

## Bits of History

By JOHN PARRIS, Jr.

Colonel William H. Thomas, statesman, Confederate officer, railroad builder, farmer and pioneer, born February 5, 1805, at the very beginning of frontier colonization in Western North Carolina, was one of the most colorful and famous characters this section of the South has ever produced.

A few days before he was born his father was drowned in a stream in North Georgia. His father came to North Carolina prior to 1800. The boy grew up into a busy and productive manhood. He read a great deal and at his death in 1893 had acquired one of the best privately owned libraries west of Raleigh. He also farmed a great deal and acquired thousands of acres of mountain lands. He studied law under the famous John C. Calhoun.

A colonel in the confederate armies, he led "Thomas Legion" and was one of the last officers to surrender his company. He also was the oldest colonels in the service of the Confederate States of America.

Like many other noted men of this state, Colonel Thomas entered politics early in his career. He

served in the State Senate from 1849 to 1861 when he resigned. He was a first cousin of General Zachary Taylor, leader of the American forces in the war with Mexico, and also was related to the Madison family of which James Madison, a president of the United States, was a member.

Colonel Thomas was actively interested in the building of the Western North Carolina railroad. Several years before the road came through the mountains, he gave the site for the Dillsboro depot.

Colonel Thomas was the adopted son of Yonaguski, famous Cherokee Chief, and a close friend to the Indians in Western North Carolina. He owned a farm on the Tuckasegee river two miles from Whittier which was called "Stekoa" by the Indians. Here his mother lived with him to a greatly advanced age.

James Thomas, a son of Colonel Thomas, lives in Waynesville. He is a former member of the state legislature and is now writing a book on the Thomas Legion.

## NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in that certain deed of trust made by J. R. Bryson and wife, Pauline Bryson, to Carolina Mortgage Company, Trustee, recorded in Book 108 at Page 289 in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Jackson County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the note thereby secured, and the holder thereof having directed that the deed of trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale at the court house door in the City of Sylva, North Carolina at twelve o'clock noon on Tuesday, the 8th day of March, 1932, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash, a certain lot or parcel of land in or near the City of Sylva, Township of Sylva, County of Jackson, State of North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning on a stake in S.W. margin of King Street, and the S.E. corner of B. N. Queen Lot and runs with margin of said street, South 31 degrees 15 minutes East, 50 feet to a stake; thence with Bryson and Davis line, South 58 degrees 45 minutes West, 120 feet to a stake on N.W. margin of Morris Street; thence with margin of said street, North 31 degrees 15 minutes West, 50 feet to a stake, corner of said Queens lot; thence with Queens line, North 58 degrees 45 minutes East 120 feet to the beginning; being Lots Nos. 15 and 16 of the Morris sub-division in the town of Sylva, N. C., as shown by plat or map of same recorded in Register of Deeds office of Jackson County, N. C., in Map Book No. 1, at page 20 thereof; being the property conveyed to J. R. Bryson by deed from D. G. Bryson and wife, Hattie Bryson and Billy Davis and wife, Olive Davis, dated January 10, 1929, and filed for registration on the 12th day of April, 1929, in the Office of Register of Deeds, Jackson County, State of N. C., recorded in Book 105, Page 416.

Title to the above described property was transferred to J. D. Brown.

This, the 2nd day of February, 1932.

Carolina Mortgage Company,  
Trustee.

## NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator with the will annexed of the estate of S. L. Cook, deceased, all persons having claims against the estate of the said S. L. Cook, deceased, are hereby notified to present said claims within twelve months from the date hereof or this notice will be plead in bar of recovery. And all persons due said estate any accounts or monies will call at once and arrange settlement of same.

This January 11, 1932.

R. L. COOK,

Administrator of the estate S. L. Cook, deceased.

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