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A SEMI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WARRENTON AND WARREN COUNTY

3c. A COPY

DR. TAYLOR'S OLD TIMES IN WARREN

Interesting Sketch of Colonel John Laughter Republished By Special Request.

By request I am republishing the sketch of Colonel John Laughter which appeared in the issue of the Record of March 25th, 1916:

There are very few people now living who knew Colonel John Laughter. Indeed there are not many of the present generation who ever heard his name; and yet there was a time when Colonel Laughter was one of our most prominent citizens, and was well known throughout the county.

It is remarkable how soon a man, even a prominent man, is forgotten. John R. Johnson died in 1889. He had been a conspicuous figure in Warrenton for nearly fifty years, and yet very few of the present citizens of the town remember him. The same is true of the late John White, Dr. D. Fleming, Capt. Dugger, Dr. Foote, Henry A. Foote and a host of others, who were the leading citizens of Warrenton when I came here thirty-one years ago. Judge Walter A. Montgomery moved from Warrenton to Raleigh in 1891, and yet within the last year one of our leading business men, who was raised here, informed me that he had no recollection of Judge Montgomery. Thus it always is. We live, we pass on, and are forgotten. There is comfort in the thought that, though we are forgotten by men, God keeps us in everlasting remembrance.

John Laughter, the father of Colonel Laughter, came from England to this country in Colonial times, and settled in Bute County some time previous to the Revolutionary War. He purchased a tract of land on Hawtree Creek, about five miles from the present town of Warrenton, where he raised his family; and where he died and was buried. John Laughter, Sr. was a man of affairs. He stood well in the county and left to his descendants the heritage of a good name. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, and doubtless fought under Sumner at Guilford Court House and Eutaw Springs. Being a "hatter" he was detailed to make hats for the soldiers. This he would do, when conditions did not require his services in the field. It is more than probable that the stories which he told his family of his stirring soldier life had much to do with the military trend of his son's mind.

John Laughter, Jr., was a soldier in the war of 1812. He went out as captain of a company of dragoons, but was soon promoted and served until the close of the War as Colonel of the Second North Carolina Dragoons. His regiment was stationed during the entire war in Norfolk, Va. He had a high ideal of military life, and was a strict disciplinarian; but he was kind to his men, and was a very popular officer. As long as any of his men, in this section lived, they would frequently visit him to talk over their army life; and he often visited them, and was always a welcome guest in their homes.

After the war, Colonel Laughter returned to Warrenton and for many years lived the life of a farmer. He was also a surveyor, and was in great demand in surveying land in this and adjoining counties. In the course of time, he met with reverses, lost his plantation, and gave up farming. Subsequently he devoted himself to school teaching and surveying. He had received the best educational advantages available in this section. He was probably a student in the old academy in the first years of its existence, where he was instructed in the branches usually taught in such schools, at that time. Either then, or later under a private tutor, he studied surveying, which was considered an exceedingly respectable and profitable profession. The late James A. Egerton and other surveyors of the two past generations in this county were taught surveying by Colonel Laughter.

Perhaps, as a teacher, Colonel Laughter most profoundly impressed himself upon the community in which he lived. In his schools, he taught, in addition to the usual branches, surveying and military tactics. As a result, there were several good surveyors in Warren County, and the whole of Hawtree section was fired with military enthusiasm. This was, doubtless the reason that the young men of that community hurried into the army, at the first call for men, at the beginning

of the War Between the States. After the war of 1812, Colonel Laughter, was for many years, general of the militia of this district. He insisted, however, on being addressed as Colonel instead of General; because as he said, he won the former title in actual warfare in the face of the enemy.

When the Nat Turner insurrection spread terror through all this section of North Carolina and Virginia, Colonel Laughter led his command to the scene of conflict, and was present at the capture and execution of Turner. His daughter, Mrs. Pegram, who died about seven years ago, at the ripe old age of ninety, informed me that she was about twelve years old when her father went to aid in suelling the Nat Turner insurrection. When he returned, he brought with him bleeding curdling stories of the cruelties perpetrated upon the defenceless people by Turner and his band. One of them was of the murder of a school teacher and her pupils. When the soldiers came upon the bloody scene, and saw the teacher and the children lying dead in their blood, they began at once to search for any that might have escaped. After awhile they found on the outside of the house, between the funnel of the chimney and the wall, a little girl, who on the first alarm climbed to this safe retreat, and lay snugly hidden, crazed with fear, while the cruel negroes were murdering her teacher and schoolmates.

It is a remarkable co-incident that on the same plank road where Nat Turner devised his scheme for killing the whites, and liberating the slaves, General Grant matured his plans for the overthrow of the Confederacy and the liberation of the slaves. Here is a fertile suggestion to any one that may be in search of material for a thrilling story.

A former pupil and admirer of Colonel Laughter told me of his famous duel with a Mr. Andrews. Andrews felt that Colonel Laughter had so deeply offended him that nothing but the blood of the old war horse of Hawtree could atone for the offense. He, therefore, challenged the Colonel to mortal combat. The challenge was promptly accepted, and the weapons and conditions of the duel were agreed upon. They met at a picturesque place on the banks of the historic Hawtree. News of the duel had gone abroad, and a large concourse of people assembled to witness the fight. The Colonel and his second were first on the ground. After a time Andrews and his second were seen approaching. When he saw the Colonel waiting to receive him, in the attitude of a god of war, his heart failed him, and he cried out in terror: "Don't shoot, Colonel, don't shoot! I'll withdraw the challenge!" The people shouted with laughter. The Colonel kindly refrained from shooting, and the affair passed off without bloodshed.

Colonel Laughter was a proud man, and very ambitious. He aspired to the best society for himself and family, and strove to maintain, under the adverse circumstances of later years, the same manner of living and social relations to which he had been accustomed in the more prosperous period of his life. His fondness for fine clothing, made so as to set off his soldierly figure to the best advantage, resulted in part perhaps from his military life and training. He was not only fond of fine clothing, but refused to purchase any thing that was offered to him below what he regarded a respectable price. A good story used to be told illustrative of this peculiarity. He went to a store to purchase a vest pattern. The clerk spread several before him, one of which pleased the would be purchaser. He asked the price, and being told that it was only two dollars, he exclaimed in disgust: "I came to buy a vest pattern, and you insult me by offering me this cheap stuff! Show me a vest pattern suitable for a gentleman to wear." The clerk quietly removed the offending goods, and exhibited several other pieces. After awhile he brought out the same pattern that had been so contemptuously rejected, and said: "Colonel, here is a piece of goods for which we have no demand, on account of the price. What do you think of it?" The Colonel examined it for a moment with evident pleasure and enquired the price. On being told that it was seven dollars and fifty cents, he promptly said: "I will take it; for I do not like to wear common goods." Colonel John Laughter was a man of good physique, clear cut features and striking personality. A stranger would recognize him at once as a man

(Continued On Second Page)

ROAD ENGINEERS IN GREAT DEMAND

War Department Sends Letter to Mr. E. L. Green Asking His Services as Road Builder

Chief E. L. Green received a communication Thursday morning from the War Department. The letter was from the Twenty-third Engineers, National army, which is to mobilize road building engineers and contractors of the country in a highway construction regiment of 10,500 volunteers for immediate service in the war zone of France.

In the new regiment no pick and shovel men are wanted; the heavy manual labor will be done by German prisoners and service battalions. Recruits must be experienced in some line of road construction, or mechanics skilled in operating road-building machinery. A limited clerical staff is also needed.

Not only is this appeal for Chief Green but others of experience are asked to offer their services to the Government in this line of endeavor. Promotion for good men is rapid. Extracts from the letter follow:

Load Must Be Distributed
Every contractor can contribute a few men without disrupting his organization. Do your share. Show that nation's engineers and contractors, who opened the eyes of the world by the record-breaking construction of the Army cantonments, can also man this new highway unit with the pick of the construction men of America.

Mature Men Needed as Bosses
For men under 40 with proper road building experience, the prospect for promotion to non-commissioned and special ranks is excellent. Practically all construction men, who have the ability will be assigned, not as Laborers, but as Bosses of gangs, which will include German prisoners.

Men of Draft Age Acceptable
Even if within the draft age limits you can volunteer for the highway regiment if you have not already been called by your local board. You can not volunteer if you have been called in the draft, or exempted. You must be in good physical condition.

Your Opportunity
Here is your opportunity to help the country along the lines of your specialty. We know that the Nation will not call upon its Road Builders in vain.

SIX MORE MEN TO CAMP JACKSON.

Six Men to Report Here Monday at Ten O'clock and Leave That Day for Columbia.

The following six men, all white, have been called for military service by the Local Board for Warren county and have been duly passed upon by the proper Local and District Board and are hereby certified as selected for military service and are not exempt or discharged:

289—656 Luke Ham, Henderson.
290—1339 Vivian G. Shearin, Macon.
293—1070 Claude F. Paynter, Wise.
297—1191 Tom H. Riggan, Littleton.
308—293 Daniel I. Capps, Arcola.
311—1064 Lewis M. Paschall, Manscota.
These men are called to report here Monday morning at ten o'clock, and are scheduled to leave during the day for Columbia, South Carolina, to enter military service at Camp Jackson.

WARREN PHARMACY AND BURWELL DRUG CO. CONSOLIDATE

Effective from Tuesday night, the Warren Pharmacy and the Burwell Drug Co. became one firm with the firm name of the Burwell Drug Co. It is understood that the consolidated firm will occupy the building formerly occupied by the Warren Pharmacy.

HIGHWAY QUESTION LIVE ONE.

Question of Proposed Bankhead Highway Live One; County and Town Interested.

The people of Warren and Warrenton are deeply interested in the proposed Bankhead Highway from Washington to Atlanta and in its coming through this section, and are expressing their willingness to invest in bonds for the construction of a bridge over the Roanoke, and thus making an effort to secure the highway for this section.

Warrenton is to raise \$10,000 of this stock; Henderson \$25,000; Norlina \$2,000 and other towns along the way from Richmond to Raleigh and Durham to raise the remainder. This money is to be pledged right away in order that the bridge may be assured when the Pathfinder party comes through on October 31st.

Mr. J. R. Paschall, a native of this county and a capitalist of note is interested in the bridge and has agreed to take \$10,000 in bonds of the company. As a business investment this investment promises to be a bonanza.

Messrs. N. M. Palmer, W. G. Rogers and J. J. Tarwater will begin an active canvass for Warrenton and Warren county's allotment on Saturday. Of Warrenton's ten thousand, Hon. Tasker Polk, agreed at the meeting held in Henderson on Monday night to take one thousand of this if the road came by Warrenton. It is the opinion, from indications observed, that the committee will have no trouble in raising our allotment.

The people of the town and county are becoming alive to the possibility offered as a money investment and of the returns expected rightfully from the purchase of bonds. The bridge is to remain the property of the bonded company for all time, and will from the first pay a good rate of interest. With fifteen cars crossing the bridge each day each way, the return from tolls—at one dollar a trip—would be \$10,950 dollars in a year, which would be over fifteen percent on the investment, and many more cars can be confidently expected over such a route.

Warren people are alive to the opportunity offered, and it is believed that no trouble will be experienced by the committee in raising the town and county's share.

CITY TO HAVE A NIGHT POLICEMAN

Commissioners Elect Mr. E. L. Green for Night Policeman at Tuesday Night Meeting.

At a meeting of the Town Commissioners on Wednesday night, Mr. E. L. Green was employed as night policeman for Warrenton. The services of Mr. John Allen were retained as Day policeman and Tax collector.

"The night speeders had better be on their guard," said "Chief" in an interview this morning. "It is my purpose to break up this late night speeding, especially from the depot to Burroughs corner," he continued, "and I'm going to do it." "The people of the town are asked to call me at any time of night should trouble occur. I will make it a point to let Central know where I am, and I will be ready at all times to enforce the law."

The election of Mr. Green as night policeman is a step which will break up the speeding which has become a menace. That the town authorities acted wisely and well in this action and the choice expressed, is the opinion of Warrenton citizens.

Interesting News From Arcola Section

Large Number Attend Fairs; Local and Personal Mention from Arcola Section.

Our town has been well represented at all the nearby county fairs, Richmond Fair, and several will attend the

State Fair this week. All report splendid exhibits and a general good time.

Miss Mamie Smith, of Dublin County, arrived Saturday to take charge of the High School Grades in our school. Miss Smith comes to us highly recommended and we are sure of good results in this department.

Miss Lula Hunter, of Littleton College, spent the week end with her people here.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Cooper, of Rocky Mount, were Sunday visitors among relatives in this community.

Misses Ethel Capps, Myrtle and Eva Duke have returned from a visit to Wood and Louisburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe King, Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Tharrington and Mr. Perry Conn visited relatives near Gold Rock Sunday. They made the trip in Mr. King's new car.

Miss Mary Tharrington spent the week end with her people here returning to school duties at Hollister Monday.

The High School opened here Monday with very good attendance.

Messrs. Robert and Billie Harris and families, of near here, recently moved to their old home at Grove Hill.

Farmers are busy diggin potatoes, picking cotton, saving late vegetable and etc. from Jack Frost.

A MEETING HELD FOR EVERYBODY.

Meeting To Begin in Methodist Church Here Next Wednesday; Pastor Assisted.

The pastor of the Methodist church here announced last Sunday that he would begin a revival meeting in his church on Wednesday evening, October 24th, 1917, and that he would be assisted from October 29th to November 2nd by Rev. F. M. Shamburger, pastor of Weldon Methodist church.

Praise and prayer service will begin at 7:30 o'clock on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. On the fourth Sunday the plan of the meeting will be more definitely stated.

As the meeting will be for the good of the entire community, the pastor earnestly desires that it may be largely and regularly attended, and that all may receive needed blessing. Let all believers prayerfully ponder the Psalmist's pertinent petition: "Will thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"—Psa. 85:6.

R. C. ENTERTAINMENT TO-NIGHT.

Interesting Program of Play To Be Given Tonight at Graham School Auditorium.

The Red Cross play will be produced tonight in the Graham High School auditorium at 8:30. The entertainment is of a patriotic nature and promise to be of interest throughout.

"America, Here's My Boy"....Crichton Thorne and James McKoy.
The Spring Dance....Crichton Thorne "Oh Johnny".....James McKoy
Baby Smile".....James McKoy
Two Interesting Scenes—"Henry Commits Suicide"....Henry Cunningham and Sumner Watson; "The Telephone Booth"....H. Cunningham, S. Watson, Will Jones, Sally Davis and James McKoy.
Using a Telephone....James McKoy
Two of a Kind....James McKoy and Oscar Williams.

Quartet—"The Old Oaken Bucket," "There's a Quaker Down in Quaker Town," and "The Animal Fair" N. Cunningham, S. Watson, O. Williams and J. McKoy.

"Ketchin the Chicken".....Crichton Thorne
Honky Tonky.....James McKoy
"Go to Sleep My Baby".....Agnes Henderson
"Just One Day"....Agnes Henderson and James McKoy.
The Cabaret—"Tell Me Pretty Maiden," "The Spanish Dancer," "America Here's My Boy," and the "Star Spangled Banner"....Agnes Henderson and James McKoy, Oscar Williams and Janice Watson, Sumner Watson and Sally Davis, Will Jones and Henry Cunningham; Spanish Dancer, Crichton Thorne.

PUT YOUR DOLLARS TO WORK.

Your Dollars Cannot Be Neutral—Buy a Liberty Bond and Help Win the War.

You must be either for or against the soldier boys now marching to the trenches in France. You must be either for or against your Country. There is no half-way station; no betwixt or between.

Your dollars cannot be neutral. Uncle Sam needs your financial assistance. American success in this war depends upon our sending an army fully equipped, efficiently trained, amply supplied with every requisite of the field. Every link in the military chain must be strong. We dare not take chances.

Germany's tremendous aggressiveness in this conflict has been made possible only by the highest efficiency in every detail. The Germans were prepared at every point when they loosed the dogs of war and sent their armies hurtling through Belgium on the way to Paris.

Let's not send to France the pride of America's young manhood, the boys for whom in any other emergency we would make any sacrifice, any whit less prepared.

Take care of your loyalty to the army, and your loyalty to the Country, will take care of itself.

There are numerous ways of serving the Kaiser. And withholding your support from the boys we have sent, and will yet send to the front, the boys whom the world at large is watching closely and expectantly, is by no means the least of these.

You would bitterly and instantly resent any other charge of disloyalty to your country. Probably you haven't considered this phase of the situation, but calmly think it over for a moment and you'll get the point.

You cannot afford, even unconsciously, to leave open this wee loophole for question.

It will be far cheaper and more self satisfying to buy a Liberty Bond.

REV. AND MRS. LANIER TO CELEBRATE SILVER WEDDING

The following invitation have been received by friends in Warrenton. Mr. Lanier was for some time Rector of Emmanuel church here, a preacher of ability, and a gentleman who made friends here. The following invitation is of interest.

1892 1917
Rev. and Mrs. John J. Lanier
Request the pleasure of your presence at the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of their wedding Friday evening, November 2nd from eight until eleven The Rectory Fredericksburg, Virginia.

BRAVID HARRIS, WINS COMMISSION AS 1ST LIEUTENANT.

Bravid Harris has just returned from the Reserve Officers' Training Camp at Des Moines, Iowa, where he received a commission as first Lieutenant.

He is a son of Washington Harris, who for twenty years has conducted a barber shop here, and who is a highly respectable and valuable colored citizen.

Bravid Harris will be at home for a few days, and then leaves for the colored cantonment at Camp Grant, Ill., where he will take charge of his command.

INVITATIONS TO MARRIAGE OF MR. CAREY PRICE RECEIVED.

The following invitations have been received by friends of Mr. Carey Price of this town who is to marry in Rogersville, Tenn., this month:

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Kenner invite you to be present at the marriage of their daughter Elsie Clay

to Mr. John Carey Price on Saturday evening; October the twenty-seventh one thousand nine hundred and seventeen at half after six o'clock Presbyterian Church Rogersville, Tennessee.