

# A SKETCH OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF "GENTLEMAN" JOHN PERKINS

and of his contemporaries, successors and descendants; together with a glance at the history, customs and development of what is now Caldwell county and of the adjacent country, during the latter part of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth centuries

by W. W. Scott.

The above is the title of a serial article that is to be begun in the News-Topic with the issue of October 10th, and to continue in every succeeding issue until completed. The article will probably not be finished for several months.

The compiler of these memoranda says: "These compilations do not assume the dignity of history or biography, but are submitted as material that may be used by exact historians after verification."

The compiler has been collecting the interesting data for

publication for at least ten years, and these articles, independent of the interest it is hoped they will be to the general reader, will be read with special pleasure by the hundreds of descendants of "Gentleman" John Perkins living in Western North Carolina.

Those of his descendants who do not subscribe for this paper but who wish to read and preserve these articles, are invited to subscribe at once, as the management desires to print a sufficient edition to provide new subscribers with the whole series.

## ORGANIZE NOW TO COMBAT PLAGUE OF INFLUENZA

The State board of health has sent a copy of the following letter to papers throughout the State, with the request that it be published:

In view of the fact that we may have an epidemic of influenza this fall and winter, and remembering the devastation and havoc wrought by this disease last fall and winter, it behooves us to get each county and community thoroughly organized to care for those stricken if this disease should again show itself in an epidemic form. Thorough organization inspires confidence in battling with any foe and there is no doubt that thorough organization will allay the fears of the people and tend to lessen the nervous condition of those stricken. There is not a particle of doubt that fear and a nervous condition increased our mortality in the influenza epidemic of last fall and winter.

We are writing to ask that you call a meeting AT ONCE of all the public welfare agencies in your county—health officers, public welfare officers, farm and home demonstrators, superintendents and supervisors of schools, both white and colored, ministers, doctors, lawyers and all other patriotic citizens. Let these patriotic citizens form an organization after the plan outlined below. If influenza comes you will be prepared. If it does not come, so much the better.

### Plan of Organization

The public welfare agents and patriotic citizens in meeting assembled should appoint a county supervisor of health to co-operate with the county board of health and the county health officer. The county supervisor should appoint a local supervisor in each township. Duties of the local supervisor are to keep in touch with the people in order to learn the degree in which each community is affected by influenza; to keep the county superintendent informed of local conditions and needs, and, should it become necessary, assist in relieving the helpless. The chairman of the board of county commissioners should send to the State board of health the name of the county's supervisor and the township supervisors. All calls for outside aid should be made through your county supervisor. These calls only will be regarded as official by the State board of health. The State board of health is at this time perfecting an emergency organization of physicians and nurses of the State, who will be willing and ready to answer any emergency call sent them by the State board of health. The State board of health urges that the men or women selected as township supervisors realize that a great responsibility rests upon them for the saving of lives and the alleviation of suffering in their community. To aid them in their work the following plan of local organization is suggested to township supervisors:

The supervisors of the townships should appoint a chairman for the following committees:

#### (a)—Intelligence committee.

The chairman of this committee should be especially active and intelligent, thoroughly acquainted with the community, and willing to gather accurate information daily in regard to the sick. This chairman should report daily to the township supervisors the number of new cases, the condition of previous cases, and any emergency need, food, medicine or nursing aid.

#### (b)—Food committee.

This committee should be held in readiness to supply simple, wholesome food to those families in actual need.

#### (c)—Nursing committee.

This committee should have a list of all available persons in the community who will volunteer to do ordinary nursing in case of need. Many persons sick with influenza do not need the services of a trained nurse even if one could be obtained, but many families do need the simple home attention which can and should

be supplied through this committee. Any who have taken the Red Cross course in first aid and home hygiene should be especially valuable for this work.

#### (d)—Finance committee.

This committee should secure voluntary contributions for the necessary relief of afflicted families, which may be destitute. There are likely also to be families who are temporarily in need of financial assistance because of the epidemic.

#### (e)—Transportation committee.

This committee should be prepared to furnish means of conveyance and a local guide in case a doctor or a nurse is sent to the community from some distant point. They should also be prepared to meet the needs of the other four committees.

The State board of health advises that the local township supervisors appoint only the chairman of each of these committees, leaving the chairman to secure such assistance as is deemed necessary for the work.

Either a man or a woman can serve acceptably as chairman or as a member of any of these committees. The main point is that the chairman should be a worker and should be held responsible for the work of the committee of which he or she is chairman. This plan of organization may seem to go into unnecessary details, but past experience tells us that we cannot be too strongly organized. In the late epidemic of influenza whole families were stricken so that no member of the family was able to get out and ask for aid. We do not want this to happen again in North Carolina. The State board of health urges you to ACT promptly. Don't wait until your community is actually stricken before taking steps to combat the epidemic that may come.

## MINERS WANT 60 PER CENT INCREASE AND SIX-HOUR DAY

Demands for a 60 per cent increase in all mine wages, a limit of six hours upon the day's labor underground, a five-day week, with time and a half for overtime and double time for work on Sundays and holidays and important improvements in conditions of labor were adopted Tuesday afternoon by the United Mine Workers of America in convention at Cleveland, O. The convention then adjourned to await the result of the joint wage scale conference with the operators of the central competitive district, which opened in Buffalo yesterday. Should no agreement be reached in time to be ratified and come into effect by Nov. 1, a general strike of all bituminous coal miners in the United States will automatically ensue on that date if the international executive committee and the representatives of the Canadian districts so determine.

## JONES COUNTY GIRL IS SHOT WHILE ASLEEP; DIDN'T WAKE

Quo Vadis Wooten took a nap at her home in Jones county. She awoke to find that she could not move. Quo Vadis is white. Members of the family doctored her for "aches." They gave her cooking soda and other things. They worked over an hour without success. Then a fleck of blood on her back was discovered by accident. An investigation developed the fact that while she had slept a 7-year-old sister, playing with a .22 rifle, had shot her in the back. A doctor was summoned and said the bullet had probably lodged in her spine. The lower part of her body was entirely paralyzed. She was taken to Kinston and will be subjected to an X-ray examination. An extraordinary fact about the case is that the girl was not aroused by the bullet, but slept until she awoke at someone's call. She did not hear the report. Her condition is serious.

Negro veterans of the world war are eligible to membership in the American Legion, but the composition of local posts and State organizations will be left to the members themselves, according to instructions made public by Henry D. Lindsley, chairman of the national executive committee.

A number of negroes residing near Lexington, Ga., have met and adopted resolutions approving the action of whites who recently lynched Obe Cox, a negro accused of assaulting and murdering the wife of a white

farmer. The resolutions condemned in strong terms the crime that aroused 1,000 men and set them to a 24 hours' search of swamps and woods which was concluded with the shooting of the negro and the burn-

ing of the body. Negroes who took the stand that the lynching was justified were said to have consisted of some of the most orderly and prosperous in Oglethorpe county, where the white woman was killed.



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## THE MOST DANGEROUS DISEASE

No organs of the human body are so important to health and long life as the kidneys. When they slow up and commence to lag in their duties, look out! Find out what the trouble is—without delay. Whenever you feel nervous, weak, dizzy, suffer from sleeplessness, or have pains in the back—soak up at once. Your kidneys need help. These are signs to warn you that your kidneys are not performing their functions properly. They are only half doing their work and are allowing impurities to accumulate and be converted into uric acid and other poisons, which are causing you distress and will destroy you unless they are driven from your system.

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