

Turning Back Time 43 Years In North Wilkesboro

Files of Old Newspaper Tell of Town in Its Infancy in 1892

The Journal-Patriot has been greatly assisted in gathering information for this Progress and Merchandising Edition by the loan of the files of The North Wilkesboro News in 1892 and 1893.

Forty-three years ago North Wilkesboro was in its infancy and T. J. Lowry edited a creditable newspaper in that age for the North Wilkesboro Publishing company.

A perusal of these old files is indeed interesting because one is able to appreciate the growth of North Wilkesboro by comparison then and now.

One of the first items that caught our eye was an article in the issue of March 3, 1892. Here it is:

Facts About N. Wilkesboro
The town of North Wilkesboro is a little over 12 months old—not over 14. Today we have:

- One bank.
- One power-press newspaper.
- One large, first class hotel.
- Two wholesale stores.
- One furniture store.
- One hardware store.
- Five general stores.
- One male and female school.
- One livery and sale stable.
- Two brick yards.
- Several sawmills, sash, blind and door factories.
- Grist mills.
- Shoe and boot shop.
- Harness shop.
- Cabinet shops.
- Wagon manufactory.
- And innumerable other enterprises to go up.

City's First Mayor



A. A. FINLEY

Among the many other good things we have in North Wilkesboro, of which special mention should be made, are the sober, industrious, clever citizens we have in our town. This of itself is one of the best advertisements we can possibly have.

By fall we expect to have three or four hundred more inhabitants, thus making this the largest town in Wilkes county. Not less than fifty dwellings will be erected during the year. That article serves as an in-

roduction to the town at that time. In the same issue we noticed an advertisement of Finley Brothers, J. T. Finley, Jr. and J. R. Finley, store featuring "dry goods, notions, tinware and crockery, molasses, flour, tea and fancy groceries, best line of pocket knives, table crockery, men's hats and shoes" and a slogan line said "Our prices on boots and shoes 'beats the Jews.'" Other advertisements noticed were J. G. Hackett, A. A. Finley and H. M. Dean, at that time proprietors of The Wilkesboro Manufacturing Company; the law firm of T. B. Finley and H. L. Greene; Hotel Gordon; J. S. Bowles and D. N. Cashlon, manufacturers of carriages, carriages and phaetons; Absher and Church, general merchandising; and a number of others.

Here are also a few news items from that issue:

There are droves of white top wagons in town every day.

We have a fine barber now at the furniture store of J. L. Turner. If you want a shave or your "har" cut the way is open.

This issue of The News was gotten out under trying circumstances. A smoky room is not what it's cracked up to be. And don't you forget it.

The doors of the Bank of North Wilkesboro have been thrown open, and the president, Mr. J. E. Finley and Cashier Greenlee, assisted by Mr. Shober, an experienced banker of Greensboro, are busy as bees. Make another mark on North Wilkesboro's notched stick of progress.

Mr. D. A. Reece, of Fair Plains, about three miles from this place, became involved in a difficulty Monday with a negro named Tom Whittington, which came very near proving serious with Mr. Reece. The negro, who is said to be very insulting, was ordered off by Mr. Reece, when the impudent rascal made a lunge at him, striking his watch and cutting through both cases. It is believed that the watch saved his life.

Misses Emma Horton and Tate Blair called at The News office Monday and furnished us several news items for this week's paper, for which these beautiful young ladies have our thanks.

The county commissioners ordered the sheriff to issue liquor license to I. D. McLean to sell liquor in the town of Wilkesboro from January 1 to July 1.

The sanctum of The News was honored Friday by a visit from three beautiful young ladies, Misses Pattie Reid, Ina Mae Greene and Bessie Henderson, of Wilkesboro. There is nothing that we can conceive of that is sweeter than sweet girls, sweet flow-

ers and the sweet promise of a home of joy beyond this life.

In the issue of two weeks later there was an article saying "Twelve months ago we had but 48 souls in North Wilkesboro. Today we have 348 inhabitants, a gain in population in one year of over 600 per cent."

The Democratic ticket was published by The News in August 11 issue 1892. Grover Cleveland was candidate for president. Elias Carr for governor and R. A. Doughton for lieutenant governor.

Other items of current date included:

Mr. James F. Church, of Millers Creek, shot at and killed a wild turkey last week, weighing 25 pounds. This was a lucky shot.

The news reached us that Mac Absher, Esq., will put \$10,000 into business this year. He has already purchased a number of lots and will begin the erection of buildings suitable for the root and herb business soon.

The senator from Wilkes, Hon. John Cranor, has proved himself just what we said of him before the election—an intelligent, solid man—we would rejoice to see him some day an occupant of the governor's mansion.

Rev. Mr. Bradshaw preached excellent sermons at this place Saturday and Sunday.

There was a regular knock-down-and-drag-out row in our suburbs Wednesday night. No fatalities were reported but some of the fighters have hit the grit.

Here are some items from the issue of December 22, 1892:

Mr. Arthur A. Finley slaughtered five fine porkers Friday.

The cards are out announcing the marriage of Mr. J. Robert Finley and Miss Fannie Cramerton in the Presbyterian church at this place on Tuesday evening, December 27, 1892.

Some of our citizens speak of going to Washington March 4th to witness the inauguration of Grover Cleveland and the incoming of the Democratic administration.

Our esteemed friend and patron, Mr. W. A. Bumgarner, of Reddies River township, was in luck a few days ago. He discovered that four fine wild turkeys used near his home. He kept the place baited, stalked them and killed three and wounded another with one shot, bringing down as much game as he could carry home.

Many other items could be gathered from our early predecessors but space does not permit. They are interesting, to say the least, and are reminiscent of bygone days when a town was in the making.

Has Store Here



ISAAC M. ELLER

I. M. Eller Heads Tie and Feed Co.

Business Grows Fast Since Establishment in This City Five Years Ago

The Wilkes Tie & Feed Store is a North Wilkesboro firm that carries on a vast trade with the people of Wilkes and adjoining counties. Its owner is Mr. I. M. Eller, another young Wilkes man who is making fine progress in the business world.

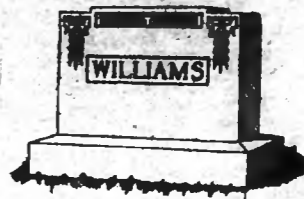
Mr. Eller opened his store about six years ago. From the outset he enjoyed a good patronage, but as the years went by his business continued to grow until this past spring it was necessary that he erect a commodious building, and this is now filled

with groceries, flour, feedstuffs and many other items used by the people of this section. The store also sells turkeys, hams and roofing at lowest prices.

Today the Wilkes Tie & Feed Store carries on a trade that involves thousands of dollars annually. During the course of a year much money is paid out for all kinds of produce and cross-

ties. The firm is located on Forster Avenue, and numbered among its patrons are hundreds of people residing in adjoining counties.

Mr. Eller contributes much of his success to the help of Mrs. Eller, who seldom misses being at the store a day, and also to the splendid assistance of Mr. Lion Bumgarner.



Reins Bros.

ESTABLISHED IN 1895

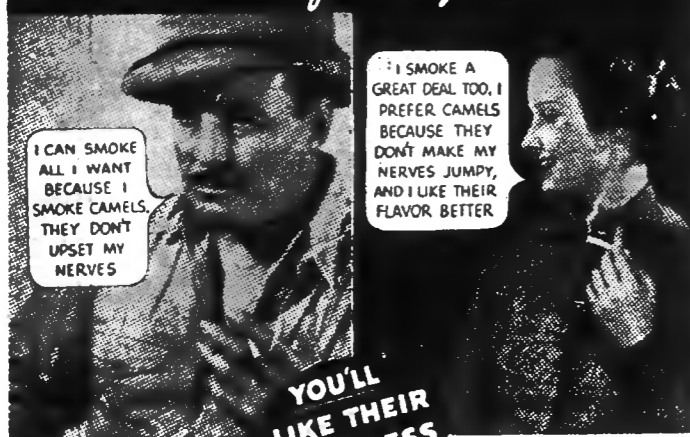
MEMORIALS OF ALL KINDS

We are proud to number hundreds of people of Wilkes and adjoining counties as satisfied customers. We will appreciate an opportunity to serve you.

Reins Brothers

J. C. REINS, Prop. RALPH R. REINS, Mgr.
PHONE 85 — NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

Camels never get on your Nerves



CAMELS Costlier Tobaccos

FOR 28 YEARS

It Has Been A Pleasure To Serve Every One of My

Customers

This year marks the 28th year I have been in business in Wilkesboro. During this period I have witnessed much progress in the Wilkesboros and Wilkes County, and thanks to the generous patronage extended by my customers, I have been able to increase my stock of merchandise from time to time, and to give my patrons the advantage of a grocery service in keeping with the times.

To say the least, I am most grateful for the business the public has given me since I opened my store over a quarter of a century ago, and I hope that I may have the pleasure of serving all of you for many years in the future. You will find me ready to supply you at any time with your needs in . . .

Staple and Fancy Groceries, Fresh Vegetables, Flour, Feeds, Etc.

In order to give my patrons the quickest service possible, I employ sufficient help to take your orders promptly and operate a truck for quick delivery.

Your business is solicited, and I will do my best to please you at all times.

C. E. Lenderman

Phone 16

Wilkesboro, N. C.

We Now Have Over 12,000 Enrolled In Our

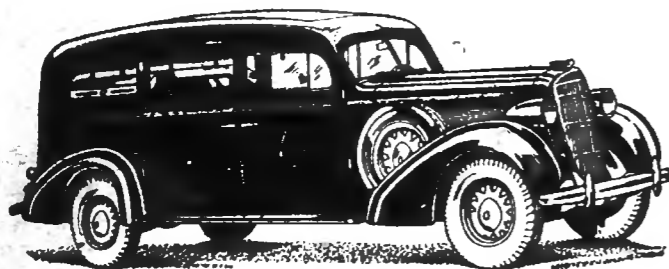
BURIAL ASSOCIATION

Whether it is fair or not, most of us judge an organization of any kind by its growth, and by growth we do not always mean dollars and cents. It could be in numbers of people, money, power, influence, or just an organization of helpfulness to the community in which it is located. We believe that our Burial Association has all of these: 12,000 members, money with which to meet every obligation, already paying more than 50 death claims, and is respected as a most helpful organization by every member and numbers of people who are not members.

We appreciate the fine support of every member and extend to all who are not in the family a most hearty welcome to come with us.

Reins-Sturdivant Burial Association

MADGE L. STURDIVANT, Secretary



Whether you are a member of the Reins-Sturdivant Burial Association or not, we want our friends to know that we have at all hours of the day or night a service ready for those who happen to need one in our profession. We want our service to be one of comfort and helpfulness, and we appreciate the co-operation our friends have given us in making this nearer what we would like for it to be.

REINS-STURDIVANT, Inc.

W. K. STURDIVANT, President

Phone 85—North Wilkesboro, N. C.—Phone 228

Boone, N. C.

Sparta, N. C.