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A VISIT TO MT. VERNON SPRINGS

Editor Makes Trip to This Interesting Place; People Are Friendly and Editor Enjoys the Contact; Secures Several Subscribers

For two years we have had the promise of Mr. Charles Forrester of Mt. Vernon Springs, or Ore Hill, to take us over the R. F. D. route if we would come over. Finally, Friday morning bright and early, we were there for the work, but circumstances caused Mr. Forrester to substitute his fine young son Clarence in his place. But after waiting two years to make this trip, bad weather set in and broke it up in the afternoon. However, we met a number of good citizens of the county we never before knew and found one of the best farming communities in the county, where prosperity must be enjoyed to a considerable degree in normal times, and where the people seem not now to be suffering so badly from bad crops as those of less favored soils.

It was actually the first time that we had seen the classic village of Mt. Vernon Springs, a mile west of the Ore Hill depot, though we have known of that one point longer than of any place in Chatham county. The writer was a mere tot when a neighbor young man married up there and moved to Mt. Vernon Springs to live. It was Rawdon R. Vann, or R. Rawdon. Sampson folk knew him only as Rawdon. Several times we have stopped at Ore Hill, but failed each time to reach the Springs, which, by the way, is one of the oldest health or pleasure resorts in the whole State. There have been many high old times at Mt. Vernon the past 125 years, and it is a pity that the railroad shield to the eastward a mile and left it isolated. At that time Siler City was merely a cross roads store, and if the railroad had gone by the Springs it is conceivable that there might have been the larger town of the western part of the county. But one of the older citizens of the community, either Mr. Heritage or Mr. R. W. White, we believe, said that it was thought then that one hill, the hill from which the depot took its name, was valuable for its iron deposits and that it would be better to bring the railroad to the very foot of the hill to make loading easy. The iron ore did not pan out in commercial quantities and the result was the community was divided, and there are two villages. A year or two ago, the name of Ore Hill was changed to "Mt. Vernon Springs," but Capt. Heritage says he will get up a petition to restore the old name to the depot, allowing the name Mt. Vernon Springs to apply again definitely to the Springs community.

It was a pleasure to meet old friends over there and to make the acquaintance of a number of the best farmers in the county we have hitherto not known. The truth is, the chief profit in a trip like that lies in learning more of the country and of the people. A subscription which has to be gone after does not give much profit. There are always some folk one from home and some haven't the money at hand. On the other hand, it is of real value to know the citizens of the county and to know where they live. Five minutes at a man's home will acquaint you better with him than meeting him in town a dozen times.

When Mr. P. W. Harden was asked about that sprightly daughter of his, Mrs. May Holiday, we were informed that she was getting ready to leave Tuesday to spend Thanksgiving with her brother Frank T. Harden, in Philadelphia, and would then visit friends in New York. Presumably, she is gone when you read this.

Mrs. D. T. Vestal, who runs an eat little store at the depot, was worrying over what she would do about her claim on the Bank of Bonlee. She had lost a goodly sum in the bank failure, but had pulled through and was then up against the proposition of the reorganizers to take forty per cent of her deposits in stock and to refrain from checking out the balance for two years, while the bank is getting back on its feet. She thought a sufficient number of the depositors had already signed and that her agreement wasn't longer really necessary, but she was puzzled as to what to do just the same. The failure of the Bonlee bank added additional hardships to the people of that section, but it looks as if in time the bank, reorganized, will be able to repay the depositors. But had must again become a real security to enable it to do so. Unfortunately that section had a financial wizard or two, one of whom particularly hypnotized the people while he was speculating widely. Some let him have practically all their savings, and now have no security and the man is gone, no one knows where. The bank probably suffered from the operations of the same agent. Det Emmerson is what they call him.

We ran up to see Mrs. Strowd and found her still strong and capable. She had recently spent a week with

her cousin Mr. W. A. Headen of Siler City and reported his condition as improving, quoting Dr. Edwards to the effect that he would have him up by Christmas if the improvement should continue. That would be gratifying, indeed, to thousands of Mr. Headen's friends in this and other counties.

Just above Mrs. Strowd's we found Mr. Smith, an old gentleman, working at the wood pile, anticipating the bad weather abrewing, but he was ready for an excuse to go into the fire and talk. Mrs. Headen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith, is the reader of that family. Mr. Headen goes to his work in Siler City daily and returns.

Now Clarence Forrester is at hand with the car and we start on our trip on the R. F. D. route, and are directly at the Springs. Here a stop at the lovely home of Mr. J. M. Foust, gives a few minutes of chat by a warm stove and our first meeting with the charming sister, Miss Bernice Foust. It will be recalled that the mother of this good family died last spring.

We stop at the spring and take a drink of the long famous water. Just a little beyond Mr. Sam Forrester had been clearly waiting for a good chance to subscribe for The Record. We stop to see Mr. R. C. Gilbert, one of the best fixed farmers of the county, with his home lighted with electricity, with a few good cows whose milk is shipped to Greensboro. He is a man who has forsaken cotton. He was threshing lopsedeza and had saved a quantity of seed. We meet Mr. J. I. Bright in the road, returning a wheat drill to its owner. He had just finished sowing his wheat, and others were seen busy drilling the seed or preparing the land. But the weather was fixing to stop such needed work, already rather delayed by incessant wet weather.

Clarence keeps us informed of the names of the residents ahead. There Mr. Caviness lives and we wonder if it is some of Miss Bessie's folk, and so we find her brother I. L. and sister there, the old homestead where the proprietor of the Caviness shops of Siler City and Pittsboro was reared. It is a good old country home.

MISS EDYTHE GIBSON WEDS MR. JOHN KILLE

(From the Asheville Citizen)
The marriage of Miss Edythe Irene Gibson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Gibson, of Whittier, N. C., to Mr. John Decatur Kille, of West Asheville, took place at high noon yesterday at the West Asheville Methodist Church, with the Rev. G. T. Bond, pastor of the church, officiating.

The altar was banked with ferns and potted flowers. Preliminary to the wedding music Mrs. Freddie Ray Griffin sang "Because" and "At Dawning." Mr. George Thompson presiding at the organ rendered "Govotte" from Mignon and "The Answer."

The bridal party entered to the strains of the "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin; and Schubert's "Serenade" was played softly during the ceremony.

Miss Hazel Andrew, as the maid of honor, entered wearing a peacock blue silhouette with real lace trimmings. She wore a matching hat of imported felt, and her shoulder corsage was composed of Columbia roses.

The bride entered with her brother, Mr. Grant Gibson of Seattle, Wash., who gave her in marriage. She wore a traveling ensemble of gray and blue tweed. Her hat was of pigeon gray French felt with accessories of blue and gray to match her ensemble. Her corsage was of swansonia and Columbia roses.

At the altar the bride was met by the groom and his best man, Mr. Joel Gibson, brother of the bride, of Seattle, Wash.

Immediately following the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Kille left for an extended tour of the Southern cities. Upon their return they will be at home at 16 White Fawn Drive, Oakhurst.

Mrs. DeGraffenreid Hostess
The stately ancestral home of Mrs. Richard DeGraffenreid, four miles west of Pittsboro, was the scene of old-time hospitality when she was hostess to the October meeting of the U. D. C. Mrs. J. M. Gregory, president, dispatched the business of the afternoon in her usual efficient manner. Plans were made to send Christmas boxes to the Confederate veterans. The relief committee were instructed to send fruit and flowers to members who were sick.

Mrs. J. W. Hunt, historian, presented an interesting program of current Confederate events, Mesdames E. R. Hinton, D. B. Noe, V. R. Johnson, and J. B. Fearrington taking part.

Mrs. DeGraffenreid, assisted by Mrs. James M. Cordon, and Miss Emily Taylor, served an elaborate salad course.

Brickhaven News

Mr. C. H. Marks, who is working with a construction company near Fort Bragg, spent the week-end here with Mrs. Marks and the children. The Marks, who have been living at the Johnson place opposite the Brickhaven school for the past two years, will move back to their own cottage in a few days. Painting and other work is being done to get the house ready for occupancy. Mr. Lennie Buchanan has recently moved his family to Corinth. Mr. Will Cotton of Truth is one of our new neighbors now. He has been living at the old Lawrence house for several weeks. We are glad to welcome newcomers and hope they will find success and happiness in our midst. We heartily invite them to join our Sunday school and other community activities.

Miss Ruth Kennedy of Meredith College and Mr. Allen Moore of Winston-Salem were guests here recently of Mrs. O. C. Kennedy.

Mr. P. C. Cox of Greensboro has been visiting friends at the Boylan Ranch.

Miss Cecil Sewell of the Moncure school faculty was a recent guest here in the home of Mrs. J. W. Utley.

Mrs. L. H. Mims, after a short stay with her daughter, Mrs. Cecil, of Alta Vista, Va., has returned to her home at Corinth. Mrs. Mims was called to Virginia several weeks ago by the sudden death of her son-in-law Mr. Worley Cecil. The news of Mr. Cecil's death brought sadness to many and much sympathy is felt for the bereaved family. Mrs. Cecil was the former Miss Alma Mims, and is remembered here as one of the loveliest and most popular girls ever reared in this section.

Mr. C. S. Harrington and family were week-end guests of his brother, Mr. Merrimon Harrington, of Holly Springs.

Mr. J. C. Sewell of the Cherokee Brick Company spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives at Carthage.

Mr. Lattie Buchanan spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Buchanan, at Bonsal.

Miss Lucile Brady, principal of the school here, spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Brady at Moncure.

There will be an oyster supper at the school house here Wednesday evening, November 28. Plans are being made to have a 6 o'clock serving before the program begins—so come early and enjoy the "eats." The proceeds go to the Christian Endeavor fund, and it is hoped a large crowd will be present. Anyway, come; for the teachers, Miss Brady and Miss Cotton, have been working faithfully and tirelessly in order to present a good program. There will be no charge for admission.

Next Thursday, November 28, is the day set apart by a proclamation of our president as our national Thanksgiving Day. There are so many "special" days and sometimes special weeks now, that holidays are likely to lose much of their original significance, but we do think that our people should observe this day in the spirit of thankfulness and deep appreciation that so characterized our first American Thanksgiving. As a nation we have many things for which to be thankful. While to some of us the year has brought more of sadness than of gladness; in some homes a beloved voice is forever silent, there will be a vacant chair at the festive board and hearts will ache with longing for absent ones; but one can be glad for the happiness of others; for friends and neighbors who have been so kind and loving; for the greatest of material gifts—health. Crops have been short, work dull, but conditions could be a great deal worse—and "the world is so full of a number of things I am sure we should all be as happy as kings." War, man's greatest enemy has been outlawed by the leaders of the great nations and "Peace on earth, Good will to men" is more in evidence than ever before. As a nation and as a community we can be glad and thankful for many things, and as individuals let us count our blessings, and breathe a little prayer that we may be worthy of a continuation of these blessings and of greater prosperity in both the material and spiritual in the year ahead.

Mr. W. A. Griffin of Yanceyville spent the week-end here with friends.

Her First Visit to the Courthouse

Mrs. Marshall Mann of Cafe Fear township came over with Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Matthews Monday and made her first visit to the courthouse, or any courthouse, and says that she doesn't care to come any more unless they clean it up. But Mr. Matthews told her that some things done in it were dirtier than it. But he was probably referring away back yonder to those bad old fusion days.

It was a pleasure to the editor to meet Mrs. Matthews, a daughter of our former friend Mr. Hunter of Sampson, but earlier of Chatham.

The sun appeared Wednesday morning after five days' absence. There has been less sunshine here the past two years than in any other two years in fifty, we dare say.

Brown's Chapel News

Well, Mr. Editor, the cow is doing finely, coming back to her milk and holding her cud.

Mrs. A. E. Lutterloh was able to return with her son from her Raleigh visit and despite sleet and snow to attend Sunday school.

Wheat sowing, like corn planting the past two years, is nearly over, but not because the expected crop has been sown. This is another instance of the unusual effects of weather the past few years. It may mean something we do not understand.

We are sorry Mr. E. J. Dark and others are still "under the weather." Messrs. Charlie Ellington, Hubert Wright, and others from Carrboro were over here hunting before the closed season ended, and caused a still to be broken up on land they had no permission to be hunting upon, so I have been told. People take a lot of authority, sneaking round both ways. The hunters, as well as the blockaders, were law-breakers.

Through a joke, I think, it is being norated around that in our last article we said "slitting tails and boring horns" is good for both man and beast. No doubt it might be in some cases, but the item read this way: "Simple remedies are sometimes good for man and beast." I may also have goo-goo eyes made at me and am criticised for holding the view that I hold of buying and selling on Sunday. I am not ashamed of it, however, for my conscience leads me to the view. No meat man sells on Sunday and on that account sometimes has thrown away meat spoiled on that account. But milk if soured can be utilized as food. But let conscience be your guide.

Tail-splitting or horn-boring of cows is not so barbarous as splitting a man's leg and scraping the bone. However, if it gives so much agony and pain, as some claim, as to cause the patient to get up and eat and do about as she has not before, I say, Go to it, whether you believe in it or not. Now, lots of fun has been had over this, but if I am a man of very little common sense, I practice tail-splitting, horn-boring, tongue-scraping, and salting, and never had a veterinarian, and have lost only one cow in 21 years. But I may lose more; I am no doctor.

The mothers class in our school made a fine report through its president, Mrs. O. W. Mann, last Sunday, of what they had done in a financial way through a monthly fee of five cents, along with some other work. The total for the twenty members was about \$25. This went to the aid of the church and to the orphanage. Mrs. Mann is a hustler. May God bless her and the class.

Mrs. Fred Riggsbee Died Tuesday Night

Mrs. Fred Riggsbee, who had been in Raleigh for several weeks for treatment and who a week ago became critically ill, died at 2 o'clock Wednesday morning at a Raleigh hospital. Mr. Riggsbee had been called on Monday night and informed that his wife could hardly survive. He and Mr. Wrenn Gilmore hastened down. Mr. Gilmore returned Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Riggsbee was in the prime of life, about 38 years of age, and was a handsome woman when in health. She leaves two little children and her devoted husband, also her mother, Mrs. Parrish, who has been caring for the Riggsbee home and the children during her daughter's illness. A sister lives in Ohio, and at this writing Wednesday morning it is not known whether the funeral will be postponed till she can arrive or not. The body is being brought to Pittsboro for burial and if the funeral is not postponed for the arrival of the sister will be held at the Methodist church sometime Thursday, it is presumed.

Monkey-Faced Owl Caught in Chatham

Mr. E. A. Foust of Mt. Vernon Springs, has a real curiosity. It is a monkey-faced owl and was caught right here in Chatham, down on Rocky River, by a son of Mr. Arthur Stout. Mr. Foust happened along and bought it and has it in a cage at the Foust place.

How the stranger came to be in this section is not known. The bird is a beauty, its plumage partridge colored. But the face is the striking feature. It is truly named "monkey-faced," and if its face were on a kitten or coon one would think that he was seeing a new species of monkey. In its regular habitat this bird is called the barb owl and feeds upon rats, mice, etc. Mr. Foust had discovered.

Call of Executive Committee
The 23rd annual session of the North Carolina Farmers Union will meet in Greensboro December 3rd, 1929, the first session at 10:30 a. m. There will be sessions of the union as long as the business demands. By order of the Executive Committee. R. M. Gorrell, chairman.

The Fall Festival Enjoyable Affair

The annual fall carnival sponsored by the Parent-Teacher Association, which was held Friday night, was a complete success. A new feature of the carnival this year was the crowning of the "Queen of Beauty," Miss Virginia Bean and her consort, John Lee Burns, who received the greatest number of votes in the schools.

Twenty-six dollars was realized from these votes. Miss Bean looked unusually lovely and wore her queenly robes with fitting grace. The two pages were little Nat Hill Johnson and James Weeks, dressed as court pages, who acted their part to perfection. The ladies-in-waiting were Miss Ann Bynum and Miss Margaret Brooks, also in court attire. Mr. Daniel L. Bell in beautiful words and graceful gesture crowned the queen and her consort, who presided over the carnival. After the crowning four little children danced the minuet before the King and Queen and their attendants. The grand parade was led by the King and Queen and attendants to music furnished by Mr. Staley Denton on the saxophone accompanied, at the piano, by Miss Cornelia Yeargin of Siler City.

There were sixty or more in the parade, in attractive costumes. Prizes were awarded the following: Fletcher Mann as a "Dutch Boy," \$1.00 donated by Mr. J. S. Waters. Bettie Bell, "A Witch," a box of Norris candy, donated by Mr. Arthur London. Miss Louise Ray, "A Bell Boy," \$1.00 donated by Mr. Shannonhouse. Miss Margaret Waters, a "Chinaman," a box of Norris candy, donated by Dr. G. R. Pilkington. These were presented by Prof. W. R. Thompson.

The prizes for the best pair went to Reid Thompson, Jr., as "Peter the Pumpkin Eater," and to little Bettie Scott Barber, his wife, the prizes were two baskets of luscious fruits donated by Mr. Loving of the Progressive Grocery Store. The group prizes went to Miss Margaret Siler as Mother Goose and eight Mother Goose characters, these were theatre tickets to the Vitaphone, donated by Mr. Fields of the Pilot Theatre, presented by Dr. Farrell.

The judges were Mrs. Harward of Moncure, Mrs. Noel and Mrs. Tutwiler of Siler City. The Mother Goose characters were Allie Bell as "Bob Peck," Eleanor Johnson as "Queen of Hearts," Eleanor's costume was one worn by her mother, some years earlier! Callie Farrell as "King of Hearts," George Brewer as "Little Miss Muffitt," Lawrence Petty as "Little Boy Blue," Hilda Walker as "Mary Mary," Jack Brown and Mary Gilmore as Jack and Gill.

Following the carnival there was a baset-ball game by Pittsboro and Bethesda, the score was 28 to 31 in favor of Pittsboro. Out in the corridor of the school building were several booths decorated in fall leaves where sandwiches and coffee, cakes, candies and pies were sold. Then a country store laden with fruits, vegetables, canned goods, preserves, jellies, etc., could be bought. A cold drink stand and an oyster booth were popular stations. Mrs. Cordon, president P. T. A., wishes to thank every one who aided in securing the success of the carnival. The next meeting of the P. T. A. will be Friday night, December 6, in favor of Pittsboro.

RAISING BULBS AND PECANS
Says the Sanford Express: "Mr. P. V. Budd, who for the past few years has been engaged in raising flowers and flower bulbs for the market near the Jones farm below Lockville, has purchased a tract of land on Highway Route No. 50 near Jones Chapel, and will continue to engage in the culture of flowers and bulbs. This is near the tract of land that was bought by Mr. Charles R. Hall, of Philadelphia, who will engage in raising peonies on a large scale. He has been busy for several months preparing the land for the peony bulbs. The Express is informed that Mr. Hall expects to put out a peacan orchard and raise pecans on a large scale."

In connection with the above, we quote Mr. E. M. Connell as saying more pecans should be grown in Chatham County. He had gathered a bushel of fine nuts from a five-year old tree. They would sell for ten dollars, we guess.

DR. MONROE ABLE TO SIT IN A ROLLING CHAIR

(From The Sanford Express)
His friends will be pleased to learn that Dr. J. P. Monroe, who was shot by W. A. Maness on October 2, and has since been at the Central Carolina Hospital, continues to improve. He is now able to sit in a rolling chair. He is able to move his feet and it is believed that he will have recovered to the extent that he will be able to walk in a few weeks.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

Marriage license has been issued recently to Hardy Lee Brown and Madeline Johnson, both of Matthews township; to C. L. Snipes and Ina Phillips, both of Gulf township; to Robert Glenn White and Essie Lee Riddle, both employees of the silk mill here. The last was issued Monday, November 25.

CHATHAM'S PIONEER NEGRO POET OF 1829

Second Book Published by an American Negro Published by George Moses Horton, a Chatham County Slave, a Hundred Years Ago

As poetry it is not a classic, yet it is interesting to note that the second book published by an American negro and the first by a negro of the South was published a hundred years ago by George Moses Horton, a slave belonging to George Horton of New Hope township.

George Moses could not read, but surprised himself one day as he worked in the Horton field and hummed a tune by making up words that fitted and sounded good to him. That night he sang his song to one of the Hortons, who copied it down for him. The next day George tried a new tune, and fitted words to it. Thus his poetic career began. This was more than a hundred years ago.

In time the poems had increased to quite a number, and it became George's ambition to have his poetry published in book form, from the sale of which he hoped to be able to secure funds to buy his freedom and to join the colony of American negroes who were at that time settling and civilizing Liberia (the land of the free) on the western coast of Africa. In the meantime, occasional poems of George's had been published in the Raleigh Register and some in Boston papers. The latter attracted considerable attention. It was probably from Boston that the idea of George's buying his freedom and emigrating to Liberia arose. But his book would not sell in sufficient volume to furnish the needed money. George had to continue his farm work, but in 1832, his old master having died and the slave having become the property of Hall Horton, George made the proposition that he be allowed to go to Chapel Hill and pay his owner fifty cents a day. Hall Horton took him up, and George hid away to Chapel Hill.

At Chapel Hill George made friends with President Caldwell and became a campus character. He found employment in writing poems for the students, many of them love poems, presumably, to be sent back to the girl at home. He also read his poems to groups of students and the hat passed around. He got 25 cents for each poem he wrote, unless it was a love poem, and then he soaked the student for 50 cents. George's poems sold at a high rate, as is indicated by the fact that the students had the privilege of spending their money on what for the average youth would be an irresistible attraction. Another negro on the campus would allow a student to burst a board on his head for 5 cents.

As George knew many hymns by heart, he learned to read by comparing the words in his head with the printed ones in the hymn book. In the current Saturday Evening Post, "America's Only Woman Humorist," relates that she learned to read in a similar manner, and the editor of The Record has been told by two citizens of the State that they thus learned to read. Some one surreptitiously taught George to write, for it was against the law to teach negroes to read and write.

Out of his earnings he paid his master his fifty cents a day, but the fund for Liberia did not accumulate rapidly. After the death of President Caldwell in 1837, George lost heart and began to spend his money for liquor. His savings shrank away and he found it difficult to pay his fifty cents a day. He became a University janitor, and thus secured funds to keep up his payments till he sent his last fifty cents in 1865, in the closing day of the war, and declared himself free. He accompanied a young Union cavalry officer to Philadelphia, where a special meeting of the Barmaker Institute of that city held a special meeting "to receive Mr. George Horton of North Carolina, a poet of considerable genius."

George remained in Philadelphia the rest of his life and wrote stories which were published in several papers at the same time, which furnished one of the earliest cases of the modern syndication of articles. He made his living by writing and was the first North Carolinian, probably, who ever did that, whether white or black. His two children took the name of their mother, who was a Snipee, presumably also a Chatham negro. George died about 1883.

Prof. Collier Cobb wrote the best PLEASE TURN TO PAGE THREE

MRS. VESTAL GIVES DINNER
Mrs. D. T. Vestal of Mt. Vernon Springs, entertained a number of her friends in a pre-Thanksgiving dinner last Thursday evening. Those sharing Mrs. Vestal's hospitality were Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Vestal, Mrs. C. F. Gamble and sons, Charles and George, of Siler City, Miss Mildred Daxett of Mt. Vernon Springs, and Mr. George Cheek. It was an enjoyable occasion, and as Mrs. Vestal is her own cook and takes pride in the fact, one may know that it was a well prepared dinner.