

Is a Paper Devoted to the Upbuilding of the Sandhill Territory of North Carolina

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DEFENSE DAY AT LAKEVIEW

Big Celebration on July 4th Everybody Should Attend

(D. D. S. C.)

In accordance with the proclamation of President Coolidge and of Governor McLean, July Fourth of this year has been declared National Defense Test Day, and it is altogether fitting that it should be thus designated. No day in the annals of this Republic has seen a greater patriotic offering on the altar of liberty than that 4th of July in the year 1776 in which the representatives of the Thirteen Colonies boldly affixed their signatures to the Declaration which declared them free forever from the bonds of unjust rule. By so doing these men and the people whom they represented risked the penalty for treason, which is death, if they failed in their endeavor. But they faltered not.

We are a peace loving nation seeking to win no place in the sun by military aggression, but it behooves us even as a nation of commerce rather than war to at least use ordinary business precautions to prevent surprise and chagrin in case of an emergency. No well ordered house of business lets a year go by without pausing some time in the period to check over the stock on the shelves and counter and ascertain in what lines it is low. This taking stock is never done either in the busy times when it seems the whole world is grabbing for goods, but in the slack times when there is leisure for planning and stocking up judiciously. We as a business nation should easily therefore see the logic of this one day in the year for taking stock of those who are willing to put themselves to the test in the defense of their country in case of need.

This is no Jingoism. There is no war, or shadow of war menacing this great country of ours today, but what the future has in store for us no man can say. On July 4th, 1914 a man would have been called a fool who predicted that three years later an Army of American Soldiers would be standing at attention before the grave of LaFayette in Paris pledging themselves to pay the debt their native land owed him for helping give it freedom, by defending his sunny native land from the hand of the enemy. But yet it was so. And millions suffered, thousands bled and many died before the mighty aggressor with his skilled war machine was stopped and peace came.

We did our part and to us has been given the credit of over balancing the Kaiser's Machine, but how much easier and efficiently could we have done it if we had made even the ghost of preparation before April 1917.

There are at present approximately five million men in this country trained in the art of war. Three times that many more are perhaps of the age and qualified to do service for their country in case of need. But in the event of a hurry call to arms what would or could they do? Under the old regime probably fifty per cent of the ex-service men would join their old regiments if they could find them. The balance would wait until the emergency grew more pressing or they were ordered to go. Under the plan of the National Defense Test Act though, to bring the matter home to Moore County, Carthage is designated as headquarters for a battery of heavy field artillery with a reserve officer and staff to command the same already appointed. All men in that section or in the county trained for that particular branch of the service or desiring to enter that branch would accordingly report to Carthage and be assigned to duty. Equipment would be issued them and they would train there until assembly in divisions. At Southern Pines officers and equipment for a Signal Corps Company has been designated and the same method of assembly followed. Pinehurst has been designated as headquarters for

a light field artillery battery and Aberdeen for a company of Engineers and Infantry. Designation of officers and men at these last named places to be as at the first.

Theoretically Defense Test Day is to work out as above. In reality, the program of economy now on in our government permits only the barest outline of the above. The skeleton regiments and their officers have been designated, but the carrying out of the Defense Test Day plan must depend upon the initiative and energy of local people.

For Moore County it is manifestly impossible for each town to carry out the program so that a central place for the assembly of all must be designated. Last year Southern Pines was the designated assembly point for the county and with the assistance of The Fort Bragg Battery of Artillery an enthusiastic assembly was held.

This year the American Legion and other organizations have designated Lakeview as the Assembly place. The Assembly Parade and speeches will be held in the morning. The county should turn out en masse to show its spirit in this matter.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many friends and kind neighbors for their kindness and service shown us during the long sickness and death of our dear sister and aunt, Mrs. Julia Swaringen.

M. P. Russell and family.

SOME MIGHTY SPUDS

Little River Store had on sale the first of the week some of the finest potatoes ever grown in this county. They came from A. A. McCaskill, over in the Eureka country, where they are making a lot of stuff of every sort that is worth while. They were about the best exhibit of potatoes that has come into the county from any where this spring, and they tell that it is not necessary for Moore county to go away from home to find early potatoes for household needs.

COLLEEN MOORE IS MARTYR TO COMEDY

Star's Shower Bath in "Desert Flower" May Seem Funny, But—

Comedy martyrdom—What is it, and why? It is the art of suffering and seeming to enjoy it.

And the object of it all, of course, is to make the world laugh.

Two examples that graphically illustrate the meaning of the phrase came to notice during the filming of "The Desert Flower," Colleen Moore's new First National picture, now showing at the Carolina theatres, Friday and Saturday.

Jose, soulful-eyed Mexican, interpreted by Gene Corrado, whose affection for little Maggie Fortune, played by Miss Moore, is dog-like and undying, strums his guitar under the heroine's window. Maggie, hearing the serenade, opens the window and tosses the vocalist an onion as a token of her complete disapproval.

Accepting the vegetable with as much delight as if it were an American Beauty rose, Jose gazes with ecstatic joy at the girl and proceeds to eat the onion as if it were a sweet, juicy apple. And all the while he eats he smiles and smiles.

That smile was nothing but sheer acting. One vegetable that Corrado detests and which invariably fills him with nausea is the onion.

Colleen herself, experienced this form of martyrdom when she appeared in a comedy scene depicting her taking in an improvised shower bath in her boxcar home. In place of the tarpaulin, a rough burlap cloth sheathes her, exposing only shoulders and head. Just as the cameras began to grind, one of those icy winter winds of the desert, where the scene was taken, sprang up. Shiveringly, Miss Moore suffered until the scene was completed. And that's comedy "martyrdom."

THE TOWN OF VASS AND ITS COMMUNITY

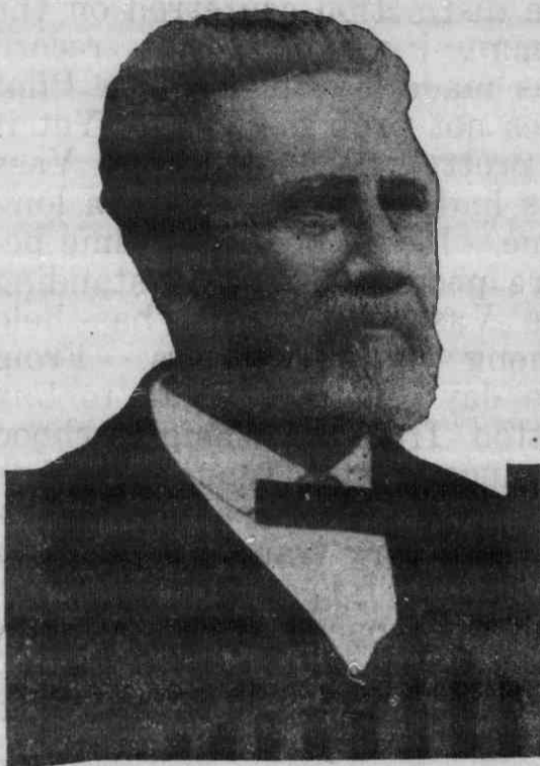
A Story of Its Early Life and Development — Yesterday and Today

(Bessie Smith)

PART III.

In 1892 the name of the village was again changed; this time to the name which it will in all likelihood carry the remainder of its days—Vass, in honor of Major William Worrell Vass, who was at that time paymaster for the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company, and came through here once each month to pay the employees. Perhaps a brief sketch of this great man's life would be of interest to the younger people who love their home town, but did not live early enough to know the man for whom it was named.

William Worrell Vass was born



The late Major W. W. Vass, who the town of Vass was named for

February 19, 1821, the youngest of the six children of Thomas Vass, a planter of Granville county, and Lucy Hester, his wife. Young Vass received a good education in the common schools, and while yet in his teens, accepted a clerkship in a mercantile establishment at Henderson. His industry, ability, and application to business met with recognition, and he was rapidly promoted. At 22, he was admitted to the firm as a partner, and would have become the head of the business soon, had he not turned aside to a more important field.

The Raleigh and Gaston Railroad Company tendered the office of treasurer to Major Vass, and on January 1, 1845, he accepted, and moving his residence to Raleigh, he entered upon his life work. From that time until his death he was connected with the management of this railroad and the great system of which it was the beginning. For forty-eight years he was its treasurer, with the exception of three years when the road, for the lack of sufficient patronage to maintain its operators, passed into the hands of the State and was managed by a board of commissioners, during which time he served as its president. It was during this time when the bankrupt condition of the road was almost hopeless that the remarkable executive ability of Major Vass was most strikingly displayed. A report of a meeting of the commissioners reads: "Repeated compliments were paid to the energetic and indefatigable president, Major W. W. Vass, in being able to keep the road in operation at all; for, to use the language of the venerable chairman, Honorable Duncan Cameron, the idea of a railroad without wood or iron making \$70,000 a year is certainly one of the miracles of the age."

In 1851 the State disposed of its interests in the road and Major Vass was re-elected treasurer. Later, he was elected treasurer of the Augusta Air Line Railroad Company, and held the two offices until the consolidation in 1893 of these roads and their connections into the Seaboard Air Line system. At this time the offices were moved from Raleigh to Norfolk, and on account of failing health, advancing years, and an indisposition to

change his residence, Major Vass tendered his resignation as treasurer and accepted the honorary office of secretary of the system, which position he held until his death. At the time of his retirement it was said editorially in the News and Observer:

"His record is indeed an enviable one—Among our citizens no one stands higher for excellence of character, or for kindness of disposition, or for personal integrity and worth than this veteran railroad officer."

Major Vass occupied many positions of trust and responsibility outside of his railroad connection, and in business affairs, he was noted for his prudence and sound judgment. For half a century he was a devoted member of the Baptist church.

Major Vass was twice married. His first wife was Amanda Freeman, of Granville county. In 1866 he was married to Miss Lillias Margaret McDaniel, of Fayetteville, one of the most charming and accomplished women of the State. To them were born three children, William Worrell, Jr., Eleanor Margaret, and Lilla May, the last named of whom was married in 1900 to S. Brown Shepherd, of Raleigh.

Major Vass died in Raleigh on December 6, 1896, in his seventy-sixth year. He was a prominent figure in the industrial development of North Carolina, one whose name was a synonym for integrity and fair dealing.

Surely, it is with a feeling of pride that we tell that our town was named for such a man.

(To be continued)

FIRST COTTON BLOOM

The Pilot is in receipt of a cotton bloom from Adolphus Henderson, colored farmer on Route 1, which we believe is the first one of the season in this section. At least it is the first one we have seen this year.

NEW SCHOOL HOUSE ABOUT COMPLETED

Handsome Building Ready for Opening Fall Session

The new school house for the consolidated district of the Vass and Lakeview neighborhood is about completed, and will be ready to turn over to the board when the fall term of school is due. Some of the interior work is yet to take care of, like plumbing and final touches, but in the main the big job is done. It is a fine

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MISS EIFORT TALKS OF WELFARE WORK

More Money Needed, But She Is Getting Results As It Is

At the meeting of the Kiwanis club at Aberdeen Wednesday, Miss Lucille Eifort, the welfare worker of the county told something about the work she is doing. Her main trouble is a shortage of funds as compared with what is to be done, but she is making the most of the money in hand, and she left no doubt as to the need of a bigger fund. She said the Kiwanis club had been responsible for the work the welfare department is able to do, and that did not hurt the feelings of those present, and they were glad to know that the money given last Christmas to help the needy was put to good use.

She told the peach men that they could employ children under certain age limits but that a certificate of permit is necessary in commercial orchards and that she would be glad to see some of the young folks have work in the orchards under proper conditions. In private orchards the family is privileged to work under the age limit. The child labor laws are thus in force in the county, and should be observed. Miss Eifort told of the work with orphans, blind children, feeble minded, and such, and she has more than she can care for of such in the county. This makes for her a grave problem, as she finds needy children of these types, and no way to provide for all of them. The state institutions are filled, and places in private homes can be found for some of the orphans but not for the mentally defective or for the physically affected. She told of the difficulties illustrated in the case of a negro boy who had been sent to the reform school, escaped, returned, and escaped again, and who was the negro that got 55 years not long ago because of his crime at Carthage. If he could have been held in the school he would not be a 55-year charge on the state.

Miss Eifort told of widows with small children who get small relief from state and county jointly, but so small that the children have little chance of becoming intelligent and helpful citizens, such as the state wants and as the child should be. A further problem is to get children in school who are persistent in dodging the truancy laws, and here she has her hands full in many cases. Too many children are out, but many excuses are offered, and behind the excuses many get away with the truancy. She told of sickness that she is powerless to relieve, such as chronic tuberculosis.

(Continued on page 8)

Home-Coming At Bethesda

The third of the annual Home Coming Services at Bethesda Church (Aberdeen) will be held the first Sunday in July at 11:15 A. M. The preaching services will be conducted by R. L. McLeod, Jr., of Maxton, N. C. Mr. McLeod's ancestors for generations have been members of Bethesda Church. At the conclusion of this service dinner will be served to all on the church grounds. (Don't forget your basket). At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Mr. McLeod will lecture on his recent trip to the Holy Land.

If you or your parents were members of this church, may we not look for you to be present that the sons and daughters of old Bethesda may again meet together and revive the many happy friendships of the past.