

# THE DANBURY REPORTER.

VOLUME XXXIII.

DANBURY, N. C., AUG. 30, 1906.

NO. 30

## ECHOES FROM THE DIM, DEAD PAST

### A Batch of Ye Ancient Documents Loaned the Reporter By Mr. J. G. H. Mitchell—Life in Stokes County Ninety Years Ago.

The Reporter likes to get hold of interesting things pertaining to the early history, habits and customs of our forefathers, and to print them for the amusement or instructions of its readers. Our friend, Mr. J. G. H. Mitchell, has very kindly loaned us some ancient papers, found in his father's old trunk, which are really treasures, and which carry one irresistibly back into the past with its quaint customs and usages.

There is a letter written by W. A. Mitchell to his only brother Adam Mitchell. Mr. W. A. Mitchell was at the time a member of the Legislature, and the letter is written from Raleigh to Red Shoals. There were no envelopes used in those days, and the letter was folded into four folds and sealed with a splotch of sealing wax on the back.

A most interesting relic is the muster list of the Beaver Island Militia Company in 1826, when the district comprised more territory than it does now. The muster was held at "Raccoon Tavern," a place then noted for the many hard "fist and skull" fights pulled off there at these quarterly musters. This gallant company have long since passed into the great unknown, and their descendants will be more than pleased to read this list.

The tabulated statement of the election in old times when Stokes and Forsyth were one county will be of interest to everybody, and the reader will be struck with the small vote cast, showing how sparsely the country was settled at that time.

A receipt for 50 cents from Alex. King for a wolf scalp, will interest those of a nimrodic bent, recalling the early days when these fierce animals roamed the forests and were so troublesome to the settlers that the county authorities took the matter in hand and offered rewards to those who would kill the wolves.

The statement of \$6.00 for two years subscription to the Lynchburg Press indicates that newspapers were scarce and high-priced in the days of the pioneers. The nearest papers to our county then were probably the Salem Press and the Greensboro Patriot.

One of the most interesting of these relics of by-gone days is the bill of goods bought of Stephen and E. Moore. Mr. Mitchell tells us in his notes that this store was probably at Germantown, and that presumably the members of the firm were ancestors of Mr. J. T. Moore, the present proprietor of Moore's Springs, and probably brothers or sons of Matthew R. Moore, who was prominent in our county, and for a long time Clerk of the Court of Stokes. English money was then the currency before Federal money (dollars and cents) came into use.

The deed or bill of sale of a slave sold to Hugh Mitchell is also of passing interest.

Below will be found exact copies of each document:

LETTER FROM W. A. MITCHELL, FATHER OF J. G. H. MITCHELL, TO HIS BROTHER ADAM MITCHELL, WRITTEN IN 1842.

Raleigh, December, 6, 1842.

Dear brother;

I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to inform you I am reasonably well at present except a cold and cough and sometimes a head-ache but not sufficient to hinder me from eating, sleeping or attending to business,

hoping these lines may find you all well. You may tell Aunt Eliza I have not eaten any oysters yet. I get a plenty to eat of as good as anybody could wish and a plenty of time to eat it, and our lodging is very good, myself and A. F. Nelson board together at 80 cents per day, there are some other expenses, but we can make nearly two dollars per day if nothing happens; the members of the Legislature and citizens of this town are more temperate than has ever been known before, and many of them are professors of religion of different denominations, some Methodists, some Baptists and some Presbyterians, and they all have preaching here every Sunday and Sunday evening. The Presbyterian church is in 20 yards of my room, it is a fine brick building and tall steeple. The State capitol is a splendid granite building covered with copper. It cost \$630,000. I cannot at present attempt a further description of it. You may tell my folks I received their letter when I put one in the office for W. D. Wilson, and were glad to hear they were all well. I would be glad if some of you would write once a week. The postage on a letter is 12 cents. No franking privileges allowed us. Myself and Nelson went out to see the cars start this morning. It does appear they can't run more than 10 miles an hour.

I sent some newspapers and Governor's message by Gen. John F. Poindexter to you or William Davis to get at court next week, you will please hand them out as directed. We have been mostly engaged in the Legislature in elections. Mr. Poindexter will tell you we have had quite a stormy time; the election of United States Senator is likely not to be easily effected. Mr. Graham, the Whig candidate, gets about 64, and Col. Bedford Brown 60 and Gen. R. M. Saunders about 38. The Democrats are at present split and cannot agree, you may see from the papers the doings of the Legislature.

When any of you wish to write direct your letters to Raleigh, N. C. I expect to get a letter tomorrow and this will reach Red Shoals next Sunday. I expect to start one every Wednesday to some of you for the present I must come to a close, hoping I shall hear no bad news from none of you. I remain your loving brother till death.

W. A. MITCHELL,  
To Adam Mitchell.

#### MUSTER LIST FOR BEAVER ISLAND TOWNSHIP, IN THE YEAR 1826.

Captain—W. A. Mitchell.  
Lieutenant—Anderson Carter.  
Ensign—Adam Mitchell.  
Sergeants—Silas Tucker, John Duggins, John Manuel, Jr., William Harvey.

Privates: Samuel Henuis, Jno. Preston, Robt. Reid, Samuel Neal, Zachariah Wall, Thomas Neal, John Vernon, Randolph Riddle, Richard Vernon, Wm. Southern, Geo. Brown, Thos. Wilkins, Winston Carter, Daniel King, William Preston, Abner Ore, Wm. Ore, Geo. Tucker, James Welch, Geo. Wilkins, Daniel Hutcherson, Baxter Heath, Joseph Alley, Edward Tilley, Ephriam Stephenson, Wm. Conner, Daniel Tucker, Paul Tucker, Washington Amos, Walter Alley, Joseph Murphy, Josiah Reid, Mead Wilson, John Tucker, William Shaffer, Thos. Duggins, Geo. W. Carter, Robert Ore, Jesse Manuel, Jas. Ayers, Jas. Amos, Reuben Manuel, Wm. D. Wilson,

John K. Wilson, Wm. Alley, W. H. Martin, Marcus Patterson, Jno. Conner, Jr., Isaac Glenn, Jno. F. Moore, Fleming Priddy, John Norton, Wm. Harvey, George Shaffer, Abraham Chandler, Ben. F. Ore, Martin Morgan, Phil. Manuel, Fountain Harris, Alfred Taylor, Wm. James, Stoval Wilkins, Wm. Chandler, Green Richardson, Wm. G. Phillips, Ben. Ingram, Elijah Harris, Wm. Hutcherson, Robert Tucker, Roland Alley, Hugh Martin, Wm. Powers, John Amos, John Brown, Isaac Eades, John Eades, Elijah Moore, Jas. Wray, Stephen Duggins, Jno. M. Reid, Berry Glenn, James M. Hughes, Hugh Manuel, George Powers, Richard Richardson, Wm. G. Richardson, Joseph V. Wilson, Daniel V. Powers, Abner Manuel, Joseph Adkins, Wm. Morgan, Wm. Manuel, Jr., Robt. Conner, Dan Southern, Jas. Hennis, Jas. H. Hughes, Russel Vawter, Jr., Noah Morgan, Sam Murphy, Alfred Davis, Boyd Lawson, John Morgan, Wm. Calhoun, George Harris, Wm. Eades, Jr.

#### ABSTRACT OF VOTE CAST IN ELECTION HELD IN STOKES (NOW STOKES AND FORSYTH) IN THE YEAR 1810.

	Smith.	Felp.	Colfin.	Roberts	Grigg.	Carter.	Shipp.	Hill.	Shober.
Germantown	116	6	34	3	54	154	111	96	23
Salem	117	7	69	38	143	98	318	43	187
Bethany	37	1	3	8	19	46	73	15	46
Ritner's	12	0	14	3	30	28	101	32	26
Spainhour's	0	6	19	64	90	55	189	63	63
Ship's	3	0	4	9	44	31	62	17	21
Snow Creek	0	7	20	61	54	145	142	95	65
Reed's	71	0	6	9	9	90	36	52	5
Carr's	10	3	17	3	6	52	52	18	25
X Road	163	15	130	8	58	100	133	89	56
Total	519	45	316	206	512	799	1287	520	517

#### RECEIPT OF ALEX KING FOR A WOLF SCALP, 1826.

Received of Wm. A. Mitchell, 50 cents in full of a wolf scalp killed in 1826.

October 9th, 1826.

ALEX KING.

#### STATEMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TO LYNCHBURG PRESS, AT \$3.00 A YEAR.

Mr. Wm. A. Mitchell,  
To Pleasants & Smith, Dr.  
To your subscription to the Lynchburg Press, from 15 April, 1820 to 15 April, 1822 \$6.00. Received payment.

#### BILL OF GOODS BOUGHT OF STEPHEN & E. MOORE, PROBABLY AT GERMANTOWN, NOV. 16, 1822.

Mr. William Mitchell,  
Bot. of Stephen & E. Moore,

	£	s	d
6 yds Black Cloth	7	19	
14 Hks Silk		7	
4 yds Shirting		11	
2 yds Blk Silk		15	
3 doz B Moulds	1	2	
2 yds Blue Cloth	3	6	
1 7-8 yds B Holland	4	3	
1 set E Plates	3	9	
3 yds Girth Webb	5	3	
1 B Silk Hkf		6	
	£13	18	5

#### DEED OR BILL OF SALE OF A SLAVE FROM JAMES STIFF TO HUGH MITCHELL, 1811.

Know all men by these presents that I, James Stiff, of Bedford county, and State of Virginia, for and in consideration of three hundred and thirty dollars to me in hand paid by Hugh Mitchell, of the county of Stokes and State of North Carolina, the receipt whereof I hereby acknowledge, acquit and discharged him the said Hugh Mitchell, his heirs and assigns, and all of them. The said James Stiff have granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell unto the said Hugh Mitchell, a certain negro girl, named Violet, of the age 16 years, to him his

heirs and assigns forever, which said negro girl, together with her increase. The said James Stiff, do by these presents, oblige myself, heirs, executors and administrators to warrant and defend unto the said Hugh Mitchell, and to his heirs and assigns forever against the lawful claim of any person or persons whatsoever and against any claim or right of freedom that may be set up on the part of said negro girl in witness whereof I have affixed my hand and seal.

This 14th day of Sept., A. D. 1811.

JAS. STIFF (Seal).  
Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of  
HU MARTIN. (Seal).

The Reporter extends its sincere thanks to Mr. Mitchell for sending it these old relics, which will be read with a great deal of entertainment, it is felt sure, by all of our readers. And to others who can find among their old pa-

pers such interesting data of our past history, a cordial invitation is given to send them in for publication. Both old and young will find pleasure in reading them.

#### YADKIN VALLEY INSTITUTE.

The Reporter takes pleasure in calling the attention of its readers to that excellent school, the Yadkin Valley Institute, of Boonville, which is doing a great work of education among the boys and girls of our county. See the advertisement elsewhere in this paper, and write at once to J. J. Beach, principal, Boonville, or N. R. Hamm, Agent, Dalton, N. C., who will give you all desired information with pleasure.

#### Childrens Day At Delta Sept. 2.

Sandy Ridge, Aug 25.  
Editor Reporte:  
Please announce in the Reporter that Childrens Day will be observed at Delta church on the first Sunday in September. Exercises to begin at 9:30. Preaching at 11 o'clock.

#### DELLA CARTER.

The Zinzendorf, Winston-Salem's new hotel, will be completed by October. The building, which is located on Main street on the old Jones Hotel site, is to be a very handsome one. It will cost, when finished, about \$160,000, and will have 130 rooms, most of which will be furnished with baths.

Several of Danbury's small boys will go to Winston Monday to see Robinson's circus.

#### THE END OF THE WORLD

of troubles that robbed E. H. Wolfe, of Bear Grove, Ia., of all usefulness, came when he began taking Electric Bitters. He writes: "Two years ago kidney trouble caused me great suffering, which I would never have survived had I not taken Electric Bitters. They also cured me of General Debility." Sure cure for all Stomach, Liver and Kidney complaints, Blood diseases, Headache, Dizziness and Weakness or bodily decline. Price 50c. Guaranteed by all drug stores.

## "Mc" DENOUNCES "HELL BALL" ETC.

### As Adjuncts to Sunday School Conventions and Protracted Meetings--Wants Some Warrants Made Returnable Before Himself.

Pine Hall, Aug. 16.

Dear "Mc":

As you have a mighty good way of saying things just as they ought to be said, never hesitating to call a "spade" by its right name I want you to write an article for the Reporter condemning Sunday School conventions that have as side shows, baseball games and ice-cream and soda-pop stands running at full blast. I think it is an insult to the Sunday School work to allow such things; and I believe you think as I do, tell us what you do think, it may do some good in the future.

Your friend,  
J. C. F.

Above is a letter from a good Methodist Sunday School superintendent, and was written just after the Knowl Hurst convention, and while I did not attend, I understood that there were three stands selling ice-cream, lemonade, cigars and all kinds of soft drinks, and from the way a number "looked-out for every side of the road," there must have been a blindtiger nearby dispensing tangle-foot, besides there was going on, not a hundred yards from the church, what seemed to be a very interesting game of hell ball, and all this during the exercises of a Methodist Sunday School convention.

Well, to say the least, I think the devil gets about as much gratification out of such gatherings as God does glory; and I am surprised at the blindness of our church workers. It seems to me this work runs too much in grooves, is planned by some one not on the spot and old Satan takes advantage of our cut and dried program; and as a consequence, his friends succeed in claiming the attention of many who should be doing and taking part in church work.

As for base or more properly called "hell ball," the devil has succeeded in making it so popular that no gathering is satisfied without a game, even old soldiers day at Danbury had to bear the disgrace of a rip-roaring contest. It is even said that during a recent protracted meeting near where above-named convention met, that during the intervals between the sermons a game of hell ball was "played for pastime." Is there a remedy? Yes, my friend, it can be stopped as effectually as has been the sale of whiskey around churches and in the same way. If you will start a test case and make your warrant returnable before me, somebody will pay a maximum fine and full penalty of the law or go into a higher court for disturbing public worship. As for the ice-cream and soda-pop venders they should be restricted and allowed to sell only during intermission or when the religious services are suspended. I am told that nearly all the Sunday Schools reported very poor attendance and that the superintendents were anxiously asking why it was so. Will some one also tell us why saw-mill owners will shut down when there is a game of ball to come off in the neighborhood, and will not do the same for a protracted meeting; the answer to one is answer to both.

#### WE HARVEST CORN TOO EARLY.

Experiments at the Iowa Station have shown that if we wish to harvest the crop at that time when the greatest feed value in stover has been reached we should cut it when the leaves begin to dry up, or not later than when one-third to one-half of the leaves are dry. On the other hand, these same experiments have shown that the time when the ears contain their highest feed value is when all the leaves are dry and the corn fairly hard and that to cut the corn before this, or long after, lessens the feed value obtained in the ears.

But the time to harvest the corn crop is plainly that time when the ears and stover together contain the maximum of feed value. This time has been found to be about midway between the two periods mentioned, or say ten days after the usual "fodder-pulling" time. In other words, at the usual time for fodder-pulling neither the corn plant, as a whole, nor the ears have reached their best development in feed value. There are several ways of harvesting and utilizing the corn crop, and at some other time we shall discuss some of the others, but in this article we wish to pay our respects to the common method of pulling the fodder before the plant has fully matured and then gathering the ears at a later date. How are you getting on?

"Mc."

Winston papers say that they are having light breaks at the warehouses, but that they are not expecting much tobacco before next month.

The corn crop is being the

#### PULLING FODDER DOESN'T PAY.

##### An Article Of Vital Interest to the Farmers Of Stokes County.

Forty-seven per cent., or nearly half of the cultivated land in North Carolina is devoted to corn, and the last census gave the total value of the corn crop in this and adjoining States as \$111,000,000 as against \$104,000,000 for cotton. The corn crop is therefore an important one and since it is grown solely for its feed value, the method of harvesting the crop that will give the greatest amount of feed, should receive careful consideration. The feed value of a plant is ascertained by chemical analysis and actual feeding trials, where both the animals and the feed are carefully weighed.

The chemist tells us that the average mature corn plant cut off near the ground contains about 46 per cent. of its feed value in the ear, or ears, and about 54 per cent. in its stalk, leaves and shucks, or as it is generally called the "stover."

But the chemist cannot tell us exactly the feed value of any substance and to complete our information we must carry this corn plant to the mule or to the steer and ask him the value of its parts as feed. To obtain a correct answer to such a question we must feed large numbers of animals or repeat the trials many times. This has been done and the average of the results indicates that the steer or mule can digest the ear a little better than he can the stover and that he gets about 51 per cent. of the feed value of the average corn plant out of the ear and about 49 per cent. out of the stover. If this be true, and it is, then the stover is a valuable part of the corn crop and careful thought should be given to the question of harvesting it so as to obtain the greatest possible amount of feed from the entire plant.

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