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LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, JULY 5, 1909

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HISTORICAL DATA.

A "Robeson County Historical Society" Suggested—A History Making People but Their Deeds Unrecorded—Some Interesting and Valuable History Which Illustrates What May Be Done.

Your correspondent would like to see some movement put on foot to collect into permanent form historical data pertaining to Robeson county. We are now more than a century old and our people have ever been intelligent, progressive, and a history-making people, but have made no effort to have their deeds recorded. Very much has been lost already by the delay that would be priceless to the future historian, and to those who are to come after us of this generation. We believe there yet can be gathered much material of interest and value if some concert of action is taken and a permanent organization for the purpose effected. It is very expensive to write history. One must go from house to house, consult old records of every kind, trace step by step the truth of traditions coming down to us through the century. It takes time, money, patience, courage, power, perseverance, skill, and last, encouragement, sympathy and help from the people.

How could it do to organize a county society to be known as the "Robeson County Historical Society," with branch societies in each township? Let these branch societies meet at regular intervals and appoint those best fitted for the purpose to prepare papers on some past events within the territory or to write the history of some family which is living or has lived within its bounds. In this way within a few years much real material can be brought forth and preserved in permanent form. Let each society record these papers and annually report to the county society, where a general record of all the work done in the township societies shall be kept.

It will be interesting to have the history of every family, old-field school, high school, college church, cemetery, mill, post-office, blacksmith's shop and turpentine still written out in full by some one familiar with the facts and the traditions connected therewith, showing the influence exerted on our civilization as a county. Some of these institutions have passed into oblivion and others are rapidly passing.

To illustrate, about forty years ago there was established about four miles west of Red Springs a high school for boys (the first high school for males in the county) by the Rev. Malcolm McNair. He named the academy Tusculum in honor of Cicero's country villa, where he retired to prepare his famous orations. This school, with a small beginning, did very effective work in the way of preparing boys for college or fitting others, who were not financially able at that time to continue their studies farther than the high school on account of the poverty of the people just emerging from the devastation and ruin of a cruel war.

Mr. McNair built a very substantial, commodious building in which to conduct the school, and opened his own dwelling for the accommodation of boarders, a nominal price being charged. In that way he, in a short time, without any assistance, built up a fine school. Mr. McNair was a man of high character and splendid attainments, a graduate of the University of North Carolina in the class with General Pettigrew, Snodgrass, John Pool, Hon. Oliver Dockery, and a number of others who became famous. He was kind in disposition, a strict disciplinarian, a lucid and pains-taking instructor. He died in 1874 in the meridian of his usefulness, when his school was at the flood-tide of its existence. Some of the fruits of this school may be seen in the lives of those who were fortunate enough to have had its influence and training. Though the life of this institution was comparatively short (about ten years), owing to the death of its principal, a large per cent. of its pupils have succeeded well.

A number of the leading ministers of the Presbyterian church were prepared for college here—the Rev. Angus McDonald, of Nashville, Tenn.; the Rev. L. A. McLean, of Baltimore, Md.; the late Revs. P. P. Harrell and John D. Currie; Rev. D. A. McRae, of Texas; and Rev. William Black, the widely-known (and much beloved) synodical evangelist of N. C. In almost all vocations of life may be found men of character and influence who obtained their literary training at this school. To law it gave Mr. J. P. McNair,

Life 100,000 Years Ago.
Scientists have found in a cave in Switzerland bones of men, who lived 100,000 years ago, when life was in constant danger from wild beasts. Today the danger, as shown by W. Brown, of Alexander, Me., is largely from deadly disease. "If it had not been for Dr. King's New Discovery, which cured me, I could not have lived," he writes, "suffering as I did from a severe lung trouble and stubborn cough." To cure sore lungs, colds, obstinate coughs, and prevent pneumonia, its the best medicine on earth. 50c and \$1.00. Guaranteed by all druggists. Trial bottle free.

CONGRESSMAN GODWIN'S WORK.

Some of the Things He has Done and Some Things He Hopes to Do if Continued in Congress—Several Will Likely Enter Race for Nomination in the Sixth.

Washington Cor. Charlotte Observer.
Representative Godwin, who has just returned to Washington after spending a month or longer in his district, feels certain that his constituents will keep him here if they realize what he hopes to do for them. When asked about the promised contest for his seat he said:

"Yes, I have read reports of candidates who will likely enter the field against me next year for the new seat, but so far as I know no one has made any public announcement of his candidacy. Little has been said or written by our people in reference to politics; farmers and others are busy at other things. The papers have mentioned the names of prominent men who may run. I will not be surprised if I have opportunity, and if another is nominated he will have no more loyal supporter at the polls than I."

"So far as my candidacy is concerned, I intend to leave that with the people; they are very well aware of what I have done in their interest since I came to Congress; they know whether my public service has been a success or failure; they fully understand all the projects I now have under way for the uplifting of the district, and they must decide whether they wish me to continue the work to completion or whether they will require another to carry it on. I will cheerfully abide their decision, but I do not believe it would be anything amiss for me to say that it is my ambition to be returned to Congress for a few more terms in order that I may have an opportunity to complete the work I have already undertaken. Beyond this I have no special desire to remain in Congress."

"I have many measures pending which are of vital importance to the district. I will mention a few of them: The thirty-foot project, to give Wilmington a channel to the sea; improvement of the upper Cape Fear by the construction of three locks and dams to guarantee eight feet of water for navigation between Fayetteville and Wilmington all the year round; the extension of the inland waterway to Wilmington, Southport and down the Atlantic coast; the improvement, by dredging and otherwise, of the North East river, Elizabeth river, the Shallotte river, Lumber river, the Waccamaw river, the Little river, and the other waterways of the district, sufficient for the purpose of freight and passenger transportation.

"Since I came to Congress the sum of \$460,000 has been appropriated for the river and harbor improvement of our district. Deep water transportation is the absolute and certain guarantee of complete regulation of freight rates. The reclaiming of the ruins of Fort Fisher, the establishment of a national park there, the erection of suitable monuments to commemorate the heroism of those brave soldiers who participated in that memorable conflict, is a matter of public importance, and is engaging the attention of many people of the country; Congress should endorse the project by a sufficient appropriation to carry out the undertaking. I have a bill pending for this purpose, which I hope to be able to get through at some early date.

"I have already secured \$300,000 for the construction of a customs house and bonded warehouse at Wilmington, but \$200,000 additional will be required to complete this work to make it in keeping with Wilmington and other South Atlantic ports. The supervising architect is now completing plans for the public building at Fayetteville. I have secured \$10,000 in addition to the former appropriation for this building and another appropriation may be necessary to complete a building suitable for this progressive city.

"The question of swamp drainage is now agitating the minds of the people of the district. I have succeeded in securing a few appropriations for the purpose of carrying out drainage investigation in many sections of the district. Something like \$3,000 or \$4,000 will be expended by the government in the sixth district, during the present summer in developing drainage projects to show the people just how swamp drainage may be carried out. I have secured appropriations amounting to \$10,000 for soil surveys in the district. The field work in one county has been completed and the map with report of survey will be available for distribution at an early date; (Continued on 4th page.)

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"For ten years I couldn't ride a horse without being in torture from piles," writes L. S. Napier, of Rugless, Ky., "when all doctors and other remedies failed, bucklen's emulsion cured me. Infallible for Piles, Burns, Scalds, Cuts, Nails, Fever-sores, Eczema, Salt Rheum, corns. 25c. guaranteed by all druggists."

5 or 6 doses "666" will cure any case of Chills and Fever. Price 25c. 48-25

INTERESTING COTTON FIGURES.

Robeson Leads in the State and Has Distinction of Producing More Than Any County in Six Other States.

The following interesting cotton figures are quoted by H. E. C. Bryant, Washington correspondent of The Charlotte Observer, from A. D. Watts, private secretary to Senator Simmons:

"What district in North Carolina produces the most cotton?" he asked.

"The second led, last year, with 116,166 bales. The figures for the other nine follow: Fourth, 110,740; seventh, 105,763; sixth, 85,586; ninth, 81,619; first, 62,307; third, 59,511; eighth, 44,821; tenth, 10,501, and fifth, 6,624.

"Robeson leads by a large number of bales over any other county. The production, by counties, runs: Robeson, 51,438; Mecklenburg, 32,125; Johnston, 33,800; Edgecombe, 26,417; Scotland, 26,343; Union, 25,378; Wake, 24,642; Wayne, 23,460; Anson, 23,010; Halifax, 20,371; Pitt, 19,954; Cleveland, 18,568; Nash, 18,062; Wilson, 17,590; Franklin, 13,349; Iredell, 13,228; Sampson, 12,917; Cumberland, 12,835; Richmond, 11,738; Gaston, 11,718; Northampton, 11,606; and Bertie, 10,016.

"These are the ones that produced more than 10,000 each. "Scotland county produces more to the population than any other county, its yield being more than two bales to each man, woman and child within its borders. In other words, its cotton per capita amounts to about \$125 a person. Robeson comes next with one and a quarter bales. Anson and Edgecombe are the only other counties that produce more than a bale a person.

"Robeson has the distinction of producing more than any county in any of the States of Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee or Oklahoma.

"There are but four States in the Union that have counties that produce more than 50,000 bales; they are: Texas, which has twenty-one, four of them yielding more than 100,000 bales each, with Ellis, the leading cotton county of the world, making 138,041; Mississippi, five; South Carolina, four, and North Carolina, one.

"The average number of pounds of lint an acre for the South is 207, with Missouri, which produces very little cotton, leading the list with 377 pounds; Mississippi, next, with 245; then, South Carolina, 244; North Carolina, 240; Virginia, 235; Tennessee, 232; Arkansas, 222; Georgia, 209; Texas, 200; Alabama, 190; Louisiana, 155; Oklahoma, 152, and Florida, 135.

"Leaving Missouri out of the consideration North Carolina comes third. The farmers of our State are improving their land and growing more to the acre than their fathers did.

"Missouri, Kentucky, Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona, combined, yield but 65,000 bales.

"The total crop for 1908 was 13,587,306 bales. It was distributed as follows: Alabama, 1,374,140; Arkansas, 1,058,085; Florida, 63,221; Georgia, 1,980,077; Louisiana, 486,359; Mississippi, 1,704,972; North Carolina, 663,167; Oklahoma, 706,815; South Carolina, 1,195,235; Tennessee, 359,859; Texas, 3,913,084, and all others, 82,297.

"It will be noticed that Texas produces more than twice as much as any other State and five times as much as North Carolina."

Mr. Watts pointed out many interesting features that had attracted his attention. For instance, he was surprised to find that Iredell made more cotton than Cumberland, where the farmers have of recent years turned their efforts to truck.

Worst Sort of Criminal Negligence.
Stateville Landmark.
The jury in the case of W. S. Biggers, on trial in Mecklenburg Superior Court for murder, returned a verdict of not guilty Saturday afternoon, the acquittal being based on the ground of insanity. Biggers deliberately shot and killed Hood in front of the Central Hotel in Charlotte last February, shooting his victim after he had fallen to the ground. The man may have been insane, but it is the worst sort of criminal negligence to acquit a man of murder on the ground of insanity and then turn him loose to kill again if he so wills.

Sees Mother Grow Young.
"It would be hard to overstate the wonderful change in mother since she began to use Electric Bitters," writes Mrs. W. L. Gilpatrick, of Danforth, Me. "Although past 70 she seems really to be growing young again. She suffered untold misery from dyspepsia for 20 years. At last she could neither eat, drink nor sleep. Doctors gave her up, and all remedies failed till Electric Bitters worked such wonders for her health." They invigorate all vital organs, cure Liver and Kidney troubles, induce sleep, impart strength and appetite. Only 50c at all druggists.

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