



"UPWARD AND ONWARD."

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1877

E. C. Worell for Mayor.

The Enquirer—the people's paper.

There are 210 Masonic Lodges in North Carolina with a membership of 9,085, non-affiliated members, 2,862. Total 12,947.

The Raleigh News says: Yeates, Waddell, Davis, Seales, Steel, Robbins and Vance—North Carolina can trust to them to stand for the right in June.

The Murfreesboro Enquirer is the only paper published in the counties of Hertford, Bertie, Gates and Northampton, and has a larger circulation in them than any paper published.

We are in receipt of an extra of the Albenarle Times, in which Messrs. W. C. Etheridge & Co., announce the removal of their paper to Edenton. We think the move is a good one, Edenton being nearer the centre of the district, and its people noble and generous, it is to be hoped that the success of the Times in the future may be great.

Over eighteen months ago we pledged the people of this section a live and sterling paper—independent, fearless, having no axe to grind, no favors to ask—except the good will and support of the people.

This we have had which enables us to present to-day a better and more independent paper than ever before.

Thanking our friends for their aid we believe it cannot be said but that we have made good use of their trust, and while we beg no one, we ask a continuance of your support and rest assured the Enquirer will continue to advocate the right and denounce the very appearance of wrong.

RECEIVED.

The Printer's Circular, published by R. E. Manahan, of Philadelphia, continues to pay its welcome monthly visits. The April copy is a fine specimen of the Circular.

Pleasant Hours for April comes from Frank Leslie. Our young people could invest a dollar or two in this excellent monthly much more profitably, than many of them do in ten cent novels or some other worthless trash.

Vick's Floral Guide is at hand, and is of great use to the lover of the beautiful flowers.

Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper comes to us with a new department—that of the fashions—which makes it still more valuable—it is a paper after our own heart.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF HERTFORD COUNTY.

BY J. W. MOORE.

Chapter XIX.

In Hertford county, as in all the country party spirit grew bitter after the close of Gen. Washington's administration. Upon the accession of Mr. Adams to the presidency, Gov. Spaight and other prominent leaders of the Federalists transferred their allegiance to the opposition. Dempsey Rodgers, a strong Republican, had succeeded Mr. Dawson in the House of Representatives from the first District. The latter gentleman had died in 1795. William Berry Grove had defeated Timothy Bloodworth in the Wilmington District and the latter had been elected to the United States Senate. A great crisis in the affairs of the new government was rapidly approaching. John Adams was both able and patriotic, but never a moderate man. He chafed under opposition and was impatient of criticism. He imparted a dangerous and overbearing spirit to his supporters. The Federalists were in the ascendancy in national affairs and an utter disregard of their opponents was constantly manifested.

Chapter XX.

Hertford county participated in the general Southern joy consequent upon the accession of Thomas Jefferson to the Presidency of the nation. The Alien and Sedition laws, the Jay treaty, and the general tone of harshness and intolerance of opposition, which marked the outgoing administration, disgusted the Southern people. If the Republicans were dominant in the North, they were overwhelming in the South. Gov. Alex. Martin, by his support of John Adams, lost the long enjoyed popularity, hitherto marking his course, and was defeated in 1799 for the United States Senate by Jesse Franklin of Surry. Timothy Bloodworth, likewise in 1801 was succeeded by David Stone, of Bertie. In the House of Representatives, but two Federalists, William B. Grove, of Cumberland and John Stanly, of Craven, were Archibald Henderson, of Rowan, with Willis Alston,

were intended to arm the President with power to seize and send out of the country such foreigners as became offensive to the administration. Furthermore to punish any native citizen who should harshly criticize the General Government or its operations. It raised a storm of indignation through the country. The Legislature of Virginia and Kentucky passed their famous resolutions and the Federalists hastened to their downfall. In the early years of the 19th century, the imputation of holding their opinions, became a stigma, and was as fatal with political aspirants, as the charge of abolitionism even thirty years later.

For the three last years of the eighteenth century, Gen. Thomas Wynns in the Senate Robert Montgomery and James Jones in the House, represented Hertford county. During the two former years, Benjamin Smith of Brunswick presided in the Senate Mendenhall Mathews of Iredeil county in the House. In the latter year, Gen. Joseph Riddick, for so long the senator from Gates, became the speaker of that body, and Stephen Cabarrus again returned to the chair of the Commons. William Gaston of Craven and Lemuel Sawyer of Camden, were seen for the first time in the Legislature and commenced reputations, which in Mr. Gaston's case was soon to be coextensive with the limits of the nation. Bertie in addition to the death of W. J. Dawson had recently lost a long honored citizen in John Johnson, the brother of the distinguished man who lived in Chowan, and was so highly valued throughout the nation. David Stone had been elected a judge of the Supreme Court and George Outlaw had succeeded to his influence in the county.

As the century grew to its close, one by one, the names that had been prominent in the war, were blotted from our public registers by that inevitable event, which awaits us all. Gen. Robert Howe, after years of seclusion, died in 1794 at his place on the Cape Fear river, below Wilmington. William Blount never returned to the State after Gen. Washington appointed him Governor of the Western territory. Our State sustained a still greater loss in the death of Judge Iredeil, at Edenton, on the 29th of Oct., 1799. He had been for ten years, an ornament to the Federal Supreme Court, and no state ever adopted or lost a nobler son. He was the most accomplished North Carolina lawyer of his day, and was the soul of honor and patriotism. Alas! misfortune never comes singly! Death too found the greatest and best of men, in his retirement at Mount Vernon. We have lost Gen. Robert E. Lee and can appreciate the grief of the nation, when that great calamity was known.

Hertford saw the close of the century in the utmost peace and prosperity. It was perhaps the golden age of social enjoyment, of the two races constituting our population. The wars between Napoleon and the allied kings, gave our ships the carrying trade of the civilized world. The county at that day, had not lost its commercial character. The relations of master and servant were patriarchal and mild. Even at that period the Quakers were abolitionists, but showed no disposition to create strife in our midst by the enunciation of their peculiar views. The acts of emancipation by Great Britain and the Northern states were yet unaccomplished, and nothing had occurred to suggest hopes of freedom to the Negro, or to create jealousy in the minds of the masters. The black people were in a great degree free and untrammelled. The strict and odious statutes, curtailing their privileges, were not then in existence. They participated largely in the festivities and social enjoyments of their owners, and were free to conduct religious meetings in their own wild and absurd manner. They preached and shouted and got in trances to their hearts content, and there was no one to molest or make them afraid. Nat. Turner's insurrection, and the frantic efforts of Abolitionists, destroyed this Ethiopian Elysium.

A merry and careless life was that of our ancestors at the close of the eighteenth century! Everybody in reach went to the weddings; and most men felt it the duty to drink a plenty of apple brandy at courts and musters. Each gathering of a dozen men, saw a quarter race or a game of cards. Very often when toddlers were abundant, and the assemblage large, a champion with a chip on his head, would dare any man present to a combat with weapons of nature's making. It was doubtless very wicked in those old fashioned people, and as a general thing there is no denying but what they positively enjoyed the spectacle of an occasional fistfight. "A fair fight" said they "and no lawing about it afterwards, is the part of a gentleman."

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Richard Stanford, James Holland, Robert Williams, William H. Hill and Thomas Wynns were all of the Republican faith. For the first time in her history Hertford county saw one of her citizens in the national legislature. He was elected to the low Congress over Col. Dempsy Burgess, of Camden, upon his superior personal popularity. They were both republicans and favorable to the policy and personal claims of the new President. Col. Burgess had been an officer in the Revolution, but was not possessed of qualities likely to confer weight in the deliberations of a parliamentary body. It is not known that he ever spoke at all in the House.

Robert Montgomery succeeded to the seat of Gen. Wynns in the Senate, and continued to occupy it until the return of the latter at the close of his Congressional career. James Jones and Abner Perry were elected to the House of Commons. This was the second appearance of Capt. Perry. His gallant services in the war and estimable qualities as a man rendered him an established favorite with the people. The two houses organized on the 15th day of Nov. by continuing Gen. Joseph Riddick, of Gates, and Stephen Cabarrus, of Chowan, as Speakers of their respective houses. One of their first acts was the election of James Turner, of Warren as the successor of Gov. Williams, of Moore, to the position of Chief Magistrate of the State.

This legislature among its leading men, contained Gabriel Holmes, of Sampson, Duncan Cameron, of Orange, Henry Seawell of Wake, Mendenhall Mathews, of Iredeil, Joshua G. Wright, of New Hanover and George Outlaw, of Bertie. Its first statute was to carry into effect the contract between the state and Phineas Miller and Eli Whitney, the patentees of the newly invented saw-gin. North Carolina for a consideration acquired the right to control the profits arising from the use of cotton gins in our borders. The benefits of this arrangement were all on the side of the patentees. A tax of two shillings and sixpence was levied on each saw of the machine used each year and collected by the Sheriff. The State Treasurer was required to pay over the sum thus collected on the first day of November, annually to the patentees, their heirs and representatives.

The second statute re-arranged congressional districts. Perquimans, Chowan, Currituck, Camden, Gates, Pasquotank and Hertford constituted the 1st, and exactly corresponded with the present territorial limits of the 1st Senatorial District of North Carolina. The fourth statute was entitled, "An act for the relief of the Tuscarora nation of Indians." It recites the chiefs, Sacarus and others authorized, requested the concurrence of the General Assembly in certain leases of the residue of their lands, so that the whole should terminate at the same period, and that after the 12th day of July 1816, the title to the region now known as the Indian Woods should revert to and vest in the State of North Carolina. Gov. William R. Davie, recently returned from his French mission, was appointed by Mr. Jefferson to negotiate with the whole Tuscarora tribe, as to their agreement with the State; a treaty was signed under his auspices at Raleigh, Dec. 4th, the same year. Under the statute and treaty the descendants of Tom Blount and his brave, ninety-eight years after the creation of their reservation, turned their backs upon their ancient hunting grounds, and joined their kinsmen in New York. The surviving Tuscaroras in that State, now live in Niagara county, and their present chief is called Mount Pleasant. The King of the Sandwich Islands, is said to be the grandson of Sacarus.

In the same session of the Legislature we find the first harsh statute against the Negroes. It was for the purpose of discouraging and suppressing insurrection among the slaves. The whole of our previous legislation touching our African population had been for their benefit. Cruel and neglectful masters had been forced by law to provide for the sick and helpless. For the first time in our history serious disturbances in Hertford and Washington counties called for the strong arm of the law in their depression. It does not appear that any lives were lost among the white people but dangerous and unlawful combinations and aims were discovered. The magistrates and militia of Hertford soon restored order. The Legislature enacted that any insurrection or conspiracy looking to the same, among persons of color, should upon conviction of the offenders, be punished with death. But it was provided that in case a large number should be found guilty under this statute, it should be lawful for the court in which they were prosecuted, in its discretion, to commute the punishment of some by ordering them to be sold beyond the limits of the State. Thus brave men are ever merciful. North Carolina desired no Bloody Assize in her borders. This law expected and required the capital punishment of any ring-leaders who should be convicted in this alarming and dangerous business, but provided for mercy to the ignorant and misguided followers. Thirty years later the great horror of Southampton massacre was perpetrated, but in the two centuries in which the colored people of Hertford county were in bondage however, much they may have desired and discussed the advantages of liberty, with this single exception, they were ever obedient. It is more than probable in the frequent intercourse with the West Indies, the spirit of San Domingo by some chance was recommended to them. At all events, persons now living are witnesses that only alarm and precaution were the results of the movements in 1802, and to the credit and happiness of both races the whole matter was quietly settled.

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