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Carter's Weekly

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FRANK Editor
VOL. IV. NO. 17.

An Independent Democratic Paper Designed Equally for Local and General State Circulation—State Bureau, Raleigh, N. C.

DAN J. CARTER, Publisher
\$1.00 A YEAR

NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C. FRIDAY, OCT. 1, 1920.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

The A. E. F., Greatest American Army, Comes to an End.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Washington, August 14, 1920.—General Orders No. 49.

Section 1. Effective August 31, 1920 the headquarters of the American Expeditionary Forces, Washington, D. C., will be discontinued.

By order of the Secretary of War, Peyton C. March, Major-General, Chief of Staff.

Thus briefly and in matter-of-fact military phrase the greatest of American armies came officially to an end, leaving it sheer, the Army of Occupation still standing guard on the Rhine. "In a similar curt sentence the Army of the Potomac disappeared from the active list of the War Department sixty-four years ago," notes Major T. H. Thomas, in the New York Evening Post. The major, who was a member of the great army that has just ceased to be, continues:

The A. E. F., greatest as it was, was ever a khaki rather than a blue-and-gold outfit, business like rather than spectacular, and its ending is in keeping with its beginning. It began with a handful of officers slipping unnoticed on a British liner. Following these, so slowly and after so cruel a delay, sardine-packed liners set sail by night, without trumpet or band, but darkened, silent, with an altogether disquieting unobtrusiveness.

Then followed a time of mystery—more or less of fiction, when impatience made us believe the impossible—the A. E. F. must already be at the front, but where? "Where" was then the word for nearly a year, and the disillusionment came suddenly, incredibly, almost tragically. As suddenly again the A. E. F. appeared in its proper place. Chateau-Thierry, Saint-Mihiel, the Meuse-Argonne, sum up its brief but lively annals in the line, too familiar to need repeating here. Then, with the same impatient breath with which it had plunged in, it set its face homeward. It was not till then, perhaps, that one realized the size of the A. E. F. The armistice disclosed the fact that there was not room in France to hold it, even the Germany had been called upon to help. It returned again in sardine fashion, tho this time the lights were on.

But tho it returned in triumph, it returned piecemeal. No one saw it all; it could not get into any one place, and there was no day of homecoming such as the parade of the Union armies in Washington in 1865. It would have been, we must admit, a good idea and only fair, and a Government endowed with imagination would have found a way; would have gathered together in recognition a selection at least of those who had made it up—a few generals quite worth showing, the three armies, the nine corps, the forty-odd divisions, G. H. Q., the S. O. S., the special services, and all the rest.

The second battle of the Marne, Saint-Mihiel, and the Meuse-Argonne will not be forgotten in American military annals. But it is difficult to foretell the place our brief and sudden part in a long war will hold in the American imagination; too soon to compare its appeal to those made by our wars of the past.

It will never have the legendary heroic glamour of the Revolution. It did not call out the enduring strain and trial the poignant sense of tragedy, and danger, the disappointments and long-depressing periods of the Civil War. It was too far away, fought out in a land not our own, and, all in all, a new kind of a war.

Let us say frankly however, that as far as the A. E. F. was concerned we—we who were in it, at least—fear no comparisons.

Our rank and file did not wear home spun, but on the other hand, they did not go home to the farm when the spirit moved, as did the boys of '76. The dough-boy might never have started the Revolution, but once in, he would have made a quicker job of it. If we had no splendid, single-handed tussle such as Gettysburg, we had, on the other hand, no Bull Run, no quiet along the Potomac business in our history. Nor did a regiment of ours pull out of line because its ninety days were up. We had no Congressional generals, no political colonels (except one or two that stray regiments brought with them), no Halleck, no campaigns run by a Soviet in Washington. (This, it is true, we have the Secretary of War to thank

for; whether or not he was a Stanton, he avoided all those things which Stanton ought not to have done; he chose one general and left him in command.) Even a good Republican will admit that the worst lapses of the A. E. F. can not recall the management of the Spanish War. There was no politics in the A. E. F., and there were no favorites; if the best men were not always chosen, Blois was always there—and it was not left empty—if anything, the rod was applied almost too severely.

All in all, the A. E. F. can take its place confidently enough in line beside the armies that have gone before. Brilliance was not the note of the A. E. F., and its tone was not dashing or heroic; matter of fact rather, and slightly skeptical. "Steady on the job" might well have been its motto. Good average capacity, applied without let-up and with the keenest impatience to get results, was what it relied on. Scattered among this average was a due proportion of those eager to learn and to improve, impatient to have all the lessons they discerned turned instantly to profit. There was, finally, a due proportion of those born to the curious game of war—leaders by instinct in any combat—or those (no less important) who have the knack of getting strange tasks accomplished without experience, without help, without anything that was necessary but always done, and in time. This driving element of budding talents, plus the sound traditions and common sense of the regular army—an influence little suspected but all-pervading—sound plans, and policies, and training, and finally the willingness, the businesslike desire of two million dough-boys to get the job done—this combination of types and qualities made up the A. E. F.

In all comparisons of the future, suggests the writer, let it be remembered above all how much the A. E. F. had to do, much of this it had to do alone. Its commander-in-chief was called upon to be a general such as few had been before. Further:

Upon arriving in France he had not only no army but had to (thanks to official incuriosity during three years of the war) find out or report what a modern army was. He had himself to determine the whole design upon which his army was to be built; its size and shape and component parts or internal mechanism. He had then to establish the basis on which it was to be trained for warfare as yet wholly new and unknown and then, even before the army arrived to plan and gather together an organization capable of handling it when the time came. As to the staff, he had to make something out of nothing, for not only the thing itself, but even the idea of the thing scarcely existed among us before. With such trifles as these to deal with he had at the same time to turn his hands to the work of a constructing engineer, a captain of industry, a super-wholesale merchant, buying from all quarters of Europe; a builder or the operator of a great railroad system; something of an ambassador plenipotentiary, and, finally, in a sense, an admiral of a merchant fleet—for, the ships were not his province, it was he who determined what was to go in them. All commanders-in-chief must be men of a hundred hands, but the others had their own countries at hand to fall back on, Ministers of War to take on a part of this burden. But the War Department stopped at tidewater; in France everything was up to the A. E. F.

Moreover, there was no time to develop gradually, to grow up with the war, as others had done. We had the benefit of their lessons—but had at the same time to catch up in one spurt, with all the complexities, changes, and novelties of four years of war. To do this required, among other things, to take decision and take them quickly. General Pershing's recommendations for organization and training were sent home a month or so after he reached France. In the end they proved sound enough (in the words of the French staff officer whom we may take as the best judge of the task) to enable him, in spite of all the surprises of 1918, "to achieve the prology of training an army for battle while the battle was in progress."

Long before American soldiers saw the front the firm at Chaumont had designed its plant and begun construction, dredging the sandy harbors which were to become our American Cinque Ports in France; building

SONS OF MR. S. D. POPLIN LOSE THEIR LIVES IN SILO.

The distressing news of the sudden and unusual death of Sam and Noah Poplin, sons of Mr. S. D. Poplin, who was formerly a resident of Edwards township, this county, but who has been living near Belair, Md., for nine months, which occurred last Sunday morning about 10 o'clock on their father's farm, will be learned with regret by friends of the bereaved family throughout the county.

A phone message from Ronda yesterday gave this paper the following information about the tragedy. On Saturday, Sept. 25, while a party was engaged in filling a large stone silo on Mr. Poplin's farm, his son, Noah, aged about 7 years allowed his shoe to fall into the silo. The silo had been filled to the second section on Saturday. Sunday morning an attempt was made to obtain the shoe, and Noah wanted to go into the silo, and stated that he was unafraid. His brother, Sam, aged 15 years, and another man secured a rope and tied it around his waist and let him down. Later they saw the little fellow fall, and Sam thought he was scared or had fainted, so he went down to him as quickly as possible and both died almost instantly. A third party went into the silo to rescue the boys and after he was brought to air it was a difficult matter to revive him.

The silo was a large stone one and its first section had been filled. It had a partition running from the ground to the top. The boys went down in the side where ensilage had not been placed. Asphyxiating gas overcame them and their lives were taken away before anything could be done to save them.

The bodies of the Poplin boys arrived at Ronda Wednesday and were accompanied by their father, and brothers, Messrs Lotan and Quince Poplin, and Mr. Felix Gacabill. The funeral was conducted at Macedonia church by Rev. W. J. Bryant, of Yadkin county, in the presence of a large congregation. Interment was made in the church cemetery.

VERNON DAVIS KILLED BY MACK ELLEDGE SUNDAY NIGHT

On last Sunday night, Woodlawn, a suburban village, was the scene of one of the most horrible crimes that has been perpetrated in this community in many years, when Mack Elledge, aged 17 years, son of E. S. Elledge of this township, stabbed Vernon Davis, aged 18 years, son of John Davis, also of this township, in the right breast with a knife, the blade of which has been said to be about four inches in length, death resulting shortly afterwards. The cause of the affair was alleged jealousy on the part of Elledge, the subject being a girl to whom the young men had been paying attention for some time.

Monday morning at ten o'clock Coroner C. P. Crysel conducted an inquest over the body of Vernon Davis. His jury, composed of Messrs. N. S. Forester, J. W. Shook, W. H. McNeill, T. C. Caudill, G. A. Crysel and W. S. Pearson, examined the body of the deceased and after hearing the sworn testimony of state witnesses rendered the verdict that he came to his death by the unlawful act of Mack Elledge.

Solicitor J. J. Hayes was present at the inquest and examined three witnesses, Paul Stone, Hort Grimes, and Sheriff W. D. Woodruff. About 150 persons were present, and evidence was heard in a grove near the Davis home.

The sworn testimony of Paul Stone, an eye witness to the tragedy, is as follows: I saw Vernon Davis and Mack Elledge Sunday night. I saw Vernon Davis at the colored Holiness meeting. After we left the meeting I walked along the road with Vernon Davis toward the forks of the road. We were just behind Mack Elledge and Ora Stone. When we got near the forks of the road Mack and Vernon began quarreling. Vernon jerked Mack's coat off. At the forks of the road Vernon picked up a rock, and Mack said he would cut him. About this time I got between them. I went on a short distance and looked back and saw Mack strike at Vernon pretty hard. I didn't see what was in Mack's hand. Vernon wasn't doing anything at the time, but threw up his hands when Mack struck at him. When he fell he uttered a cry and put his hand on his breast and after walking only a few steps fell in the road. Mack went up the road in a westwardly direction toward the Fairplains road. At this time the preaching had not closed at the tent.

Solicitor Hayes next examined Hort Grimes, who after being duly sworn, stated: I saw Vernon Davis and Mack Elledge at the colored meeting. Mack Elledge was in the tent with Ora Stone. Vernon Davis was standing behind them inside the tent. That was the last time I saw them until I saw Vernon lying in the road about one-fourth mile distant. (Grimes was with a party composed of several persons, all of whom had been attending the colored meeting, and he was the only person in the party to be placed on the stand.) I did not know when Vernon Davis left the tent, and it was about 9:30 p. m., when we found him in the road. I stepped up close and found it was Vernon Davis. I called to him about a half-dozen times but he did not move, but gasped twice and struggled once, and died. He never spoke. I remained there with the body about two hours. Others were present also.

Sheriff Woodruff gave the following evidence: I saw the body of Vernon Davis between 10:00 and 10:30 o'clock p. m., at the forks of the road leading from Liberty Grove church to Soapstone Hill. He was dead. I noticed blood and a cut on right breast. I left the body in the care of H. B. Dodson and got into car with Silas Reynolds and went to home of John Elledge, a brother of Mack Elledge, who lives in Mulberry township about four miles distant, and sent deputies to other places. When I came to John Elledge's house I drove past it and Silas stepped from the car and I told him to watch the house. I went up the road and stopped the machine and after waiting a few minutes I went after Elijah Brown, a deputy sheriff. We then came back down the road and passed the house. I cut off the lights and let the car coast to a standstill. We stayed there about two minutes. I then saw a light change from one room to another in the house. I saw two men walk to the door on the back side of the house. We then got behind some trees so that we could not be seen. We next saw a woman come toward a window and look out, apparently to see if anyone was near the house. About that time we heard a noise on the back side of the house similar to that a person would make on leaving the house, and then we

REGISTRATION BOOKS FOR ELECTION ARE NOW OPEN.

Registration books for the county, state and national election, opened yesterday and the various registrars will be at each voting place in the county each Saturday until October 23. Persons wishing to register may do so at any time by applying to the registrar of the precinct in which they live between the dates of September 30 and October 23rd.

The registrars are required by law to be at the regular voting places only on Saturdays, but persons may register by applying at their respective registrar's residence or place of business.

Following is a list of the registrars for each voting precinct in the county:

Antioch, W. W. Harris; Beaver Creek, John Sanders; Brushy Mountain, John Hendren; Boomer, J. E. Howell; Edwards, H. A. Durham; Elk No. 1, A. L. Barnett; Elk No. 2, C. S. Triplett; Jobs Cabin, Thos. J. Walsh; Lewis Fork, J. G. Walsh; Lovelace, G. H. Hayes; Moravian Falls, Will Revis; Mulberry, C. E. Shatley; Newcastle, Worth Sales; North Wilkesboro, W. A. Vannoy; Reddies River, J. A. Pierce; Rock Creek, Freeland Johnson; Somers, J. P. McCarter; Stanton, Rom M. Church; Traphill, L. D. Lowe; Union, B. Frank Staley; Walnut Grove, T. G. Johnson; Wilkesboro, P. L. Lenderman.

MR. M. F. BUMGARDNER RESIGNS AS POSTMASTER.

Mr. M. F. Bumgardner, who has been postmaster at Wilkesboro for the past several months, has forwarded his resignation to the postoffice department at Washington. Mr. Bumgardner, it is assumed, will return to the teaching profession.

COLONEL ALBERT L. COX WILL SPEAK OCTOBER 8th.

Col. Albert L. Cox, of Raleigh, will speak at the court house in Wilkesboro Friday, October 8th, at 1:30 p. m. Col. Cox is one of the most prominent Democrats in the state. After his return from France, where he commanded the 113th Field Artillery of the 30th Division, he was prominently mentioned as a candidate for governor of North Carolina. The 113th Field Artillery made a splendid record during the war as a fighting unit and its able leader was responsible for its success in a large measure.

Hon. W. C. Hammer will accompany Col. Cox to Wilkesboro and will also make a short talk. Mr. Hammer is engaged in canvassing this district for Congressional honors.

The public is cordially invited to hear Col. Cox and Mr. Hammer, and a special invitation is extended to all ex-service men and ladies of the county.

WOMEN TO HOLD MEETING IN GREENSBORO ON OCTOBER 7

"If ever the world sees a time when woman shall come together purely and simply for the benefit and good of mankind, it will be as a power such as the world has never known."—Matthew Arnold.

The North Carolina Equal Suffrage Association is circulating the following call:

Goldsboro, N. C., Sept. 24th, 1920.

We announce a state wide meeting, to be held in Greensboro, on Thursday, October seventh, for the purpose of organizing a State League of Women Voters.

Some subjects to be discussed are: How and why shall women vote, How shall women prepare for the vote, What kind of state and national legislation shall women work for. We hope to present as speakers Mrs. Maud Wood Park, Chairman of the National League of Women Voters, and Miss Della Dortch, Third Regional Director of the National League.

The tentative program follows: 11:00 A. M.,—Business Meeting; 2:30 P. M.—Business Meeting; 8:00 P. M.—Addresses.

All state organizations of women are asked to send representatives, and we hope to have women attending from every county in the State. You are urged to come and bring as many women as possible from your town and county.

Give publicity in your local press to this announcement and to the matter in enclosed circulars.

For further particulars address Miss Louise B. Alexander, 235 North Spring St., Greensboro, N. C., or Gertrude Weil, President.

Accompanying the foregoing is the following circular bearing the imprint and explaining the purposes of the League of Women Voters, Headquarters, 171 Madison Avenue, New York:

What is it?
A group of enfranchised women, who want not merely to vote, but to vote for something. The vote is only a tool with which to work, and for years they have struggled and sacrificed to secure it. Now, they want to build a better world for their neighbors and their posterity. They are women skilled in organization, propaganda and political work. They have won the vote for themselves against great odds and now they propose to unite once more and to bring their experience, their training and their enthusiasm to bear upon other problems.

What problems? Illiteracy, too easy qualifications to vote, too uncertain dissemination of knowledge concerning citizenship and its duties and kindred topics.

Why not leave these questions to political parties for solution? These problems have existed for a century and have grown bigger, blacker and more menacing with each year and political parties have only evaded and avoided them.

How is the work to be done? By creating so widespread a demand for the needed correction of these ills that each political party will adopt the movement and make these aims a part of its platform and its campaign.

Is it political? Certainly, but not partisan. Its members are as free as (Continued on page four)

SOUTHERN OFFICIAL HERE SATURDAY

Mr. R. H. Graham, division passenger agent of the Southern Railway, with headquarters in Charlotte, spent last Friday and Saturday in the city. In company with Mr. Graham was Mr. R. O. Bean of the traffic department of the Southern Pacific Lines, who has headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

KENSINGTON HEIGHTS CHOSEN FOR SCHOOL SITE.

The committee on location recently appointed for the purpose of choosing a site for the proposed new high school building has recommended Kensington Heights to the board of school trustees. This site embraces about an acre and a quarter and can be bought for the sum of \$10,000.00. At a meeting held Monday evening a committee was appointed for the purpose of investigating the financial condition of the city and other preliminary matters. On some future date a special election will be held for the purpose of issuing bonds for the erection of the proposed building.

BODY OF PRIVATE BARNETT ARRIVES HERE FROM FRANCE.

The remains of Private Daniel G. Barnett who died in France of influenza in the fall of 1918, was brought to New York recently and arrived here last Saturday. Private Barnett was a son of Mr. J. A. Barnett, of Gilreath postoffice, and was a single man. Funeral service was conducted Sunday by Rev. J. M. Alpine, of Stony Point, in the presence of a large gathering. Interment took place in the Parker cemetery.

RESULT REXALL STRAW VOTE

United States: Harding 116,684; Cox 55,746.
North Carolina: Cox 5,080; Harding 2,850.
Wilkes County: Harding 272, Cox 237.

CLAUDE DEAL AND TRUMAN HALL GIVEN TWO YEARS IN PEN

Claude Deal and Truman Hall two North Wilkesboro boys who several weeks ago stole a Ford roadster from Dr. S. T. Crowson, of Taylorsville, and who were arrested here and taken to Taylorsville for trial at Alexander Superior court were sentenced last week to serve two years each in the state prison. They were taken to Raleigh Monday by the sheriff of Alexander county.

WILKES COUNTY HAS GAINED IN POPULATION SINCE 1910.

The 1910 census gave Wilkes county a total population of 30,282. The 1920 census gives the county a population of 32,654. This is a gain of 2,372 during the last ten years.

REVIVAL MEETING AT BAPTIST CHURCH BEGINS MONDAY.

A series of evangelistic meetings to be conducted at the First Baptist church will commence October 4th. Dr. Luther Little, of Charlotte, will preach, and Furman Betts, of Raleigh, will have charge of singing. Morning service at 9:45; evening service at 7:30. Come and bring a friend.

MR. R. S. WELBORN, OF INDEPENDENCE, VA., WAS HERE THIS WEEK ON BUSINESS.

Mr. R. S. Welborn, of Independence, Va., was here this week on business. He heard Silas, and I said, he has caught him. We went up to the place where they were standing, and Mack did not deny that he had cut Vernon Davis. I asked him what he had done with his knife and he said he did not know. Mack Elledge is a single man and lives with his father in the suburb of North Wilkesboro.

YOUNG ELLEDGE WAS LODGED IN JAIL ABOUT 12:30 A. M. MONDAY MORNING, WHERE HE AWAITS TRIAL FOR HIS LIFE.

Young Elledge was lodged in jail about 12:30 a. m. Monday morning, where he awaits trial for his life. He seems to be unconcerned about his dastardly deed, and apparently does not realize what he has done. He left school when in the fourth grade and since that time has been working for various firms in this city.

The body of Vernon Davis was taken to Pleasant Home church near Millers Creek for burial Monday afternoon. He is the second son Mr. and Mrs. Davis have lost this year—a younger son having died six months ago.

OCTOBER TERM SUPERIOR COURT CONVENES MONDAY.

October term of Wilkes Superior court, for trial of civil cases only, will convene in Wilkesboro next Monday, October 4th. Judge W. J. Adams, of Carthage, N. C., will preside. We have been authorized to state that Judge Adams will arrive on the noon train Monday, consequently court will not open until Monday afternoon. Following is a list of jurors who have been summoned to serve at the last court to be held this year:

FIRST WEEK

C. R. Triplett, J. B. McNeill, T. M. Hawkins, June D. Phillips, T. E. Blevins, T. O. Hays, Mace Johnson, R. Don Laws, Levi McCann, L. M. Jarvis, W. J. Brookshire Sam Roberts, M. D. West, C. Call, W. R. Hubbard, J. A. Triplett, W. F. Lowe, S. M. Adams, L. A. Harris, J. A. Kennedy, John Cottrane, E. C. Everage, J. M. Casey, J. T. Prevette.

SECOND WEEK

C. F. Bishop, T. N. Green, John Holcomb, J. A. Billings, I. T. Barnett, D. S. Gilliam, R. E. Burcham, J. F. Coffey, C. L. Sockwell, W. A. Nichols, W. V. Caudill, J. W. Brooks, W. W. Gentry, A. O. Deal, J. H. Hendren, W. H. Church, L. W. Shumate, Dock Ferguson, F. G. Hollan, J. C. Critcher, J. M. Gaitner, C. F. Henderson, P. E. Brown, J. M. Hester.