

The Oxford Public Ledger.

VOL. 22.

OXFORD, N. C., FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 1909.

NO. 5

Condition of Public Schools.

As the years go by, Granville's public schools are increasing in efficiency with great rapidity. In fact the strides of recent years are remarkable. A few statistics pertaining thereto will be quite interesting, though no invidious comparisons are intended, as the farmers boards and teachers have done quite well in the past. The people are becoming more interested in education and are becoming more liberal and getting more ambitious a well. Taking into consideration the increased number of teachers and the increased length of school terms the amount of instruction has about doubled in the last two years.

The statistics for 1898 are not as full nor as thoroughly well given as the figures for late years. The average attendance for 1908 and 1898 are:

	Whites	Colored
1908	1441	1069
1898 est.	1000	1319

It will be seen that the average attendance for the whites has increased, while the colored attendance has decreased which was as expected for there are fewer colored children of school age in 1908 than in 1898.

The average terms school in days were 99 for whites and 81 for colored.

The census of children of school age for 1898 was taken, the children in Oxford being included. The figures for 1908 were taken from the county and the children of Oxford and those within the mile limit were not taken. The figures are:

	Whites	Colored
1898 (in Ox.)	3774	4228
1908 w/out Ox.	3385	4400
1908 Ox and m.l.	626	817

The white pupils in Oxford were evenly divided as to sex, there being 313 boys and 313 girls. There should therefore be no batchelors or spinsters among the present generation. Everybody can have a chance.

The statistics as to teachers show a considerable gain for white schools, and a gain of one member for the colored.

	Whites	Colored
1898	51	42
1908	75	43

There seems to be a disposition to give the teachers better pay, which is as it should be.

The average salaries of teachers for the two years compared give these figures:

	Whites	Colored
1898	\$25	\$25
1908	\$38	\$25

In 1908 there was spent in white schools \$12,360 of public school funds and \$750 special tax, and upon the colored schools \$4,867 of public fund.

There has been a remarkable growth in the valuation of school property. The schools of 1908 showed three times the value of those of 1898. The fiscal year runs from July to July.

	Whites	Colored
July 1898	\$9,765.	
July 1908	\$26,505	

Since July 1908 there has been spent \$3,000 which will be included in the next year's report. Another \$6,000 will be spent and by the end of 1909 the school property will have a value of about \$34,000. A part of the big increase for the past year was the \$9,000 building at Creedmoor, and a part of the increase this year will be for another building at Stem which will cost \$3,000.

It will thus be seen that Granville is taking the right kind of steps. Everything shows a continuous, healthy growth, and no longer can a pupil say that he cannot get an education.

Want to Keep Comfortable?

C. D. Ray has the right kind of coal. Wood too. Cut ready for use or in cord lengths. See ad in this paper.

IF YOUR watch has gone on a strike and your clock has quit striking why bring them to W. D. Stimson and he will adjust the matter promptly and properly. Located at Paris Dry Goods store.

Returns Purse to Owner.

One day last week Miss Hallie Wood had the misfortune to lose near Sizemore's Bakery her purse containing several greenbacks and visiting cards. Very fortunately, however, Mr. W. H. Washington, of Stem, came by as he was going down to take the 4:15 train for home. He picked up the purse and found out to whom it belonged, but did not have the time to return it then. Upon arriving home he phoned back to Oxford to locate the owner, and when he came to town again returned the property to her.

New Advertisements.

Perkinson & Green announce their annual opening sale in an attractive ad on another page. The sale lasts from the 11th to the 20th. Look the ad up.

Samuel Davis, of Clarksville, has an ad with the picture of Abe Lincoln in it. Then there is a lot of talk about fencing. You will find it on the 6th page.

C. D. Ray has changed his ad this week, and says he has all sorts of lumber and building supplies, and plenty of coal and wood. You will find him holding down a corner of the local page.

The local banks have issued their statements and will be found in other columns.

The Saving's Bank has a new argument about banking this week. Look it up and see what you think about it.

The Granville Real Estate & Trust Company have two little bits of talk that you ought to read. One discusses insurance; the other, real estate. Do you know about Ridley Park?

L. Thomas is right here with groceries, feed, etc. Look up his advertisement on the local page.

Landis & Easton have a little story about dress goods and sunshiny weather. Look up their ad and see what they think about it. It will be found on another page.

February Term of Court Ended.

About half past one last Friday court was adjourned. The last few hours of the session were hurried through wish in order to allow Judge Long to take the 2:15 afternoon train, the failure to catch which would have kept His Honor here 24 hours longer.

There were heard during the week but four civil cases, the remainder being continued until the April term.

The most important and largest case was heard first and consumed three days. In the matter of the caveat of the will of J. M. Thorp, colored, the jury brought in a verdict which said that the true will had been probated, which meant that the will stood as the deceased had devised. Thorp who had amassed some \$7,000 or more had devised his property to the children of a dead sister, who was Amos Webb's wife. A brother of the deceased, Wm. Thorp and others, contested the will on the grounds that Thorp was not capable of making a proper will. Messrs. Graham & Devin appeared for the caveators, and T. T. Hicks, Esq., of Henderson, for the propounders. The jury was about an hour in coming to a decision.

In the case of W. L. Taylor vs W. E. Butler Company, involving suit for \$600 brought about through a lumber deal, the jury awarded a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$34.39. The plaintiff was represented by Gen. B. S. Royster and the defendant by A. A. Hicks, Esq.

The suit brought by J. W. Davis vs A. B. Kimball to recover \$125 the amount of a due bill, which the defendant declined to pay on account of a counter claim for damaged lumber, was settled by giving a verdict of \$22 in favor of the plaintiff. A. A. Hicks, Esq., appeared for Mr. Davis, and Messrs. Brummitt and Stem for Mr. Kimball.

Through his attorney, Gen. B. S. Royster, John Bass, colored, secured a divorce from his wife, Annie Bass.

Voted for Bonds.

History was made for Granville county Tuesday when by a big majority, it was decided to ask our representative present a bill to the legislature to permit the Commissioners to issue \$300,000 worth of bonds, payable in 30 years, at 5 per cent.

There was a committee, headed by B. F. Hester, Esq., Chairman, and consisting of two members from each township to meet with the five commissioners and determine what sort of bill should be presented to the legislature. After polling the vote of the committee and commissioners on the issue which was carried by 19 to 4, another vote was held permitting the visitors in the room to participate, the vote this time being 33 to 10.

At eleven o'clock the two committees met in the commissioners room, the session lasting about two hours.

The commissioners were all present, they being:

R. W. Lassiter, Chairman
L. T. Williford W. P. Wilkinson
T. L. Cannady Ralph Currin

The committees present from the various townships were:

B. F. Hester,	Chairman
W. W. Brummitt	Fishing Creek
B. R. Pitts	Fishing Creek
G. L. Allen	Brassfield
J. A. Morris	Brassfield
Z. E. Lyon	Dutchville
J. N. Tilley	Dutchville
E. N. Clement	Tally Ho
M. Blalock	Tally Ho
B. F. Currin	Walnut Grove
J. C. Howard	Walnut Grove
R. A. Lloyd (proxy)	Oak Hill
W. L. Taylor	Sassafras Fork
D. A. Burwell	Sassafras Fork
N. G. Crews	Salem
B. I. Breedlove	Salem
D. N. Hunt (proxy)	Oxford
S. H. Cannady	Oxford

The motion as passed and first voted upon was; That a bill be drawn requesting our representative (Judge A. W. Graham, who was not present at the meeting on account of the death of his mother-in-law) to have a bill passed authorizing the county commissioners to issue \$300,000 worth of bonds, to run for 30 years, bearing 5 per cent, for the permanent improvement of the public roads of Granville county. It was made discretionary with the commissioners as to the disposal of the bonds. The vote was taken and found to be 19 yeas and 4 nays. It was then moved to allow the interested spectators to vote, which was done and the result was found to be 33 to 10, these being the voters.

YEAS:	R. W. Lassiter	T. L. Cannady
	W. P. Wilkinson	Ralph Currin
	L. T. Williford	B. F. Hester
	W. W. Brummitt	R. B. Pitts
	G. L. Allen	J. A. Morris
	J. N. Tilley	E. N. Clement
	M. Blalock	J. C. Howard
	R. A. Lloyd	W. L. Taylor
	D. A. Burwell	D. N. Hunt
	S. H. Cannady	J. R. Walters
	A. Baker	A. C. Parham
	R. I. Mulchi	R. H. Pleasant
	Jim Webb	W. L. Clark
	V. T. Cheatham	Bill Daniel
	Jim Davis	Coly Gill
	T. Lanier	W. B. Royster
	J. B. Powell	
	Total 33 yeas.	

NAYS:	Z. E. Lyon	B. F. Currin
	N. G. Crews	B. I. Breedlove
	Woodson Cash	W. S. Hester
	I. C. Lyon	W. C. Currin
	J. S. Pool	J. Ed Duncan
	Total 10 nays.	

Two of the yeas, Messrs. R. A. Lloyd and D. N. Hunt were not present in person but were represented by proxies under instructions to vote for good roads.

A few of those voting nay were not personally opposed to the issue but voted in deference to the sentiment in their sections.

It was put to a vote and unanimously passed that the board of county commissioners be constituted ex-officio the Highway Commission.

The Graded Schools.

Through the kindness of Superintendent Connelly, of the graded schools we were enabled to get some figures pertaining to the graded schools. Comparisons are given for January of 1908 and 1909, and it will be seen that there is a steady, gradual improvement. These are the figures for the white school:

For January 1907	
Enrollment for month	313
Enrollment End month	299
Absences	391
Tardies	116
Average daily attendance	276
Per cent attendance	93.75

For January 1909	
Enrollment for month	314
Enrollment end month	301
Absences	222
Tardies	76
Average daily attendance	287
Per cent attendance	96.87

It will be noticed that the number of absences in 1898 of 391 was reduced in 1909 to 222, a reduction of 169, and the tardies of 116 during the same years were reduced to 76, a decrease of 40. It will also be noticed that the percentage of attendance was increased from 93.75 in 1908 to 96.87 in 1909. This shows a gain of 3.12. The enrollments during January of both years were practically the same; therefore, these figures are very significant as showing the excellent improvement in school conditions generally. These figures are especially creditable when it is known that a change was made last year that caused many to rear a decreased attendance. The school board passed a regulation requiring everybody outside the corporation who patronized the schools to pay for tuition. It was feared that many would drop out. Fortunately, these fears were groundless, and the new rule gives the school a revenue of about \$700 per month, if the collections of the present month are kept to the same mark. Tuition to the amount of \$75.40 were collected from the white schools, and \$20 came from the colored school, the sum total collected during the past month being \$95.50.

Jail for Rent.

"Any news?" was asked Mr. Connie Walters, the lengthy deputy Sheriff. "No, but the jail's for rent. A nice five room building, with nice iron bars to peep through."

It is a pity to let such good property go idle. There is no one to house now. The last jail bird was turned out Friday.

Letter in Chinese.

The other day, a man from the printshop was called by Dr. A. B. Dunaway and Prof. Hobgood and asked to read a letter held out to him. He failed to do so, because the letter was written in Chinese and folded in an envelope that looked very like a small paper bag with a brood band of red running down it.

The letter was sent to Dr. Dunaway, and written by the Rev. R. H. Groves an American missionary who has been living in China for 50 years. Dr. Groves wrote a transfer of membership from the church in Canton to the church in Oxford for Miss Valeria Green, who is at present a student at the Oxford Seminary. Miss Green is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. George W. Green, who are at present in Canton, though their membership still remains with the Oxford church. Miss Green, desiring to affiliate with the same church as her parents, had her old pastor in China write the communication referred to.

The Rev. Mr. Green, who is a graduate of Wake Forest College, is quite well known in Granville, as he has been in the past a resident of Oxford for two or three years.

A translation was forwarded with the letter.

FARMERS

Try C. D. Ray's platform scales when you have feed or cattle to weigh. They are accurate. See ad in the paper.

Sheriff Wheeler in Raleigh.

Sheriff Sam Wheeler left for Raleigh on the 4:15 Southern Tuesday to look after the firemen's interest in insurance revenues. He is one of a committee of ten in the State appointed by James D. McNeil, president of the State Firemen's Association to draft a bill to present to the proper committee in the Senate and House. The bill is to increase the fireman's revenues from the insurance premiums in the State.

The State Firemen's Association has heretofore been receiving one-half of one per cent. of the premiums paid to foreign insurance companies. This has amounted to \$5,000 or \$6,000 annually. The committee of 10, representing the association wants 1 per cent. of all premiums, both home and foreign, which will amount to \$20,000 annually.

Beside the president, the committee is composed of:

A. H. Boyden, Salisbury; John L. Miller, Concord; A. G. Bernard, Asheville; C. M. Norfleet, Winston; T. N. Taylor, Greensboro; M. J. O'Neal, Henderson; S. M. Wheeler, Oxford; Leonel Weil, Goldsboro; Chas. N. Harris, Raleigh; J. W. Thumme, Rocky Mount.

Ridley Park.

The Granville Real Estate & Trust Company is developing its property immediately south of Gen. B. S. Royster's home, and has divided it into fifteen very attractive building lots. A house, built largely after the model of a bungalow has just been completed and sold to a gentleman who will locate here.

At the point where King Street is diagonally crossed by the street below the company will maintain a little grass plot, which is called Ridley Park. This will be turned over to Village Improvement Society to make into a thing of beauty if the Society will undertake it; otherwise, the company will have the work done itself.

As soon as the weather breaks sufficiently, another house will be put up, and a granolithic pavement laid along King Street.

The company will not sell a lot except under certain restrictions. No one can put up a cheap or undesirable house on one of the lots.

Play at Seminary.

The young ladies of Oxford Seminary have the following programme, which we are requested to publish:

The Girls of 1776

Synopsis:

Act I—Philadelphia—In ye garden at Madam Mayfield's. 'Tis afternoon late in ye month of May.

Act II—Scene I—At ye old cabin Sunset time—July Fourth. Scene II—Ye home of Betsy Ross—A morning of early autumn.

Act III—Trenton—Ye hall of ye ball room—Christmas night.

Presented by the junior class of Oxford Seminary on Monday, February 22nd, 1909, at 8 p. m.—Admission 50 cents.

Are You Going to Build?

C. D. Ray can furnish you the material from foundation to finish. See ad in this paper.

Last Call for 1908 Taxes!

The last go-round will be made in accordance with the requirements of law. You are expected to meet me on the following days and settle 1908 taxes in full.

Dexter—Monday, March 1st.
Dickerson—Tuesday, March 2nd.
Grisom—Wednesday, March 3rd.
Wilton—Thursday, March 4th.
Creedmoor—Friday, March 5th.
Creedmoor—Saturday, March 6th.
Stem—Tuesday, March 9th.
Walnut Grove—Wednesday 10th.
Wilbour's Store—Thursday 11th.
Bullock—Friday, March 12th.
Stovall—Saturday, March 13th.
The books will be kept open at Oxford on the above days also.

All persons owing taxes are requested to settle the same promptly.

On March 15th the books will go and collection by distress and levies will be made in all cases where the tax is not paid.

This the 10th day of Feb., 1909.
S. C. HOBGOOD,
Tax Collector.

Honor Roll Oxford Graded School.

First Grade.—Bulah Farris, Geoffrey Horsfield, Roy Fuller, Texanna Johnson, Edmund Harris, Zela Newton, Gracie Currin, Roy Upchurch, Louise Currin.

Second Grade.—Lula Hunt, Juell Thomason, Sudie Crews, William Webb, Annie Bell Wheeler, Julian Abbitt, Nina Cooper, Hattie Wheeler, Charlotte Carroll, James Ballou.

Third Grade First Division.—Joe Bagland, George Cheatham, Hugh Russell, Lois Wood, Pearl Bowling, Elvis Burchett, Mary Blalock, Roy Williford, Frank Taylor, Daisy Williford, Harper Jones, Eunice Parham, Lewis Turner.

Third Grade Second Division.—Georgia Winston, Marion Sneed, Jas. Hunter, Edward Ballou, Hallie Patterson, Lily Belle Cannady, Etta Wheeler, Edith Howell, Sarah Cannady, Lee Hunter, Uva Newton, Henry Shaw, Garland Hobgood, Sidney Farabow, Joe Parham, Ruth White, Elizabeth Bryan.

Fourth Grade First Division.—Fannie Buchanan, Hallie Fuller, Lila Currin, Edward Abbitt, Laura Stedman, Carroll Moore.

Fourth Grade Second Division.—Helen Howard, Susan Webb, William Medford, Herman Day, Guy Wheeler, Roland Gooch, Blount Bryan, Albert Barnes, Annie Lee, Forest Longmire, Lorene Peed.

Fifth Grade.—Alva Lee Currin, Eloise Cannady, Marie Meadows, Jessie Bullock, Carrie Harris, Marsh Callis, Jewelle Fogleman, Lillian Sizemore, Susie Bowling, Azalia Jones, Lillian Spencer, Graham Wheeler, Earle Hunt, Josephine Ingold, Mary Cheatham, John Ellington, Leo Cheatham.

Sixth Grade.—Lillian Hart, Gracie Critcher, Harry Reun, Ruth Shaw, Harry Jones, Frances Abbitt, Lucile O'Brian, Mary White.

Seventh Grade.—Annie Simpson Peiron, Julia Cooper, Virginia Carroll, Charlie Fort.

Eighth Grade.—Tazzie Dean, Frank Hancock, Lena Jones, Frances Hays, Edna Crews, Harvey Bullock, Estelle Bullock.

Ninth Grade.—Oscar Ragland, Irving Royster, Marie Medford.

ST. JOHN'S CHAPEL

Hubert Avery, Laura Avery, Johnnie Burtchett, Mack Long, David Long, Tommie Spencer, Geneva Ross, Lonnie Wilson, Graham Oakley, Nonna Saunders, Sallie Saunders, Charlie Lynch, Ava Weaver, Lonnie Kerney, Ola Cutts.

Old Batchelor in Town.

That jovial batchelor and good fellow, J. Ed. Duncan, Esq., of Stem, president of the batchelor's club, was in town Monday, and came around to see the boys and have a chat. He and the devil are old acquaintances, and the genial gentleman from Stem began to tell things that had happened in the dark and mysterious past of the devil. We have been laboring under the impression that the devil was a very nice sort of chap, until Mr. Duncan and he began to tell on each other. Now, we suspect them both only, of course, where the girls are concerned.

Mr. Duncan says that things are running along merrily at Stem, and that the valuation of property is on the increase.

Plot for Monument.

The city fathers, with Mayor Devin in the chair, met Monday night, but no matters of any consequence were brought forward, except the giving of a plot of ground to the Confederate Monument committee. A number of ladies appeared before the body, asking assistance for the monument. The commissioners gave a plot of ground at the intersection of Hillsboro and Main streets. It was appraised at \$750 and is circular in form, the diameter being 15 feet. The ladies hope to get a contribution of \$750, from the county when steps will be taken to raise the monument.

Rhode Island Red pullets and hens of the best strain. Apply to J. P. Stedman.