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New Appraisals to Begin Jan. 1st

W. H. Ferguson Appointed Supervisor of Revaluation of Lands at Salary of \$5.00 a Day—Township Appraisers, or Listers, Appointed.

The law provides that new appraisals of property, real and personal, shall be made each fourth year, and provides that the commissioners shall appoint a county supervisor at a per diem of \$4 to \$8, and that an appraiser, or lister, shall be appointed for each township. It is required that the appraisers shall be freeholders and men of sound judgment. The county supervisor superintends the whole work, advising with the various township appraisers and presumably having the final word about the value of any property in question, though appeal from the appraiser to the board of county commissioners gives another check upon the work of appraisers.

In conformity with the requirements of the law, the new board of commissioners has appointed Mr. W. H. Ferguson, of Hickory Mountain township, county supervisor and has fixed his per diem at \$5.

Mr. Ferguson is general considered one of the best farmers of the county and a man of sound business judgment. He should have the knowledge that will enable him to estimate all the factors making for the value of land or detracting therefrom. In fact, it would be hard to find in the county a man better qualified for such a task. Moreover, the remuneration is modest, when it is considered that Mr. Ferguson must travel all over the county time and again and furnish his own car, gas and oil. There is no definite period for Mr. Ferguson's task. He begins the first of January and continues till the job is done, and then subjects himself to criticism for the next four years, for it will be impossible for any man to satisfy all property owners.

The wage of the township assessors is \$3.50, and the following citizens have been appointed to the task in the several townships:

- TOWNSHIP APPRAISERS**
- Albright township—J. B. Ingles and W. G. Andrews;
 - Baldwin—W. B. Check and G. G. Ward;
 - Bear Creek—D. H. Ellis and W. T. Brooks;
 - Gulf—T. B. Burke and J. R. Moore;
 - Hadley—A. E. Thompson and Osborne Mann;
 - Haw River—J. Walker Thomas and W. J. Hannon;
 - Hickory Mountain—T. M. Brooks and T. H. Harris;
 - Matthews—E. H. Foust and J. S. Wrenn;
 - New Hope—N. J. Wilson and J. B. Mills;
 - Oakland—Dick Seagroves and J. T. Griffin;
 - Williams—Z. J. Johnson and W. C. Johnson;
 - Cape Fear—S. W. Harrington and J. D. McIver;
 - Center—W. H. Griffin and W. E. Brooks.

It is noted that there are two appraisers for each township. The section of this article above was written and given to the printer before the township list was available and when the writer was under the impression that there was only one appraiser to the township.

Those who know the gentlemen named above should recognize the fact that the townships have been gleaned for as good men as can be found. These men, with the advice of the county supervisor, whose business it is to keep valuations in all the townships as nearly on the same basis as possible, are to place the tax value upon all the property in their townships. The law, in addition to these men who fix values, seems to have provided also for the regular tax-lister, and the following list-takers have been appointed:

- LIST OF LIST-TAKERS.**
- Albright township—M. W. Duncan; Baldwin, W. A. Snines; Bear Creek, B. A. Phillips; Gulf, D. T. Brooks; Hadley, J. W. Dark; Haw River, W. H. Lassiter; Hickory Mountain, R. H. Thomas; Matthews, R. W. Dark; New Hope, D. L. Thomas; Oakland, C. M. Pattishall; Williams, J. T. Mills; Center, Charles Lutterloh; Cape Fear, E. E. Wilson.

Wages Not Determined.
While the appointments of township appraisers and list takers was made, there was some confusion in the minds of the commissioner as to whether the list-takers are to be compensated in the usual way or whether all three of the township men are to be given a per diem. Accordingly, the fixing of the per diem for even the appraisers was postponed till after the meeting in Raleigh set for the tenth, or yesterday, when all the county supervisors were to attend for instructions from the state authorities. This meeting, Mr. Ferguson, of the county supervisor, attended, and it will be part of his business to get the matter of compensation cleared up. However, one thing is certain.

INFLUENCE OF TRINITY COLLEGE SEEN IN THE CHINESE REPUBLIC

Father-in-Law of The Founder and President of the Republic Educated in Randolph County—Was Chinese Waif and Educated Thru Charity and Own Efforts.

The following story taken from the last issue of the Asheboro Courier makes interesting reading: Staid old Trinity, village which mothered Duke University, was in no wise startled to learn of Charlie Soong, father-in-law of both the founder and present president of the Chinese Republic, having been educated in this State. In fact, a dozen people living in the community well remember "Charlie Soong" in the three years he spent in old Trinity College, and the cord hammocks he made and sold to add to the necessary expenses supplied him by General Julian S. Carr. He never moved his membership from the local Methodist church where he was baptized.

The little Chinese waif, apparently deserted at Wilmington by a tramp schooner, was found by some church women who befriended him and wrote to General Carr about him. The Durham philanthropist immediately agreed to supply funds to send Charlie to Trinity and turned him over to Dr. Braxton Craven, the president.

Charlie boarded at Prof. W. T. Gannaway's home. He was popular with the students and was the object of much interest on the campus. Every householder in the section owned at least one of the hammocks he had learned to make while working on the tramp ship. On the Sunday before Christmas in 1880, he was converted and baptized by Dr. Craven, who was pastor as well as college president, and the ceremony in the old college chapel is well remembered by old residents; even Dr. Craven's text, "Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature," is recalled.

Charlie Soong left Trinity in the spring of 1881 and returned to China. He wrote Dr. Craven after leaving, but as the Trinity leader died in 1882, Charlie's connection with the village was broken off after that. He prospered in China and kept his religion—technically he is still a member of the church here, for there is no record of his ever having moved his membership.

After returning to China, apparently a "g" was added to his name, but Trinity students remember him as "Charlie Soong." His eldest daughter was the wife of President Sun Yet Sen who is credited with being the founder of the Chinese republic and who died in 1925. Another daughter, Mayvill Soong, was married several years ago to the present President Chiang Kai Shek, who recently announced his conversion to the Christian religion and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in which all of Soong's children are members.

Chatham Vote A Criterion

The Record is in receipt of a questionnaire from Senator Nye's election committee and has replied that not one cent was spent for advertising by either Senator Simmons, J. W. Bailey, or Geo. Pritchard in the Chatham Record. Furthermore, we reply that very little was spent for either candidate in the county—in any way. Bailey didn't need it, and it would have done either Simmons or Pritchard very little good. Moreover, Chatham is the one county in the state that has outlawed absentee voting in the primary, consequently was no fraud along that line in Chatham.

Hence, the vote in Chatham, both in the primary and in the general election, may be accepted as a criterion of the sentiment of the state, particularly in the contest between Bailey and Simmons.

Senator Nye is persistent, and there are places in the state where signs of fraud are in evidence, but such fraud as was perpetrated was affected results very little. It was the work of those rouses who would steal even when there is no necessity for it. And the likely consequence of such rottenness is the placing of congressional elections under the supervision of National authorities. Such a bill has already been introduced by Senator Patterson, a member of Senator Nye's committee. When that happens, the election rouses in North Carolina may simply thank themselves for the national interference.

Goldston—Knox

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Knox of Wilmington announce the engagement of their daughter, Mary Ethel to Eugene F. Goldston. The Knox family is one of the most prominent of Brunswick county. They live just across the Cape Fear river from Wilmington. Mr. Goldston is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Goldston, now of Wake Forest but recently of Chatham county. He is a graduate of State College of class 1929.

—the per diem will be as low as the law allows, for the board is clearly on the watch for the opportunity to save every dollar possible. However, one thing is certain.



UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT POSES FOR OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH

This is the approved official photograph of the United States Supreme Court as it is now constituted, the first group photograph made under Chief Justice Charles E. Hughes. Standing left to right: Justices Stone, Sutherland, Butler and Roberts. Seated, left to right: Justices McReynolds, Holmes, Chief Justice Hughes, Justices Van Devanter and Brandels. The official photograph was made exclusively by Harris & Ewing.

Gant Draws Ten Years in the Pen New Office Room Planned for C.H.

Former Clerk of Guilford Court Pleads Guilty to Various Crimes Attending Robbery of Confederate Pensioners and Orphans.

Responsible for the loss to the state and to Confederate pensioners of nearly \$100,000, and charged with a shortage of \$100,000 in his management of trust funds, much of which was held in trust for orphans, Mason W. Gant, former clerk of Guilford Superior Court, through counsel last Monday, pleaded guilty to certain charges and entered pleas of not contendere in numerous others, thus considerably shortening the time expected to be required in disposing of the scores of cases against the man.

Counsel attempted to make some plea for mercy, but reports indicate that it was faint-hearted. It is generally admitted that Gant's health is very bad and that he will probably not live to serve the ten years in the penitentiary to which he was sentenced by Judge Devin, but even that condition and the plight of his family can not arouse any great degree of sympathy for a wretch so heartless as to steal the pension of a hundred-year old man slurge on it while the poor old soldier is sending the 101st year of his life in the Guilford county home.

Gant's rogueries have been going on for years and were not even slightly checked by the discovery and punishment of similar crimes by the clerk of the Sampson county court six or seven years ago. Indeed, the pension checks have proved much better pickings since that date, as the checks now are very much larger than those which Clerk Sessoms and Gant had to satisfy themselves with in the earlier days of their thievery.

But equally indifferent to the lessons of the Sessoms case was State Auditor Baxter Durham, who by the discovery of Sessoms' defalcations should have been thoroughly put on guard against similar defalcation. Yet it seems clear that the state auditor not only did not guard against future thievery by the same means but even failed to check up the Guilford pension warrants with the vital statistics records, and presumably neglected to do the same in other counties. Thus Clerk Gant was given carte blanche to continue his stealings.

DEATH OF DR. CAIN

After living 83 years and serving efficiently in many capacities, Prof. William Cain, so long teacher of mathematics at the University, was the victim Saturday evening of an automobile. The old teacher, the last time the writer saw him was as straight and trim as an Indian. He was an old-time mathematician and a wonderful mathematician. But the modern nemesis got him. Dr. Cain was a native of Hillsboro and was buried in that old town Monday.

JOHN G. CLARK A CANDIDATE

Mr. John G. Clark, a Chathamite, we believe, by birth, but living just across the line in Alamance, is a candidate for sergeant at arms in the senate. Mr. Clark has served one or two terms, we believe, as an assistant, but now seeks promotion. Well, here's hoping Mr. Clark gets the job. He is sure one Democrat, if not one and a half, and those senators who wish to reward party loyalty would as well get ready to vote for John G. Clark. He doubtless has a friend in Mr. Fountain who will preside over the senate.

Room 10 Feet by 20 Feet to Be Made for Tax-Collector's Office by Simply Cutting off Southern Entrance Hall.

As long as an additional room or two has been so badly needed at the court house, no one seemed to have thought of simply cutting off the south entrance hall and thus with a ten-foot wall securing a good office room ten by twenty feet. But that was the solution offered by Commissioner Hester when the necessity arose to provide an office for the tax-collector without occupying the grand jury room.

Those who know the building, as practically all citizens do, know that two great halls cross each other, giving four entrances to the lower floor. The south hall and entry is very little needed, if at all, and is certainly little used. But a ten-foot wall will convert it into a good office ten by twenty feet, while the wide double-door space allows for all the windows needed to light the room.

Girl Uses Knife

Gertha Cotten, a colored girl, got on the war path with a knife last Thursday. She and other girls were picking cotton for Marin Scurlock when the fuss began. Ollie Crutchfield, a buxom damsel, got a three-inch slice in a cheek and Beulah Green a cut on the nose and one on an arm. Ollie chased her assailant home, unmindful of the clash in her cheek. Dr. Chapin did the patching, and Judge Lysander Johnson the binding over to court. He bound over all to the court except me, said Ollie.

L. C. ELLIS WRITES

The Record is in receipt of a nice letter and check from Mr. L. C. Ellis, one of the Chatham county ex-service boys, who spent several years at Oteen Hospital but a year or so ago, was transferred to the hospital at Fort Baynard, New Mexico. We had supposedly been contributing the Record to this brave ex-soldier as our part toward making his exile more pleasant, but the gallant young fellow sent us a three dollar check and called for a statement for the who's time. But he may count himself up to Jan. 1, '32 or as much longer as he pleases.

Continuing his letter, Mr. Ellis says: "Being exiled from Old Chatham, I enjoy the news the Record gives of the affairs of the county and the news items from the state at large. Your editorials are also read with interest, and they would do credit to any newspaper."

It would be appreciated if you would announce the name of the publisher of the First Volume of Dr. George Paschal's History of the Baptists of North Carolina when it is issued.

Yours very truly,
LeRoy C. Ellis.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of the last will and testament of the late James L. Griffin, of Chatham County, I hereby warn all persons holding claims against the estate to present them duly proven on or before the 8th day of December 1931 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons owing the estate will please make early payment. This the 8th day of December 1930.

Mrs. Hettie Griffin, Executrix.

Low Farm Income Dooms Tenant System

The antiquated cropper system of farming, as practised in North Carolina and the South, is doomed.

"This is no new revelation," says R. H. Rogers, farm management economist at State College. "The system has been doomed since its inception, as it is not logical to expect a year's living from a half-year's work. Neither is it likely that slipshod operations and management in any business will long support one family let alone two or more."

The day of reckoning will be hastened, says Mr. Rogers, by six things and these are the expansion of cotton growing towards the west, the increased use of rayon and other cotton substitutes, the continued heavy boll weevil infestation, mounting cash expenses including taxes, the expansion of tobacco acreage which has resulted in over-production, and more recently a curtailed domestic buying power.

Mr. Rogers says the unprofitableness of the tenant system is not new. However, in former days it would provide the landowner with enough cash to pay his taxes and to arrange for the next season's production. At the same time it would give the tenant some kind of living. Now the tenant gets a living and there is nothing left for the landowner. This makes it imperative that a change be brought about.

The live-at-home program must be intensified. This will release tenants who must find other farms or go into the overcrowded ranks of labor. At any rate, the landowner cannot continue to feed and care for tenants who return his no profit. Alert farmers are now changing, says Mr. Rogers, and others will soon be forced to change through bankruptcy or curtailment of credit.

In the future more work must be done with modern machinery causing small farms to be thrown together for economical operations and extra labor needed will be hired on a cash basis, says the economist.

Mrs. Johnson Dead

Mrs. Joanna Johnson, widow of Peter Johnson, who lived in the extreme northwestern part of the county, died Sunday morning, Nov. 30, at the age of 78. She had long been suffering from the effects of a stroke of paralysis. The burial was at Big Meadows Primitive Baptist church.

Mrs. Johnson was the mother of Messrs. H. W. Cicero, S. Y., and Seymour Johnson, and Mrs. Martha J. Smith, all of Siler City, R. F. D., and Mrs. Julia Marley of Pittsboro, R. F. D. She has one brother, Mr. Seymour Lewis of Saxapahaw. There are 39 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren. Mrs. Johnson was most highly esteemed in her community.

FARMERS' UNION TO MEET AT ASHEBORO

Notice comes from J. C. Cox, sec.-treas. of the N. C. Farmers' Union to the effect that the meeting of the state union will be held at Asheboro next Tuesday, Dec. 16. John A. Simpson of Oklahoma, president of the national union, will address the meeting.

All interested in co-operation among farmers are urged to attend, and all local and county unions to have delegates present.

SON SUCCEEDS LEE McIVER AS MANAGER

(Sanford Express)

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Lee Furniture Company recently held in the office of the company, Mr. Wilbur McIver was elected secretary-treasurer and business manager of the company, to succeed his father, the late Lee G. McIver. Mr. McIver has taken charge and is now managing the business. He has assisted his father in handling the business for several years and is familiar with the details of the work. In fact he grew up with the business and is well qualified to handle it. He is assisted in handling it by Mr. J. R. Tally, who has been with the company several years.

McBANE-COLTRANE

Dr. T. W. McBane and Miss Berta Coltrane were married last Friday at Trinity, the home of the bride. They left after the ceremony for a bridal trip through the northern states.

Dr. McBane is the well known Pittsboro physician, a native of the county, and known by a large proportion of Record readers. The bride is a cultured young lady of one of the best known families in the state. She was conductor of the teacher-training class in the Pittsboro school for several years. Her coming to Pittsboro is a real acquisition to the town.

The happy couple will make their home with Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Horton. The Record extends heartiest congratulations.

Did you ever come home disgusted with the squawking picture you paid half a dollar to endure.

W. B. Straughan Accident Victim

Killed Monday Evening at Liberty by Car Driven by Prof. Andrews—Accident Considered Unavoidable.

The following dispatch to the Greensboro News, dated Liberty, Dec. 8, gives the story of the death of Mr. W. B. Straughan, a well known citizen of the western part of the county:

"W. B. Straughan, 57, of Siler City, route on, was instantly killed here tonight about 7:30 o'clock when struck by an automobile driven by Prof. T. G. Andrews, principal of Staley high school. Andrews was exonerated of blame by a magistrate's court, held shortly after the accident, after three eye-witnesses testified that the tragedy was unavoidable.

Straughan is survived by his wife, three sons, Wade, of Walkertown; C. L., of Richmond, Va., and Frank, of Greenville, a member of the faculty at East Carolina Teachers College, and three daughters, Mrs. Dalton Harris, of Siler City, route 5; Mrs. Clarence Willett, of Siler City; and Miss Pauline Straughan, a student at N. C. C. W.

The accident in which Straughan was killed occurred on highway 60, in front of the Staley Lumber company. Straughan, according to Andrews' testimony at the hearing, which was corroborated by other witnesses, stepped in front of Andrews' car from behind another machine. Andrews said he did not see Straughan until his car had struck the man.

Straughan, who had been to Greensboro on business, together with N. F. Barksdale, of Siler City, was standing by the roadside just prior to the accident. Barksdale had stopped a car driven by P. F. Carter, and Straughan, who had gone to the rear of Carter's car, stepped into the highway just as the car driven by Andrews was passing.

Andrews was placed under arrest immediately following the accident by Deputy Sheriff A. A. Coble. Preliminary hearing was held before Magistrate E. R. Williams and Mayor J. G. Martin, of Liberty, and Mayor C. M. Staley, of Staley. Funeral arrangements for Straughan had not been completed at a late hour tonight."

Elements of Style

Gerald Johnson, speaking before the students of the Wake Forest school of journalism, said: "First of all, have something to say, and then let the writing take care of itself." The speaker also rather discounted fancy rhetoric. Now, it happens that the writer has just read Seneca's disquisition on the style of Fabrianus, and he finds a striking similarity in the ideas of Mr. Johnson and of the ancient Roman. Says the latter, of the style of Fabrianus, a Roman philosopher: "And, finally, he makes it clear that he meant what he wrote. You understand that he aimed to make you know what he was thinking and not to please you. All this makes for progress and sanity." The two qualities stressed by the ancient and the modern, alike, are to have something to say and to say it in such way that it can be understood.

Seneca berated also the torturing of sentences into "artistic" shape, and his own style is a model of clearness. Though one of the most profound writers we ever followed, yet his meaning is almost as plain as that of the old blueback's classic sentence, "She fed the old hen." But Mr. Johnson insists that the present-day writer must analyze his characters in the light of modern psychology. But read Tacitus or Seneca and you will be convinced that those worthies needed nothing of modern psychology, or possessed its essentials under another name, or no name. We wish we could find a modern author who shows the profundity of Seneca or wields the flashing phrases of Tacitus.

Houses Burned

There seems to have been an epidemic of house-burnings in this county recently. Two good homes were burned Wednesday of last week. Mr. B. H. O'Neill, who moved to this county from Davie county about a year ago and bought the old Ben Poe place five miles northwest of Pittsboro on highway 93, lost his good residence. Fortunately, most of the household goods were saved, and he had \$800 insurance on the house, which was a good two-story house of six big rooms, built out of real lumber. Mr. O'Neill is living at the Margum Ferry place recently vacated by Rev. B. L. Gup-ton.

Henry Rives, a worthy and prosperous colored citizen, lost his good two-story residence a mile or two west of Pittsboro on highway 90. His insurance policy had just expired. He lost his household goods, with the possible exception of his piano and a few other things. Henry is a good farmer and a good carpenter.