

# OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER

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NUMBER 1

## THE REASON WHY SOME

### PEOPLE MOVE TO TOWN

Public Gatherings in the County Menaced and Disturbed by Intemperance.

The Public Ledger finds the following in the morning mail with the request that it be published:

"The other day, a Ford car was driven up on the Court House square and in the car there was a very poor make-shift of a whiskey still. Several citizens of the county were present when the car came up, and the sight of the little old still set the men to talking. One very prominent man of the county expressed the opinion, that the great influx of the rural population into the towns was traceable to the very fact that men were alcohol hungry, and that in the sparsely settled sections of the county, the lawless elements were taking advantage of their isolation and were making and drinking lots of moonshine liquor, thereby so demoralizing the communities that as many of the good folks as well could were selling out their possessions in the country and were moving to town where a better mantle of protection was offered them against these insidious lawbreakers than is found out in the country.

It is a fact, and you must have noticed it, than many good country folks are moving into town these days. How do you regard this seeming unrest of the people of old Granville? Do you think it a helpful sign or do you think harm will ultimately result from it?

Another man was in town a few days after the incident of the still coming to town on the Ford and he complained of the very disorder the first man had mentioned, that is, he said lots of whiskey was now being made in the bushes, and that almost all the public gatherings in his community were menaced and disturbed by intemperance.

Now, these men are to be believed. There are no better men in the county than the two mentioned here who so casually testified and cried out against this illicit liquor making. From our youth up, we have been taught that the best place in the world to rear a family is in the country out on a farm. Now then, what is the farmer to do?

Is he to leave the blessed environment of the quiet country and go to town in order that the lawless man may continue to debauch and threaten society? It does seem strange that men and women will fight and even die for their homes against the armed burglar, and at the same time sell and go away just because a few lawless sots will persist in making the country their hiding place where they can make and sell moonshine whiskey. A better way, it seems, would be for the men who oppose such immorality to sacredly resolve to solidly unite against that most pernicious of all law-breakers, the moonshiner, and be ready both by day and night to bring him into court.

There is no getting away from this fact; we have been challenged. What are we country folks to do? Are we going to move to town and leave the blessed scenes of our childhood behind as a camp ground for the lawbreaker, or are we going to put the screws on him and drive him out and put him to honest labor? The many splendid rural communities of Granville promise too much for our future common welfare for these night hawks to befall them in the way they are now tending.

## PREPARE TO BE COUNTED

### The Enumerators Are Abroad in the Land.

The enumeration of the population of Granville county for the fourteenth decennial census began last Friday.

Householders are expected to be prepared with all the data sought by the enumerators. They will be asked whether they are white or black, male or female, native or foreign, how many children they have, what their ages and the state of their education, whether they own their own home or rent it, and a lot of other things which the director of the census thinks should be known in order that the statisticians may find out the state of the population.

When the population figures are compiled the cities which have been boasting of an enormous increase in population will learn whether they have been drawing the long bow. Cleveland, for example, expects to have it disclosed that it has grown from 560,000 in 1910 to 1,000,000 in 1920 and has risen to the rank of fourth city in the Union, held by St. Louis in 1910. Detroit, however, is just now disputing that title with Cleveland.

Many people here express the opinion that the enumeration will show that Oxford has a population of 4,000 and the county 27,000.

## Announcement.

I take pleasure in announcing to my friends and clients, and to the public generally, that I have associated with me in the practice of law my son, B. S. Royster, Jr. The firm name will be, Royster and Royster and our offices are in the Odd Fellows Building, second floor, where we shall be glad to see our friends.

B. S. ROYSTER.

January 1, 1920.

## MAY ALL KNOW PEACE AND PLENTY IN NINETEEN-TWENTY

Your wishes for happiness cannot make a new year happy for anybody. Happiness must be earned. Many people abandon it in a giddy chase after imitations. It is more elusive than riches, harder to attain than virtue. Some people go wearily back over the road and find it where they throw it aside, because it is a thing that often may be discerned only through tears.

Wish for those you esteem a patient New Year or a wise or tolerant or charitable or unselfish or kind New Year. Such are the approaches to happiness. So we wish for everybody who reads this page and everybody who doesn't; for all who agree with our opinions and all who do not!

## MR. F. W. HANCOCK RESIGNS

### POSITION WITH GOVERNMENT

#### Will Open Income Tax Office In Oxford

News has just reached this office that Mr. F. W. Hancock, after six years of service in the Government, has handed to Mr. J. W. Bailey his resignation as Chief of the Income Tax Division for North Carolina said resignation being effective January 1, 1920. We learn from a personal letter addressed to Mr. Hancock by J. W. Bailey Collector, that Mr. Hancock's resignation was with reluctance and sincere regret that Mr. Hancock's resignation was received. Mr. Hancock very probably is today as well informed in all matters pertaining to income taxes as any man in N. C. having had charge of this department since its inception and Mr. Bailey no doubt realized this fact. Mr. Hancock's unwillingness to be longer separated from his family was the controlling reason for his action.

We are happy to learn from Mr. Hancock that he will at once open an office here for the purpose of advising persons and corporations in making their income tax returns. His work will likely take him into other counties of the state but his office will be in Oxford, N. C. where he intends to do the major part of his work.

## CHRISTMAS WAS QUIETLY SPENT IN OXFORD

Oxford had its quietest, most orderly and most philanthropic Christmas celebration. The abatement of the old custom of celebrating a religious anniversary with the discordant noise of firecrackers, explosive canes, the blare of tin horns, drunken hilarity, gave an almost quiet Sabbath to the city, and the commemoration of the day took the form of family reunions, festive dinners and the bestowal of gifts with unusual generosity among members of the family and between friends. Christmas greeting cards flooded the mails, these presenting many artistic forms, in addition to the familiar but in many cases attractive postcards with appropriate verses or salutations, were sent out by hundreds to their friends here and elsewhere. The gathering around the family board of absent members now residing in other and often distant cities contributed a delightful reunion feature to what was pre-eminently a family celebration of the day. Children particularly enjoyed the day to which they had long looked forward with eager expectations and it is probably true that fewer than ever before had no cause for happiness and gratitude, for almost everybody was included in bounty of local benevolent and humane and religious organizations.

## THE PARDONING POWER

### Governor Bickett Has It All His Own Way.

At a Christmas celebration in the State prison at Raleigh, Governor Bickett told its inmates: "I want you men to quite hiring lawyers to get you out of prison. Justice cannot be bought in this State and mercy has no price upon it."

"Every one of you has a lawyer. I am your lawyer and while I may not be the best lawyer in the state, I know that I have more influence with the Governor than any man in North Carolina. If you have a reasonable plea for a pardon, talk it over with your superintendent and he will tell me about it."

## HON. A. A. HICKS ADDRESSES THE BAPTISTS BARACAS

One of the most inspiring addresses during the holidays was delivered by Hon. A. A. Hicks before the Oxford Baptist Baraca Class on Sunday morning. The large membership greatly enjoyed his practical presentation of Bible truths. He compared Bible life with ever day life and showed clearly that in order to reach the great reward every one must obey the word of God and live a clean pure life. A collection amounting to several dollars was received for the poor and needy.

## REPORTER.

—Let us hope that the United States Senate made a resolution to be good.

## GRANVILLE COUNTY COLORED MAN MORE THAN CENTURY OLD

Silas Gooch Raised Crop of Corn and Tobacco With a Grubbing Hoe. Silas Gooch, who is reputed to be more than a hundred years old, walked into the Acme Hardware store the other day and purchased a mattock. He makes his home at the old Sandy Cooper Place a few miles west of Oxford, and during the past summer raised three barrels of corn and \$375 dollars worth of tobacco with a grubbing hoe. The old man has money in the bank and bought Liberty Bonds.

## Rare Cases of Longevity

In the light of present day reckoning Silas Gooch is 103 years old, but in reporting cases of longevity it is well to remember that "the days of our years are three-score years and ten," or "by reason of strength, four-score," and when they are reputed to pass 100, except in the rarest instances, the claim calls for scrutiny.

History abounds in cases where men and women are alleged to have lived to be more than 110 years. In 1818 William McKim died in Richmond, and was said to have been 130. In the same year a negro, whose name does not appear, was said to have died in Asheville at the age of 136. Wonder Booker, another old negro and a resident of Georgia, was reputed to have been 124 years old when he died in 1819. Sixteen other cases of a longevity exceeding 110 years are listed by Howe. British "records" are, of course, not held by the "modern Methuselah," Henry Jenkins, who died in 1670. He claims to have driven a wagon loaded with arrows for the English army at Flodden in 1513, and professed to remember distinctly the abolition of the monasteries under Henry VIII. His monument in Bolton churchyard states that he lived to "the amazing age of 163," but the parish register, kept by a careful cleric, has it merely that Jenkins was "very aged and poor." Historians have naturally been unwilling to accept as proved a defiance of time that rests on Jenkins' own statement, unsupported by any documentary evidence.

## Undisputed Testimony

Cases of life beyond 100 years, though very unusual, rest upon indisputable evidence. Jacob W. Luning, who died at Morden College in 1876, was proved to have been born in 1767, and was therefore 103 years old. Chevreul, a distinguished French chemist, lived to be 102. Manoel Garcia, the world's most famous teacher of music, lived to be 101. That these represent the limits of human life is due not merely to the gradual breakdown of the organs, but also to men's desire not to live beyond their contemporaries. In some cases, to men's unwillingness to modify their habits as they grow older. Enough has been proved by Ilya Mechnikoff and others that the man in normal health, who desires to do so, can prolong his life appreciably by a careful diet. Most men, as old Dr. Spofford used to put it, "dig their graves with their teeth."

Historical Data. Silas Gooch, the subject of this sketch, belonged to the estate of the late Crawford H. Cooper. He was born two years earlier than the father of Col. Henry G. Cooper. Why his name was changed from Cooper to Gooch is not plain.

It is interesting to note that while Silas can do a good day's work he has a son who is too old to do normal labor.

## MISS MORTON THE BRIDE OF MR. GILMER MATHEWS

### The Marriage Was One of the Happy Events of the Holidays.

An event of much interest to friends in Virginia and North Carolina was the marriage of Miss Alice Carrington Morton at the home of parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Morton, Jr., to Mr. Edward Gilmer, of Birmingham, Ala., Rev. Stuart Ogbley, pastor of the Oxford Presbyterian church, officiating.

Owing to a recent bereavement in the groom's family, it was a very quiet affair. The marriage was preceded by a wedding breakfast given to the bridal party.

Mrs. Mathews is the pretty and talented daughter of Mr. S. C. Morton, the popular buyer for the American Tobacco Company on the local market. She was recently voted the most popular young lady at St. Mary's School, Raleigh. She is descended from the most prominent families in Virginia and North Carolina, and Mr. Mathews comes from one of the oldest families in Alabama. The Mathews have for more than a century been leading citizens of Georgia and Alabama.

The bride entered with her father, and Mr. Mathews came in with his best man, Edward Outlaw Hunt. The bride was attended by Miss Janie Outlaw Hunt. They left immediately for New York, and on their return will reside in Raleigh.

## STOCK FOR SALE

I am informed that agents for the Fisheries Products Company of Wilmington, N. C., are engaged in selling stock in the said company to the people of Granville County. I have three shares of preferred stock and six shares of common stock in this company which I have had for more than a year. I will be glad to sell this stock at any reasonable price and will take considerably below par for it.

W. S. DANIEL

## COL. HORNER SELLS OUT INTERESTS IN CHARLOTTE

### Well Known Military School Will Be Continued For Spring Term, However

(Charlotte Special)

The sale of 50 acres of land three buildings comprising the entire plant of Horner's military school, involving about \$80,000, was announced last week. The property, including barracks and all buildings and lands, was taken over by the Stephens Company. The sale will not affect the operation of Horner's during the spring term.

The 50-acre tract around Horner's school is on the eastern edge of Myers Park and comprises well located and valuable holdings as yet undeveloped, except the school building and barracks.

Citizens of Charlotte and the Stephens Company some years ago, learning that Colonel Horner proposed to move his school from Oxford, invited him to this city. The Stephens Company proffered the 50-acre tract and interested citizens subscribed liberally to the cause of bringing the school to Charlotte.

Colonel Horner said that he would continue Horner's school, but not in Charlotte. He has several propositions from other towns in the State. The school has been here five and a half years, being moved here from Oxford.

## MAKE UP YOUR MIND TO WED

### With the Dawn of Leap Year Granville Girls Will Exert All Their Wiles to "Save" Themselves.

This is leap year. In many a darkened parlor, fair hearts will palpitate while maiden brains devise ways and means to bring "him" to his knees in appeals to link her fate in entangling alliance that shall lead to the hymeneal altar to last "until death do us part," or the divorce court intervenes.

Enthroned upon a cozy, pillowed settee, many a fair daughter will await with trepidation the touch of the finger and the responsive ring of the bell that foreshadows a ring on the finger of the belle.

A word to the young men—do your duty! What self-respecting, up-to-date young woman would wish to be classed as having usurped male prerogative to the extent of a marriage proposal? In these days of sex equality, which is synonymous with feminine superiority, "popping the question" "see pop," as the Century dictionary quaintly lists it—is one of the few, very few, masculine prerogatives retained by the male of the species.

## FIFTY DEEDS FILED ON JANUARY FIRST

### The New Register of Deeds Is Very Busy.

Mr. Charles G. Powell, the new register of deeds for Granville county, officials took over the office on January 1, and relieved his father, Mr. James B. Powell, who resigned to accept a responsible position with the First National Bank.

The handsome young register, who had unlimited training under his very efficient father, is handling the business like an old adept. On the first day of the new year fifty deeds were handed in to be recorded, but it didn't phase him.

## ANOTHER DRUGGIST IN OXFORD

### Fine Son Grace the Home of Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Lyon.

It was rather late last Thursday morning when Mr. Frank F. Lyon, the popular druggist, came down to his place of business, but when he did arrive, he was wearing a broad smile. The morning was rather chilly, and when he drew off to the stove and rubbed his hands he confided to his best friends that "it is a bouncing baby boy."

The many friends will be pleased to know that the mother and child are doing well.

## WOOD ALCOHOL IS THE CAUSE OF MANY DEATHS

### While In No Sense a Liquor or Beverage, a Heavy Tax Likely Will Be Placed Upon It.

Washington, Jan. 5.—On account of the large number of deaths caused by alcohol, legislation subjecting its manufacturer and sale to the same restrictions as grain alcohol will be recommended to Congress, says Commissioner Raper, of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

## THE McNARY BILL IS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT

### Continues United States Sugar Board Through 1920.

President Wilson has signed the McNary bill continuing the United States Sugar Equalization Board through 1920.

## ATTRACTIONS AT THE ORPHEUM THIS WEEK

Tuesday—Irene Castle in The Girl From Bohemia.  
Wednesday—Pathe, The Dove Cheat.  
Thursday—Vivian Martin in The Third Kiss.  
Friday—Mixed night. No Mother to Guide Him; Mack Sennett Comedy with Ben Turpin, 2 acts; two roll Jester; Comedy; Arbuckle and Ford Weekly.  
Saturday—The Superman, comedy; Pearl White in The Black Secret.

"By-by, kid!" said Peace to the New Year, just before it arrived on Earth. "Hope to see you again in a few days."

## STEM NEWS NOTES

—Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Daniel who have been in Leamington, Canada, for the past two years are on a months visit to Mrs. Daniels mother, Mrs. James H. Webb of Tally Ho. Mr. Daniel is the only American of the large number who went from here to Canada who has made John Bulls County his home. He has been eminently successful in raising tobacco, his crop this year selling for eleven thousand dollars.

—This community was greatly shocked when it was learned that Miss Annie Whitaker had died suddenly at her home Sunday afternoon. Miss Whitaker had not enjoyed good health for a number of years and had complained of not feeling well for the last several days but kept up and about. Quite a number of friends were in her home Sunday and after dinner left for their homes. Her father, Mr. W. H. Whitaker, went over to Durham and Mrs. Whitaker, her mother-in-law, went over to a near neighbors home, for a short visit. When she returned home about five o'clock, she found Miss Annie lying with her head hung on the bed railing. Calling in Mr. J. C. Hopkins who was passing, they did all they could to revive her and called in Dr. P. R. Hardee, who pronounced her lifeless, caused by strangulation or choking when she fell against the railing in a fainting spell. The funeral was held in Stem Church Monday at 2 o'clock, conducted by her pastor, Rev. B. H. Black, and the remains laid to rest in the Wm. Stem burying ground. The services were attended by an unusually large crowd. The floral offerings were indeed beautiful—we have never seen prettier. The deceased was a noble Christian woman, pure in heart, sincere and good, and is mourned by a large number of relatives and friends. She leaves behind, her father, Mr. W. H. Whitaker of Danville, Va.

—On Monday evening of last week Miss Hilda Umstead entertained a number of guests at her home near Stem. The parlor and dining room were decorated with Christmas colors—red and green. Many games were enjoyed and delicious refreshments were served. The guests were: Misses Ella Hall, Carrie Mae Umstead, Mary Ethel Tilley, Mary Emma Carrington, Irene Tilley, Messrs. Euell Umstead, Luther Umstead, Clyde Hall, Roy Umstead, Toombs Cozart, Hugh, Ben and Raymond Umstead, Ira Fowler, Orvid Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Umstead, Mr. and Mrs. Logan Hall, Mrs. Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cole, Mrs. K. R. Mangum.

—On Tuesday evening of last week Miss Ella Hall, of Stem, entertained a number of friends in honor of Misses Grace and Lydia Bishop. The parlor was beautifully decorated with potted plants and holly. Many interesting games were enjoyed by the twenty or more guests who, on departing at ten o'clock, declared Miss Hall a most delightful hostess.

—Dr. and Mrs. William B. North, of Burlington, have been spending the holidays with Mrs. North's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Stem.

—Mrs. Mollie Lyon and family, of Lyons have moved to Creedmoor. Mr. Vaughn, of Hillsboro, occupies the house vacated by Mrs. Lyon.

—Mr. Spencer, of Hyde County, is on a visit to his daughter Mrs. L. F. Cotton, of Oxford Route 6.

—Miss Hettie Overby, of Richmond, spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Overby, of Oxford, Route 6.

—Rev. J. L. McNeer, of Route 1, has accepted a field of churches near Wilmington and will begin his work in a short time.

—Mr. T. C. Harris, recipient of fine gold watch.

## NEW AUTO FIRM IN OXFORD

### Mangum & Pritchard Will Sell High Class Cars.

Messrs. I. W. Mangum and S. H. Pritchard have formed a copartnership to sell cars. At present the headquarters of the company is at the Mangum Warehouse.

They have purchased a lot on Broad street, known as the Parker Flat, at the corner of Hillsboro and Broad streets, and will erect a handsome concrete garage at an early date.

They are now demonstrating the Lexington Minute 6 and the Allen cars.

## Week of Prayer

The week beginning Monday the 5th of January will be observed by the women of the Oxford Baptist church as a Week of Prayer for World-wide Missions. Services will be held each afternoon at the church at 3:30 o'clock. A most cordial invitation is given to the women and girls of other denominations as well as those of the Baptist church to attend these meetings.

—Perhaps Bryan will strive to win the Democratic presidential nomination with the slogan, "He made the party dry."

## LAND AND LOT OWNERS IN OXFORD TOWNSHIP TAKE NOTICE

The time for returning lot and land questionnaires has expired. A few days of grace will be allowed. Call at once at the Tax Supervisor's office over First National Bank and make your returns.

W. A. FARHAM, Tax Supervisor.

## ALEX ROYSTER HELD FOR THE MURDER OF GEORGE SPEED

### The Tragedy Occurred Near Berea Last Wednesday Evening

Alex Royster, a colored boy about 23 years old, is in the county jail charged with the murder of George Speed, colored. According to the testimony of five or six witnesses at the coronor's hearing, held in the court room Thursday afternoon conducted by Dr. Nelson Thomas, coroner, the two colored boys met on the public road Wednesday afternoon near Mr. S. M. Daniel's place, two miles southwest of Berea, and bantered each other to trade pocket-knives. Cross words ensued and George Speed, the dead boy, picked up a rock; Royster drew a pistol and fired, the ball striking Speed in the breast.

Royster took the stand and declared that he drew the pistol with the avowed purpose of scaring Speed; that the pistol was accidentally discharged. He testified that he found the pistol three weeks before Christmas on the public road leading from Oxford to Berea; that he bought the cartridges from an Oxford hardware store and loaded the pistol; that he was not carrying the pistol for any particular purpose; that he was aware that it was unlawful to carry a pistol.

The killing occurred about five o'clock in the afternoon, and two hours later Royster reached Oxford and gave himself up to Sheriff Hunt, having walked up to Sheriff Hunt in two hours. He told the sheriff that the killing was purely accidental.

Coroner Thomas, with the following jury, viewed the body of the dead boy a few hours after the tragedy: A. E. Lyon, W. M. Blalock, J. O. Dean, G. B. Daniel, Odell Oakley, Ira Meadows.

At the preliminary hearing Thursday the testimony was such as to justify Coroner Thomas to hold Royster for the February term of court.

## MR. SAM JONES DEAD

### One of the Wealthiest Citizens of Granville County.

Mr. Sam Jones, one of the county's best citizens, died at his home near Culbreth Monday, December 29th in the fifty-ninth year of his age. He had been in declining health for some time and his death was not unexpected. He was an active member of Mt. Zion church.

The funeral and burial was held from Mt. Zion church on Wednesday, conducted by Rev. C. A. Upchurch. The pallbearers were:

Active—Dr. E. B. Meadows, Nat Jones, Ed Clement, S. C. Hogsword, W. T. Currin. Honorary—Stephen Jones, H. Jones, Garland Currin, Ethrow Daniel, Ed Bowling, Lothan Hall, Parrott Hardee, J. M. Blalock. The deceased is survived by a devoted wife and seven children.

## SON OF MR. ALEX WILLIAMS WAS BURNED TO DEATH

### Victim of a Kettle of Boiling Water.

Little Alex Williams, the four year old son of Mr. Alex Williams, met with a painful accident on Friday, December 26, which caused his death last Wednesday.

While no one was present, the little fellow pulled a kettle of boiling water from the stove, which struck him full in the face and spread to all parts of his body. He was rendered unconscious and remained so up to the time of his death. The interment was in Elemwood Cemetery last Wednesday.

Mr. Williams, the father of the child, is mail carrier on Oxford Route 4. The entire community deeply sympathize with his in the untimely death of his child.

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