

FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORY

By REV. E. H. DAVIS

High on the roll of Franklin County's distinguished citizens stands the name of Joseph Jonathan Davis, lawyer, soldier, member of the State Legislature, member of Congress fourth N. C. District, Supreme Court Justice. He was not a native of the county but came here from Granville his native county, in his early manhood after having taken a course in law at the State University. He matriculated with the Class that graduated in 1859 though he himself did not graduate. Other members of that class who did graduate were Prof. W. C. Kerr, State geologist, Hon. Thos. Settle, Hon. John Manning and Madison Hawkins, Esq., of Franklin. Mr. Davis had scarcely gotten on his feet in the practice of his profession in his adopted home, Louisburg, when the civil war broke out. He enlisted promptly in the Confederate Army and was made Captain of Co. K, 47th Regiment. He was with the Army of Northern Virginia in many of the historic battles in which it was engaged in that State and followed its great leader through Maryland and into Pennsylvania in the Spring and Summer of 1863. He was at Gettysburg July 2 and 3 of that year when the tide of battle definitely began to turn adversely. Here are some of his own words regarding his experience there as given in N. C. Regiments by Judge Clark—VS P 153. "My company was next to the extreme left of the Regiment 47 N. C. and when not far from the enemy's works—not more than 100 yards a sergeant of the adjoining regiment called my attention to the fact that the troops to the left had given way. I saw that at some distance to the left the troops had given way. Our supports advanced then in admirable style. Col. Graves, who was to the right had kept the regiment well in hand and was urging the men on and we advanced to the plank road that ran along side the lane and just under a stone wall." And here within 100 yards of the enemy's works at or near Cemetery Ridge Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, his further active participation in the war terminated for he and most of his Company were captured by the Yankees that fateful day and were sent prisoners to Johnson's Island in Lake Erie where they remained until the surrender April 1865. Here are other names of Franklin County soldiers who shared with him that long confinement, S. J. Evans, B. H. Winston, W. R. Young, J. S. Joyner, L. P. Gill, F. Henderson. While there in a thoroughly hostile atmosphere their Southern patriotism glowed no less fervently than when in the ranks. There are letters they wrote to Gov. Vance from that noted prison encouraging him and urging him to increased endeavor in behalf of the cause. Here is an extract from one dated March 30, 1864, telling of the feeling there among the Unionist and their purpose after the war. "The letter bears the names of Joseph J. Davis, Whartim J. Green, Thomas S. Kenan, Henry T. Jordan and many others. "They (Yankees) declare this war must be waged not only till the rebellion is crushed and the people subjugated but it must be prosecuted until the possibility of its resurrection is forever gone (How familiar that sounds to us now 1943). To accomplish this they declare that it is both the right and duty of Congress to confiscate the property of the people both real and personal and to apportion it among the soldiers and the FREED MEN, they propose to take away the arms from the whites and to give them to the freedmen, etc." In such an atmosphere it is small wonder that their patriotism glowed even in the midst of their own personal unfavorable surroundings. This writer remembers well the echoes of a speech that Capt. Davis made in the Court House in Louisburg when its citizens gave him an ovation on his return home after his long confinement—though it is only one sentence that he remembers—"We ate rats gentlemen, we ate rats, and we wished they had been as big as a steer."

A name that stuck to Judge Davis more closely and possibly characterized him better than any other he ever bore including both Captain and Judge—was Honest Joe. How he came by that name and wore it throughout his public life with no question mark of any sort or from any source may be partly explained by what is now related here told to this writer by one who knew, being at one time a pupil under him and afterwards his partner. Judge Davis and a number of others in this and other counties had betn burgles on a large guardianship bond in a day when there were no bonding companies. On the principals being called to account a shortage of something in excess of \$50,000 was discovered—a small sum now considering such matters but a vast one then. This had to be made up then in era of hard times, low prices, the individual bondsmen. Judge Davis was aroused one spring quite early by seeing one of his neighbors walking over his premises. Being asked why such a call they hesitated not Smith said, "Judge, we hate to tell you. We have come to lay off your homestead." "You mean that bond," said he. "Gentlemen there is no homestead to be exempted here. Everything here goes until my part of that is fully met." And so it did and more than that, \$1,000 of his \$2,500 dollar salary as Supreme Court Justice he devoted to same purpose. Honest Joe was a name worthily bestowed and—worthily born to the end of his career. Mr. Davis was elected to the Lower House of our Legislature in 1866. In 1868 he was nominated by the Democratic party for Elector at Large with James W. Osborne of Mecklenburg in the Seymour and Blair campaign for the Presidency. In 1875 he was nominated by the Democrats for Congressman from the 4th District winning the nomination. In a hot fight when the leading candidates were Col. J. P. H. Russ, of Wake, and Josiah Turner, of Orange, he being the dark horse. He was elected and served with distinction for three terms. Appointed by his good friend and former associate in Congress, Governor Seales, to the Supreme Court Bench in 1887, he served in that capacity until his death in 1892. Soon after coming to Louisburg in the early 50s of the last century Judge Davis married Miss Kate Shaw, daughter of Robert John and Helen King Shaw, who was the daughter of Joel King and his wife Martha Long.

Judge Davis' children who came to maturity were Mrs. Kate Davis Crenshaw, Robert H. Davis, Hugh L. Davis, and Mrs. J. M. Allen. Of these Robert H. Davis was the last to survive, who dying in 1941 at the age 84 without surviving issue after serving as Postmaster at Louisburg under the Wilson administration and as Vestryman in the Episcopal Church for a number of years wore the white flower of an upright life to the end of his days. Just a few words more about this fine old gentleman, Judge Davis' oldest son, whose pleasing face and greeting our people were so delighted to see and hear each day for years. This writer was closely even intimately associated with him for years. For the matter of eight years we attended as pupils the old Academy in Louisburg. For most of that time we were in same classes and sometimes studying identically the same book. Text books were by no means as numerous or as easily obtained then as now. He never received high marks on recitation or examination though no one in the class studied harder. He said himself that any money spent on his education beyond the rudiments was money thrown away and that if instead of sending him to College and striving to drive Calculus and Greek into his head a good kit of up-to-date tools had been placed in his hand and he was let loose and told to go, his life would possibly have been better off. But there was no A. & M. College then and the dignity of manual labor for any one, in the upper circle as well as in the lower had not then been discovered. Illustrating quite another characteristic he told me this just a short while before his departure. One day soon after the surrender but before his father's return while the town was in the possession of the Yankee soldiers he a boy under ten years was sitting on a gate post in front of their home having on a straw hat made by his aunt of wheat straw grown on their little farm. A Yankee soldier passing seized his hat and starting off with it. Whereupon Young Davis leaped from his perch, grabbed a rock and threw it with all the force he had against the back of his head. The soldier threw the hat over the fence and turned upon him with this remark, "Now ain't you the H— of a rebel." It seems the same sort of fire burned in the boy at home as in his more distinguished fathers in his far away prison.

(To be continued)

What You Buy With WAR BONDS

Electric equipment is scarce because the raw materials are going into the War Effort. But you can save now and get back \$4 for every \$3 you invest in War Bonds so you can buy that range or whatever you want after the war is won.



Join the army of 30,000,000 who will be in the Payroll Savings Plan for regular War Bond Purchase by New Year's Day. Stop spending and save, and let's "Top that Ten Percent." U. S. Treasury Department

A MESSAGE FROM OWEN D. YOUNG

It does not produce goods in large volume by individual action. We do it by individuals organized into action. So let us organize War Bond purchasers under the Pay Roll Savings Plan.

For the worker it makes the saving of 10% of earnings easy.

For the Government it creates an emergency fund to assemble funds and quies. After 10 years the bill will bring \$4 for every \$3 put on.

So we can daily win the war and daily save for the future after the war.

Owen D. Young.

Owen D. Young, noted industrialist, affirms in the above statement his belief in united support for the War Bond program. "We do not produce goods in large volume by individual action. So let us organize War Bond purchasers under the Pay-Roll Savings Plan. For the worker it makes the saving of 10 percent of earnings easy."

MAKE EARLIER APPLICATIONS

(Continued from Page 1)

OPA authorities in Washington Wednesday night advised people to take good care of their tires as they may have to last them through the duration. The local Board received official instructions Wednesday that there was no grade 3 tires available and would not be until after April 1st, if then.

It now begins to look as if people will have to depend upon something else besides automobiles and trucks for transportation.

Three thousand bushels of Government feed wheat has been distributed to Cabarrus County livestock and poultry growers. More of this wheat will be ordered as soon as it is available.

Society Lady (approaching Henry)—We are having a raffle for a poor widow. Will you buy a ticket?
Henry—Nope. My wife wouldn't let me keep her if I won.

Salesman—You pay a small deposit and then make no more payments for six months.
Lady of the House—Who told you about us?

NOTICE OF SALE OF AUTOMOBILE UNDER MECHANICS LEIN

Aukie Parris Kelley will take notice that under and by virtue of Section 2017 of the Revisal of 1915 of North Carolina and the lein thereby given to Mechanics for repairs on personal property, the undersigned will on Monday, April 19th, 1943, at the Court House square in Louisburg, N. C., at about the hour of 12:00 o'clock M., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash, that Buick Coupe, Motor No. 2814695, Car No. 42976394, placed by him for repairs with the undersigned and that sale will be made to pay for such repairs and storage. This March 18th, 1943. BECK'S GARAGE, 3-19-5t R. C. Beck, Proprietor.

NOTICE

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a government owned Little Giant lime spreader, repainted yellow, please notify the Soil Conservation Service Office in the Mullen Building or Louisburg Supply Company, Louisburg, N. C. 3-19-2t

NOTICE OF SALE OF AUTOMOBILE UNDER MECHANICS LEIN

M. A. Bivin will take notice that under and by virtue of Section 2017 of the Revisal of 1915 of North Carolina and the lein thereby given to Mechanics for repairs on personal property, the undersigned will on Monday, April 19th, 1943 at the Court House square in Louisburg, N. C., at about the hour of 12:00 o'clock M., offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash that Ford Tudor Sedan, Motor No. 2448-715, placed by him for repairs with the undersigned and that said sale will be made to pay for such repairs and storage. This March 18th, 1943. BECK'S GARAGE, 3-19-5t R. C. Beck, Proprietor.

NOTICE OF RE-SALE

Under and by virtue of the authority contained in that certain order of resale made by the Clerk of the Superior Court of Franklin County, North Carolina, dated 16 March, 1943, under the judgment entered in that certain tax foreclosure suit No. 24 E, entitled "County of Franklin v. C. E. Long and wife, Mrs. Charlotte L. Long, et al.", which said judgment is duly docketed in Tax Judgment 3 at page 177, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Franklin County, North Carolina,

TO SELL 'EM, TELL 'EM— With An Ad

"SPRING IS IN THE AIR"

And You Know What That Means.

-- SPRING CLEANING --

Let us help brighten up your home with some new pieces of FURNITURE.

We Will Offer You a Liberal Allowance For Your Old.

COME IN AND VISIT WITH US.

HOME FURNITURE CO.
LOUISBURG, N. C.

Louisburg

THE HOME OF BETTER PICTURES

T H E A T R E

"THE LOUISBURG THEATRE HAS PLAYED OR WILL PLAY EVERY PICTURE OF IMPORTANCE"

LAST TIMES TODAY—FRIDAY

BING CROSBY - BOB HOPE
DOROTHY LAMOUR

"ROAD TO MOROCCO"

SAT., MAR. 20 Double Feature
DON "RED" BARRY

"SUNDOWN KID"

RITZ BROS.

"HI YA CHUM"

Also a new chapter of the new thrill serial
"G MEN VERSUS THE BLACK DRAGON"

SUN.-MON., MAR. 21 - 22

A gay new musical treat featuring
the JOHN POWERS MODELS
Anne Shirley - George Murphy
Benny Goodman and Band

"POWERS GIRL"

TIME OF SHOWS

Saturdays continuous

1 to 11.

Sundays at 2-4-9

Mon., Tues., Wed.,

Thurs. and Friday,

3:30 - 7:30 - 9:15

TUES., MAR. 23 Family Day

Lloyd Nolan - Donna Reed

"APACHE TRAIL"

Also a new chapter BILL ELLIOTT in
"VALLEY OF VANISHING MEN"

WED., MAR. 24

Lee Tracy - Guy Kibbee

"POWER OF THE PRESS"

also Superman in "The 11th Hour"

THURS.-FRI., MAR. 25 - 26

Deanna Durbin - Edmund O'Brien

"THE AMAZING MRS. HOLIDAY"

COMING NEXT WEEK

Alfred Hitchcock's "Shadow of Doubt"; Jeanette McDonald in "Cairo"
4 Great Bands in "Reveille With Beverly."

COMING

APRIL 4-5-6 James Cagney in "YANKEE DOODLE DANDY"

APRIL 11-12 "SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT"

APRIL 15-16 Abbott & Costello in "IT AIN'T HAY"

Also in April "Somewhere I'll Find You"; "For Me and My Gal";

"Panama Hattie"; "Stand By For Action."

the undersigned Commissioner will offer for resale to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in the Town of Louisburg, Franklin County, North Carolina, at or about the hour of twelve o'clock noon, Eastern War Time, on

THURSDAY, 1 APRIL, 1943 the following-described lands in Franklinton Township, Franklin County, North Carolina:

Containing fifty-one (51) acres, more or less, and defined by a line beginning at a point in the middle of the Pokomoke road, a stake and rock pile on the east side of the road, and running thence along the road N 31d 45' W 4.35 chains; thence N 88d 30' W 63 lengths to an iron stake,

corner for Martha Bass in the line of lot No. 1 of the division of the lands of Mary E. Long; running thence along the Bass Perry's line; thence S 86d 43' E 18.11 chains to a stake and rock pile, Moss corner in McGhee's line; thence S 62d 30' E 13.95 chains to Shanty Branch; thence down the branch as it meanders S 10d 45' E 1.76 chains, S 18d 45' W 9.00 chains, S 3d W 2.25 chains; thence leaving said branch at a stake and rock pile on the west side and running due west 17.85 chains to a stake and rock pile; thence N 68d 30' W 13.37 chains to the Pokomoke road, the point of beginning; excepting, however, one-half (1/2) acre for a graveyard. For further reference and description see Map in Book of Orders and Decrees 9 at page 206, and proceedings in Book of Orders and Decrees 10 at page 52, and Book of Wills V at page 510, in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Franklin County, North Carolina.

The successful bidder will be required to deposit with the Commissioner a sum equal to five percentum (5%) of the amount bid, to secure compliance with the terms of the sale.

Dated and posted this 16th day of March, 1943.

JOHN F. MATTHEWS,
Commissioner.

REMEMBER--

YOU ALWAYS
SAVE AT

FOX'S
LOUISBURG'S BEST DEPT. STORE

**BUY U. S. WAR BONDS
AND STAMPS!**