

Jackson County Journal.

VOL. I NO. 7

SYLVA, N. C., APRIL 17, 1914

\$1.00 THE YEAR IN ADVANCE

"SIR GAER" IN AMERICA

A Llanllawddog Man's Progress.

(From the Carmathen Journal.)

Mr. Henry Howell, J. P., sends us the following interesting particulars of the career of a Llanllawddog man who is doing well in America. Mr. Howell writes:

In the belief that it will prove interesting to all—especially the Welsh readers of the Journal, I venture to send you the following interesting and appreciative article on Judge D. D. Davies (a native of Llanllawddog) contained in the December number of "The Cullowhee," a monthly magazine published at Cullowhee, North Carolina. The writer of the article is Professor O. S. Dean, of the Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School. Trusting you may find space for it in the Journal:

"The power of personality is the charm of history. Records of events are fascinating only because of the element of personality in them. Austerlitz, Jena, Marengo, and even Waterloo, would possess little interest for the world if the personality of Napoleon were eliminated. The play of "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out would be a dead thing. So it is with every nation, country and locality. Western North Carolina, with all its high and holy hills, and matchless valleys, its pure water and invigorating climate, would be comparatively unattractive apart from human hearts and human life. Every community is blessed with a few great spirits that stand out like tall mountain tops above the common level. It is our purpose to give to our readers a brief history of some of these estimable citizens that have added a charm to the little community of Cullowhee. We shall devote our attention to him whose name appears as the subject of this sketch.

"Judge" Davies, as he is best known to us, is not a native American, but was born in Wales, January 31, 1826. There is about the names of the scenes of his boyhood a distinctive Welsh and English flavor that has followed him to his adopted land, and even today lends a unique attractiveness to his manner and conduct and domestic life. Lettynest, near Glangwilli, South Wales, was the home of his childhood.

The Welch language was the basis of his education, all his early training being received in that tongue. The schools of that day lasted only four or five weeks each year; but, notwithstanding limited opportunities, he acquired sufficient knowledge to enable him to enter vigorously upon life's work at an early age.

"When quite young he left his native Wales for Monmouthshire, England, to study mining. There he accumulated considerable knowledge of this important industry and some money.

"After spending some years in England the desire to travel took possession of him. Together with a friend, a young minister, he decided to journey to other lands and see something of the world. They set sail for America from Liverpool, aboard the steamship "Georgia," in April, 1848. Mr. Davies was then only twenty-two years of age. It

was their intention to continue to travel westward, returning to England after having encircled the globe. Arriving at New York, however, Mr. Davies proceeded to Pittsburg and became engaged in business.

"While in Pittsburg he was induced by an English construction company to come south and superintend the excavations for the first tunnel ever put through the Blue Ridge mountains, at Tunnel Hill, Murray county, Georgia. His salary for this work was \$70.00 per month and board, and traveling expenses from Pittsburg to Tunnel Hill. The trip was made by boat down the Ohio river to Cincinnati, thence to Nashville, Tennessee, and from Nashville by stage to Tunnel Hill, by way of Ross Lanning, now Chattanooga. He put three hundred and fifty men to work in August, and by the following spring had completed the tunnel, which was 777 feet long.

A thing worth remembering occurred at the completion of this tunnel. A Mr. Mitchell, chief engineer of the State of Georgia, was the first man to pass through the great excavation. Standing in the center of the tunnel, he delivered an oration, and, producing a bottle of water that he had brought with him from the River Jordan, poured out the water in such a manner that part of it ran towards the Mississippi River and part towards the Atlantic Ocean. Mr. Mitchell at the same time presented to young Davies and his contractor a gold medal each as a reward for their skill and energy.

"The above interesting event was followed by a three days' celebration, in which whiskey by the barrel and wine by the crate were consumed. Prominent people from the various cities of the South were present. The building of the railroad that was to pass through the tunnel—the Western and Atlantic—attracted widespread interest.

"Colonel Whiteside, of Chattanooga, owned several thousand acres of land in Dade county Georgia, and in the counties of the State of Alabama adjoining. The Colonel now proposed to Mr. Davies that he take a force of men and look for coal on this property, assuring him that in the event he should make a valuable discovery, he should have a handsome interest therein. The coal was found, twelve miles south of Chattanooga, on a creek called "Running Water," which emptied into the Tennessee river at the west end of Lookout Mountain. This was the first coal mine in the South and its discovery marked the beginning of "good times" in this section. It is of further interest that Mr. Davies, little dreaming of the immense value of the find and expecting to return immediately to Pittsburg, sold his share in the enterprise for fifty dollars!

"The discovery of this mine came about in the following manner: Near to the banks of the creek referred to above, was an old blacksmith shop. Seeing some black dirt in front of this shop, Mr. Davies asked the blacksmith where he found it. He was told that it came from "up the creek a peice," and further, that it would burn "pretty well, too." This determined Mr. Davies to push his search, which resulted in the discovery of a vein four feet thick.

(Continued on page 4.)

TO BUILD SUMMER HOME IN SYLVA.

Through an invitation extended some weeks ago by the Board of trade of Sylva to Dr. Caleb A. Ridley, pastor of the Central Baptist church of Atlanta, Ga., to make his summer home here and who is so pleasantly remembered as one of the principal speakers at the Western North Carolina Bible Conference held here last summer, intimate friends are in receipt of a recent communication from him in which he gives every assurance that at an early date he will visit Sylva for the purpose of locating a site for a summer home.

From the descriptions already received of the home which he intends to build, it will be a credit not only to Sylva but to Jackson county as well, being fashioned after a country club house built of logs and the details worked out along unique and original lines. A distinctive literary name will be given the home, and here Dr. Ridley will do much of his literary work during the summer. In fact, Dr. Ridley has given out the information that if he should ever give up pastoral work, to go upon the platform, enter into evangelistic work, or devote his time entirely to literature, he will make this his permanent home. Dr. Ridley's location here not only means that Sylva will have the pleasure of this addition to our town, but will also have the pleasure of entertaining many prominent men during the summer who will be guests of the Doctor.

Dr. Ridley has made a reputation for himself along many lines in which not only Jackson county but Western North Carolina as well feels a deep pride. In behalf of the Sylva Board of Trade as well as the citizens of Jackson county, the Journal extends to him a hearty welcome to his native hills where he may pass the summer months in rest and quietude.

Cowan-Leatherwood.

A wedding of much interest because of the prominence and popularity of the couple and one that came as a complete surprise to their numerous friends, was that celebrated Saturday afternoon at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. M. Buchanan, when Miss Ethel Leatherwood became the bride of Hon. Coleman C. Cowan.

The marriage was a very quiet affair, there being present only the bride's mother, Mrs. F. H. Leatherwood, and sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. M. Buchanan. The ceremony was pronounced by Rev. J. J. Gray.

Mrs. Cowan is the youngest daughter of Mrs. F. H. Leatherwood and is a most popular and attractive young lady.

Mr. Cowan is a most successful attorney, has represented Jackson county in the General Assembly and is quite prominent in legal and political circles in Western North Carolina.

Immediately following the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Cowan left for Waynesville, returning Sunday to their home at Webster.

MEETING AT BETA.

Jackson County Journal:
Sylva, N. C.

The Sunday School and Mission Institute will be held at the Scotts Creek Baptist church on the 18th and 19th of this month. Everybody is cordially invited to attend. Rev. W. R. Bradshaw of Hickory, N. C. and Mr. E. L. Middleton of Raleigh, will be with us. We are expecting a treat. Dinner will be served on the ground each day. We regret this is on the date of the Singing Convention at Dillsboro, but hope it won't interfere with our meeting at Beta.

Yours truly,
GEO. C. SNYDER.

MRS. A J LONG DIES

Mrs. A. J. Long died at the home of her son, Leon Long, at Gainsville Ga., Monday. Her remains were brought to Sylva and interred in the Long grave yard Thursday, Rev. D. R. Proffitt conducting the services.

Mrs. Long was well known in Jackson county and leaves a number of relatives and friends here.

She leaves four daughters, Mrs. J. N. Medford, of Clyde, Mrs. Hester Heneon, Mrs. W. B. Frizzle and Mrs. J. W. Bumgarner of this county, and five sons: Thomas Long of Phoenix, Ariz., Rufus Long of Hayesville, N. C., Leon Long of Gainsville, Ga., and Will and Jonathan Long of Ft. Worth Tex.

SAM JONES KILLED

Sam Jones of Balsam was killed near Rosman, last Friday while riding on an engine of the Gloucester Lumber Company's line. The engine turned over inflicting injuries from which Mr. Jones died some five hours later.

The body was brought to Balsam for interment, Mr. Jones was about 65 years of age.

BALSAM

We are glad to see some warm weather at Balsam again.

Think every body at Balsam enjoyed Easter. Had an Easter service at the Methodist Church Sunday and an egg hunt at the Episcopal Church Tuesday.

We were all sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Sam Jones at Rosman. His body was brought to Balsam for burial.

Mrs. Parris and Miss Jannette Slaygle spent Easter with Mrs. Cling Ensley.

Saw Coleman Cowan and his bride pass through Balsam Sunday.

Miss Kate Richard has gone to Florida to spend the remainder of the winter.

Mrs. J. K. Kinney is improving some. We hope to see her out again soon.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Howell a daughter.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Waits Culberson a daughter.

Miss Bertha Robinson is visiting her sister Mrs. Howell.

Will close wishing the Journal much success.

WE TWO.

ETERNAL HOPE

"He is risen!"

This is the message that coming from the grave of the son of a Nazareth carpenter, now nearly two thousand years ago, restored the hearts of his followers who had seen him die on the cross and who had laid away his body, and with it their dearest hopes. It is the same message that ever since has restored the hearts of that half of the race that lives in the light called civilization.

That one event should so hold the race through the ages is itself a sufficient attestation to its authenticity and to its value. It is the fountain spring of the world's hope. It keeps the world young; it perpetually saves mankind from despair. Without it mankind could not bear the burden of existence.

The race has recognized but three interpreters of Jesus of Nazareth, namely St. John and St. Paul and St. Peter. The first interpreted the resurrection of his Master in the vision of the many mansions, the pearly gates, the golden streets and the heavenly choir; the second in life—here—and immortality—hereafter—revealed, in a known, "brought to light"; the third gave witness at Pentecost in Jerusalem that by rising from the dead Jesus authenticated His claims, His philosophy, His message, His gospel, His theory of the import of human existence.

These three interpretations abide the ages. The centuries have augmented their hold upon the race. Today millions bind up the wounds that Death has made as they meditate upon the Risen Nazarene; and likewise as they contemplate the Valley of the Shadow into which each must pass, they restore their souls in songs of triumph over the last enemy which is Death, where once the race groped in semi-despair, today it proceeds in Eternal Hope—bearing its burdens with joy.

Jesus gave the race much in His Gospel; He gave us more in His Person; but He made His contribution complete when, by descending into the grave and rising from it in visible form, He gave us the one sure token of the triumph of Man over Death. He thus not only proved His Gospel and established His Person; but he also revealed to all men that Death is but an incident; that we are immortal creatures; that our life, measured through it by fleeting hours, days, months or years, is indeed everlasting; He opened up to the human race the vista of Eternity—He enlarged the mind of mankind with the infinite perspective of immortality; and in the same degree He fixed in true perspective the cares and trials, desires and ambitions of the terrestrial experience—that at worst or best they are but for a moment; that they are of value only in the degree in which they effect the condition of Eternity. And so He was first to give human existence intelligent meaning.

On the morning of the Resurrection, therefore, it becomes us to not only comfort our hearts in the triumph over Death; but also to set our lives in the light of that triumph—to look beyond the Valley of the Shadow and, receiving the glory of Eternal Hope, to illuminate our days here with that light; to live not in expectation of Death, but in the light, the holiness, and the gladness of Eternal Hope.

Let us understand that we live not in vain; that we suffer, if we must, to Eternal Purpose; that if we love, nothing shall separate us, not even Death; that we shall see our loved ones again and ourselves with them; that the hopes that sank shall be lifted up; that the hearts that were wounded shall be healed in beauty; that the graves that covered the dear forms of loved ones, and that soon shall receive us, shall yet be lighted up with angel visitants. In a word, let the glory of Eternal Hope gild your pilgrimage today and evermore. For He is Risen.—News and Observer.