

# THE CHATHAM RECORD

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## SUGGEST TAX CHANGES

Branson and Dickey Survey Field And Then Recommend.

In their study, "How Farm Tenants Live," E. C. Branson and J. A. Dickey do not stop at giving an array of facts about the two Chatham county townships covered by their inquiry. They venture to suggest remedies—not only for the situation in the Chatham county district but for the whole of North Carolina. Their suggestions are aimed at some deep-rooted preconceptions. To some they will appear revolutionary. It is not impossible that persons who are holding land for a big rise in market value will scowl furiously upon one of the remedies proposed in this pamphlet. Yet there are places where the authors point out where these radical cures have been tried successfully.

"A fundamental obstacle to land township," writes Mr. Branson after the miserable plight of the farm tenants in Chatham has been set forth in minute details, "lies in the common law meaning of property. It is a meaning essentially negative. It is based on protection for the owner against the use of his own, without his free consent, by anybody else. It implies no positive obligation on part of the owner to make any use of it himself. It is hardly thinkable that the term could have any other meaning when applied to personal property, but when applied to property in land it has a dog-in-the-manger meaning that imperils the safety of civilization, or so it begins to appear.

"By what essential right human or divine may a man retain the possession of land that he will not or cannot put to productive uses? He has that right in common law, statute law and organic law in every country in Christendom, but landless men are more and more beginning to question it as a dog-in-the-manger meaning more than law. It involves both ethics and religion, in the opinion of Isaiah of old, who pronounced a woe on Israel for joining hoose unto house and lot unto lot.

"There are 1,380,000 landless souls in North Carolina. More and more they are wondering about the 100,000 vacant town lots and the 22,000,000 idle acres of farm land they look upon everywhere they turn in the home state—town lots and farm acres held out of productive use for speculative rises in value, held at prices that a full half of our people cannot afford to pay. What they see is land, land, everywhere and not a road that average wage-earner or farm tenant can buy."

Discourage land idleness through taxation—that is the gist of Mr. Branson's recommendation. He says "Estate or inheritance taxes, transfer taxes on increased sale values, progressive land taxes and the like are social ways of calling into property in land—in Belgium and Denmark, in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Soon or late we shall have to resort to such remedies in America in behalf of the steadily increasing multitude of landless men."

He condemns the tax system now common in America. "It imposes light or relatively light burdens on unimproved town lots and farm lands, and heavy burdens on logs and farms put to productive uses by enterprising owners. It is a system that rewards the inactive owner of idle lots and lands and punishes the wage earner who buys a home or the tenant who buys a farm."

A little later on he says that the more industrious the farmer is the heavier his tax burden becomes. "So it is everywhere under the uniform ad valorem tax system—the general property tax system of this and other states, a system that has been abolished for state support in North Carolina but that still remains the basis of the county and municipal taxation. One may well doubt the essential righteousness of a tax system that rewards inactivity and punishes industry and enterprise."

Federal land banks, it is pointed out, serve no tenants but landowners. They require farm land as collateral, and of course the tenant has no land—if he had he wouldn't be a tenant.

Universal education, leading to better health among tenants and to improvement in general has to be the foundation for genuine progress among farm tenants, but there is a field for legislative action. The co-operative credit union is a device that will go far to meet the needs of many tenants. It is sanctioned by law in seventeen states, but failed to develop into large proportions under state promotion, guidance, and auditing.

"It is almost the sole hope of intelligent, industrious, and thrifty tenant farmers—of some 2,800 worthy white tenants and some 1,400 worthy negro tenants in North Carolina. Farm credit unions are a demonstrated success in every country of Europe; they are a failure in every state of America. What the states have failed to accomplish for landless men, the federal government must undertake, and it needs to be undertaken promptly on a large scale.

"Law cannot create collateral in goods and services, but it can create the machinery of credit accommodation, adjusted and administered to meet the peculiar needs of both tenants and landowning farmers. There is still much to be done in the field of farm credit institutions, if farm owners are to thrive, and if farm

## A FEW INCOME TAX FACTS.

Get Acquainted With These Particulars and Make Returns.

In the making of his income tax return for the year 1922, a tax payer, if single, is allowed an exemption of \$1,000. A married person, or head of a family, whose net income for the year 1922 was \$5,000 or less is allowed an exemption of \$2,500. The exemption allowed a married person or head of a family whose net income was in excess of \$5,000 is \$2,000. A head of a family is a person who actually supports one or more persons living in his or her household who are closely related to him or her by blood, marriage or adoption.

An additional credit of \$400 is allowed for each person (other than husband or wife) dependent upon the tax payer for chief support, if such person is under 18 years of age or incapable of self support because mentally or physically defective. A single man whose net income for 1922 was \$2,000 and who supports in his home an aged mother would have no tax to pay, but would nevertheless be required to file a return. The fact that a person's income may be nontaxable by reason of the exemptions does not nullify the requirement to file a return if his income was within the prescribed figures—\$1,000 if single and \$2,000 if married.

The normal tax is four per cent on the first \$4,000 of net income in excess of the exemptions, and 8 per cent on the remaining net income. The tax may be paid in full at the time of filing return, or in four installments due on or before March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15.

## FROM A GOOD FRIEND OF OURS

Mr. L. K. Beal, of Asheville, has sent us several subscriptions from time to time, and on Jan. 28th he mailed us another new one, and with the letter he had the following to say: "Just a few words from an old Chathamite, who is very much interested in reading the news in your valuable paper.

"It would be hard for me to say much that would be of interest to your many readers in Chatham. My brother, C. D. Beal spent Christmas week visiting relatives in Chatham, and brought back a very interesting report of what he saw there. Some of our poor relations that are on the verge of going to the poor house, have several bales of cotton lying up in the shed, just waiting for the price to go down. So we are very proud to hear of such conditions in Chatham, it shows that the folks are doing well. My nephew, Mr. Ira C. Beal, returned from Chatham last week, where he had been visiting his father, J. B. Beal, Rt. 3, Pittsboro. He tells that he has been down in Chatham trying to catch up with his courting, but I notice that he failed to bring his bride with him; guess he will have to make another trip. There is nothing around here that would be of interest to your readers.

Was shocked to read in your paper this week of the death of Thos. A. Beal, of Bear Creek."

## ANOTHER GOOD LIST TO REPORT

The following is a list of new or renewal subscribers, of whom we are proud:

- E. H. Ward, W. R. Johnson, Mrs. J. D. Willett, J. C. Gregson, D. W. Tally, W. D. Burns, Select Newspaper Association (2), Henry A. Bynum, W. C. Henderson, W. V. Cheek, A. M. Puryear, Zeb. L. Dark, Mrs. M. H. Gilliland, Mrs. George Moore, H. C. Clegg, J. W. Cheek, Paul T. Farrell, J. D. Hatcher, G. B. Emerson, Rufus Jones, B. D. Wilson, Mrs. R. L. Pugh, Dr. L. E. Farthing, G. P. Whitaker, Hugh W. Johnson, W. A. Roberson, Mrs. Lola Andrews, C. T. Norwood, J. L. Johnson, Mrs. Mary Barringer, C. F. Hart, G. C. Ellis, Fred Johnson, John Snipes, John Goins, Mike Harris, R. E. Jones, Dr. R. M. Farrell, W. W. Roberts, L. J. Womble, J. M. Ray, C. C. Council, Jarvis Boone, Mrs. G. S. Norwood and Ira C. Beal.

## LICENSES ISSUED IN JANUARY.

Not so many licenses were issued in January as there were to couples in December. During the last month in the old year 28 marriage licenses were issued, while in the month just passed only 8 were written by registrar of deeds Poe, as follows: Ganis Womble 40, to Berta Clark 34. Zeb P. Council 47 to Mrs. Grace Fearrington 42. Joe W. Cheek 40 to Ella Brafford 21. Herbert Carrol 26 to Blannie L. Williams 24. Dewey Route 22 to Mamie Horner 19.

**Colored.** Charlie Farrington and Mamie Burnett. Early McKay and Mattie Lee Street Theodore Marsh and Piccola Siler.

Accept it as The Best. The whole of our office force is "down and out" this week with an old fashioned bad cold, and we are doing the best we can. Many things were left out that we would have been glad to have published, but we could not handle it with everybody sick, including the editor. Accept the paper as the best under the circumstances.

BUILD A HOME NOW!

## IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE.

Investigation Committees, and a Few Bills Introduced.

Seven new judicial districts, seven new superior court judges and seven new solicitors are to be created under the terms of a new bill which passed the senate last Thursday. The bill has been sent to the house. The bill provides for an increase of the judicial districts from 20 to 27, and the division of the state into three circuits instead of two. Another bill will be introduced soon allocating the 27 districts among the counties and this will be followed by a bill prescribing as to the term of court in each county and district. The fifteen million dollar road bill has passed both houses and is now a law.

A bill has passed the house calling for an investigation of Sanatorium. It has gone to the senate. It is believed that all solicitors will be put on a salary basis, as a bill has been introduced in the house to that effect. The bill proposes a \$4,000 a year salary and traveling expense allowed.

A bill to declare void all marriages hereafter contracted by persons one of whom shall be less than 16 years old, has been introduced in the senate. Governor Cameron Morrison appeared before a joint session of the general assembly and demanded an investigation of the state's finances, because of a statement given out by A. J. Maxwell, commissioner on corporations, that a deficit of more than \$5,000,000 existed in the state.

The bill to provide for compulsory jury service for women, was killed in the committee room. The Judiciary Committee passed Milliken bill, which provides for regulation of secret orders. The garnishment bill has been killed in the legislature. The state wide game law is up before the solons this week, but the chances are that it will be killed.

## NEWS FROM ROCKY RIVER.

Dear Editor:—We wish to tell the people that we are now traveling on our new road from church into the new highway toward Staley. When the mud dries up we will soon have a good road.

Last Wednesday four men went out hunting and were soon on the track of a still. It was running at full blast, but was overhauled and captured. Its head was torn off, the worms taken out of it and the stomach emptied and a few gallons of its medicine, that it was manufacturing taken in tow, but the doctors could not be located. This outfit was about a mile east of Liberty, toward Staley. It had been catching some of the men in the whole neighborhood, but it is out of the way now. It was located near a man's house. Sorry to report several cases of the flu in our neighborhood. Will tell the folks in a few days where our quarterly meeting will be held.

## A FRIEND.

## NEWS FROM SANFORD THREE.

Sanford, Rt. 3, Feb. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Salmon of Durham, spent Wednesday night with Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Pickard.

Mrs. Fannie Pickard and son, Carlton, spent Friday with Mr. and Mrs. Jim Poe at Carabonton. They were accompanied home by Miss Mary Bell Pickard.

Mr. and Mrs. Roe Allen and son, Kelly, of Mt. Pleasant, spent Tuesday night with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pickard.

Miss Julia Pickard has been on the sick list but is somewhat improved. Mr. Talmadge Pickard is much improved after an illness.

Messrs James Fields of Carthage, Rt. 4, and J. C. Fields, of Glendon, spent Thursday night with Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pickard.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Powers, of Gulf, spent a while Sunday with the mother of Mrs. Powers, Mrs. Fannie Pickard.

## PASSES SEVENTY-NINE POST.

Mrs. Robert M. Burns passed her 79th mile post last Friday, Feb. 2nd. To be in company with this good woman, and watch her move around, you would think she was only forty. In fact, she claims she is only 18 and does not intend to get old or older. Many presents were received by Mrs. Burns, showing that her friends had not forgotten her. May she live to see many more happy birthdays. Her husband, Robert M. Burns will be 88 in September of this year. Both these good Pittsboro people have many admirers.

## BITS OF NEWS FROM MOORE.

Carthage, Rt. 4, Feb. 5.—There has been quite a bit of flu in our section. Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fields and little son, Leonard, spent the week-end with their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Phillips on Ore Hill, Rt. 1. The Phoenix Utility Co., will soon have the line completed through this section, running from Baden to Sanford.

Mr. R. T. Fields is moving both his saw mills on a big location near Glendon.

Andrew is All Smiles. Monday morning there came to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Burns in Siler City, a baby boy and Andrew is all smiles.

## CONTRACTS FOR FOUR MILLION

Highway Commission Awards Roads in Scattered Sections.

On February 1st, in Raleigh, there were four million dollars worth of contracts let for roads and bridges, including hard surface, sand asphalt, and top soil roads and concrete bridges.

This was not the biggest letting but one of the greatest, and every district was touched in the contracts let.

Contract No. 403 was for Chatham county and calls for 7 and one tenth miles of top soil graded road, running from the Wake county line to Lee county line, on the Raleigh to Sanford highway. Contract was let to C. G. Kershaw for \$40,567, the bridges are included in the contract.

The highest bid on hard surface road was barely less than \$39,000. The lowest bid being \$21,800. These were in Pitt county.

## FROM OUR FRIEND DORSETT.

Mr. Editor:—This town is situated on the eastern coast of Florida, near the mouth of Indian river and about 150 miles south of Jacksonville. There is a permanent population of about 2,500 people, which is usually increased in the winter season to perhaps four or five thousand by the influx of northern tourists.

It is really a lovely place in either winter or summer, but most especially so in winter and early Spring. All kinds of beautiful shrubbery and flowers are now in full blast, and the orange groves are a perfect delight to the human eye, with much of the golden, luscious fruit still left on the trees. The city markets are now loaded with fresh garden products, such as strawberries, peas, tomatoes, potatoes and other things—all grown in the immediate neighborhood.

Fishing is fine anywhere for miles up and down the Indian river. A fish known as the Jew fish has been caught here, which weighed as much as six hundred pounds. Places like Miami, Palm Beach and other larger resorts have no advantage over a resort like this one excepting that they have deep water and can admit larger vessels. Many small ships are plying around here daily for the benefit of sportsmen and we have all the other conditions of health and good water and game for sporting that can possibly be had at these larger and more expensive resorts. Great canals and larger ditches are being cut from points on the coast to the interior of the state, which sections after being thoroughly drained will be settled up and become one of the garden spots of the world. The Florida Eastern Coast Railroad touches near the beach all the way from Jacksonville to Miami, along which there are many winter resorts, all of which are being well patronized.

Places like St. Augustine, Dacoma, Ormandville and others where we notice many northerners getting off for a sojourn through the balance of the winter.

By the way, I notice in the papers published here that Count Stolsti, son of the great Count Stolsti, of Russia, who was a man of world fame a few years ago, is to lecture at Dacoma, a town about fifteen miles above here soon. He is to be introduced by Williams Jennings Bryan—so you see that east Florida is on the map.

Most residences here are not large and expensive, but are beautiful in many respects, being so beautifully surrounded with palmetto trees and other beautiful shrubbery, together with grassy lawns and lovely parks, as well as drive ways.

I look for a time to come when many people from "Greenland's, Icy Mountains" will come down to live on "Florida's Coral Strands."

I must close with promise to write more later on, after visiting some of the old historical places which I think of doing later on, when I hope to be able to make it more interesting.

W. T. DORSETT, New Smyrna, Fla., Jan. 30, 1923.

## DEATH OF ROBERT L. SUTPHIN.

After an illness of three weeks, Robert L. Sutphin died at his home in Pittsboro on Thursday morning, February 1, at about 1 o'clock. His death was caused from a prostrate condition of the bladder.

Mr. Sutphin was a Confederate Veteran, having served three years in Penick's Battery and was with General Lee at Appomattox, at the surrender.

He was born in Halifax county, Va., September 14, 1844, and was in his 78th year. He was married to Miss Mary John Stroud in 1876. She died in 1902.

The following children survive him: Mrs. W. E. Brooks and Mrs. Cooper Harris, of Pittsboro; Mrs. N. D. Pritchett and James S. Sutphin, of Brawley, California; R. L. Sutphin, Jr., Huntington, W. Va.; Mrs. J. A. Thames, Washington, D. C.; Miss Irene Sutphin, Oteen, and one sister, Mrs. M. K. Horton, Burkeville, Va. The remains were taken to Burlington where they were interred in the cemetery from the church of the Holy Comforter, by the side of his wife.

Mr. Sutphin was well known in Pittsboro and had many friends who will regret to learn of his death. All of his children were at his bedside at the time of his death, except his daughter and son in California.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Farrell Sunday, Feb. 4th, a son.

## WILLIAM GRISWOLD IS DEAD.

Visitors and Local News of Interest From Bear Creek.

Bear Creek, Rt. 2, Feb. 5.—D. M. Womble has been confined to his room with flu.

J. V. Beavers, of Greensboro, is visiting home folks.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Moffitt, January 25, a daughter.

Mrs. Mary L. Dowdy, after visiting her sons in Danville, Va., has returned for a short stay with her sister, Miss Belle Beal, of Rt. 2.

Miss A. G. Hart has flu; also the family of W. M. Maness.

Mrs. W. I. Williamson and sons, Harold and Wilbur, were week-end visitors in the home of T. B. Beal.

An infant of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Griswold was buried at Sandy Branch last week.

J. William Griswold died at his home last Thursday. He had the flu and continued sick until the end came. The entire family, except one child was sick with the flu. Mrs. Griswold has been very low, too, but more hope is held out for her recovery now than a few days ago. It is very sad to note the death of Mr. Griswold. The writer has known him personally only about seven years but he had won our affection, and we shall miss him. He is survived by his wife and five children, all girls; one brother, J. F. Griswold, of Greensboro. May God in His great mercy, comfort those bereft by the sudden taking away of the husband and father.

Miss Mary George Blair, who is attending school at Pittsboro, spent the week-end in the home of her grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. N. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Coggins, and J. F. Coggins, Jr., were visitors in the home of his father Saturday night and Sunday.

Henry Maness' people have moved to Cumcock.

Miss Florence Fields, of Greensboro, is visiting her mother, Mrs. O. D. Wicker.

## PHIL.

## MEMORIAL J. C. HARMON.

Joseph C. Harmon was born July 29, 1846, and died December 31, 1922. During these seventy-six years he lived his life nobly, he conducted himself wisely, fought his battles bravely, and died with a child like faith in Christ.

When the time of departure came, he was ready for the homeward journey. When the "old Ship of Zion" pulled in shore, and the trumpet sounded, he asked not for another day. But with a far away, upward, homeward look, he fixed his eyes. His body fainting, his feet sore from tramping the rugged highways for so many years, his hands hard and horny from toil, his bony, massive, duty brow, bearing the marks of many storms, his countenance shining in the light of eternity; with his children standing on the wharf to see him off, he said "Farewell."

Then stepping aboard the old ship with her sails already unfurled, pulled the anchor, pushed out to sea, and was soon at home in peace.

Brother Harmon loved his country, laid his life upon her altars, fought and slept behind prison bars in her defense, and did his bit in making our civilization what it is.

He loved the church of Christ, and was an active member for most of his life, having joined at Chatham church and later moving his membership to Mt. Zion, and was faithful to his vows and obligations to the end of his journey.

He loved his home possibly better than any other institution. Here he lived his life. Only those that saw him daily could speak as to his faithfulness. He never pushed himself before the public, nor asked for public favors, but quietly without the sounding of trumpets he lived out his life in the precinct of his own family. Here you will find him in the most trying hours of his life, loving, praying, working, planning, hoping, sacrificing, and pouring out the sweat of his brow, and the blood of his soul upon his family altar, to enrich the lives of his children. To save others, himself he could not save. He was willing to suffer that others might have life in all the fullness of his day.

Brother Harmon left behind one brother, Mr. John Harmon, of Pittsboro, his wife Mrs. J. C. Harmon and five children: A. O. Harmon, Raleigh, N. C.; Mrs. W. W. Stedman, Moncure, N. C.; Floyd S. Harmon, J. Lee Harmon, Miss Ola Harmon, Pittsboro, and George D. Harmon, Philadelphia.

May God bless each of you and your home life. May He keep you from all harm, and save you from every danger. May each of you be ready when the summons comes.

J. J. BOONE, Pastor.

## DEATH OF AN INFANT.

William Kent, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Overacre, died at their home in Pittsboro last Saturday. Pneumonia was the immediate cause of its death. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. J. Boone, and interment was in the Baptist cemetery in Pittsboro on Sunday.

## IT'S NOT WHAT YOU PAY

IT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR WHAT YOU PAY. THAT COUNTS WHEN YOU BUY FROM AN ADVERTISER!

## OFFICERS ELECTED FOR YEAR.

Honor Grade Pupils at Bells—The Bad Weather Interferes.

Apex, Rt. 4, Feb. 5.—Owing to the bad roads the attendance for the past month at Bells school has not been so good. The average attendance being only 131.21. However, the majority of the pupils have returned and we hope they may realize that opportunity does not often knock more than once at a door, and they will grasp it while it lingers.

Those who were present every day last month are as follows:

- First grade—Mary Diggs, Jessie McGee.
- Second grade—Nina Shelton.
- Third grade—Bun Johnson, Ernest Deans, Katherine Womble, Catherine Johnson, Lois Horton, Levin Holleman.
- Fourth grade—John Howard.
- Fifth grade—Mildred Deans, Catherine Johnson, John Atwater, Catherine Morgan, Estus Morgan.
- Ninth grade—Hal Baldwin, Hallie Bryan.

On Friday, January 9th, the Claxton Literary Society reorganized for the Spring term and elected the following officers:

- President—Jessie Horton.
- Vice-president—Hugh Holleman.
- Secretary and treasurer—Hal Baldwin.

Assistant secretary—John Cash. Program Committee—William Farrar, Pattie Stone and Hallie Bryan.

The teachers of the eastern group of schools held the second reading circle meeting here last Friday afternoon. Our principal is conducting the work and the discourses are both interesting and instructive. The class will meet every Friday until the work is completed.

The Chapel exercises on Wednesday, from now until the close of the school, will be conducted by pupils from the different grades. The following program was rendered by Miss Utley's pupils last Wednesday:

- Song—America.
- Devotional exercises—Minnie Belle Goodwin.

Essay on Chatham county—Palmer Copeland.

Recitation—A Chatham Boy—Onyx Hunt.

Reading—My Native Land—Ted Johnson.

Chatham Acrostic—Seven girls. Song—O, Chatham.

Miss Baldwin's pupils will present a health program next Wednesday. The fifth and sixth grades from Miss Burgess' room will have charge of a Lincoln program the following Wednesday. Miss Greene's pupils will render a Washington program the next Wednesday. Visitors are always welcome at our school, and especially at these special exercises.

There will be an old time fiddlers convention in the school auditorium Thursday evening, March 8. First and second prizes will be given. Admission 25 cents and 15 cents. Public from far and near is cordially invited. The Convention is under the management of Mr. F. K. King, a veteran fiddler, and the program will be a success.

The pupils in the high school department are planning to present the play, "A Daughter of the Desert" sometime this month. The proceeds will be for the school.

Mrs. Chas. McKay and little son, Frank of Sanford, and Mrs. John Horton and little daughter, Eloise, spent last week here with their father, Mr. Ruffin Farrar.

Hal Baldwin, one of our truck drivers, is attending the tractor school at Pittsboro this week. Leon Wilson is substituting as driver.

The many friends of Dr. Upchurch are very glad to see him able to be out again.

## STUDENT.

## A VALENTINE PARTY TUESDAY.

The Health Department of the Women's Club of Pittsboro will give a Valentine party at the Club rooms Tuesday night, Feb. 13. The following attractions will be interesting to both young and old:

Two Gypses will be present. Come and see what your future has in store for you.

Valentine postoffice. Mail will be delivered to all children present.

A prize will be given to the child dressed the most attractively, representing some feature of Valentine day. Each child entering the parade contest must be masked.

There will be a prize given to the couple that best represents some well known characters, as

Mutt and Jeff. Maggie and Jiggs, or Romeo and Juliet.

Come and see the other attractions. Party from 8 to 10. Admission 10 cents.

## ITEMS FROM OAKLAND SECTION.

Moncure, Rt. 2, Feb. 5.—Wilson Burns is visiting his sister, Mrs. Aubrey Goldston at White Lake.

Miss Alice Bland spent the week-end with Miss Lena Burns.

W. B. Knight is working near Moncure, and his family is boarding at the home of Mr. T. B. Clegg.

Miss Lizzie M. Clegg is visiting her sister, Mrs. W. C. Henderson.

C. J. Knight has about recovered from a slight attack of influenza. There are several others in the community sick with colds. George Burns spent last week working in Moncure.

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