

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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### James A. Porter

THE familiar figure of James A. Porter, long a leader in the business, civic, political and religious life of Macon county, will be greatly missed in Franklin. For many years he had been one of our most prominent citizens. There was hardly a man, woman or child in the county who did not know him.

Once one of the county's most well-to-do residents, Mr. Porter suffered heavy reverses in the latter years of his life. Almost coincidentally his health began to decline. Despite these adversities, however, he kept a "stiff upper lip," lost none of his faith in his fellow man and did not allow his misfortunes to embitter his outlook upon life. His friends frequently commented on the fine spirit he maintained in the face of difficulties and the valiant fight he made to regain his health and "get back on his feet."

It was characteristic of the man that he died "with his shoes on."

### A Word to the Wise—

IN AN effort to assist delinquent taxpayers to hold on to their property through the lean years of depression, the 1933 General Assembly enacted legislation providing for deferred payments on back taxes. This legislation extended to delinquent taxpayers the privilege of giving lien notes for taxes due prior to 1932 upon the payment of the amount due for the latter year.

In Macon County there were hundreds of delinquencies dating as far back as 1928. Last fall and winter many tardy taxpayers settled their 1932 levies to avoid advertisement and sale; but, strange to say, comparatively few, although delinquent for other years, have taken advantage of the lien note plan. Such failure is understandable in the cases of those unable to pay 1932 taxes; but county authorities are puzzled as to why those who have paid 1932 taxes have neglected to apply for the lien notes.

The period for making the lien notes expires with this month. With the first of April all delinquent taxes will be due and payable and the tax collector will have no authority to allow settlement on the deferred payment basis.

Plowing and planting may be pressing work at this time, but those who are wise will leave the fields long enough to go to the courthouse and make arrangements for their delinquent taxes before Saturday night. Those who fail to do so will be piling up considerable trouble and expense for the future.

### Shop Talk

WE gratefully acknowledge receipt of the following communication from our news correspondent for the Cullasaja community:

Mr. Editor:—

The Press-Maconian is well read in this section. Recently we found that one copy of your paper was read by twelve people. When we finally found it, less than half of the paper was intact, as each reader had clipped ads, legal notices and news articles until the paper was almost cut to pieces.

P. D. DEATON.

This is encouraging news, for nothing is more heartening to an editor than the knowledge that his paper is read and read thoroughly. But it also is discouraging news, for it means that many individuals who should be supporting their county newspaper by subscribing to it are not doing so.

Someone once said that one step-ladder was enough for a whole neighborhood; but that should not be the case with a newspaper. If a newspaper is worth reading, it should be worth the price of a subscription. Of course, it is to be expected that each copy of the paper will be read by several persons; but certainly the editor has a right to expect each family interested in the news of the county to subscribe to his paper rather than to depend on his neighbor's copy.

The more subscribers we have the better newspaper we can publish. The larger our circulation list, the greater our revenue, not only from subscriptions but also from advertising, for advertising is priced and sold on a basis of circulation. But who cares, one might ask, whether the newspaper increases its revenue? Every reader and every resident of the county should care, for a larger income will enable us to publish a bigger and better newspaper, one that will render a finer service to the readers and to the community. Newspapers usually reflect with surprising accuracy the character of the communities they serve. A good newspaper usually means a good town, and vice versa.

The Press-Maconian desires not only to be a good

newspaper, but to be the best newspaper there is for any similar community. With the whole-hearted support of the public we can achieve that ambition. Without it we fail.

Sometimes we hear the criticism that The Press-Maconian is too small; it doesn't print enough news. We would be glad, only too glad to print eight and ten pages every week, if we could afford to do so. Unfortunately, however, we soon would be forced to suspend publication should we attempt to do this without several times the amount of income we are now receiving. There is a rule in newspaper circles that to succeed a publication should carry approximately 60 per cent advertising and 40 per cent news. For some months past the average of this newspaper has been 70 per cent news and 30 per cent advertising. It has proved rather costly, but we confidently hope it will ultimately bring just rewards.

## CHEROKEE LORE

By Margaret R. Siler

### Article VII

#### THE MYSTERY OF THE INDIAN MOUND

NOBODY knows who built our Indian mound. Nobody knows when. Nobody knows how. Nobody knows why. We only know where—right on the edge of our little village of Franklin. But, although our town is approaching the 150-year mark, it is only a babe in swaddling clothes compared to the age of the mound.

I have heard that the mound was partly excavated on one side a number of years ago (exactly how long ago, I do not know.) Some pottery fragments were found and a few other Indian relics, but nothing of much worth. No human bones were discovered and so it was supposed that the mound was not a burying ground. This prompts me to ask, "How long are human bones supposed to last before they return to dust?" Certainly not hundreds of years. And who knows but that the mound has been standing there many hundreds of years, perhaps thousands? One man's guess is about as good as another's; the story of the mound is mostly mystery and conjecture. I am inclined to believe, however, that the mound was used by the Indians for burial of their dead, regardless of what some archaeologists might say.

Most of us in this community think the mound at the foot of the town hill was built by the Cherokees, who called it Nequessa Mound; but this is not positive information. In fact, fragments of pottery found near the mound indicate that it may have been started by an earlier people; for these fragments reflect two or three different degrees of civilization.

Even if the Cherokees did not start Nequessa Mound, it is very likely that they added to it, using it as a burial place for their chieftains and the more important members of their tribes.

The Indians had a reason or reasons for everything they did and we think we are justified in assuming that they chose the site on the bottoms of the Little Tennessee river on the outskirts of what is now the town of Franklin because sand was plentiful nearby. Indian mounds were built mostly by the women while the men hunted and rested. They scooped sand into reed baskets and then carried it to the mound they were building. It is readily seen that the situation of Nequessa Mound was ideal, for the sand did not have to be carried far or uphill. Furthermore, the mound was at a sufficient distance from the river not to be washed away by freshets, and the broad bottoms of the Little Tennessee afforded a fine camping ground for the tribes when they gathered to bury their dead.

After each burial the mound was built higher to afford space for burying others yet to die. There is no way of telling how many Indians were buried in this mound or what period of years its construction required. We do know, however, that the mound used to be considerably higher than it now is. Many persons still living recall how its size was reduced by plowing over and around it and by downpours of rain which washed the loose dirt from its sides.

Nevertheless, the mound has withstood the ravages of time and the white man and still remains a prominent landmark. The spirits of the red men buried with ceremony and honor in this mysterious pile of dirt have risen more than once to forbid its obliteration.

The mound was in the path of the Tallulah Falls railroad, but something within seemed to say halt to the steam-spouting monsters that came puffing up to the station a few paces away. Time and again there has been talk of extending the railroad, but it has never been done. Who knows but that the spirits of the old Cherokees buried in the mound have thwarted the extension, forbidding closer approach to their resting place?

Twice the mound has obstructed the way of highway builders. Each time the road has been skirted around the mound. The engineer sighting his transit must have seen the arms of some departed Indian spirit waving him away from the hallowed spot. Doubtless he thought, "All right, Old Indian, you got there first; I'll just step aside with this highway and leave you alone."

("Why the Mountains Are Bald" will be the subject of Mrs. Siler's article next week.)

## Your Farm - How to Make It Pay

**CATTLE GRAZING HURTS WOODLANDS**  
GRAZING on woodlands is harmful to both the cattle and the timber, warns R. W. Graeber, extension forester at N. C. State College.

In wooded tracts, cattle waste their energy and reduce their body weight roving in endless searches for grass. And at the same time they prevent young saplings from growing up to renew the older trees that either die out or are cut off for wood or lumber.

Restricted grazing also damages timber already standing and is bad on the soil. Timber growth is slowed, the quality of the timber lowered. Tops die, roots and butts rot, and much timber that would otherwise be good has to be discarded when the trees are cut for market.

Cattle relish the foliage of white ash, sugar maple, yellow poplar, elm, basswood, white oak, red oak, shell bark hickory, and other of the more valuable timbers. The result is that the animals browse off the saplings before they can grow to any appreciable size. Other saplings that are not eaten are liable to be trampled down.

Generally, Graeber said, the better quality woods are preferred by the cattle, while the poorer woods are left to grow, thereby lowering the quality of the timber in the stand.

Cattle also cut up the leaf litter, pack the soil, expose the roots, and start little gullies. The result is that little rain water is absorbed. It runs off quickly in rivulets which start erosion. With less water in the soil and the fertile elements washed away, timber growth is stunted.

Next to fire, grazing is the most detrimental agent to woodlands, Graeber declared.

### The Farmer's Question Box

Timely Questions Answered by N. C. State College Experts

**Question:**—Is it too early to plant vegetables in the open?

**Answer:**—Spring plantings in the open depend primarily on the temperature requirements of the different crops. Hardy crops such as cabbage, collards, kale, onions, and spinach may be planted from six to eight weeks before the last killing frost. The half hardy group such as beets, asparagus, turnips, radishes, celery and Irish potatoes will stand light freezes and may be put out from three to four weeks before the average date of the last heavy frost. The crops that are easily killed should not be planted until all danger of frost or freezes is past. Planting dates for the various sections of the State are given in Extension Circular No. 122 and copies will be sent free upon request to the Agricultural Editor, State College.

**Question:**—How long will it take to produce a 200-pound hog from a 30-pound pig?

**Answer:**—This, of course, depends upon the amount and mixture of feed used. If the pig is thrifty and is fed a properly balanced ration, it would take about 20 weeks to reach the 200-pound mark. Extension Circular No. 143, "The Swine Feeders Guide," gives the proper ration and amount to feed pigs of varying weights together with the time required to reach certain weights. A copy of this circular will be mailed free upon request to F. H. Jeter, Agricultural Editor, State College, Raleigh, N. C.

### USE COLD FRAME FOR EARLY PLANTS

VEGETABLE plants will thrive better when hardened in a cold frame after being taken from the window boxes and before being transplanted to the open fields or gardens, says H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist at State College.

The partial protection of the frame serves as an intermediary step between the window boxes and the fields. At first the cloth covers can be left almost closed, but left a little more open each day until the plants are well toughened.

Plants should be transferred from the window boxes to the cold frame when the first two true leaves have developed. Set them two to four inches apart. After all danger of freezes has passed and the plants begin to crowd one another in the frames, transplant them in the garden.

A cold frame is similar to a tobacco plant bed. The wood frame is 15 to 18 inches high along the back and 8 to 10 inches in front. It should be six feet wide and 24 feet long for the average home garden. Locate the frame in a sunny place facing south.

About six inches of good garden loam mixed with old stable manure should be placed in the frame. Second-hand sash or unbleached muslin makes a good cover to protect plants from the frost. Muslin saturated with hot linseed oil will hold the sun's heat and shed water. Or a solution of one pound of paraffin to a gallon of gasoline may be used instead.

Ventilation is necessary, and as warm weather approaches, the plant bed should be left open a little more each day. Water the plants on sunny mornings when the temperature is rising. Thoroughly wet the soil, then do not water again until the surface is dry.

### Cullasaja

John Bryson, who became suddenly ill last week and who was in a critical condition for several days, is slowly improving. Mr. Bryson is 84 years old and had never had a doctor or taken medicine before. Will Berry lost a fine cow last week by bleeding after she had been dehorned.

A series of meetings began at Sugar Fork Baptist church Sunday and will continue through Sunday, April 1. The pastor, the Rev. A. S. Solesbee, preached the opening sermon. The Rev. Eugene R. Eiler, pastor of Franklin Baptist church, will do the preaching for the remaining services.

Mrs. Wiley Clark and little son, Kenneth, spent from Wednesday until Sunday with Mrs. Clark's sister, Mrs. Harry Womack, at Sylva.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Franks, of Franklin, were the guests of Mrs. D. M. Sellers Sunday.

Quite a number of cattle was dehorned Monday at Logan Clark's farm.

Charlie Jones, who was seriously injured when he fell from a truck March 17, is reported to be getting along nicely.

The heavy rains for the past few days have delayed farming, but have saved thousands of dollars to the farmers by putting out forest fires.

Claude Arnold believes "a stitch in time saves nine." He has painted his house in a beautiful color which adds to its appearance as well as preserves the building—Now is the time to paint up and clean up.

Robert Estes, who has been in a C. C. Camp in Tennessee, is expected home next week.

### Muse's Corner

#### MOON MADNESS

I met a hunter in the wood  
When the moon was low,  
When the moon was low,  
Was it the ghost of Robin Hood,  
With silver arrows and silver bow?  
"What do you hunt, O hunter?" I said,  
When the moon is low,  
When the moon is low?  
And he swept the cap from a-top his head  
With a bow so knightly—O—  
"The stars from out the sky," he said,  
When the moon is low,  
When the moon is low,  
I shoot the stars from out the sky  
With my silver arrows and bow."  
"The stars from out the sky!" I said,  
"But why, O hunter, why—O—  
Do you shoot the stars from out the sky  
With your silver arrows and bow?"  
"I shoot the stars from the sky," he said,  
And his laugh was merry and bold—  
"To see them tremble and break," he said  
"In a shower of shimmering gold!"  
—Bess H. Hines.

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### NOTICE OF SALE

North Carolina, Macon County.

Whereas, power of sale was vested in the undersigned trustee by Deed of Trust from I. V. Ramey to R. S. Jones, Trustee, dated the 9 day of March, 1929, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, in Book No. 31 of Records of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust, page 182, to secure the payment of a certain indebtedness in said deed of trust set forth; and whereas, default having been made in the payment of said indebtedness:

I will, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale by said deed of trust in me vested, on Friday, the 6th day of April, 1934, at 12 o'clock, sell at the court-house door in Franklin, North Carolina, at public auction to the highest-bidder for cash, the following described property:

Being all that tract or parcel of land described in a deed from S. P. Brabson to I. V. Ramey, said deed bearing date of 27th day of April, 1927, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County in Book O-4, page 106, to which special reference for fuller description is hereby made. Said tract containing 29 acres, more or less.

This 6th day of March, 1934.  
R. S. JONES, Trustee.  
M15-4c-J&J-A5

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of S. E. Cabe, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 19th day of February, 1935, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 19th day of February, 1934.  
W. H. CABE, Administrator.  
F22-6tp-M29

#### EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of S. H. Lyle, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 10th day of February, 1935, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 10th day of February, 1934.  
ELLA T. LYLE, Executrix.  
F22-6tc-M29

#### NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER FOR SALE

Scaled bids will be received by the Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D. C., up to and including April 20, 1934 for all the live timber marked or designated for cutting and all merchantable dead timber located on two areas embracing together about 185 acres on the headwaters of Turtle Pond Creek and Big Creek, tributaries of the Cullasaja River, Highlands Township, Macon County, North Carolina, estimated to be 2,500 M board feet of hemlock pulpwood and 1,000 tons of hemlock bark, more or less. No bid of less than \$1.55 per M bd. ft. for the pulpwood and \$1.00

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per ton for bark will be considered. \$1,000.00 must be deposited with each bid, to be applied to the purchase price, refunded or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to the conditions of the sale. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved. Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the timber, conditions of the sale, and submission of bids should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina. M22-2tc-M29

#### Notice of Bids

I will receive bids from private individuals to operate school busses over the school bus routes in Macon County for the school term 1934-1935, up to and including Saturday, May 5th, 1934. The right is reserved to reject any bid and to award the contract to the bidder best equipped to carry out the contract. All bids to be accompanied with a justified bond in the sum of \$200. For blank bonds and contracts call on or write—  
M. D. BILLINGS,  
County Supt. of Schools  
M29-3tc-A12

#### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Governor of North Carolina to grant a parole to Berlin C. Pruett now serving a term in the Penitentiary for larceny, all persons desiring to protest said parole are hereby notified to do so. This the 27th day of March, 1934.  
MRS. ELSIE PRUETT, Mother.  
M29-2tc-A5

#### NOTICE OF SALE

North Carolina, Macon County.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a deed of trust executed by B. M. Downs to the undersigned trustee, which said deed of trust is dated the 5th day of September, 1924, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book No. 27, Page 600, and default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust and demand having been made upon the undersigned to sell the property described in said deed of trust, the undersigned trustee will, on Thursday, the 26th day of April, 1934, at twelve o'clock, noon, at the court house door in the Town of Franklin, Macon County, State of North Carolina, sell, at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, to satisfy said indebtedness, principal, interest and cost, the following described tract or parcel of land:

On the waters of Iotla Creek, bounded on the North by Methodist Church Property, on the East by W. T. Tippett, Walter Gibson, on the South by Walter Gibson, and on the West by Albert Ramsey; being the only lands I own on said Iotla Creek, containing 1744 acres, more or less, and being free and clear from encumbrance.  
This March 24, 1934.  
ALEX MOORE, Trustee.  
M29-4tc-GP-A19

A State association of beef cattle producers was formed at a recent meeting held in Asheville with D. Reeves Noland as president.