

The Jackson County Journal

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE IN THE COUNTY

SYLVA, NORTH CAROLINA, JULY 20, 1939

\$3.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE OUT SIDE THE COUNTY

Sylva's Present Charter Granted In Feb., 1899

The present charter of Sylva, under which the town has operated without change, modification, or amendment, was granted by the General Assembly on February 16, 1899.

It increased the limits of the town by providing that it should be in the shape of an octagon, with the point three-fourths of a mile from the depot.

In it, Dr. J. H. Wolff was named Mayor, R. A. Painter, M. D. Cowan, M. Buchanan, A. B. Dills, and B. C. Grindstaff were named as aldermen and James H. Robinson was appointed marshal.

Of this number Mr. Cowan, Mr. Buchanan, and Mr. Dills still survive, and all of them live in or near Sylva.

Each member of this board contributed much to the growth of the town and county.

Excerpts from the present charter are published below:

Chapter 72

Private Laws of 1899

Section 1. That the inhabitants of the Town of Sylva shall be a body politic and corporate, and in the name of the commissioners of the town of Sylva shall have the right to sue and be sued, contract and the contracted with, to purchase, hold and convey real and personal property for the purpose of the government of said town, its welfare and improvement, and under the name and style aforesaid, is hereby invested with and shall be subject to any and all the provisions of law now existing or may be subsequently enacted in reference to incorporated cities and towns.

Sec. 2. That the corporation boundary lines of the town of Sylva shall be as follows, to wit: Beginning at the southeast corner of the depot, as now located, shall run three-fourths of a mile each, north, south, east and west with the cardinal points of the compass, and intermediate points of same, the distance of three-fourths of a mile, so as to form an exact octagon.

Sec. 4. That for the purpose of carrying this act into immediate operation, and until their successors are elected on the first Monday in May, A. D. nineteen hundred, and qualified in accordance with this act, the following named persons shall fill said offices of mayor, commissioners and marshal, to-wit: Mayor, Dr. J. H. Wolff; commissioners, R. A. Painter, M. D. Cowan, M. Buchanan, A. B. Dills, and B. C. Grindstaff; marshal, James H. Robinson.

Sec. 27. That this act shall be in full force and effect from and after its ratification, and all other acts in conflict or otherwise are hereby repealed.

Ratified the 16th day of February, A. D., 1899.

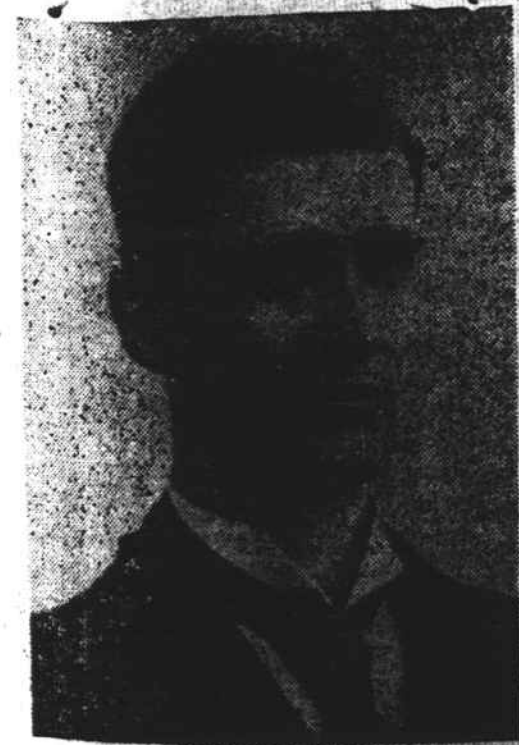
Unusual powers granted, in that town marshal can serve warrants issued by mayor anywhere in the county of Jackson.

J. A. Franks, of Almond, Senator.
Walter E. Moore, Representative.

Buckner Has New Equipment

James E. Buckner, owner of the Sanitary Market, has just installed a new refrigerating display case, and other most modern equipment, giving his market one of the highest ratings by the State Board of Health, in this part of the State.

M. D. COWAN TAKEN IN 1899 WHILE A FIRST ALDERMAN UNDER NEW CHARTER



Excerpts From Tuckasegee Democrat

Jan. 19, 1889: Mr. L. C. Hall derives the gratitude of the community for having put a row of stepping stones across the street from the depot to the shoe shop. The place thus made easily travelable was a matter of dread in wet weather.

May 29, 1889: Mr. Tuesday of the Equitable Manufacturing Co., has arrived in Sylva and will superintend the building of the factory, laying down machinery, etc. Sylva is in a "boom." On all sides the bustle and stir of improvement is heard, while on one is idle.

Feb. 16, 1889: Mark Bryson says that Feb. 13, 1835, was the "Cold Saturday."

Feb. 5, 1890: There was one editor who struck luck, Christmas. Editor Mahone of the Forth Worth Gazette was presented a purse of \$600 by admiring friends by way of showing their appreciation of his services on behalf of the town. If such a thing happened in Western North Carolina it would be a calamity. The editor would become insane, the foreman would commit suicide, and the devil would go wild. We beseech our citizens not to try the experiment. If you must give us something, let it come slowly. To jump from a few specked apples and frozen potatoes on subscription to \$600 gold as a free gift would be more than we could stand.

March 12, 1890: The indifference of the people of Sylva and vicinity in regard to their attendance religious services is a matter of keen regret.

April 2, 1890: Sylva produce market; corn 50c; wheat \$1.00; potatoes, 40c; chickens 15c each; eggs 8c doz.

April 9, 1890: Much surprise was occasioned by the announcement made at Sunday School last Sunday morning, that the literary school in progress here was discontinued. We suggest that the people confer together and take steps to secure a teacher and the continuance of the school.

April 16, 1890: The most crying need in Western North Carolina at this time is education—Robert L. B. C. GRINDSTAFF ALDERMAN AND BUSINESS MAN



Madison.

May 7, 1890: The municipal election held Monday resulted in the election of Gen. E. R. Hampton for Mayor, Messrs. O. B. Coward, R. M. Davis, M. H. Morris, J. R. Frizzell and H. P. Brendle commissioners, and J. D. Sifton, marshal.

Aug. 13, 1890: The Farmers' Alliance Store will be open and running full blast in about a week.

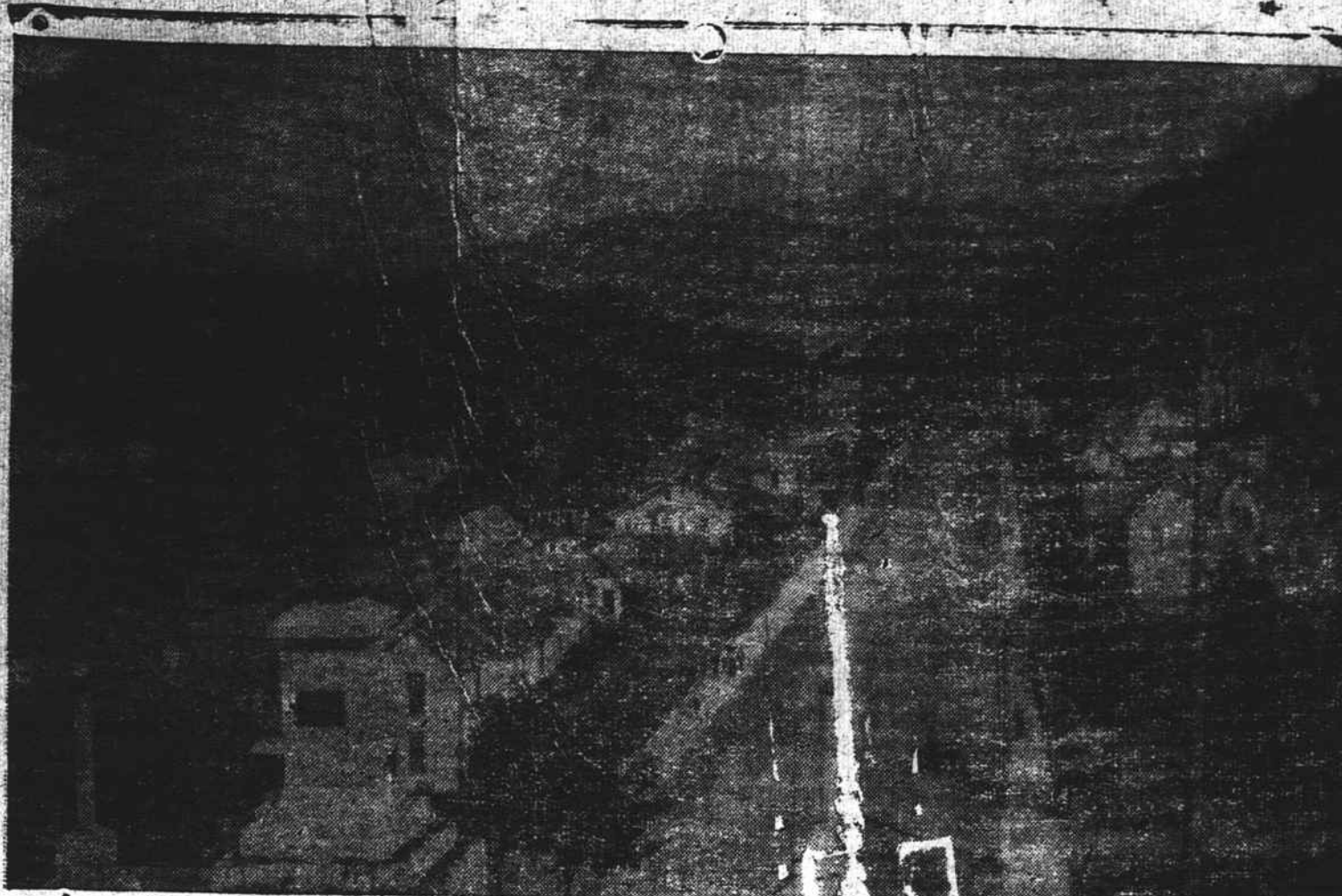
Nov. 26, 1890: Sylva is growing. Four new buildings are in course of construction. Messrs. J. W. Divelbiss, H. P. Brendle and R. A. Painter are each building dwellings, and Dr. Wolff is building a smokehouse.

Feb. 25, 1891: It is rumored that a petition will be sent to the Legislature asking that the section of the charter of Sylva which prohibits the sale of spirits within the town be repealed, and another attempt will be made to get a bar-room here.

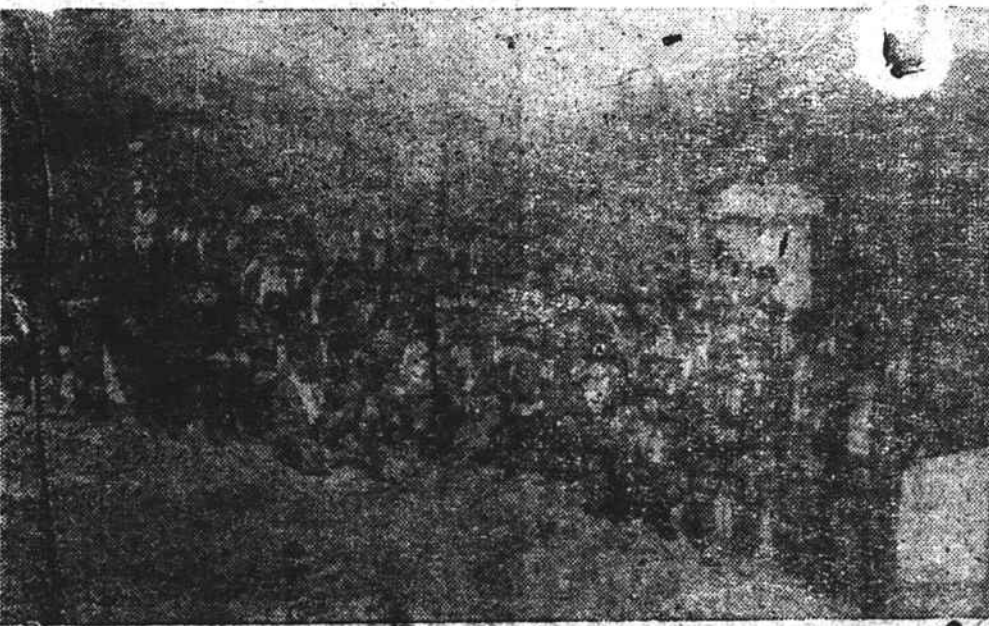
June 10, 1891: The hands of the Equitable Manufacturing Company went out on strike demanding a pay increase from 75c to \$1.00 a day. The manager has forbidden their reemployment in any capacity.

Aug. 10, 1891: The election yesterday resulted in favor of the adoption of the stock law for a district including Sylva. 35 votes were cast for the law and 12 against.

SYLVA, SEPT. 1915, THE DAY THE CONFEDERATE MONUMENT WAS UNVEILED



CONFEDERATE VETERANS AT MONUMENT, - 1915
Jas. H. Cathey Gave Untiring Effort To Monument



DR. J. H. WOLFF APPOINTED MAYOR IN PRESENT CHARTER
A. B. DILLS PIONEER CITIZEN AND OFFICIAL DIED LAST FRIDAY



M. BUCHANAN ALDERMAN - MAYOR - CIVIC LEADER



Come To Town

In 1907, Charles J. Harris and associates organized the Dillsboro and Sylva Electric Light Company, and constructed a dam on Scott's Creek, bringing the first electric light and power to Sylva.

In 1913, the company expanded by building the present dam across Tuckasegee River, and putting in a larger plant.

This company has served the town with power and light from that day to this, and has contributed much to the growth of the town.

The Tannery and Paper Mill

The Tannery, as it is locally known, was the beginning of Sylva becoming an industrial city. In 1868, Col. Charles J. Harris came to Jackson County and bought out the Carolina Clay Company. He prospered in the mining, cleaning and shipping of ceramic clay, and his success contributed much to the industrial life of the county. He organized or helped finance the beginnings of the Blue Ridge Pin Company, the Harris Clay Company. The Jackson County Tank, the Sylva Supply Company, the Dillsboro and Sylva Electric Light Company, and other enterprises that have helped Sylva and Jackson County to prosper. In 1901 the Harris Reese Tannery was established, and from it have grown the Extract Plant, and the Sylva Paperboard Company.

It has been under various names, but continued to be a leading industry all through the years. It has been the C. J. Harris Tannery, the Sylva Tanning Company, and is now the Armour Leather Company.

In 1916, Armour erected the Extract Plant, to manufacture tannic acid from the chestnut wood. In 1928, a process having evolved for utilizing the chips from the chestnut, after the acid had been extracted, the Sylva Paperboard Co. was organized and the erection of the plant for the manufacture of paper board from the chestnut chips was begun. The mill is a subsidiary of the Meade Paper Corporation.

Sept. 2, 1891: With unparalleled unanimity the people of Webster and Sylva townships yesterday voted in favor of bonds to build the railroad from Sylva to Webster. Sylva's vote was 115 to 4; while Webster's was unanimous, 143 to none.

May 3, 1893: Gen. E. R. Hampton was reelected Mayor, and M. H. Morris, J. R. Frizzell, A. M. Parker, J. M. Smith, and Dr. J. F. Wolff, aldermen, at the municipal election.

Aug. 2, 1893: A movement is on foot to build a school house here. Gen. Hampton has offered to give a lot. There is no building, and the Sylva children can't get their share of the public school money.

May 9, 1895: Our new town officers are: Mayor, Dr. J. H. Wolff; aldermen, A. B. Thomas, M. Buchanan, R. A. Painter, Neil Buchanan, and M. B. Cowan.

Aug. 27, 1896: One of the sad days in the history of Sylva was the Confederate Reunion. W. Stringfield was the emcee, and J. W. Cathey, J. L. Coleman.

Sylva's Farewell To Soldiers In 1917

In the summer of 1917, Sylva was a busy place, getting ready for the War with Germany and Austria.

A volunteer company was organized within three days, and the Journal of August 10, carried a roster of the Company. W. V. Dorsey was Captain, Geo. C. Cox, and Geddie R. Smathers, lieutenants. Enlisted men: W. M. Ashe, C. A. Bales, D. O. Barnes, R. Battle, G. R. Bryson, Edward Gryson, C. C. Bryson, J. D. Bumgarner, W. M. Carroll, W. B. Dillard, W. E. Dillard, J. L. Dills, B. Ensley, B. Evans, H. T. Fincher, H. O. Hooper, C. R. Jones, F. B. Jones, J. L. Kenney, H. F. Latta, Fred McCoy, H. B. McChaffey, John H. Morris, F. C. Morrison, G. F. Morgan, A. W. Murray, J. N. Nations, Z. Pressley, F. R. Pannell, E. O. Queen, C. M. Reed, D. H. Rogers, J. C. Rucker, W. F. Shelton, E. D. Smith, G. C. Tilley, Dan Tompkins, W. G. Ward, P. L. Warren, J. L. Wilson, Lyle Wilson, Wolff Allen, Louis L. Alley, and Doak Flintom.

Other volunteer from Jackson County listed in the same paper were: Waynesville Company, Berry Sorrells, H. P. Brown, Elvin Cowan, Radford Hooper, Fred C. Guest, James C. Cunningham, Robert F. McKee, Jesse M. Moss, Joseph C. Long, Oscar Watson, Deck Sutton, James Sutton, Chas. R. Cathey, John T. Cochran, John R. Cotter, Wesley McMahan, James I. Buchanan, James D. Keever, Lawrence Keever, Harvey Frady, James M. Bryson;

Andrews Company, Tate Wild, Emery McDonald.

Asheville Company and Navy; Joseph Bragg Keener, Fred L. Hooper, Steve Youngdeer.

Greensboro Company; Marcellus Buchanan, Fred Bryson, Sus Moore, Lewis H. Rigdon.

Appointed as officer in Navy: Robert W. Harris.

Aviation Corps: Ed Bumgarner.

On July 28, a celebration, which crowded the town to capacity, was held for the soldiers soon to leave for camp and for France. Thousands of people thronged the streets and overflowed into the lots and homes of the town. The program for the day, as published in The Journal was:

12 M. Dinner served by Sylva ladies to the soldiers, in Sylva Grocery Company Warehouse.

12:45 Parade from Court House steps up Main Street to Depot Street to school Auditorium for exercises.

Invocation by Rev. J. A. Cook, pastor Methodist church.

American, accompanied by First Regiment Band.

Presentation of Company Colors by Girls' Club of Sylva.

Acceptance of Colors on Behalf of Company.

"Dixie", by Band.

Address, Rev. W. F. Powell, of Asheville.

Toast to Sylva Radio Company, Homer Stuart.

Presentation of Testaments to Soldiers on Behalf of Sylva Eastern Star by Rev. T. W. Chambliss, editor, Asheville Times.

Star Spangled Banner by Band.

The Company left Sylva on Aug. 15, for Camp Sevier, S. C., and on May 20, next year, sailed for France.

R. A. MOORE WAS POLICE APPOINTEE IN CHARTER

