

# The Smithfield Herald.

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## CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS.

With Larger Districts, Better School Houses and Longer Terms May Be Had.

There are now in Johnston county 107 white school districts and 40 colored school districts. Many of the white districts are too small. No suggestion as to remedying this matter can do any good now except where new buildings are contemplated. If building is to be done very often three districts may be consolidated into two; in a few instances two districts may combine into one large district. The object of this article is to point out some of the advantages of large districts.

Not only are there many small districts in our county, but also they are over our State. They constitute one of the most perplexing problems—a hindrance to educational progress. Being circumscribed with small boundaries, the school population is small, and of necessity their apportionment of school funds is small. Only one teacher at low salary can be employed for the four months.

No teacher can do the best work when over crowded with classes. And a small school, say of thirty pupils, generally has as many classes as a school of one hundred pupils,—that is classes from the alphabet to the most advanced common school studies. This gives as many classes as a large school. The inevitable result is few recitations each day all around the school or very hasty recitations, or both few and hasty. In some cases the small pupils that especially need attention often are almost wholly neglected, and in a measure unavoidably so.

The advantages of the large school districts are many. Having larger boundaries they have a larger school population, get larger opportunities and have more competent teachers. In some of the large districts larger school buildings are built and two or more teachers employed. Although the sparsity of population will not allow many country public schools to have more than two teachers. Yet even in a two teacher school the small pupils are separated from the large pupils and taught in separate rooms. The school is more easily governed; the teachers can give a greater number of recitations; therefore the teaching can be done thoroughly. Furthermore there is more inspiration in a large school. A healthy spirit of rivalry and emulation is greater where a large number of bright pupils are thrown together, especially when directed by competent teachers.

It is an interesting part of the educational history of our county that after the reconstruction period when our public schools were reorganized—between the years 1875 and 1882, the Townships of the County were laid off into 79 White Districts and 30 Colored Districts. The error in this was that in observing township lines many districts were left in bad shape and very irregular in size. The county embraces about 740 square miles of territory, and should have been laid off into districts of uniform size without reference to township lines.

If 79 white districts of uniform size and shape had been formed with house near the center each district would have contained above 9 square miles of territory and still every child would have been in reach of a school. Had that been done and had remained to the present time quite all the schools would have not less than two teachers each and would easily run four months in the year. But the mistake was made in the beginning and since that time in the effort to get schools convenient to everybody the number of white districts has increased to 107—in fact, exceeded that number until a few years ago when consolidation began. The average size of white districts [some large and some small]

miles each, and very many with all the disadvantages of the little schools.

This fatal mistake was seen some years ago and many districts have been consolidated. The spirit of the educational awakening and as consequence the spirit of the school law is against small districts. Section 4129 provides that no new school shall be established in any township within less than three miles by the nearest traveled route of some school already established, and with not less than sixty-five children of school age.

The State Superintendent of schools says on the subject of consolidation. "One school with two teachers is better than two schools." "If you increase the number of schools you shorten the terms and decrease the efficiency of the schools."

A number of consolidations have been effected in our county in the past few years, in every case for the betterment of the schools. This important subject is briefly discussed to suggest to the people in general and especially to committeemen who are planning to build new school houses to plan as large districts as possible.

To place a new school house in a small district is to preclude the possibility of expansion and development perhaps through generations. Let the people act together in this matter and have at least nine square miles of habitable territory in the new district. Even the children on the extreme borders will be amply repaid for the increased distance they have to walk to school. Very soon there will be better roads. In addition to other advantages of schools employing more than one teacher high school studies may be taught [Sec. 4113 pub. school law]. The law does not allow this in one teacher districts.

J. P. CANADAY.

Mary Elizabeth Williams Muns.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Williams Muns was born September 13, 1874, in Cumberland county, North Carolina. She died in Smithfield April 5, 1907.

She was married to Dr. L. A. Muns, of this county, December 22, 1895. After living in other parts of the county for some years she with her husband, moved to Smithfield in 1901, where she lived until her death. About twenty years ago, at the Old Bluff Presbyterian Church, the church of her father and mother in Cumberland County, she was converted and joined the church. During all the years since that day she was faithful to her church. She loved her church and her Savior. It was in her home life that the beauty and sweetness of her Christian character and life shone out the brightest and clearest.

She was a true and devoted wife and mother. She loved her home and family and always greeted them with a smile and a pleasant word. By these traits of character she made her home a pleasant place for her loved ones. Three children were given her, all of which are girls. Their ages are ten, seven and two.

The funeral was conducted from the home Sunday at 11. A. M. by her pastor, Rev. Mr. Souders, assisted by the writer. Then the body was borne to the Cemetery where it was laid away amid a large concourse of friends and relatives who gathered to show their love for a devoted woman and to drop a tear of grief over her departure. Her body will sleep under the sod till Jesus comes again to gather up his jewels and bring them to occupy the mansions prepared for them.

A good wife and mother has gone. A happy home is darkened. May the Heavenly Father comfort the bereaved husband and watch over the motherless children.

D. P. BRIDGES.

Men are as old as they feel and women as they look.—Italian Proverb.

## SLICK RASCAL DUPES WOMEN.

Many Ladies in Greensboro Wiser and Poorer Than They Were Before Seeking a Clairvoyant's Aid to Read the Future.

Greensboro, N. C., April 4.—The sleekest swindling scheme ever worked on Greensboro people was disclosed late last night, when Chief of Police Neeley gave notice of the precipitate disappearance of a man calling himself Vautere, the Clairvoyant Palmist. Six weeks ago the palmist came to Greensboro and secured rooms at 337 South Ashe street where he opened an office and received quite a liberal patronage, there always being from three to six ladies in his reception room. His charges were 50 cents and \$1.00. When he had read a portion of one's life he would tell her that if she wanted a complete reading his charges would be more, from \$4 to \$8 as he thought she were able to pay.

While his stay in the city was short he was known to have more than six thousand dollars on the eve of his departure. This, however, was not fees charged for readings made. His was a slicker dodge than that. When he had his victim sufficiently interested he would tell her that in order to give her more spiritualistic power she must have some money or valuable wrapped in a black bag which he provided, and it must be placed next to her body and not be removed or opened until a fixed date. Rings, watches, and other valuables were used when money was not convenient, these being placed in a box and worn next to the body also. The subject would hand over the money and the clairvoyant would by sleight of hand trick substitute a slip of paper into the bag instead of the money, and then hand the bag sealed to the person who was to wear it with instructions that if it were opened before the day set untold disaster would surely follow. His victim, who had seen, as she thought, the money placed in the bag, would depart to return on a set day to have the bag opened at which time her good luck would begin.

Yesterday, it seems, was the time appointed for several of his victims to return. Several made their appearance and after waiting several hours for his return grew apprehensive and looking in their bags in which various sums were supposed to be they found that they contained only slips of paper.—Andrew Joyner in News and Observer.

## State News Notes.

Wilkes county has 62 rural school libraries, more than any other county in the State.

The Morganton News-Herald says that Mr. Carnegie has given \$2,500 for a library building at Rutherford College.

The contract has been let for the construction of a new railroad station at Salisbury, which will cost \$100,000.

The Lexington Dispatch has purchased a linotype machine. It is the first weekly paper in the State to purchase a linotype.

Congressman Hobson, of Alabama, has been invited to deliver the address at the unveiling of the monument to Worth Bagley in Raleigh next month.

Mr. R. W. Simpson, Jr., who recently resigned as editor of the Raleigh Times, is now associate editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

State Superintendent Joyner is urging all county superintendents and all presidents of colleges to send an educational exhibit to Jamestown this spring.

Injury to the strawberry crop in eastern North Carolina by the cold snap of last week is estimated at 10 to 20 per cent. The crop of the present year is estimated at 1,800 car loads, against 2,300 last year, the falling off being due largely to decreased acreage.

Nathan Moore, a well-to-do farmer of Wilson county, was jailed at Wilson Saturday charged with beating his 19 year-old son to death with a beer bottle, while asleep.

High Point aldermen, at the request of the merchants and business men, have refused to allow a carnival to perform in that town. Sensible business men and sensible aldermen.

Mrs. Louise Hauser, aged 86, and Miss Lucretia Doub, aged 70, were buried in the same grave in Forsyth county a few days ago. They were sisters and died within 24 hours of each other.

The barn of R. W. Shackelford, in Greene county, was struck by lightning Sunday, March 31st, and burned. Two mules were burned with the building and two other mules and a horse partially burned.

Will G. Matthews, a 16-year-old white boy who killed J. T. Raney in Northampton county some time ago, was last week sent to the penitentiary to serve a term of 30 years for murder in the second degree.

The congregation of Main Street Methodist church, Durham, will build a new church to cost \$130,000. Work has begun. B. N. Duke, president of the tobacco trust, gave \$100,000, the members of the congregation subscribing the remainder.

A unique character passed away in Franklin county Monday night. His name was Nathaniel H. Macon, aged 78 years. Some months ago he bought his coffin and shroud, and riding home with it in the wagon, placed it in his sitting room where it remained until his death.

According to the census reports Charlotte's population at the end of 1905 was 22,000. Other cities in North Carolina with population over 8,000 are as follows: Raleigh, 14,225; Wilmington, 21,528; Asheville, 18,414; Greensboro, 14,067; Winston-Salem, 11,202; New Berne, 9,840.

The commission created by the Legislature to provide for mental deficient met in Raleigh recently and decided to recommend to Governor Glenn the purchase of nearly 1,200 acres of land for \$55,000, this land adjoining that of the Central Hospital for the insane. The colony system is to be adopted.

Mrs. Katie Brannock died last week in the Haystack section of Surry, says the Lexington Dispatch, at the age of 108 years. She was without doubt the oldest person in the county and had been remarkably healthy. She used no glasses, having "second sight," and two years ago cut her third set of teeth.

Immediately after the conclusion of the trial of Joshua Harrison for kidnapping the little son of State Senator Beasley, of Currituck county, Mr. Beasley left for Arkansas, having heard that a child which might be his had been found. Last week Mr. Beasley returned from the fruitless errand. The boy found in Arkansas was not his.

Fire at Marshville, Union county, Friday, destroyed 300 bales of cotton, a block of fertilizer house, the fertilizer mixing plant of the Marsh Lee Company, about 60 car loads of fertilizers and two freight cars. The loss is estimated at \$50,000, partially covered by insurance. The fire started on the cotton platform and is supposed to have originated from a spark from a passing engine.

A meeting of the directors of the consumptive sanitarium established by the legislature is called to meet at Jackson Springs on the 23rd of April. The object of the meeting is to select a location for the hospital, and do other preliminary work. It will be somewhere in Moore county. The state gave \$5,000 for a place and \$15,000 to maintain it. Private parties will give largely to this much-needed hospital.

## SMITHFIELD TOBACCO MARKET.

The T. S. Ragsdale Drying Plant Will Greatly Strengthen Our Market—Three Houses to be Open.

The Smithfield tobacco market has been a success from the beginning of its establishment in 1898. During all these years it has maintained the reputation of being one of the best markets in eastern North Carolina. Some years the crops have been short and the prices have been low, yet our market has been able to hold up its standard with the best of them.

As our buyers and warehouse men have had more and more experience they have been better prepared to handle the trade and give to the farmers the very best prices and accommodations. The market here will be stronger this year than ever before. Three warehouses will be run, and those who are thinking of planting tobacco can rest assured that their interests will not suffer through lack of facilities for handling the crop as it should be. The Banner Warehouse will again be run by Skinner & Patterson. Boyett Bros. will still manage the Farmers' Warehouse while J. W. Jones and J. W. Coats will have the management of the Riverside.

In addition to our three large warehouses, the several prize-houses will be able to take care of all the tobacco brought to this market. The T. S. Ragsdale Co., with Mr. W. W. Cole, President, and Mr. T. S. Ragsdale, Secretary and Treasurer, has recently been incorporated by the Secretary of State, and has purchased the large brick prize house which has heretofore been used by the American Tobacco Company. They are equipping this building with the Proctor Automatic System of drying and ordering. All the latest machinery used for this purpose will be installed and the plant will be able to handle twice the tobacco that has heretofore been brought to this market. They will work 100 hands.

Boyett Bros. will have charge of the prize house used last year by T. S. Ragsdale, thus enabling them to handle with care a great deal more tobacco than they have heretofore handled. Skinner & Patterson, who have always been large buyers themselves, have secured additional room for handling tobacco and are better prepared than ever before to serve their customers. The American Tobacco Company has secured the large prize house north of the brick prize house, and will be able to handle their share of the tobacco brought to this market.

With the increased facilities for handling tobacco and the addition of another warehouse, our market will be greatly strengthened this year and those of our farmers who plant tobacco need have no fear of the result so far as the Smithfield warehousemen and buyers are concerned.

## Love Your Enemies.

An Irish priest had labored hard with one of his flock to induce him to give up whiskey. "I tell you, Michael," said the priest, "whiskey is your worst enemy, and you should keep as far away from it as you can." "Me enemy it is, father?" responded Michael. "And it was your reverence's self that was tellin' us in the pulpit only last Sunday to love our enemies." "So I was, Michael," responded the priest, "but I didn't tell you to swallow them."—Kansas City Independent.

## Bitten By a Spider.

Through blood poisoning caused by a spider bite, John Washington of Bosqueville, Tex., would have lost his leg, which became a mass of running sores, had he not been persuaded to try Bucklen's Arnica Salve. He writes: "The first application relieved, and four boxes healed all the sores." Heals every sore. 25c. Hood Bros. druggists.

## General News Items.

The peace conference at The Hague is to be opened June 15. Mr. Carnegie's gifts to Pittsburgh are said to total \$32,500,000.

Five persons were seriously injured by a bomb in Barcelona, Spain, Tuesday.

No trace has been so far discovered of the \$173,000 stolen from the Subtreasury in Chicago.

The front of Harriman and his associates in the Alton deal is said to have amounted to \$24,648,600.

Fully 25 persons dead and more than twice that number seriously injured are results of Friday's tornado which swept through Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Less than half of those killed were white persons.

Carnegie libraries are on the wane. The people of Detroit, Mich., last week voted against a proposition to accept \$750,000 from Mr. Carnegie for a library. Mr. Carnegie's library gifts, it will be remembered, always mean that the community shall put up 10 per cent. of the gift annually for maintenance.

The official programme for the opening of the Ter Centennial Exposition at Jamestown was given out Saturday; it opens Friday, April 26th, and President Roosevelt will be the feature; hundreds of salutes will be fired by the warships of all nations in honor of the President and the Republic, and Mr. Roosevelt will make a speech and press the button which will start the machinery.

Application of Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, for leave of absence of three years was approved Tuesday by the Secretary of the Navy. Commander Peary purposes to make another attempt to reach the North Pole. The three years' leave of absence during which he made his famous journey to the farthest point north ever reached by man—87 degrees, 6 minutes, expired last Sunday and the new leave begins at once.

Dr. John R. Brooks Dead.

THE HERALD failed to mention the death of Rev. John R. Brooks, D. D., which occurred at Wilson March 25th at the age of 70 years. Dr. Brooks was for many years a prominent minister of the Methodist church and was greatly loved wherever known. He entered the ministry a great many years ago and, if we are not mistaken, his first charge was on the Smithfield circuit. He was married twice, his first wife being Miss Julia Ann Hastings, of Smithfield.

In addition to his work in the ministry Dr. Brooks was a frequent contributor to the religious journals and magazines. He was also author of one book with a large sale—"Scriptural Sanctification."

## Snow Two Feet Deep.

Calumet, Mich., April 9.—Snow has fallen in the copper country for the last 48 hours and one of the worst blizzards ever known at this season of the year is prevailing today. The weather is intensely cold and the snow is two feet deep.

Wire service is crippled and trains and street cars are being operated with difficulty.

## "Pneumonia's Deadly Work

Had so seriously affected my right lung," write Mrs. Fannie Connor, of Rural Route 1, Georgetown, Tenn., "that I coughed continuously night and day and the neighbors' prediction—consumption—seemed inevitable, until my husband brought home a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery, which in my case proved to be the only REAL cough cure and restorer of weak, sore lungs." When all other remedies utterly fail, you may still win in the battle against lung and throat troubles with New Discovery, the REAL cure. Guaranteed by Hood Bros. druggists, 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.