

**NORTH CAROLINA UNITED.**

**From Cherokee to Currituck.**

The completion of the Western North Carolina railroad to Murphy is a matter of such importance that we like to dwell upon it. That which required fifty years to accomplish, and which, accomplished, unites with bands of steel the entire people of our native State, heretofore kept asunder by natural barriers, is something worthy of more than a passing notice.

The people of Cherokee and surrounding section celebrated the event on the 23d of July. THE DEMOCRAT has already given a report of the proceedings, but did not give all that was of great interest. We give below additional letters from two distinguished North Carolinians, with an editorial notice from the able editor of the Athens, Tenn., Athenian, who is present and delivered one of the best speeches of the day, and a letter from the president of the Chattanooga Board of Trade. The following is the letter from ex-Congressman Thomas D. Johnston:

MESSRS. R. L. HERBERT, F. P. AXLEY, J. W. COOPER, R. A. AIKIN AND BEN POSEY, Committee on Invitation.

GENTLEMEN:—I cannot adequately express the deep regret I feel, that many circumstances beyond my control, will prevent my accepting your invitation to be present with the good people of Cherokee county on the 23rd inst., to celebrate the completion of the Western North Carolina railroad; but though compelled to be absent, I will in spirit unite with them in their rejoicings of this great enterprise which for nearly a half century they have been earnestly looking and laboring for, with alternate hope and disappointment; and I do this, the more cordially, because it was my good fortune in the past to make this one of the special objects of my legislative labors.

Most heartily do I congratulate you and them on this happy occasion, and most sincerely do I believe it to be the beginning of a new epoch in the history of your county.

Blessed as your section is with so many natural advantages, and enriched by such a variety of mineral, and other wealth, there is every reason to hope that the completion of this railroad, which brings your people in closer and more intimate commercial and social relations with the State, and business sections of the country, will be the means of making it one of the most desirable, both for homes and business investments in our rapidly growing Southland. We people therefore, have much cause for rejoicing over this most auspicious event.

But I cannot rid myself of the thought—and I trust I may be pardoned for alluding to it—that in the great joy of the day there will be, I know, sincere and hearty regret, that he, who was the chief projector of this great enterprise—at the time apparently impracticable—of building a railroad through the mountains of Western North Carolina, and who with such persistent zeal, continued his efforts in behalf of his section and people in the face of discouragements that would cause the stoutest hearts to quail—that he, though living, is prevented by his sad affliction from joining with his beloved people in celebrating the commemoration of his life-work. I need not say that I refer to Col. William H. Thomas—nor should proper tribute be withheld from others who were his co-laborers and successors in this great work. The lamented Hayes, of your own county, Bryson, of Swain and Robinson, of Macon, and others, all of whom so earnestly labored in behalf of this railroad.

It is befitting that the celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of the magnificent court house, which you are to erect in Murphy, should be the crowning act of this memorable occasion. For while the one betokens the admiration of justice in the courts of the county, the other evidences the realization of that justice to which the Western people have been so many years entitled, and for which they have so patiently waited.

Again assuring you and the people of my inexpressible regret at not being able to be present

and participate with them in their rejoicings, and renewing my warmest congratulations on the completion of the Western North Carolina railroad, I am with sentiments of highest esteem,

Very truly yours,  
THOS. D. JOHNSTON.

From Ex-Judge J. C. McRAE:

MY DEAR MR. NORVELL: I am much obliged for your kind invitation to attend the celebration of the completion of the W. N. C. R. R., to Murphy, and wish it were possible for me to be present with your people so that I might assure them that the felicitation over this very important event is not confined to them, but is common to all the people of N. C. We have at last, after many years of toil and struggle, bordered the State with lines of travel and transportation, so that from Currituck to Cherokee, there is swift and easy communication. You are no longer wedged in between Georgia and Tennessee; but from your extreme border you have a grand highway to Asheville and to Raleigh. Your friends in the East may now see for themselves the rich and fertile valleys of pasture land and fine farms, the mountains and rivers, the mineral wealth just about to be developed, and the thousand advantages which make the county of Cherokee one of the richest and most desirable of all the counties in the State.

I trust and believe, that the completion of this road may prove of the very highest good to the State, and may bind the more closely together the best people in the world, the people of North Carolina.

I hope you and yours are well and doing well. I would like to hear from you sometime as to how you are getting along, and how the country prospers and our friends are.

Your friend,  
J. C. McRAE.

Col. McCarron, in the Athenian, Athens, Tennessee:

In company with Col. T. M. Burkett and wife, Capt. J. A. Turley and wife, it was our privilege to visit Murphy, N. C., last week for the first time. Leaving Athens early Wednesday morning the party were joined by W. H. Party and N. B. Dunn at Grady, where they took the 10 o'clock train on the Knoxville Southern, and dining at Blue Ridge took the narrow gauge for Murphy, 24 miles distant, reaching there early in the afternoon where the entire party were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Dickey, Mrs. Dickey being a sister of Col. Burkett. The following day, Thursday, had been set apart by the enterprising people of Cherokee county as an occasion for the celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of their new court house at Murphy, under the auspices of the Masonic Grand Lodge of the State. The ceremony was in charge of Grand Master H. A. Gudger, of Asheville, and was participated in by a large concourse of the order from various lodges in the vicinity, making one of the most imposing processions ever witnessed in that country. The other part of the day's program was the celebration of the completion, to Murphy, of the W. N. C. railroad from Asheville, 120 miles distant. To do this a beautiful grove half a mile distant from the town on the banks of the picturesque Hiwassee, had been selected, where, at 2 o'clock, about 3,000 people had assembled with hundreds of baskets of provisions, beside five beeves and a dozen sheep which had been had barbecued on the ground ready for the multitude. Thus immense tables were loaded with substantial from a liberal people in honor of an event for which they had long been praying, working and looking.

Previous to and after dinner the people were entertained by short speeches from various persons from abroad and from among themselves, all of which seemed to be appreciated by rousing acclamations of applause as each speaker referred to the glowing prospects and rich resources of the country surrounding.

The exercises of the day were in charge of Mayor R. L. Herbert as president of the committee of arrangements under whom the day was rendered highly enjoyable, except for dousing showers of rain against which the committee had not entered their protest in time.

Mr. E. B. Norvell delivered an appropriate address of welcome followed by Col. A. T. Davidson,

one of the pioneers of Cherokee county, now a resident of Asheville, his remarks being eminently eloquent and appropriate, giving a history of the long struggle of the people of Murphy and vicinity for an outlet by means of the W. N. C. and the M. & N. G. railroads.

Col. Davidson was followed by Maj. R. M. Furman, of the ASHEVILLE DEMOCRAT, with a stirring address of fifteen minutes, and the reading of letters from distinguished gentlemen who could not be present including the Governor of the State.

Dinner over, notwithstanding continued showers of rain, the people seemed eager to hear further speaking which was continued briefly in the following order: W. F. McCarron, Col. T. M. Burkett and Capt. J. A. Turley, of Athens, Maj. H. B. Hardy, of the State Chronicle, Raleigh, B. L. Duke, Durham, H. A. Gudger, Asheville, and Col. Ben. Posey, of Murphy.

The exercises of the entire day were interspersed with most excellent music by the Cherokee Brass Band, composed principally of young Indians from the U. S. government school at Yellow Hill, N. C., in charge of Prof. Sprague.

Thus briefly outlined was our first visit to Murphy greatly enjoyed. It furnished a rare opportunity for the acquaintance of people, and plans which will be basis for more extended remarks concerning the county in future articles in these columns.

To Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Dickey our entire party were indebted for most hospitable treatment and a bountiful table. They are among the foremost people of that enterprising locality and none are more highly esteemed. Their house is headquarters for an extensive transient travel among the best people of the country, and right royally are they entertained.

We are also under obligations to Col. A. A. Campbell, of the Murphy Bulletin, and to Dr. J. W. Patton and J. S. Maroney, of the Cherokee Scout, for courtesies extended. Murphy is the county seat of Cherokee county and has a population of about 700, situated at the junction of the Hiwassee and Valley rivers, branches of the Tennessee with an elevation in a pure atmosphere between the Blue Ridge and the great Smoky Mountains of 1,600 feet above the level of the sea.

It is the great mineral region abounding in iron, gold, copper, corundum, talc, mica and marble, the latter of which is being extensively worked in places along the M. & N. G. railroad.

Property in Murphy is commanding a good price, \$6,000 being recently paid in cash for a lot on the public square, bought by Col. B. L. Duke, of the great tobacco firm of Durham.

The new court house is in course of construction by Bruce & Morgan, of Atlanta, will be one of the handsomest structures of the kind in the State, and is being built of granite, marble and brick.

The country is full of prospectors and when Murphy gets a western outlet by way of Athens and Chattanooga she will be on the direct road to prosperity second to no town in this region of natural health and wealth.

From the President of the Chattanooga Board of Trade:

MESSRS. R. L. HERBERT and others, Committee of Invitation, Murphy, N. C.

GENTS:—I received this morning your invitation to meet with the citizens of Murphy, and Cherokee county, North Carolina, on the 23d inst., to participate in celebrating the completion of the Western North Carolina railroad to Murphy. A business engagement to meet parties here on that day, which I cannot now alter, prevents my acceptance of your invitation.

In behalf of the Chamber of Commerce of the city, I congratulate Murphy, and the strong arms and stout hearts of those who have fought "the world the flesh and the devil" for her realization of this step in the future.

"Go West and grow up with the country" is rapidly becoming "Go South and grow up with the country." East and West lines are no longer the only paying lines. The last ten years have shown the largest united growth on "North and South lines." Southward "the Star of Empire" points the way. Experience teaches that few "East and West lines" pay unless they are fed by feeding to "North and South lines."

Now, that your line to Savannah

and Norfolk is completed, your next line is the Murphy and Chattanooga line.

I hope Chattanooga may have the opportunity before many years have passed, to unite the good people of Murphy and Cherokee county, to join with us to celebrate the opening and the completion of the Murphy and Chattanooga railroad.

Thanking you for the kind invitation to be with on the 23d inst.

Yours truly,  
TOMLINSON FORT.

The Greensboro North State on the W. N. C. Railroad and Col. A. B. Andrews:

On July 23d last, the first train entered Murphy, in Cherokee county, over the Western North Carolina railroad. Thus were Morehead City and Murphy united by rail. On that day Col. A. B. Andrews was fifty years of age. On his 50th birthday was completed the colossal task which he undertook of constructing a railroad from Old Fort across the Blue Ridge to Asheville, and thence to Waynesville and over the Balsam mountains and on to Cherokee county along the banks of the Tuckasee, the Little Tennessee and the beautiful Nantahala. Does the reader stop to think of what a great and grand work has been accomplished? Does the reader reflect on the wonderful brain and energy which was necessary to push through such a magnificent undertaking? Mountains to be crossed, valleys to be traversed; rushing rivers and playful mountain streams to be bridged; tunnel after tunnel to be cut through insurmountable elevations; millions of money to be raised among strangers in a financial center at times shaken by panic made timid by disaster or entirely closed by distrust.

North Carolina had a son who was capable and able to do all this. By his fruits you can judge him. Col. A. B. Andrews undertook the task. He resolved to do the one thing which had been the talk by day and the dream by night of North Carolina statesmen for years. The man who had never seen the word "failure" among his personal effects, had the confidence of railroad magnates and money kings. Although during the many years of construction of the Western North Carolina railroad, the ups and downs were many, the work went on. And it can be truthfully said that at one time when nearly all were discouraged, Col. Andrews hazarded his private fortune rather than give up the hope of completing the Western N. C. railroad. He did all this and had the nerve to back up his judgment and his great will-power with his own money.

Fifteen years ago the mountain region of North Carolina was comparatively an unknown country. Asheville was a typical county town, unheard of beyond State lines. To-day it is the finest jewel in the crown of the Old North State, and its praises are sung throughout the civilized world. The natural wealth of mines, water and wood, the salubrious climate, the great agricultural and horticultural possibilities of the Blue Ridge and Smoky mountain sections all were enclosed in a sealed volume; to day they are visible and open to the touch of the world. From Cherokee to Currituck is now a pleasant all rail highway. The same to Morehead City and Wilmington. The man who accomplished this result should never be forgotten by the people of North Carolina. Collect together all the politicians in the State over whom the people have fussed and fumed for twenty-five years past and the sum total of their labors in behalf of their constituents would not make a shadow when compared with the benefits to North Carolina and her people to be derived from the construction of the W. N. C. R. by Col. Andrews.

North Carolina may well be proud of such a citizen. Col. Andrews deserves the plaudits of the people, and succeeding years will sing his praises when they look at the result of his work, the greatest achievement in the Southern States of money, skill, brains and energy.

"Mercy me!" said Miss Passee, "I sincerely hope they will not pass the law making a day of eight hours."

"Why not?"  
"Just think how rapidly we shall age! Just three times as fast."—Harper's Bazar.

Have you read the directions wrapped around Sugar Coated Yeast?

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— BY —

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Asheville, N. C.

We will thank any one for any name or names of friends residing in the States or Territories that we may send specimen copies of THE DEMOCRAT.