

THE ROBESONIAN

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Single Copies Five Cents.

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LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12, 1908.

WHOLE NO. 2407

Special Notice!

We wish to say that we have in a complete stock of
Umbrellas and Walking Canes.

These goods are manufactured especially for the High
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The Prices are \$5.00 and up.

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LUMBERTON, N. C.

ROBESON'S FIRST CENSUS.

Comments Upon an Interesting
and Valuable Historical Docu-
ment Concerning Robeson
County—Some Queer Opera-
tions Upon Names—Difficul-
ties Encountered in Taking
the Census—A Map Made 112
Years Ago—Families of Macks
More Than a Hundred Years
Ago.

To the Editor of The Robesonian:

From time to time during the
past month I have been look-
ing over the Robeson county part
of the North Carolina census for
1790, lately published by the
federal government. Although
there is little in the
body of the publication beyond
the bare mention of names, it
has been, to me, interesting and
suggestive. Presuming that oth-
ers may be alike interested, I
ask the privilege of noticing it
in your columns. This was the
first census ever taken in this
country and like most first ef-
forts, it has its imperfections,
and these must be viewed, as
far as it can be done, from the
conditions and surroundings of
that day and time.

It is very hard for a man of
this day and generation to even
conceive of an approximately
correct picture of the average
man and woman of 118 years
ago. We have some fancy
sketches of the lords and dukes,
and silk stocking gentry of the
Colonial era, but none of the
average man upon whose should-
ers rested the fame of Wash-
ington and who, 70 years later,
stood behind the guns and
fought the battles that made
Lee immortal.

Guilford Dudley, of Fayette-
ville, took this census in Robe-
son. It was in an era when
good spelling was not fashion-
able and when few people, ex-
cept the Scotch, knew much
about the traditions or history
of the names of Scotland. We
are not surprised, therefore, to
find that Mr. Dudley misspelled
more than half the Scotch names,
spelled all the Scotch flavor out
of the name McEachern, and
some others on the same order,
and became wholly demoralized
when he encountered McGeachy.
The ways in which he tried to
distinguish heads of different
families having the same name
shows that he was not on the
Scotch method of differentiating
by such suggestive marks as
"Pepper Jack," "Persimmon
John," "Red Duncan," "Beaver
Daniel," "Wild Archie," and so
on. Sometimes he would try
different ways of spelling the
same name, as in the cases of
John Blue and John Blew; again
he would distinguish one as
farmer, another as singing mas-
ter, another as captain, and
another as Esq., and so on; but
the most inexplicable operation
performed upon any name was
where he took the names Daniel
McIntyre and Daniel McGirt,
and telescoped them into "Daniel
McGirt."

But these were doubtless in-
significant in comparison with
other difficulties Mr. Dudley
must have encountered. We are
told in a general way in the in-
troduction that there was op-
position to his work, religious
and political. The particulars
are not given, but we learn
elsewhere that the story of the
book of Numbers was the basis
of the religious opposition. Had
not Moses taken a census of the
heads of families of the children
of Israel, as he left Sinai for
that long journey through the
wilderness, and had not all the
heads of families, except Joshua
and Caleb, died before reaching
Canaan? Then North Carolina
had entered the Union less than
a year previously, and had been
virtually pulled in by her lead-
ers. The constitution of the
new government provided for
direct taxation, and was not the
taking of the census the first
step in a scheme for more tax-
ation? Mr. Dudley, therefore,
had to suffer the odium which
the Jew had towards the pub-
lican, and which Robesonians of
a later day had towards carpet
baggers and scalawags. To
make matters worse, the coun-
try at that time was little more
than a vast wilderness. The
only travelled public road laid
down on the map which accom-
panies the publication was the
one leading from Fayetteville to
Lumberton, and from Lumbe-
ton to South Carolina over what
was later the Lumberton and
Hillsville road, and it is not
certain that it was there at that
time, as the map is dated six
years later. There was not a
postoffice in the county until six
years later.

It is almost certain that a
majority of the people lived,
virtually, in the woods, with no
facilities for travel or commu-
nication except over cow trails
and blazed cart paths from neigh-
borhood to neighborhood. The
woods were much denser then
than now and it is easy to con-
jecture how he got lost frequently
and had to be out all night, see-
ing ghosts and jack-o'-lanterns in
every trembling bush, while
listening to the heartrending
screams of panthers, with no
hammock or other facilities for
resting up out of reach of the
armies of alligators that crept
out from the swamps at night.
Those of us whose memories go
back fifty years can easily under-
stand that the swamps of 1790
were much deeper than now and,
from the frequency with which
we had to pull cows out of the
mire in our boyhood, that they
were far more impassable and
in some cases, virtually bottom-
less. From all this we can ap-
preciate how dangerous, as well
as difficult, the task Mr. Dudley
had in listing over 900 heads of
families representing a popula-
tion of 5,856.

A map of date 1790 accom-
panies the publication. It upsets
the geography of all the histori-
cal sketches and traditions that
we have read and heard about
Drowning Creek, Raft Swamp,
Big Marsh and Ashpole, but is
the more interesting on that
account. At the time it appears
that Drowning Creek had its
source near the southwestern
corner of Cumberland county and
instead of flowing in a southeas-
ly direction and losing itself in
Lumber river, it made almost a
bee line for South Carolina, cut-
ting across the lower edge of
Richmond, crossing the line be-
low where Maxton is now locat-
ed, and there received its prin-
cipal tributary, Warren Creek. A
few miles further on it entered
Raft swamp, and four or five
miles below crossed over into
South Carolina just above where
the Lumberton and Hillsville
road crosses Little Peedee river.
Raft swamp was not a stream
but an oval shaped swamp, 20 or
25 miles from the nearest point
of the modern Raft swamp and
about at the modern junction of
Little Peedee and Shoe Heel
creek. There was no such stream
as Lumber river. Lumberton
was situated on a small unnamed
stream which headed up about
where St. Paul is situated.
Looking over on the South Car-
olina map in the hope of find-
ing Lumber river, we find Ash-
pole swamp, across the line from
start to finish. Mr. Dudley gave
a little additional geography by
locating one Wm. Thompson on
Back swamp and another on Hog
swamp. Other parts of the State
are equally out of joint, but it
would take up too much space to
notice them.

To me this is an interesting
chapter in geography, but con-
sidering that the map was made
112 years ago, it is not a surpris-
ing one. Hardly 110 years be-
fore that, La Salle, before start-
ing on his voyage across the At-
lantic with his Louisiana Colony,
procured a letter of introduction
from Louis XIV to the Kahn of
Tartary. He had found the
mouth of the Mississippi river a
year or two previously, and claim-
ed all the county drained by it
for the grand monarch. La Salle
had convinced himself and his
king that the source of the Mis-
sissippi river was in China, and
possibly in Tartary. This being
the case, it would become neces-
sary to confer with these powers
as to the limits of Louisiana.
La Salle never saw Louisiana
afterwards, but landed in Texas,
where he was killed and some
unknown spot in East Texas
contains his bones. Equally
interesting are Jefferson's
mountain of solid salt somewhere
in the northwest, and Daniel
Webster's account of the Rocky
Mountain Plateau and Pacific
Slope.

There were 16 different fami-
lies of McMillans; 16 families of
McNeills; 14 of the McLeans; 10
of the Campbells; 8 of the Buies;
5 Currys, 7 McSwains, 6 McLeods,
and so on. Of the families other
than Scotch, very few were of
the same name. Among the Cro-
atians, there were seven Lockler
families, and as a rule these peo-
ple had the largest families. The
only persons having 10 or more
slaves were Daniel McPherson,
who had 21; John Cade, 17; Henry
Pope, 16; John Willis, 15; Steph-
en King and Samuel Smith (of
Nuse) 13 each; John Regan, 12;
Joseph Wood, 11; Jesse Jernigan,
John Fort and Cornelius Win-
gate, 10 each. James Lowery
was the largest slaveholder
among the Croats and he had
only 3. Joshua Ammons, who,
Bishop Gregg tells us, saved the
life of Gen. La Fayette and in
1825 walked to Fayetteville to
meet and shake hands with the
old general, was a resident of
Robeson in 1790. This record
impresses me as the most inter-
esting and in many respects the
most valuable historical document
concerning the county I have
ever seen, but I resist the tem-
ptation to say more about it at this
time.

Z. T. Fulmore,
Austin, Texas, Nov. 4, 1908.

HOPE FOR DEMOCRATS.

Crumbs of Comfort Extracted
From the Defeat of Bryan.

New York World.

In 1896 Mr. Bryan was defeat-
ed by a popular plurality of 601,-
884. In 1900 he was defeated by
a popular plurality of 849,790.
This year the popular plurality
against him runs upward of 1,-
100,000.

Mr. Bryan said, in the formal
statement issued yesterday: "If
I could regard the defeat as a
purely personal one, I would con-
sider it a blessing rather than a
misfortune." The defeat was
so largely personal that Mr. Bryan
need not hesitate about re-
garding it as a blessing. The re-
turns indicate that there are not
half a dozen States in which he
has not run behind the Democratic
candidate for Governor.

While Mr. Taft's popular plu-
rality is more than 1,100,000, it
is estimated that the combined
plurality against the Democra-
tic State tickets are little more
than 400,000—a difference of
700,000 against Mr. Bryan per-
sonally.

There are few States in which
he did a worse job in 1900. He
has brought Nebraska, with eight
electoral votes, into the Demo-
cratic column, but seems to have
lost Missouri, with eighteen elec-
toral votes, although in 1900 he
carried Missouri by 37,000. Even
the Southern States, which are
responsible for Mr. Bryan's nomi-
nation this year, were not great-
ly interested in voting for him.
Only Kentucky gives him an in-
creased plurality over 1900. In
the others, except Maryland, where
the electoral vote will probably
be split, there is a Bryan slump
varying from hundreds
to many thousands.

In the Eastern States Mr. Bryan
fared worse than in 1900. In
New York he lost the city, which
he carried eight years ago, and
Taft's plurality in the State ex-
ceeds McKinley's 1900 plurality
by 60,000. The Pacific coast
States followed the Atlantic coast
States in increasing their anti-
Bryan pluralities. In the middle
West Mr. Bryan averaged only a
little better than in 1900. What
he gained in Indiana, Iowa and
Wisconsin, he lost in Illinois,
where Mr. Taft has 175,000, and
Mr. McKinley's 85,000. Even in
Colorado he fell 24,000 behind his
1900 vote.

It was a Democratic defeat
Tuesday, but the element of dis-
aster is Mr. Bryan's own prop-
erty. So far as the Democratic
party is concerned the situation
is very encouraging. It is rid of
Mr. Bryan's perpetual candidacy.
He has won great victories in Ohio,
Indiana, Minnesota, and North
Dakota, where it elected its can-
didates for Governor in spite of
the Republican pluralities for
President. It has won hardly
less striking victories in Illinois
and Michigan, where Democratic
candidates for Governor nearly
overcame Taft pluralities of 175,-
000 and 100,000. It gains a Uni-
ted States Senator in Indiana.

New leaders are coming up.
Unbalanced extremists have
sloughed off. Democratic Gov-
ernors in Republican States have
a rare opportunity to demonstrate
their capacity for leadership.
Compared with the situation
four years ago, Democrats every-
where are justified in new hope
and new courage.

News Items and Personals from
St. Pauls.

St. Pauls.

MT. ELIAM MATTERS.

Marriage of Miss Hennie Steph-
ens and Mr. Sandy McNeill—
Other Weddings Soon—Think
Before You Speak—Preach-
ing Twice a Month—Other
Matters.

Miss Dolan Stephens has re-
turned home from Cerro Gordo,
to the delight of her many
friends. She will enter school
here.

Miss Hennie Stephens, of Ivey's
Bluff, was married to Mr. Sandy
McNeill, of Lumberton, Wednes-
day, November 8th. Rev. M. A.
Stephens officiating. May they
have a long, peaceful and happy
life. Most everybody is getting
married but this old servant. He
hopes he will some time, very,
very soon—but he fears his
hopes are vain.

Mr. Swain went to Boardman
yesterday on business.

Messrs. Andrew Bullard and
Willis Williams are visiting some
friends at Chatham.

The school is progressing very
nicely under the management of
Miss Cashwell.

Mr. I. V. Britt and little son
Grover, visited Mr. Britt's father,
at Lumberton Friday and Satur-
day.

Rice's Big City Shows are com-
ing some time to Mt. Eliam.
Sleight-of-hand, performances,
such as taking frogs and snakes
out of mouths, and others.

Taking up roots is the order of
the day here at the present.

Miss Junie Carter, of Long
Branch, was visiting at Mr. J.
Z. Stone's Sunday.

We hear there is going to be
another wedding soon—yes, two
more.

LOOK TO YOUR EYES.

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Artificial Eyes Inserted Without Pain.

W. H. SHOOTER.

Contractor and Builder.

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DR. N. A. THOMPSON.

J. M. LILLY, M. D.



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will be SATISFIED. For Sale by
Your Live Merchants.

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Wholesale Distributors,
Wilmington, N. C.

The Foremost Consideration

In Banking Should be the
Protection of Depositors.

What More Can You Ask?
If YOU are not Already a Depositor, OPEN a New Account WITH US.

The Bank of Lumberton,
Lumberton, N. C.

OFFICERS:
A. W. McLEAN, President.
R. D. CALDWELL, Vice-Pres.
E. S. TOWNSEND, Cashier.
THOS. J. MOORE, Asst. Cashier.

The Price of Cotton

Is Again the Chief Topic of Conversation
Among Farmers and Other Business Men.

Robeson County Loan and Trust Company,
Bank of Lumberton Building,
LUMBERTON N. C.

A. W. McLean, President.
Stephen McIntyre, Vice-President.
C. H. MORROW, Cashier.

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If you want the BEST, buy Tyson & Jones Buggies and
Carriages, made by Tyson & Jones Buggy Co., Carthage
N. C. The Celebrated "CHASE" Buggies, Carriages, Etc.,
Manufactured by Oxford Buggy Co., Oxford, N.C.

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Can Compete in Prices and Terms with any Dealer in
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