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WESTERN N. CAROLINA.

THE HOME OF THE AMARANTH AND EGLANTINE.

Hickory and Her Surroundings.

A CITY THAT HAS SNIFFED THE AIR OF ENTERPRISE FROM ITS INCIPIENCY.

WHOSE ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN PHENOMENAL—HER INDUSTRIES, HER INSTITUTIONS, HER ADVANTAGES.

THE PRESENT CITY OF Hickory had its genesis in the old "Hickory Tavern" of 100 years ago.

1869 its people sought to emoliate the name, and the phrase "Tavern" fell into desuetude. Town of Hickory was the succeeding name.

both picturesque and interesting. "Grandfather Mountain"—taught in every pandect on orology as being the oldest mountain in the world—is in full sight, his cloud-kissing summit towering aloft to the height of 5,897 feet.

The scenery, the location, the climate, and our hotel accommodations, have all conspired to make Hickory both a summer and a winter resort, and in this respect is gaining ground every day.

Hickory has three of the best educational institutions in the South; has the electric light; has the finest bank in the South; has the finest postoffice in the State; has the finest opera house in the South; has one of the largest wagon factories in the country; has the largest sash, door and blind factory in the State; has the best equipped cigar factory in the South; has one of the largest foundries in the State; has the largest roller flouring mills in the State; has the finest modern

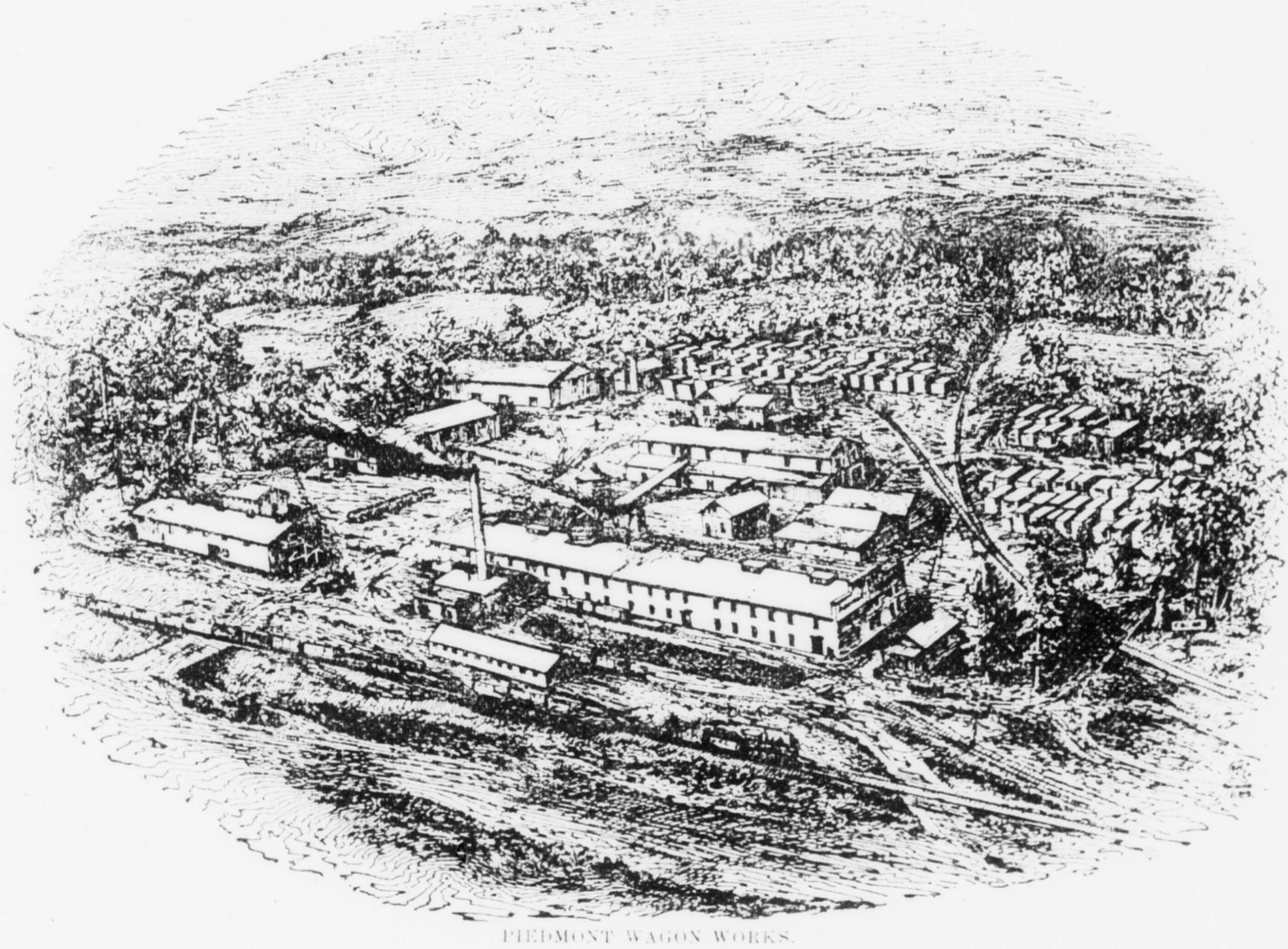
PIEDMONT WAGON CO.

In 1878, Mr. G. C. Bonniwell, a Philadelphian, came to North Carolina, with the idea of engaging in some business if possible. After visiting various points in the State he came to Hickory, and with a trained eye, he was quick to see that this locality was destined to be, in the near future, a great manufacturing centre.

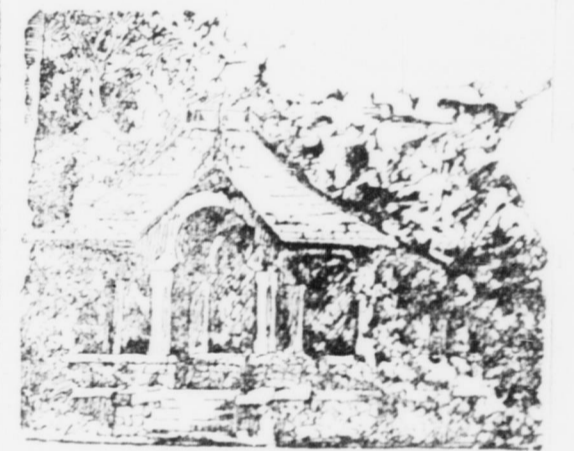
He found the hills and valleys literally burdened with vast forests of virgin growth—the hard-woods abounding in wonderful profusion. He saw, too, that natural water power could be had on every hand—power sufficient to run all the machinery in the land. But Mr. Bonniwell had been unfortunate—he was without money. He had, however, that which was worth more—indomitable energy, pluck and perseverance. He sought assistance, and found it in Mr. A. L. Ramsour, the proprietor of Ramsour's mill on the Catawba river, three miles distant. They began operations on a very small scale, under the style

stitution was incorporated as the Piedmont Wagon Co., with a paid-up capital of \$20,000. Mr. J. G. Hall having purchased Mr. Ellis' interest, became managing proprietor, with the firm of Hall Bros. as its main support. From that time to the present Mr. Hall has directed its operations in every detail, and the phenomenal success and growth of the enterprise are attributable to his great energy and fine business qualifications, together with the reputation for thorough and honest workmanship which the wagons have, and which enables them to compete successfully wherever introduced.

The site comprises thirty acres of valuable land within the corporate limits of the city. Over fifteen thousand dollars' worth of the latest and most improved machinery is in use, and nothing is omitted which can tend to improve the work or expedite the manufacture. A new building of brick has been erected, 60x200 feet in size, and two and one-half stories high, with fire walls and double fire-proof floors, and with all its arrangements so adjusted as to facilitate the work. Raw lumber will go in at one door to wood-working machines, thence to be put together, then to the blacksmiths for ironing, from whence it passes to a power elevator, which takes it to the floor above for finishing, painting, etc., and then to the storerooms and the cars. And all the work on



PIEDMONT WAGON WORKS.



THE CHERRY TREE STORE.



THE ORIGINAL "HICKORY TAVERN."

for the entertainment of man and beast. He accordingly nailed upon his door-facing a roughly riven board upon which was painted in uncouth letters:

Entertainment for Man & Beast

Prior to that time Hickory was the site of the Red Man's lonely tent and rendezvous of the howling wolf and panther; but "Old Uncle Joe" planted the "presto, change!" Each weary traveller was kindly treated and his every comfort cared for, until legends of his noble hospitality and excellent cuisine soon became an apothegm among those who had been so fortunate as to rest beneath his roof.

As time rolled by more settlers began to pour in from various quarters to join those already in this vicinity, and after a few years a modest little village was christened "Hickory Tavern." Under this unique name the little barque was steered throughout the days of "muscovado sweetening;" in

and under this title she sailed until the present year, when, by act of legislature, she was re-chartered and blossomed forth as the City of Hickory.

Our object is not to depict what Hickory HAS BEEN, but what she IS and WILL BE—hence we leave the vista of past years and proceed to notice

HICKORY OF TO-DAY.

WHAT SHE HAS.

What She Wants.

Her Prospects:

A Field For Investment For Capitalists.

An Inviting Land To Those Seeking Homes.

The city of Hickory is shedded on all sides, except east, by mountains of various altitudes—enclosing us, as it were, in a horseshoe—and is the highest point on the Western North Carolina railroad east of Marion.

The neighboring scenery is

style hotel in the South; has a theological seminary; has a chalybeate spring, of whose water Prof. R. C. Kedzie, A. M., M. D., says: "It is the purest found anywhere in the known world, with only one exception—Bala Lake, Scotland."

The famous Sparkling Catawba Springs are only eight miles distant.

The only place on earth where the world-coveted "Hiddenite" has been found is within a few miles of our gates.

So much for the attractions that environ us. As a manufacturing centre Hickory also steps to the front and holds up her hand for recognition. There are no drones in our hive of industry—no grass grows on our sidewalks—there is enterprise in the air; and the dense volumes of ascending smoke, the chime of the whistles, the clink of the anvil, the hum of saw, the roar of the forge, the din of the planer—all attest Hickory's great prosperity and enterprise.

Perhaps it will not be out of place to notice in detail some of Hickory's various enterprises, institutions, etc.:

of Ramsour & Bonniwell, and after a few weeks the first "Piedmont Wagon" was born. But money was the desideratum necessary to the continuance of the business—in fact, the little enterprise several times very nearly reached the moribund point. Mr. Bonniwell was loth to give up; he saw in the embryo enterprise that which was destined to be great if it could only be nurtured over the lactal period. He nursed it as if it had been a sick babe, and would not let it die. At this point his "star of the east" began to rise. Mr. J. G. Hall, of Hall Bros., proposed to furnish the requisite means for the continuance of the enterprise. Mr. Hall was an energetic, go-ahead man, and when he put his shoulder to the wheel it began to roll, and gradually the enterprise developed, until in a short time it had entirely outgrown its capacity. Thinking it would advance the interests of the concern to be in the town and nearer transportation facilities, the present site was secured in 1881. Messrs. F. B. Alexander and W. H. Ellis had in the meantime taken some stock in the enterprise. In 1882 the n-

this building was done over and around the workmen and not a wheel or a machine stopped its busy hum. The new building has been erected around the old one, but it was impossible to stop work on account of the large orders on hand, and the only time necessary to stop will be when the machines are moved to their new positions. Mr. Hall is having a large amount of wood work prepared ahead, so that when the wood machines are stopped the wagons can be turned out just the same by the blacksmiths. No expense is being spared in putting in all modern appliances for convenience, economy and security against fire. There will be a fire tank and hose at the command of the operatives.

Electric lights are also being put in for the purpose of running at night in order to keep up with the large orders that are pouring in from all quarters.

A wing 40x60 is also contemplated as soon as the machinery is placed in the new building.

The supply of timber suitable for this work within a small radi-