

INTERESTING AND OTHERWISE

(CLARENCE GRIFFIN)

Militia Musters

A feature of North Carolina life prior to 1870 that was eagerly anticipated was the annual muster days. Almost from the birth of the nation militia companies were a part of every well-organized community, not only in North Carolina, but in every state. All able-bodied men were subject to certain calls and practically all male citizens between certain ages, were members of these militia companies.

For military purposes each county was divided into militia districts, every district having its own military company, which with others formed the county regiment. The regiments of the adjoining counties formed a brigade. The Legislature elected the generals and field officers and the organization was supervised by the Adjutant-General and carefully kept up. Besides there were in many counties organized and disciplined military companies, generally cavalry, ready for active service on emergency. The militia companies were required to meet, by law, and muster every year. The militia districts were later succeeded by the present township form in each county of the state. On muster days all persons liable to military service had to meet, be enrolled and muster. General Davie wrote a volume on military tactics, which was adopted and in use and doubtless at the musters there was drilling, so that the militia had some slight acquaintance with military discipline and commands. The militia therefore was in some measures an organized military force. It is to be mentioned that the free negroes were required to attend muster until relieved of that duty. On different occasions, because of threatened negro insurrections, the militia of several counties were called out. When the tocsin of war sounded in 1812 the militia regiments of the several counties were embodied and saw active service.

In the early days of the county the

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J. T. CAMP

Phone 107 Moss Bldg.
FOREST CITY

Rutherford County Maps Reduced to \$1.00

Every school and every individual should have one of R. E. Carpenter's Rutherford County Maps.

This complete county map, made to sell at \$2.00 can be purchased at this office for only \$1.00. Mailed to any address for \$1.25 cash with order.

Call at the Courier office and inspect this map—the best and most complete ever made.

militia of Tryon and Rutherford counties, in conjunction with the militia of adjoining counties, were, on several occasions, called into service to guard against Indian uprisings.

The militia, until 1860, was in some respects similar, in organization, to our state National guard today. The militia companies were found in every community of every county in the state, while today only a few of the centrally located towns of the state have National guard units.

Arthur, in his History of Western North Carolina, says: "On the second Saturday of October, each year, there was a general muster at each county seat, when the various companies drilled in battalion or regimental formation, and each separate company met on its local muster ground quarterly, and on the Fourth of July the commanding officers met at the court house to drill. The Big Musters called most of the people together, and there was much fun and many rough games to beguile the time away. Cider and ginger cakes were sold, and many men got drunk."

An old newspaper, "The Western Star of Liberty," published at Rutherfordton, May 19, 1840, carries the following advertisement:

"Attention"

"To all persons Belonging to Captain Camp's Company, are hereby commanded to appear at their usual muster grounds on the Fourth Day of July next at 10 o'clock, a. m., armed and equipped as the law directs, otherwise the law will be in force against them."

"W. A. CAMP", "Captain."

The titles of captain, colonel and general were frequently applied to individuals in the days prior to the War Between the States. This is easily understood when we consider the number of military companies in a county, and the number of officers required to command each company, battalion or regiment.

Just how many companies of militia existed in this county is difficult to determine. The number ran from about six to thirteen, as the exigencies of the times demanded. Legislation was frequently implored to permit certain counties to increase their militia for various reasons, chief among them being the fear of a negro uprising. The officers of these companies were elected by the men to serve stated periods. Some of the most prominent men in the county were at one time connected with the county militia in some official position. General G. W. Logan, afterwards superior court judge, and Col. Thomas Jefferson are two that comes to mind. The writer has an aged manuscript in his possession, reading as follows:

"This is to certify that I have examined William L. Griffin and in consequence of an injury that he received in the small of his back when young, I am of opinion that he is incapable of performing military duty and ought to be discharged.
"January 2, 1826."

"Dr. McEntire, Surgeon"
3rd Regiment."

Rutherford County militia men were called upon for service in the Indian removals of 1837, and some few went into the Mexican War, of 1848. The War Between the States broke up the various organizations over the state, and the Home Guard of 1863-65 were the nearest attempt at reorganization. Holden's high handed methods of calling the militia into service following the Reconstruction brought the very name into disrepute. The changes in the Constitution and the change in method of county government practically killed every vestige of the old militia organizations. A few years later the present National Guard system was inaugurated, which probably fills the requirements of home defense in a number of ways superior to the old system.

LOCAL KIWANIS CLUB ON ROLL AT HEADQUARTERS

The Lieutenant-Governor of Division No. 1 is in receipt of an official letter from Kiwanis International headquarters at Chicago, stating that the report of the Forest City club accomplishments has been given proper placement on International bulletin board where all visitors to headquarters may read and receive inspiration from the fine work that has been done by the local club.

Dad [to youngster just put to bed]
"Now, what are you crying for?"
Son: "I wanna drink."
Dad: "So do I; go to sleep."

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NEW HOMES AND BARNS WHEN CROPS ROTATED

Raleigh, N. C., March 18.—One of the visible effects of following a good rotation of crops is the building of new homes and barns since such rotations have been put into effect.

"The success of sound crop rotations is shown not only in bigger yields per acre and high net income from the farm but also in the general appearance of the farm as well," says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist at State College. "Such farms look neater and are better cultivated. During the past several years, we have placed demonstrations with farmers in most of the counties where county agents are at work. In these demonstrations, we have applied the principles of soil improvement with legumes, fertilizers, manures and limestone to the whole farm in a practical way. Thirty-three of these demonstrations have been running long enough to get the rotation well established. On these 33 farms, 61 percent of the Cultivated land grew some sort of legume in 1928. The average for North Carolina is only 14 percent of the cultivated land."

Mr. Blair says that a farmer cannot afford to suspend other farm projects to improve his soil. Therefore the rotation advocated allow an income, either in the form of a money crop or feed crop, from each cultivated acre each year. Meanwhile, legume crops for turning under are inter-planted with the income-producing crop, or else grown at a different seasons of the year.

On one farm, a twelve-acre field made .83 bushels of corn in 1924. This same field, after having a crop of lespedeza turned under, made 500 bushels in 1927. On the same farm, another twelve acres produced 240 bushels of corn in 1925 and 598 bushels in 1928 as a result of a crop rotation with legumes.

On farms where these rotations are followed, a surplus of feed is produced after two or three years and the amount of livestock is then increased.

ELLENBORO FARMERS HEAR DR. POOLE AND PROF. FANT

Ellenboro, March 18.—Doctor Poole and Professor Fant, disease specialists from the North Carolina Experiment Station at Raleigh, while inspecting sweet potatoes last Wednesday afternoon before meeting with Ellenboro sweet potato growers in the school building at night said: "The potatoes in the Ellenboro houses are above the average of sweet potatoes stored in curing houses in both quality and in being free from disease."

Professor Fant who was first introduced to the farmers by the local teacher of agriculture told the growers to use corrosive sublimate instead of formaldehyde to treat sweet potato seed against surface diseases before bedding, and to soak the potatoes in the solution for fifteen minutes instead of eight to ten, the time suggested up to this year. The group was informed that one ounce of corrosive sublimate was the correct amount to mix in eight gallons of water.

Then, Dr. Poole after being introduced showed and explained many lantern slides of sweet potato diseases with control for each, after which the meeting was given over to a round-table discussion of sweet potato growing, during which time he imparted much valuable information relative to sweet potato production.

Nearly thirty were present despite the inclement weather which prevailed at the time of the meeting.

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YOUNG MAN WALKED 600 MILES TO JOIN C. M. T. C.

Walking and securing lifts from passing motorists over a distance of 600 miles was only a preliminary for Joe B. Webb of Lakeland, Fla., when he undertook to secure admission to the Citizens' Military Training Camp at Fort Screven, Georgia, last summer.

Joe arrived at Fort Screven on June 17th, but had no orders to enroll in the camp. When he was advised by the camp authorities that he could not be enrolled without orders he immediately set out for Fort McPherson, Georgia, to secure this authority. He had no money so started walking, reaching Fort McPherson he secured the necessary authority to enter the camp and started walking back to Fort Screven, some 300 miles away. Kind motorists gave him a lift here and there, and he reached Fort Screven only four days after the opening of the camp. His persistence, however, was not to be denied and the Camp Authorities permitted him to enter the camp.

Upon the conclusion of his camp period the Camp Officers reported that he had made an excellent record during the training period, but that was, of course, to be expected of a young man who had displayed such "bull dogged" determination to secure the benefits of these summer camps.

RUTHERFORD SHOWS PROGRESS IN FOREST PROTECTION

According to figures received from the District Forester's Office at Lenoir, the forest area destroyed by fire in the County has been decreased from 7354 acres in the spring of 1926 to 854 acres in the spring of 1928. The number of fires for the same period also shows a decrease from 70 to 20.

However, these figures are still quite large and leave considerable

room for improvement. With the cooperation of the public both the area burned over and the number of fires can be greatly reduced.

Forest Officers throughout the County will prosecute any parties found setting out fires either maliciously or carelessly. These men have the right to arrest without warrant any persons they find committing such acts.

MISS LUCY CONLEY WEDS MR. CURTIS HARDIN

Rutherfordton, March 18.—The many friends of Mr. G. Curtis Hardin will be interested to learn that he was married Saturday afternoon March 9, in Erwin, Tenn., to Miss Lucy J. Conley. Rev. Sherwood, pastor of the First Baptist church performed the ceremony at the parsonage which was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Robert Hodge, of this place.

The bride is the charming daughter of Mrs. Etta Conley of Bakersville, N. C., and is a graduate nurse of the Rutherford Hospital. She also attended Berea College, Berea, Ky.

Mr. Hardin is the eldest son of Sheriff and Mrs. W. C. Hardin and was educated in the local schools. He has been a Deputy Sheriff for the past four years and is a well known and highly respected young man of sterling character.

The happy couple took a motor trip to Johnston City, Tenn., and other points, arriving here Tuesday night March 12. They will make their home in Rutherfordton.

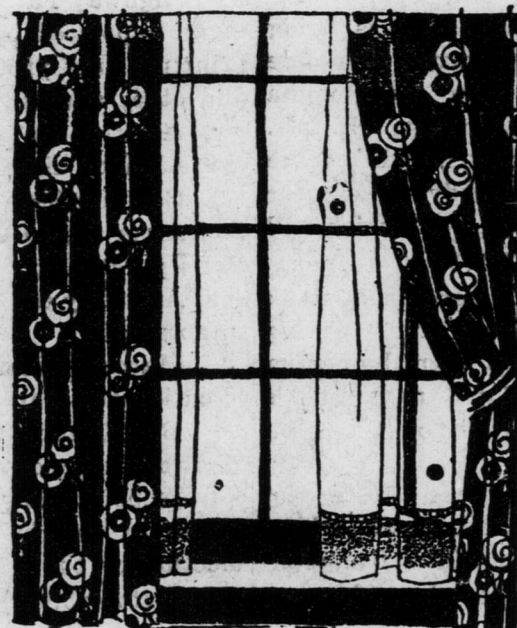
The romance developed while the bride was in training at the Rutherford Hospital.

CINDERELLA'S
Exquisite Footwear
On The Square
Shelby, N. C.

To Make the Home Cheerful

The Windows Can Be The Keynote

Your windows can set the tempo for your whole furnishing scheme. Their colors, the richness of their fabrics, the formality of their arrangement will echo and reinforce every other element of decoration in the room. Our staff will be glad to help you in planning draperies.



Tailored to Your Own Windows

Draperies should be tailored as carefully as a fine suit of clothes, if they are to look smart. Our custom drapery department will do this for you expertly. We will send a man to your house to measure your windows, and our workshop will cut and fit the fabrics in the style of your choice.

Have our expert Interior Decorator figure with you on your home.

Gay Chintzes and Cretonnes

There are dozens of places about the house where you will want to use these delightful chintzes and cretonnes—for draperies upstairs and down, for slip covers, cushions, screens, wall hangings, etc. They come in period designs, floral, geometric and modernistic patterns in all colors.



Rich Damasks and Brocades

For formal living and drawing rooms, dignified dining rooms, impressive bedrooms, nothing could be more in harmony than these rich damasks and brocades. There are delicate patterns for Eighteenth Century rooms, bold patterns for Spanish and Early English, and modernistic designs.

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Forest City, N. C.