bobo Struggs, Mary Rosser, Lena Gill, Pauline Smith, Annie Rowe, Mamie K. Dickens, Eva Duke, J. G. Lee, Virgie Futrell, Emma Gay, Clara Long, Eugene Boone, Irene Sledge, T. H. Sledge, Annie Pearl Parker, Lucy Wiggs, Vannie Phillips, Myrtle Fuller, Margaret Speight, Annie M. Wilder, Myrtle Faygan, Ora Alford, Mrs. W. L. Beasley, Lucy Bobbitt, Nan Hines, Lillie Hearing, Mabel Stephens, Lula May Ray, G. M. Beam, Carry Wright, Mrs. A. A. Dement, Ernestine Hayes, Susie Hayes, Mary

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## OAK LEVEL COMMENCEMENT.

Children Do Credit to Teacher—Supt. E. L. Best Speaks.

It was the editors pleasure to attend the closing exercises of the Oak Level school on last Friday morning. The exercises were held in the beautiful little church, near the school, on account of the size of the school building not being sufficient to accommodate the people, a number of whom were present.

The exercises were begun with an address of welcome by Mr. R. N. Mitchell, who in the meantime paid a fitting tribute to Miss Marvin Keith, the teacher who had so successfully conducted that school for the past three sessions.

This was followed by the vocal rendition of "America" by the school. The program was composed of recitations all of which were fine and did one good to see them so well rendered by such little children.

They were as follows: "Times," Toby Holden; "Be True," Annie Bridges; "Fred Holden; "Be cheerful," Leona Bridges; "It's not an easy task," Ivey Young; "If you are busy," Florie Frazier; "Look on the bright side," Roy Bridges; "You never know," Myrtle Bridges; "When mother was a little girl," Stella Pearce; "A bird's advice," Raymond Bridges; "A voice inside," Gladys Weathers; "A pleasant song," Elma Hall; "A boy's mother," Otis Holden; "True work," Estell Perry; "Things I do not like to hear," Sam Weathers; "Work or pray," Omega Pearce; "In the shadow of his wings," Pattie Pearce; "Days after school," Berry Perry; "Inventors wife," Swonie Weathers.

These were interspersed with several dialogues and songs which were very interesting and were "Seven days in a week" by seven little girls; "A surprise" by four girls and boys; "Pocahontas," a dramatized story well presented by some of the smaller children, "Times of a month" by twelve of the larger boys and girls, "Jack and His Tarts," "Vocation song" and "Good bye." Possibly the most interesting part of the programme was the rendition of "Oak Level," the closing song and one that had been especially composed for the occasion and the County Commencement by Miss Keith, the teacher, and was entirely local. This completing the programme Miss Keith made a beautiful little talk to the audience, after which she called on Supt. Best, who was "Billed" for the speech of the day.

Supt. Best then came forward and made a most interesting talk. After paying a most worthy bestowal tribute to Miss Keith, the teacher of Oak Level school, and her good work, and the community in general, he took for his theme the idea that we must educate the physical man, the mental man and also the spiritual man. To emphasize his remarks around Easter-tide he related a little story about a boy who was asked "what was Good Friday?" and the boy answered that it was a day to plant gardens and go fishing. He wanted his hearers to understand that he did not expect to find no such little boys and girls in Oak Level, but complimented them upon the appropriate preparations for the proper celebration of the Easter festivities that they had made. He then told of how proud he was of Oak Level school for the real work it had done and for the showing it made on the exhibit at the County Commencement. He stated that to his mind the greatest purpose of a country school was to serve as a centre of redirected education and to serve as a community centre.

For instance a place not where they teach arithmetic for the city boy, but for the country boy, a system that would give to him the information he needs to use in his daily vocation. Learn him how to estimate the building of a house to form fertilizers, to build a pig pen, and to handle cotton and tobacco. A system that will teach girls how to be of the most assistance to their mothers and thereby better fit them for that sacred sphere in life—the queen of her own little home. Then again it should be the meeting place of the people of the community for all community purposes. The place for the organizations such as Betterment Associations, Farmers' Union, secret orders and such. A place where everybody feels free to be at home and to take a part in the up-building of a community.

In his closing remarks he made a strong and urgent appeal to the parents of the district to provide a larger and more commodious building for the training of their children before the beginning of the next term. It was a most enjoyable occasion and did much credit to all concerned.

## New School House.

The editor of the Times was pleased to see on last Friday that the people of the Flat Rock school district were becoming much enthused in the work of education and were demonstrating their enthusiasm in the erection of a new and handsome school building. The location has been changed and the school will now be situated on the main highway from Louisburg to Youngville and near the point where the Flat Rock road leaves this highway. The location is ideal and will be quite an improvement over the old one.

Miss Mildred Brown, who has been visiting Miss Eleanor Cooke returned to her home in New York last Friday.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Met in Regular Session Monday—List Takers Appointed.

The Board of county Commissioners met in regular session on Monday with all members present. After reading and approving the minutes of the previous meeting the following business was transacted:

An extension of Louisburg township line taking in a part of Sandy Creek township was allowed.

W. H. Frazier was furnished with certificate of exemption and was relieved of tax for 1914.

The road petition from Pearce school to Raleigh and Halifax road was granted.

J. E. House of Cedar Rock township was relieved of poll tax for 1914 being over age.

Report of E. N. Williams, Superintendent of County Home, was received and ordered filed. He reports 11 white and 16 colored inmates.

Celia Allen was stricken from outside pauper list being dead.

Pattie Long was stricken from outside pauper list, being in Wake county.

The allowance for W. A. Perry was ordered continued.

Report of J. B. Boone, Demonstration agent was received and ordered filed.

Report of Dr. J. E. Malone, Superintendent of Health, was ordered filed.

J. W. Ball was allowed to go to County Home.

The following list takers were appointed:

Dunn—J. M. Stallings, Harris—M. L. Fowler, Youngville—G. M. Perry, Franklinton—J. D. Speed, Hayesville—A. A. Medlin, Sandy Creek—Grover C. Parrish, Gold Mine—S. H. Boone, Cypress Creek—R. B. Harris, Louisburg—J. E. Williams, Clements school District—J. R. Pace, Seven Paths school District—E. E. Wilder.

The following were appointed Road Trustees of Franklin township: W. A. Cooke, S. C. Vann, J. O. Green, B. W. Ballard, J. W. Sandling, C. S. Williams, W. L. McGhee, B. T. Green and H. E. Pierce.

The allowance of Ceneca Dent as outside pauper was increased from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per month.

Wm. H. Ruffin and J. O. Wilson were appointed a committee to take inventory of the Depository.

The report of P. B. Griffin, Treasurer, was received and filed.

A petition for special tax election for the Epsom joint school was granted.

After allowing a number of accounts the Board adjourned to its next regular meeting.

## Susman Bound Over.

In a case here yesterday before Squire J. L. Palmer, of the State vs. H. Susman, of Richmond Va., under a charge of false pretense, where it was claimed by false representations he sold stock to Mr. J. A. Underhill and relieved him of \$700.00, Susman was bound over to court in a bond of \$500. The prosecution introduced Mr. Underhill who stated that he was led to believe that he was to get stock in the Bell Telephone Co., and this was corroborated by four others Mr. Underhill said in substance that he signed a contract different from their agreement being assured the proper stock would be sent. A motion was made to dismiss but was denied. Whereupon the defense produced evidence by seven witnesses to the effect that his dealings with them was exactly in accordance with their understanding and to his good character and the character of the work, which was pronounced good.

The prosecution was represented by Messrs. T. B. Wilder and W. M. Person, and the defense by Messrs. B. T. Holden and W. H. Yarborough. The defense went to Raleigh yesterday to take out Habeas corpus proceedings before Judge F. A. Daniels.

## Commencement at Castalia.

The annual commencement of Castalia high school occurred Monday and Tuesday, April 5th and 6th. On Monday night an excellent program was rendered for the most part by the pupils of the primary and intermediate grades.

Prof. J. H. Highsmith, of Wake Forest College, who was to have delivered the address on Tuesday, could not be present, and his place on the program was filled by Superintendent Creech.

Dinner was served on the grounds after the address. This was followed by a ball game.

Tuesday night a play, "All a Mistake" was rendered. The play was a good one and was well gotten up.

The school has completed another very successful year though the term was shorter than usual. Mr. C. H. Johnson the principal has done some excellent work and has been ably assisted by Mrs. Carrie Maccauly, Miss Clio Strickland and Miss Geneva Hines.

## Mapleville Book Club.

Probably the best attended book club of the year, was held at Mrs. J. B. Yarborough's on March the 18th. Besides having nearly every member present, there were several visitors among the visitors were Mrs. Collie, of Louisburg and Mr. J. H. Uzzell of Mapleville.

The following program was rendered: Geographical sketch on the "Romans of Germany," by Miss Mary

## A MOST TREMENDOUS SNOW STORM

Heavy Damages Done Telephone and Electric Light Companies.

Best Piano solo by Miss Gladys Brown, address on Germany's side in the war by Rev. G. M. Duke.

Mr. Duke was at his best and though his sympathies are with the Allies, he gave several of Germany's best reasons for fighting.

After the program delicious refreshments were served.

At the last regular meeting the Mapleville Book Club was highly entertained by Miss Bessie Strange.

A Geographical study of France was conducted by Prof. G. M. Beam, Master Reubin Strange made music on his harp.

Each member was given a paper with ten questions to be answered with the names of a bird. The guest of honor, Mrs. John Strange, was decided to be the best guesser.

After the contest, the Club was served with delicious refreshments.

## Picnic at Meadows Grove.

Easter was ushered in with rain, wind and snow, but it would take something more daunting than a blanket of white to prevent a crowd of young people from having a good time on Easter Monday.

At 11:30 a large crowd assembled and were taken by auto and wagons out to Meadows Farm where the merriest picnic seen in a long time was enjoyed.

The snow itself furnished every means needed for a jolly time and the snow balls flew thick and fast.

Every sort of out-door sport was engaged in and a healthy appetite was the result.

At 2:30 a sumptuous dinner was spread on the lawn and not one was known to slight or even be indifferent to this part of the program.

A genuine old-time picnic dinner was then enjoyed in the hearty old fashioned way.

## The Methodist Church.

The reception of members postponed from last Sunday will take place next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. All who expect to unite with this church on profession of faith or by certificate are requested to be present at this service. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be administered.

At the night services the pastor will continue the evangelistic preaching of the past two weeks. There will be special music at both services.

The lesson for the Business Men's bible class is the fourteenth Chapter of Romans.

## Little Girl Run Over By Surry.

The many friends of the family of Mr. J. J. Lancaster will regret to learn that on Tuesday, while he and his family were returning from the closing exercises of the Castalia High school and being between the store and the church at Mapleville the surry they were in ran into a small hole and his little six-year-old daughter, Marion, became overbalanced and fell out, the wheel of the surry running over her neck before the horse could be stopped. It was a most miraculous occurrence that the little one escaped any serious injuries.

## Missionary Society.

The business meeting of the Methodist Woman's Missionary Society met on Monday in the Ladies Parlor of the church.

The president Mrs. R. Z. Egerton opened the meeting with prayer and scripture lesson. A hymn was sung and the roll called.

Officers made their reports and Mrs. D. F. McKinnis read a letter of appreciation from the Methodist Orphanage for the box sent by this Society.

The business over the Society had another song and adjourned with prayer.

## Castalia vs. Cedar Rock.

The school nine from Cedar Rock Academy won a game of baseball over the team of Castalia High school Tuesday, April 6th, at Castalia. The score was 10 to 11. The game was fast throughout and was especially marked by the heavy batting of the Cedar Rock team.

Batteries: Cedar Rock, Wester and Incoe. Castalia, Booth, Lancaster and Lancaster.

## Shoe Repair Shop.

Mr. J. Lehman informs us he has purchased a shoe and harness repair machine and will install same in the building now occupied by the Louisburg Repair Shop within the next few days, he having bought out this company. Mr. R. E. L. Lancaster will be the manager of the new business and they expect to do all kinds of shoe and harness repairing. Watch for their advertisement in this paper.

## Louisburg Baptist Church.

Public worship will be conducted Sunday 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. The pastors morning theme will be, "Monuments That Endure," the night theme will be, "Fear Not."

Sunday school at 9:45, Ivey Allen Superintendent, B. Y. P. U. Monday 7:45 p. m., A. O. Dickens president. You are cordially invited to all of these services.

## STORM GENERAL ALONG ATLANTIC COAST.

Two Hundred and Twenty-Five Telephones out of Three Hundred Put Out in Louisburg—Electric Light Plant Shut Down.

What was the largest and most damaging snow storm that has visited Franklin county in the month of April in the recollection of our oldest inhabitants and possibly the heaviest in fifty years in any month with the exception of only a few instances fell here on Friday night and Saturday. The snow began to fall about 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock Friday night and until about 3 o'clock Saturday a continuous fall of the white flakes, thick and fast until the heavy weight of the wet masses together with the heavy wind that was blowing most of the time had almost completely wrecked the telephone, telegraph and electric light companies, in this county, besides doing much damage to buildings. In Louisburg out of about two hundred and seventy-five telephones only about fifty were left in use, wires and poles being broken down in all directions. The damage to the telephone company in Louisburg is estimated at about \$500.00. The electric light plant of the town was put out of business on account of fallen wires and we learn a damage of possibly \$200 was done to same.

The telephone lines to Spring Hope and Wood store were practically destroyed and other lines badly damaged. The telegraph line was also put out of commission.

The large sheet iron awning in front of Mr. L. P. Hicks store was bent down and several cloth awnings were demolished.

Supt. R. C. Beck, of the electric plant deserves especial mention for his untiring efforts in putting the lights back to work. He and his force worked all Saturday and Sunday and succeeded in getting the lights back for Sunday night. Mr. E. H. Hale Manager of the local telephone company also deserves mention for the efforts he put forth to reestablish the service of the telephone. He had a great many phones back to work Monday and now has practically all in use.

It was the heaviest storm we have witnessed and if the ground had been dry and cold there is hardly any doubt but there would have been at least two feet.

News from the entire section along the Atlantic Coast from Cuba to Boston shows that a great deal of damage has been done all along the line.

## PERSONALS.

Mr. W. H. Furgurson visited Raleigh Tuesday.

Mr. E. F. Thomas spent Easter in Raleigh.

Mr. Bruce Shearin visited Raleigh Monday.

Mr. J. S. Strickland visited Spring Hope Monday.

Mr. Gus B. Rice spent Easter at Winston-Salem.

Mr. J. R. Bunn visited Spring Hope the past week.

Mr. C. K. Cooke, Jr., came home from A. & M. College to spend Easter.

Mr. Fred Fetter, of Raleigh, was a visitor to Louisburg the past week.

Mr. Frank Ballard, who has been visiting in Greensboro, has returned home.

Mrs. L. H. Jones, of Durham, is visiting her sister Mrs. B. B. Massenburg.

Messrs. Joseph Hale and John B. Hill, came home from the University to spend Easter.

Mr. Raymond Taylor, came home from the University to spend Easter with his parents.

Misses Lily, Mae Aycock and Beulah Cyress, and Messrs. Will Collie and E. B. Webb, accompanied by Supt. W. R. Mills and Miss Onnie Tucker left yesterday for Chapel Hill, where they will take part in the annual High school debate.

Prof. G. M. Beam, Principal of Mapleville Academy, passed through Louisburg Wednesday in company with Messrs. Clyde Harris, Jr., and Alex Wilson, on their way to Chapel Hill, where the latter will take part in the annual High school debate.

## College Speakers.

Mr. Ivey Allen, secretary of Louisburg College, has announced the following commencement speakers for that institution: Rev. R. H. Willis, of Littleton, will preach the baccalaureate, and W. W. C. A. sermons Sunday, May 23rd, and Rev. M. T. Flyler, of Raleigh, will deliver the address Wednesday morning, May 26th.

## U. D. C.

The regular monthly meeting of the U. D. C. met on Tuesday afternoon in the Historical room of the Louisburg College.

The president Mrs. Rob Davis presided at the meeting.

Only a few members were present but several items of business were attended to very satisfactory.