

Historical Sketches of Wilkes County Published by John Crouch in 1902

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He dashed through the citizens and was fired upon a number of times but without effect. Wade reached the river in safety. The others came out and surrendered.

The robbers under the leadership of Wade numbered eighty-six, but during the siege all had escaped but four — Bill Beck, Bill Wood, Enock Wood and

Lookwood. After these had surrendered the fort was searched and all the articles that had been stolen by the robbers that could be identified were returned to the proper owners. Then the fort itself was fired and the people who had been robbed and their friends stood by and watched Fort Hamby dissolve to ashes and smoke. After the fort had burned to

Store Manager



J. G. Chipman, who was born and reared in the extreme eastern part of Wilkes county, says North Wilkesboro is the best town he knows anything about. He is part owner and manager of Wilkes Furniture Exchange.

Chipman Popular With Customers

J. G. Chipman Has Been Manager Wilkes Furniture Exchange Since 1934

Wilkes Furniture Exchange is one of the comparatively new business firms of North Wilkesboro but has won its place in the business life of the city and has become well established since it was organized in 1934.

J. G. Chipman, A. H. Andrews and W. M. Dickerson were the founders of the company and the present owners are J. G. Chipman and W. M. Roope.

The store is located on Tenth street and carries selected lines of quality furniture at moderate prices. Customers like the treatment and service they receive at the hands of Mr. Chipman and his associates and among the customers now are many who were first to patronize the firm when it was opened.

Mr. Chipman was born and reared on a farm in the eastern part of Wilkes county. He has highest regard for North Wilkesboro, saying "It is a good town, good people—the best town of its size I know of anywhere."

Mr. Chipman has a genial personality and is sincere in every thing he says. He is glad to be a part of North Wilkesboro and sincerely hopes that the city will continue to progress and grow.

Those who have not made his acquaintance will find him glad to meet them and a visit to the Wilkes Furniture Exchange is always welcomed.

Store Owner



Claude Pearson, young merchant who recently opened a wholesale and retail store in North Wilkesboro. His place of business is located on Forester Avenue.

Claude Pearson In Business Here

Young Merchant Stages A Comeback By Establish- ing Store In This City

Claude Pearson, a young Wilkes county man educated in the school of experience and hard knocks, has staged a comeback by establishing a wholesale and retail store in North Wilkesboro and is meeting with a considerable degree of success in his new venture.

Claude, a member of a family known far and wide for ability in the mercantile field, has twice been burned out but comes back strong because he knows how to serve customers with what they want and need at prices they can afford to pay. For several years he operated a large country store near Purlear on highway 421. The store burned several months ago.

His store, which deals in groceries, feed, fertilizers and other necessities, is located on Forester Avenue in the building formerly occupied by Cranbury Poultry company. He sells to both the wholesale and retail trade and although he has been in business here only a few weeks, the volume of business is steadily increasing.

Claude has many friends in Wilkes and adjoining counties whom he invites to pay his new store a visit at their earliest convenience.

He says he is glad to be in business in North Wilkesboro, a progressive business center, and hopes to have a part in the continued progress of the city.

Stokes was appointed Major of the North Carolina Volunteers in the war with Mexico. As an officer in the Mexican war he displayed his ability to command troops and proved himself a man of superior courage. He was the soldiers' favorite officer, and as mark of their love and admiration for him they presented him a beautiful sword. The sword is now in the possession of his daughter, Mrs. C. N. Hunt. It is mounted in gold and silver and furnishes a handsome appearance. On it are the following inscriptions:

"Presented to Maj. M. S. Stokes, of the N. C. Col. by the non-commissioned officers and privates under his command in Mexico."
"Major M. S. Stokes, the Soldiers' Friend."

After terms of peace were made with Mexico Stokes returned to his farm in Wilkes and was one of the most successful farmers in this section. He raised many fine cattle and often drove them on foot to Philadelphia to market them. On one occasion as he was returning from Philadelphia, where he had been with a drove of cattle, he stopped for a few days with friends in Washington. It was during Andrew Jackson's administration as President and Jackson and Stokes had been school mates at Annapolis. While in Washington Stokes was invited to attend a banquet where the President was to be the guest of honor. Stokes was a tall athlete with long limbs and large hands. He rented a conventional suit for the occasion but it was impossible to find a suit that would fit the athletic figure. But he went to the banquet and when the reception was being given Stokes went up to shake the hand of the President. "Is that you, Sid Stokes?" exclaimed the President, and the two old schoolmates embraced and gave a singular coincidence to Washington society.

Some daring robberies mostly in Alexander and Iredell. After the Fort Hamby gang was broke up the band dissolved and Simmons left the country.

STONEMAN'S RAID

In April, 1865, a detachment of the Federal army numbering about twenty-five thousand men marched through Wilkes county burning houses, barns, etc., robbing and plundering everything in sight leaving their trail a howling wilderness. They came to Wilkes by way of Boone where they burned the court house as well as much private property, thence by Patterson's Factory where they burned the woolen mills located there, thence down the Yadkin into Wilkes.

They crossed the Yadkin at Holman's ford, and the river being swollen, it was with difficulty that they succeeded in crossing; but they crossed in safety to the men and horses but a wagon of ammunition and a cannon were overturned and lost in the river. The cannon and a lot of the ammunition was found after the war was over. Here the army was divided into two sections; one section was put under the command of General Palma while General Stoneman commanded the other section. Palma and his detachment went on the north side of the Yadkin, and Stoneman's section on the South side.

When the wing of the army under Stoneman's command reached Cub Creek it was too high to ford so he pitched his tent on the hill this side, just east of where W. W. Barber now lives, and camped there for several days, during which time his soldiers were plundering and burning. One morning one of his men had entered and was preparing to set fire to the tithes the Confederates had collected here, which were stored in the old Hall store house just north of the courthouse. Just at that moment Calvin J. Cowles stepped in and persuaded the soldier not to burn the building. He argued that the provisions ought to be distributed among the poor women and children of the Union men in this county. The soldier told him he would wait until he could run to Stoneman's camp and see him. This Cowles did at the peril of his life and succeeded in saving the stores and the court house and jail and other buildings as well.

Stoneman sent Cowles with a number of soldiers with a message to General Palma who was encamped on the opposite side of the river with the other wing of the army. Cowles urged Palma not to burn the factory at Elkin; this request was complied with and the army soon left the county. They went down the river to Elkin, then to Mount Airy and then to Salisbury.

The people were left in a desolate condition. Many families were left entirely without provisions with their houses and barns burned; the men were nearly all in the army, robbers abundant in the county, and it was with difficulty that starvation was averted.

MONTFORD SIDNEY STOKES
The subject of this sketch was born at "Morne Rouge," in Wilkes county on October the 6th, 1810. He was the son of Montford Stokes, who was a U. S. Senator and later Governor of North Carolina. Sidney Stokes was appointed a cadet to the United

the ground a court martial was organized and the four robbers were tried and condemned to be shot at the stake. They were taken a few paces east of the burned fort and tied to stakes. Revs. William R. Gwaltney and Isaac Oxford, two Baptist ministers, were in the company of citizens, and they both offered prayer for the robbers about to be shot at the stake. Wells Linney asked to be allowed to shoot Beck, who confessed that he had shot James Linney in the engagement on the previous Sunday. The signal was given and the detailed men fired upon the four robbers tied to the stakes; their bodies riddled with bullets and their souls went back to the God who gave them.

The citizens then searched along the river for Wade but failed to find him. Then they dispersed leaving the four robbers hanging to the stakes, and returned to their homes. Wade told some of his friends in the community that he sank himself under the water and got breath through a reed and stayed concealed that way until late in the evening; he went up and looked at his comrades hanging to the stakes dead; he immediately left this country and has not been heard of since.

The bodies of the robbers were probably cut down in the evening after they were shot, then they lay about the ruins of Fort Hamby for three days and nights; finally the people of the community put them in boxes and hauled them away and buried them.

SIMMONS' GANG OF ROBBERS

There was another gang of robbers under the leadership of another renegade Yankee deserter named Simmons. They made headquarters out on the Brushy mountains. They were as mean and daring in their devilry as the Fort Hamby gang, and sometimes the two gangs would raid together. A number of innocent people were wantonly murdered by this gang for no purpose whatever except to gratify their hellish desire to kill. On one occasion a young man who was rather idiotic was captured by one of the gang who thought he would take him to camp and have all the fun they wanted out of him and then kill him. The young man was put in the road before the robber and made to march at his command. As they were marching through a dark hollow the robber was sighting at the back of the boy's head and the opportunity to commit murder was so tempting that he pulled the trigger and the innocent man fell dead.

About twenty years before the outbreak of the Civil war one morning there was a boy baby found lying on the courthouse steps. The child's parents could not be found so a Presbyterian minister named Pervis, who lived on the lot east of the courthouse known as the Cowles place, adopted the child into his home and raised it. Since the boy was found at the courthouse he was named John Wilkes after the county. He grew up to manhood and was a bright young man. He was wantonly killed by a member of the Simmons gang.

When the Stoneman's division of the Federal army marched through Wilkes the people hid their horses in the woods and mountains for fear they would be stolen, and it was several days that the people were afraid to venture out. About three days after the raid William Transou ventured up to Wilkesboro to hear the news. Simmons captured him on his way home and intended to kill him. He told him if he wanted to pray he would give him a moment. Transou fell to his knees and began begging Simmons not to kill him. One of the Simmons' associates was touched by Transou's pleading and he too begged Simmons to spare him. Simmons finally consented to spare Transou if he would tell where his horses were at. The Simmons gang committed

Red Cross PHARMACY

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Welcomes You To

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 30 - JULY 1-4

Thank You, Folks!

As we extend our welcome to you to attend the celebration, may we also extend our sincere thanks to the thousands who have visited our store since its opening in May, 1937. Our first customers are still numbered among our most loyal, proving they like our prices, service and courteous attention. If by chance you are not a customer, drop in and let's get acquainted. We'll show you every consideration possible, and make you feel at home. And our cut-rate drug prices will save you money, too.

OUR SPECIALS

Electric Toasters	\$1.19
Pana Toph Paste	39c
Patrolagar, all numbers	89c
Milk Magnesia, qt.	39c
Cashmere Boquet Lotion	35c
V-2 Moth Spray with Sprayer	89c
Mifflin Alcohol, scented	39c
Viking Toilet Tissue, 6 rolls	25c
Nurse Brand Cod Liver Oil, pt.	\$1.00

Johnson and Johnson first-aid Supplies (Adhesives, Bandages, etc.)

BABY FOODS OF ALL KINDS

Prescription Department

You'll like our prescription service—because it is complete and dependable. Quality and accuracy go hand-in-hand. Registered Druggist At All Times

Authorized Agency For

Nyal Quality Products

A Well-Known Line—Built Upon Quality

ALWAYS COMPLETE LINE—

Helena Rubenstein . . . Cosmetics

Reliable Patent Medicines, Etc.

Insecticides—Poultry Supplies

Nurse Brand Products

KING'S . . . CANDIES

Kodak Printing and Developing, Kodak Films, Flashlights, Batteries, Clocks, Magazines, Electric Fans, Cigars and Cigarettes.

Luncheonette—DeLuxe Fountain Service

RED CROSS PHARMACY

"YOUR SERVICE DRUG STORE"

Curb Service Telephone 98
Wheatamin Vitamin Products
Tenth Street North Wilkesboro

Liberty Thursday-Friday

You go tell that
Zombie he can't
intimidate me!

BOB HOPE and PAULETTE GODDARD
THE GHOST BREAKERS
Richard Carlson - Paul Lukas - Anthony Quinn - Willie Best

OUTSTANDING ATTRACTIONS FOR 50th ANNIVERSARY WEEK

Monday Only
SPENCER
TRACY
Ripped From The Pages
Of Frontier History!

Tuesday Only
MUSIC! FUN! SPECTACLE!
Swell as a Broadway stage
Superswell on the screen! Stun-
ging! Hundreds of dancing cuties!

Mickey **ROONEY**
Judy **GARLAND**
BABES IN ARMS
36 weeks on Broadway! Now
more exciting . . . more hil-
larious on the screen! Grand
cast of hundreds . . . with
Mickey and Judy singing
and swinging their way
right into your heart!

Wednesday - 10c Thursday - Friday JULY 3rd - 5

ROARING, ROMATIC
ADVENTURE . . . packed
with "Hell Divers" thrills!
Never before revealed secrets of
U. S. "Suicide Fleet!"
WALLACE BERRY
"THUNDER AFLOAT"
with
CHESTER MORRIS
VIRGINIA GREY

SEE! SEE!
Ramming of
the Giant U-
Boat!
Trapped be-
neath the hull!
Captive in a
crippled sub!
Mutiny in the
battle fleet!

ALSO
COMEDY
AND
ADVENTURE
OF
RED
RIDER
NO. 2

A DRAMA OF
UNDYING LOVE
DARK COMMAND
RAOUL WALSH—DIRECTOR
with
CLAIRE BURNETT
JOHN
TREVOR WAYNE
WALTER
PIDGEON
ROY ROGERS - GEORGE HATES
PORTER HALL - HAROLD HAME
RAYMOND WALLEN

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 30 - JULY 1-4

FOR YEARS the Liberty has had the pleasure of bringing to the people of this section many of the screen's best productions, and your liberal patronage is our inspiration to continue our best efforts to give you the best. While attending the Celebration, drop in for a period of rest and enjoyment and witness a few samples of what we offer our patrons daily. It will make the Big Celebration Program much bigger for you. For your patronage in the past, please accept the sincere thanks of . . .

—THE MANAGEMENT