

Historical Sketch of the Foundation of Concord

By D. Luther Best, April 23, 1908.

In the year 1792, by act of the General Assembly of North Carolina, the western part of the county was divided and the northeastern section named Cabarrus, in honor of Stephen Cabarrus, a native of France, but who lived in this State and represented the county of Chowan for several terms in the legislature.

The first county court was held at the house of Robert Russell on the third Monday in January, 1793, by the following justices: Robert Harris, senior, Robert Harris, Jr., William Scott, John Allison, Edward Giles, Daniel Jarratt and Joseph Shinn.

The county government was then and there organized with Archibald Houston, Jr., sheriff; John Simianer clerk; Benjamin Shinn, stryaster; Hugh Rodgers, entry taker; Zacheus Wilson, surveyor; William Alexander, attorney; Nathaniel Giles, register; John Plyler, county trustee.

The same act of the assembly which created the county appointed Paul Barringer, John Lippard, Joseph Ferguson, Daniel Jarratt, Alexander Perruson, James Bradshaw, James Harris, Zachaus Wilson, Archibald Houston, Benjamin Patton and Robert Smith commissioners "to fix on the most central place in the county for the purpose of erecting a court house, prison and stocks."

Archibald Houston, Martin Phifer, John Means, Daniel Jarratt and George Masters were authorized to buy fifty acres of land and contract with workmen for the erection of these necessary buildings "as soon as the commissioners shall fix on the

site establishment on Hudgin's corner, Joseph Young, another store, with R. W. Allison as clerk, on the Allison corner, and where the Lutheran Church stands, Jack Phifer kept a store. Where did these merchants buy their stocks of merchandise, and how did they get them to Concord? For there was not a railroad in the county. They bought their goods in Philadelphia, shipped them to Fayetteville, and brought them up from these towns in wagons. These merchants, however, often bought their goods directly from firms in Charleston. The post office was kept where John Patterson lives nearly opposite Corbin School. Tom Henderson was postmaster and you paid 10 and 25 cents on your letter, according to the distance it had to go, and you had no envelope either. The postmaster lived in the house so long occupied by Mrs. Mary Cross, and between the two, lived Alfred Area, who kept a hatmaking establishment in the rear of his home. On the present court house lot, George Klutz kept a hotel and where the city hall stands another public house was kept by the Mahan family. Long after the father and mother had passed from earth, the two Mahan sisters with a brother-in-law, Daniel Coleman, lived in the old home and conducted a boarding house. And here was the finest garden in town, the earliest lettuce, peas and beans grew in the beds of rich mold, bordered by boxwood bushes, big as flour barrels, which overhung the walks. At a later date, Dr. K. P. Harris and Major Robert Foard opened hotels, and the citizens of the little village lived, as once in ages gone by in the land of Israel, "every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

The first jail was built on the old K. P. Harris lot, now site of Pearl

Drug Company, and when it was torn down, Dr. Harris bought the brick walls and erected the "brick row, now site of Concord Furniture Co. and Cabarrus Savings Bank.

The street leading north out of town turned a sharp curve at Caleb Phifer's house, ran through the D. F. Cannon lot, on behind the Alexander Russell house (W. J. Hill's home) and up by the cotton factory. The Russell family had a large tract of land in that part of town; their ownership is marked yet by their private burying ground, and their house was the last one on that end of the street. Between it and the factory was an old field of broomsedge and scrubby pines, fenced in and used as a muster ground for the annual gathering of the State militia.

In 1839, out on the Beattie's Ford road, near town, brick were made to build the first "cotton factory." The building was completed in the next year, 1840, and officers elected to conduct the business as follows: Paul Barringer, president; K. P. Harris, secretary and treasurer; George Barnhardt, Christopher Melchor, John B. Moss and John P. Phifer, directors. Mr. Jenks, superintendent for a short time, was succeeded by John McDonald, who continued in that office until he bought the factory in 1867. The machinery in this mill was an object of curiosity and people came from a distance of 75 miles in all the country around just to see the wonderful inventions in operation.

Dr. Houston's house is one of the first buildings in Concord. A grand ball was given there in January 1827, in celebration of the battle of New Orleans, Jan. 8, 1815—and in 1865 Jefferson Davis, retreating south from Richmond, was entertained one night in April by Mr. and Mrs. Victor C. Barringer, whose home it then was. What a grand supper Mrs. Barringer did have for the fleeing President and his staff!

Concord also has the honor of having one of her citizens, Hon. Daniel M. Barringer, elected to Congress, as a member of the House of Representatives for the five sessions, from 1825 to 1835. In 1804, the Presbyterians built a log house church on the grounds where the second, a brick building, is still standing, now occupied by the Observer Printing Co.

Late in the history of the town, the Methodist congregation built a church and parsonage on Church Street; the Lutheran congregation erected a large church in a fine grove on Corbin St. None of these churches had a bell, until 1854, when Major Yorke was commissioned to buy one for each congregation.

The session house of the Presbyterian Church was the village school house until another was built on the lot where Mr. Sandy Smith lived. Now Y. M. C. A.

Dr. Charles Fox, later of Charlotte, was one of the first physicians of Concord and lived where Mr. Zeb Morris built his home. It is probable that Dr. Charles Harris, the celebrated doctor of the Poplar Tent neighborhood, was often called to Concord, as his reputation gave him an extensive practice.

In 1851, the town woke up and had itself incorporated by act of General Assembly. This same act decreed that the board of commissioners for the town of Concord should be composed of intendant of police and four commissioners, and the officers appointed by this last were: Josiah L. Bundy, Alfred Brown, William Frew, Daniel M. Wagoner and Ransom Winecoff.

Josiah L. Bundy, as the first named in the act, was intendant of police, and vested with the same authority, duties and emoluments as is given to the same official under the title of mayor.

The official head of the board of commissioners held office under the name of intendant of police until 1873, when it was changed, by act of Legislature, to mayor.

The corporation line ran one-fourth of a mile south from the crossing of Corbin and Union streets, and north to the factory line; one fourth of a mile east and west from Union Street, making the town one mile and one-eighth long and one-half mile wide. These limits were extended by the Legislature of 1887, and again in 1889 to its present boundaries. How old is the town? One hundred and fifteen years old. Think back a century on the little cluster of houses, scattered along two streets! How silent and oppressively quiet the village must have been—no roar of railroad or whistle of cotton mill; how dark at night when light was furnished by candles only, and not a match in North America. In this same year of 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, Richard Dobbs Spaight was governor of North Carolina. The cornerstone for the first building for the University at Chapel Hill was laid in the next year, 1794, the Legislature convened in Raleigh for the first time and in the newly completed State House, George Washington was President of the United States and Philadelphia was the capital.

George the Third was King of England; Napoleon Bonaparte was a young man, 24 years old, and just beginning his military career as an officer of artillery in the French army.

The horrors of the French Revolution were alarming the nations of Europe; King Louis XVI had been dethroned, tried and condemned, and in January beheaded at the guillotine—his beautiful Queen imprisoned only to meet the same fate in the following October.

The Bastille had been torn down, but other prisons were crowded, with the best and ablest of the land and thousands were guillotined until Paris ran red with blood.

But the broad Atlantic rolled between the Old and New Worlds, and an epoch of those horrors disturbed the village of Concord, that walked by day and slept by night in peaceful security.

"Time, like an ever-rolling tide," has borne away the generation of a century, and each generation in passing has added improvement and importance to the town of Concord. The county seat now stands a bustle-

ing center of busy humanity, where handsome homes, large mercantile establishments, fine churches and school buildings adorn the streets, evidencing the wealth, the culture, and the high character of its citizens; and where invested capital flourishes in every manner of business and trade from the peanut parcher to the cotton mill.

ters had taken at the Charlotte meeting and the lack of unanimity shown among the so-called Fundamentalists there. Most of them applauded the action of Dr. A. A. McGeachy, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, and of W. E. Price, secretary of the Committee of 100, a Presbyterian elder, also of Charlotte, in withdrawing from the committee, and their scoring of the "lack of tolerance" in the meeting.

Their withdrawal was interpreted here not so much as meaning that they were out of sympathy with the aims of the Fundamentalists as that they disagreed with the methods being used and advocated. In fact, that seems to be the nub of the whole situation, according to those most interested in the matter. One "wing" of fundamentalism seems to favor letting the matted adjust itself through channels already created and at hand, while the more extreme "wing" desire to invoke legislative aid to correct the condition.

A large number of people, however, who are not directly aligned with either side in the controversy and who are familiar with the situation created in Tennessee by its so-called "Anti-evolution law" are inclined to believe that an ant bill is being magnified into a mountain and that the question is not so important after all.

THE FUNDAMENTALIST POW-WOW

Much Interest Being Shown in It Throughout the State.

Tribune Bureau
Sir Walter Hotel
Raleigh, May 7.—Much unofficial interest is being shown in Raleigh over the somewhat stormy and acrimonious Fundamentalist pow wow held in Charlotte Tuesday and following which two leading figures in the "committee of 100" withdrew from that organization.

Though none of the stage officials would discuss the meeting in an official capacity and declined to be quoted for publication, one or two smiled broadly when they had read accounts of the session with interest, if not with amusement.

Almost without exception, they agreed that several more meetings such as the one held in Charlotte would make the whole matter so ridiculous that the likelihood of the subject of evolution coming before the next session of the General Assembly for legislative action would be highly improbable.

"The meeting in Charlotte is a forceful illustration of what happens when an attempt is made to inculcate a religious issue into governmental affairs," said one informally discussing the session of the "committee of 100." "The trouble seems to be that the Fundamentalists themselves are not agreed on just what they mean by Fundamentalism and that there is a wide difference of opinion among themselves. It seems to me that there should be a clearer delimitation of their own stand on what Fundamentalism consists of before an attempt should be made to legislate it for the entire state. Certainly, there are now sufficient regulatory channels in the department of education to make sure that no orthodox ideas are taught in the public schools of the state, so that it is not necessary to enact special legislation along this line."

The majority of those questioned, however, realized the seriousness of the situation and the sincerity of purpose of those fostering the movement. With one accord, they deplored any tendency from any source to undermine any of the fundamental teachings of the Bible, but at the same time, saw danger in any too radical move to put a muzzle on any man's mind through legislation.

Opinion on the matter was more freely given by those in no way connected with the State government and while many of them were not evolutionists in any sense of the word, most of them deplored the trend mat-

ter had taken at the Charlotte meeting and the lack of unanimity shown among the so-called Fundamentalists there. Most of them applauded the action of Dr. A. A. McGeachy, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, and of W. E. Price, secretary of the Committee of 100, a Presbyterian elder, also of Charlotte, in withdrawing from the committee, and their scoring of the "lack of tolerance" in the meeting.

Their withdrawal was interpreted here not so much as meaning that they were out of sympathy with the aims of the Fundamentalists as that they disagreed with the methods being used and advocated. In fact, that seems to be the nub of the whole situation, according to those most interested in the matter. One "wing" of fundamentalism seems to favor letting the matted adjust itself through channels already created and at hand, while the more extreme "wing" desire to invoke legislative aid to correct the condition.

A large number of people, however, who are not directly aligned with either side in the controversy and who are familiar with the situation created in Tennessee by its so-called "Anti-evolution law" are inclined to believe that an ant bill is being magnified into a mountain and that the question is not so important after all.

GAS

FOUR SOLID FACTS

FACTS—4 solid facts—make the 7% Preferred Stock of your Gas Company an exceptional investment for your funds:

Safety of Principle: Every \$100 share is protected by more than \$700 in net property value.

Reliability of Dividends: Net annual earnings are more than nine times the dividend requirements on this stock.

Stability of Industry: For 50 years, through good times and bad times, gas companies have stood out as examples of solidity because their business is based on supplying a necessity to millions of people.

Growth of Business: Every year shows an enormous increase in gas consumption. In 1910 American factories used 7½ billion cubic feet; in 1924 they used 101 billion cubic feet—a 1200% increase.

Price: \$100 a share

Monthly payments as low as \$5 per share

Southern Gas & Power Corporation

Concord & Kannapolis Gas Co.
CONCORD, N. C.


SURE

of the quality. Every ingredient is tested for purity and strength. Sure of results. Produces pure, sweet, wholesome foods.

CALUMET

THE WORLD'S GREATEST BAKING POWDER

SALES 2½ TIMES THOSE OF ANY OTHER BRAND




Fortunate youth

THE educational opportunities for the boys and girls of the South are keeping pace with the leadership of the South in the economic progress of the Nation. This is seen in the following facts:

In the last twelve years more than \$125,000,000 has been spent for the construction of new school buildings in the states of the South served by the Southern.

In 1900 there were less than 73,000 school teachers in the states of the South served by the Southern, and the appropriation for education amounted to only 90 cents per person living in these states. In 1922 the appropriation was \$6.85 per person, and the number of trained teachers had increased to 139,309.


In 1900 only 64.8 percent of the children of school age in these states attended school, while the average for the nation as a whole was 72.4 per cent. But in 1922, the latest year for which complete figures are available, 81.4 per cent of the children in the states of the South served by the Southern attended school, while the average for the nation as a whole was 81.2 per cent.

The growth in the educational facilities of the South, as well as the number of children that can take advantage of them, is one of the fortunate and direct results of the prosperity that has come to the South.

The Southern Railway System has contributed to the prosperity of the South, as a taxpayer, as a large employer of men and women—and as the transportation agency which carries Southern commerce to and from world markets, regularly, dependably and economically.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SYSTEM

The Southern serves the South



ing center of busy humanity, where handsome homes, large mercantile establishments, fine churches and school buildings adorn the streets, evidencing the wealth, the culture, and the high character of its citizens; and where invested capital flourishes in every manner of business and trade from the peanut parcher to the cotton mill.

ters had taken at the Charlotte meeting and the lack of unanimity shown among the so-called Fundamentalists there. Most of them applauded the action of Dr. A. A. McGeachy, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, and of W. E. Price, secretary of the Committee of 100, a Presbyterian elder, also of Charlotte, in withdrawing from the committee, and their scoring of the "lack of tolerance" in the meeting.

THE FUNDAMENTALIST POW-WOW

Much Interest Being Shown in It Throughout the State.

Tribune Bureau
Sir Walter Hotel
Raleigh, May 7.—Much unofficial interest is being shown in Raleigh over the somewhat stormy and acrimonious Fundamentalist pow wow held in Charlotte Tuesday and following which two leading figures in the "committee of 100" withdrew from that organization.

OUR LONDON STYLE LETTER

Popularity of checked materials shown by the men who frequent exclusive clubs

BY OUR LONDON STYLE OBSERVER

LONDON—Two or three nights ago, in the Ambassador Club, London, a new supper club frequented by the jeunesse doree, I was chatting to a bachelor party consisting of six men, three Americans, two English and one French. The Englishmen suggested that the present day young man was lacking in the good manners, and consideration for women and their elders, that marked the Victorian and Edwardian period.

Clothes and food were also discussed. The unusual waistcoat the Prince of Wales was wearing that night at the Club aroused comment. It had a V-opening, and the lapel was finished with "V" points upside down.

I recently noticed His Royal Highness drinking old brandy out of one of those large balloon glasses. My American friend wondered why these glasses, large enough to hold a pint, contained only about half an inch of the liqueur. The reason is that, to get the real aroma of a good brandy, you must have a very large glass.

Boutonnieres were seen in profusion, the red carnation predominating. I wondered how many men know the origin of the buttonhole in the lapel. At a state gathering, Queen Victoria, then quite a girl, plucked a flower from her bouquet, and presented it to Prince Albert, who afterwards became her husband. The prince, seeing a highlander standing by, in full kit, borrowed his dagger and slit a small hole in the lapel of his jacket. The London tailors took up the idea with the result

that our jackets have carried the buttonhole ever since.

During the past few weeks at many outdoor functions I have noted the popularity of checked materials. Glenurquhart, hound's tooth, shepherd's and in fact "any old kind of check," to use a common expression, are in vogue. At three race meetings, I saw Lord Londesborough wearing a rough tweed suit, the check formed from a two and three weave.

Checked overcoats are also coming forward; the Prince of Wales has given us a lead by wearing brown and white, black and white, and cedarwood and white, checks. They are just Raglan slip-on coats, three buttons on the front, that come through, and a double-breasted



OUR PENNY ADS. ALWAYS GET RESULTS