

# The Albemarle Observer.

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"LOOK FORWARD, AND NOT BACK."

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## "The Armageddon"

Edenton, N. C., Aug. 24, '14.  
To The Editor:

There are some things which are called most pointedly to the public attention when named or stated by some strong or popular person. So it has been with the word "Armageddon" when used by that most vigorous of our citizenship, Col. Theodore Roosevelt. Few people have taken the trouble to look the word up to ascertain its meaning, or its significance, or the use to which it has been put in "ye olden times." This word is most prominent and found in Revelations, chapter 16, verse 16, "and he gathered them together into a place, called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon," and in the 17th verse we read "and seventh angel poured out his viol into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven from the throne saying it is done," and in the 18th chapter "and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth—and so great." When I recall these verses the first thing I thought of was a painting which hangs in the Masonic Lodge room in the court house; and has hung there time out of mind—many years. It attracted my attention when I first went into this room, and the last time I was there I could not help looking at it. It bears no name or indication who the artist was that painted it. It represents a most awe inspiring scene of death and destruction, thunders and lightnings and the upheavals of a great earthquake and amidst it all despairing human beings with death and chaos around them. A picture worse, if possible, than that expressed of Dantes Inferno. I have for years made it my business to inquire of every intelligent and well travelled man, who visited the lodge room what this painting represented and who were its authors, or painter. All with a nod of the head had to acknowledge they did not know. So after years of search I have found a name for it—Armageddon, the battlefield of the great day of God. "The Armageddon" was the great battlefield of the Old Testament where the chief conflicts took place between the Israelites and their enemies, on the table lands of the Esdrælon of Galilee and Samaria in which stood the town of Megiddo on the site of the modern Lejjun, and used figuratively in the apocalyptic to signify the place of "The battle of the great day of God." So in the painting referred to—behold the effects produced by the seven angles with the seven viols full of the wrath of God, which as indicated when poured out means the most solemn and awe inspiring scene ever witnessed since the world began or was created—confusion, death and destruction. My gentle reader if you should chance to go into the masonic lodge room look on its wall, and you will see this picture of the Armageddon, and the awful forces that may at any time overwhelm this earth and the people thereof. In such a time may God's mercy surround us.

Respectfully,  
W. J. LEARY, SR.

## Some Facts About Gates County, N. C., as Gathered By W. E. McClenny, Cashier of the Farmers Bank of Sunbury, Sunbury, N. C.

### From 1770 To The Time (1778) Of The Formation of Gates County

By 1770 we are told that the rude log cabins of the early pioneers had given place to comfortable frame houses, and there was unbounded hospitality on every hand. Apple brandy and rum and wine were abundant, and there was considerable hard drinking.

In 1771 the Edenton Superior Court District included the counties of Currituck, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie and Hertford; and this of course took in what is now Gates. In each county there was a Court of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions, these being held by the Justices of the Peace who were appointed by the Governor, and held their places during his pleasure. The jurisdiction of this court in criminal matters did not extend to offences, the punishment of which involved serious consequences, for they could not deprive of life nor member, and in civil issues were only to have cognizance where the money demanded did not exceed \$100.00.

The oldest records of these inferior courts is found in the minutes of the Berkley Precinct Court, still preserved in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Perquimans county. It bears date December 31d 1679. At that early date it enumerates the powers conferring jurisdiction upon the Justices. It was enacted that they should be authorized to inquire of the good men of the precinct, by whom the truth may be known, of all felonies, witchcraft, encroachments, sorcerers, magic arts, trespasses, forestallings, regratings and extortions whatsoever.

On March 19th 1773, John Harvey, Speaker of the House laid before it the resolutions of the Virginia House of Burgesses and a letter from the speakers of the lower houses of several other provinces requesting that a committee be appointed to inquire into the encroachments of England upon the rights and liberties of America.

This will show that this section was in communication with the other colonies, and most of the correspondence and news went overland through the present county of Gates. About this time the Chowan river began to be used by vessels coming from foreign ports, and as soon as the Revolution had broken out a large part of the foreign goods for the south side of Virginia came up that river, as the blockade was the more easily run on the North Carolina coast. Later on there were custom houses at what is now South Quay in Virginia and at Monroe's Bridge in the same State on the Nottoway river. However a great deal of the produce of this section was still carried overland to Suffolk, Virginia, and Norfolk.

From 1774 until after North Carolina became a free state no higher courts were held. During all this time wrongs were unpunished, and no law business

was done. Lawyers and judges were alike idle.

August 25th, 1774 the first North Carolina Provisional Congress met at New Bern and the whole Albemarle section was represented. From this section of the state we find the following names, Samuel Johnston, Thomas Oldham, Thomas Bembury, Thomas Jones, Thomas Hunter, John, Benjamin and Thomas Harvey, Andrew Knox, and J. Whidbee, Jr. It is recorded that Hertford with other counties did not send representatives as it was such a bold step, this was felt to be a revolutionary measure. From this we see that all of what is now west of Bennett's Creek of Gates was not represented in the body. At this session a resolution was passed against the importation of African slaves after the first day of November, 1774.

April 4th, 1775 the last General Assembly under the English Governor met in session for four days, and was dissolved by the Governor. It seems that the royal and colonial bodies were composed of the same men.

In 1775 Col. Edward Vail of Chowan was placed in command of the minute men of this district, while the Edenton District Committee of Safety was composed of Luke Sumner, William Gray, John Johnston, Thomas Benbury, Gideon Lamb, Joseph Jones, Miles Harvey, Lawrence Baker, Kenneth McKensie, Stephen Lee, Charles Blount, Isaac Gregory and Day Kidley.

On Sept. 7th of this year \$125,000.00 in bills of credit were issued.

In October 1775 the Committee of Safety for Edenton and New Bern were authorized to procure for each an armed vessel. In the following December Governor Danmore of Virginia was at Norfolk trying to collect an army, and he had his emissaries traversing the Albemarle region of the state.

A committee of North Carolina's ablest statesmen were appointed to prepare a civil constitution.

After the North Carolina victory at Moore's Creek over the Tories and regulators on February 27th 1776 the people of this section were in complete repose so far as any immediate apprehension of danger was concerned. Committees were sent to Virginia to confer with them regarding their mutual interests.

At the session of the Provincial Congress which met at Halifax on April 4th, 1776 Kedar Ballard of Gates was appointed a Captain in the Army.

Lawrence Baker who lived in the western part of what is now Gates was rising into prominence.

When in 1776 the Provisional Congress could not decide upon what was the best basis for a permanent constitution for the state a new committee was named to form a temporary form of government until the end of the next congress. It was August 1776 before the news of the Declaration of Independence reached North Carolina and it was proclaimed in the most solemn manner that the good people of the colony might be fully informed thereof.

On October 10th, 1776 elections were held for the members

of the Convention to form a new government for North Carolina. This Convention met at Halifax on November 12th, 1776 and we find the following members from this section:— Thomas Benbury and Thomas Jones of Chowan, Gen. Lawrence Baker and Day Kidley of Hertford, represented the interests of this section.

On April 8th, 1777 the first North Carolina Legislature met at New Bern and Richard Caswell was chosen the first Governor of the state. At the session held on Nov. 16th, 1777 the Court Bill was presented and James Iredell of Chowan was elected one of the three judges, December 20th, 1777.

Thus far in our research we have had to look into the history of the adjoining counties, and the Virginia border country for the history of this section, as it had belonged to several counties. What has been found up to this time has been fragmentary, and had to be gathered from many sources, but in 1778 the County of Gates was erected into a separate and distinct county. The North Carolina Legislature met twice this year, in April at New Bern and in August at Hillsboro; and in the next sketch will be given the law by which this county was erected.

## The Toll of Death in War.

In countless homes throughout Europe are heard lamentation and bitter weeping. Millions—yea, hundreds of millions—refuse to be comforted because their love ones have gone down into the Valley of the Shadow of Death, from which many will never return. Husbands, fathers, brothers, sweethearts have said good-by, and to millions perhaps it will be earth's last good-by to all that they hold dearest, to all that is more precious than all material things. On many a battlefield the Grim Reaper will take his heavy toll. Thousands, perchance a million or more, will die in awful suffering without any loving hand to ease the pangs of torture, while many other millions will be maimed for life—some with limbs shot away with eyesight gone, some doomed to agony as long as life lasts.

When our loved ones pass from us after everything that science can suggest has been done to lengthen their stay and ease their pain, we bow before the awful visitor, Death, and with burdened hearts and bowed heads, even though we have an abiding faith in that eternal life beyond the grave, take up life's work again. But on the battlefield the dying, torn and shattered by the awful power of the weapon that man's ingenuity has furnished for killing man, must suffer the tortures of agonies of pain amid the horrors of the dead and the dying all around them.

For every death of the body on these battlefields there are many deaths of the heart broken by the fearful strain and the overwhelming sorrows of mothers and wives and sisters and sweethearts and other loved ones who will go down to the grave with bitter weeping, unable to find comfort in any thought of tender ministrations or last words of love and

hope of a meeting beyond the grave.

This war, so unspeakably unnecessary, so awful in its magnitude, so incomprehensible in any real reason for its existence, ought surely to give pause to the nations of the earth, and men and women ought everywhere to unite in prayer that in some way its fearful march be halted and in some way peace be brought to Europe and tens of millions be made to rejoice that their love ones are to be saved from the useless sacrifice which has already cost so many lives and broken so many hearts. And surely we should pray that this country may forever be saved from any spirit of war, and that its people and its officials may forever remember that a soft answer turneth away wrath, and that the world is to be conquered not by might, but by right. Worthless is the commerce and the wealth of the world when weighed in the balance against death and broken hearts.

Peace hath her victory no less renowned than war and the vic tories of peace lift mankind to a higher life; they bring joy instead of sorrow to every heart and home. Well may this nation and every other on bended knees pray that peace may soon come to Europe, and that we shall forever be known as a peace-loving and peace-preserving nation.—Manufacturers Record.

## Gates County Politics.

### Trotville News.

Mr. Halfore Winslow and sister Miss Charlotte of Belvidere and Mr. Willis White of Portsmouth are visiting at Mrs. Anna White's.

Mr. Ernest White has returned home after a visit to relatives in E. City and Norfolk.

Mrs. L. A. Hobbs and Miss Daisy Howell of Suffolk are visiting Mrs. J. C. McCotter.

Miss Artie White of Edenton is spending this week with her cousin the Misses Simpson.

Mr. W. H. Speight visited relatives at Cisco Saturday and Sunday.

Mr Ernest Spivey is quite sick at this writing.

Mr. W. P. Mitchell who has been quite sick with malaria is able to be out again.

Mr. Wallace Hendrix returned to his home in Berkley Monday after a visit to his parents.

In last week's issue of the Observer there appeared an article under the title, "To whom it may concern" over the signature of J. W. Brown independent candidate for sheriff of Gates County, in which he states that the "report being circulated that he stated he had been fairly beaten in the County Convention is untrue and that he could not have done so and stated facts as everybody in Gates County knows." A very broad assertion to claim to know the opinion and conclusion of every man in Gates County. The following affidavit made by A. P. Godwin Esq. a leading lawyer of the County and concurred in by Mr B M Riddick Jr. assistant cashier of the Bank of Gates, two as fine men as exist in this or any other County, ought to, and

will forever settle this matter in minds of every intelligent voter in Gates County. The Democracy of Gates County has ever stood for fairness in her Primaries and Conventions, and yet there are a few voters in the County crying Fraud, Cheaters, Machinery, etc. and yet when asked to give an explanation utterly fails to do so. Why not take honest defeats as becometh a Democratic voter and two years hence make the fourth attempt.

North Carolina,  
Gates County.

A. Pilston Godwin, being first duly and solemnly sworn, deposed and said,

That on the 23rd day of May, 1914, being the day on which the democratic county convention for the county of Gates was held, and within thirty minutes after the adjournment of said convention, and under the awning of the store of R. M. Riddick, Sr., in the town of Gatesville, and in the presence of R. M. Riddick, Jr., he heard J. W. Brown, who was a defeated candidate for sheriff, in said convention, say:

"Yes, I was beaten fairly, but I'd been nominated, if two men in that convention had not lied to me."

The affiant further avers that this affidavit has been submitted to R. M. Riddick, Jr., who stated in the presence of R. R. Taylor, Notary Public, that the said affidavit is true and correct in the whole and every part thereof, and that he is ready and willing, if there is further controversy as to the truth of the statement of the said J. W. Brown, above quoted, to make, execute, and swear to an affidavit to the effect that the above language was used by the said J. W. Brown, under the circumstances above set out, and that he and the said affiant both repeated it, before the said J. W. Brown ever announced himself an independent candidate for sheriff.

A. P. GODWIN.

Sworn and subscribed to before me, in the presence of R. M. Riddick, Jr., this the 29th day of August, 1914.

R. R. TAYLOR,  
Notary Public.

### If You Must Drink

(Published by Request.)

To the married man who cannot get along without drinks, the following is suggested as a solution to the bondage of his habit:

First—Start a saloon in your own house.

Second—Be the only customer; You will have no license to pay. Give your wife \$2 to buy a gallon of whiskey and remember there are 69 drinks in one gallon.

Third—Buy your drinks from no one but your wife and by the time the first gallon is gone she will have \$8 to put in bank and \$2 to start business again.

Fourth—Should you live ten years and continue to buy booze from her and then die with snakes in your boots she will have money to bury you decently, educate your children, buy a house and lot, marry a decent man and quit thinking about you.

Fifth—If unmarried get your mother, sister, sweetheart to act as barkeeper.—Clipping.