

The Smithfield Herald

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GRAND JURY WANTS NEW COURT HOUSE

Find County Offices in Good Condition. Convict Camps Not So Good—Find Court House Inadequate for the Business of the Great County of Johnston—Visited County Home and Recommend Better Buildings Recommend That Adding Machine Be Bought For Officials.

To His Honor, John H. Kerr, Judge Presiding, at the March, 1919, Term of Johnston County Superior Court.

We, the grand jury, beg to submit the following report:

We, the grand jury, beg to submit dictament sent us and reported our action on the same to the Court. We have reviewed the few reports of the Justices of the Peace which have been sent in and have no criticism to offer to these. We have gone over the list of guardians and wards which have been furnished to us and, so far as we have been informed the duties have been performed faithfully.

We have visited the office of the Clerk of the Court and find the same in excellent condition, the records being well indexed and properly recorded and all business of this office is in good shape, notwithstanding the fact that the Clerk has been sick for some time.

We have also visited the office of the Register of Deeds and find same in excellent condition and records being properly indexed, careful file made of all papers in which the county is interested. The Register of Deeds' office has recently installed a book typewriter which will be a convenience as well as a time saver in recording papers.

We are of the opinion that the offices of the Clerk of the Court and the Register of Deeds together are in need of an adding machine with which to expedite matters of business in their offices, and this machine should be installed in the office of the Clerk of the Court as he is daily in need of an adding machine in settlement of estates, etc., and both offices have need of same in making monthly reports, and we recommend that the County Commissioners purchase an adding machine for these offices.

We have also visited the sheriff's office, and we find that it is well kept and all matters pertaining to his office kept in good shape. We find all the 1918 taxes have not been paid in yet. The recent bill of the Legislature will make it easier for the sheriff in future years and we feel sure that the present sheriff has done the best he could under the existing laws and past precedents under collecting taxes.

We also visited the auditor's office and found it in good shape and that the courteous and efficient auditor had all matters pertaining to the county in good shape, so we could see in a moment the condition of the county. He showed us that the county had in the treasury, March 1, 1919, \$9,790.42 and owned \$5,000 worth of Liberty Bonds and \$1,000 War Savings Certificates. He also showed us that the salary fund for the year ending December 1, 1918, had turned into the general fund \$4,323.49, which is a saving to the tax payers by the reason that the county officers are paid by salary instead of fees as of old.

We visited the county jail and find it is kept in as sanitary a condition as the dilapidated old building will permit. There is no complaint from the prisoners as to the fare and treatment received from the jailer.

We next visited the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, but found he had gone to the country on business and was not present to show us the workings of his office.

We also visited the County Home and found it to be in good condition, considering the old buildings, and the inmates well cared for and clothed. We are of the opinion, however, that this institution is of too great importance to the people of Johnston to be housed in such buildings as are now used at the County Home.

We visited the Smithfield Road Camp and find it in good condition, except the sewage system is out of order at the present, and we recommend that this be attended to at the earliest possible moment. We understand that this matter will have early consideration by the Trustees.

We also visited the Clayton Road Camp and the condition there is not the best; in fact, we are of the opinion that a new camp should be provided for the prisoners in this township as soon as possible.

In visiting the various county offices we recognize the fact that they have inadequate space for the business of the county; also in viewing the court room, the grand jury room especially, we are thoroughly convinced of the need of a modern, up-to-date court

house building with a jail in connection therewith. We earnestly recommend to the County Commissioners of Johnston county that they erect a modern up-to-date court house and jail at the earliest possible moment after the adjustment of prices have been made in keeping with the peace times and the labor conditions will permit.

The grand jury wishes to say that it listened with exceedingly great interest to the impressive charge of his honor and was especially impressed with the same. We believe with his honor it has a lack of State pride and we realize that it lacks county pride, and we believe that his charge will bear fruit in the county.

We wish to thank the Court, the Solicitor and other officers who have assisted us in the performance of our duties.

Respectfully submitted,
W. T. BAILEY,
Foreman.

THE REVALUATION LAW.

To the Taxpayers of North Carolina:

The General Assembly, just adjourned, has imposed a responsibility upon the Corporation Commission as a State Tax Commission which it feels unable to properly meet without the support of the tax payers of the State. As Chairman of the Commission, I desire to take the people into the confidence of the Commission and acquaint them with the purpose of the General Assembly and request of them their full co-operation in aiding us in the proper discharge of our duties.

For many years it has been the law that every person's property should be assessed for taxation at its full value in money. Notwithstanding this law, nearly everybody in the State has escaped a full valuation of his property for taxes. The General Assembly, just adjourned, has said in passing the Revaluation Act, that an end must be made of this condition and that hereafter property must be valued for taxes at its true value. It places the responsibility upon our Commission to see that this is done and it must and shall be done. It is the purpose of the General Assembly, upon a proper valuation being made, to lower the tax rate, and it will meet after the property has been assessed for that purpose, so that the burden upon the tax payers will not necessarily be increased. This is assured to us as a Commission and we in turn desire to assure the tax payers of the State that a full valuation of their property will not mean greatly increased amount of taxes. The Act under which this assessment is made provides that the State, no county or municipality shall collect in excess of ten per cent more taxes after this revaluation is made than is being collected in 1919 under the present valuation.

I call upon the people of the State to assist the Commission in the selection of a splendid, business man in each county as county tax assessor. He should be a man of fine judgment, good business ability, having a good knowledge of values, both in town and country, and one in whom the public has confidence as to his honesty and integrity. It is not a political office, but one strictly business and we trust our political friends will understand this and only suggest the most competent men. After the County Supervisor is selected by us, we trust every tax payer in each and every county of the State will fully co-operate with him to the end that he will be able to assess each person's property at its true value in money.

W. T. LEE,
Chairman.

New Magistrates for Johnston.

The Legislature appointed several Justices of the Peace for Johnston County as follows:

Pine Level Township—N. G. Wiggs O'Neals—G. R. Whitley, J. W. Godwin, and S. B. Strickland.
Ingrams—A. D. Ford and W. M. Stanley.
Beulah—A. G. Hooks, W. A. Barnes and N. R. Pike.
Pleasant Grove—D. A. Holland and Claude Stephenson.
Wilders—Bruce Barnes.
Cleveland—C. T. Young.
Micro—J. H. Broadwell.
Clayton—J. H. Johnson.

Smithfield Negro Back From France.

William Smith, a Smithfield negro, has just returned from France, where he spent more than six months in the army. When asked if he saw any fighting over there he said he was in the battles of the Vosges and in the Argonne Wood. He said he went over the top and when asked if he ever grappled with the Germans in a hand to hand fight, he said that he never could get close enough to them for that.

SMITHFIELD BOY WINS THE D. S. CROSS

William C. Barbour, of Smithfield Township, Cited for Extraordinary Heroism Near Busigny, France While Rescuing a Severely Wounded Comrade He Received a Wound From Which He Died.

The President of the United States through the commander-in-chief of the Army, General Pershing, has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross to William Clarence Barbour for extraordinary heroism on the battlefield. The order of the citation is as follows:

Pvt. (First Class) William C. Barbour (deceased), company C, 119th infantry. For extraordinary heroism



WILLIAM CLARENCE BARBOUR

in action near Busigny on October 9, Private Barbour, voluntarily left his place of comparative safety and advanced into the open face of close-range machine-gun fire, to rescue a severely wounded while engaged in this self-appointed task, from which he later died. Home address, Mrs. Mandy Barbour, mother, R. F. D. No. 1, Smithfield, N. C.

Private William Clarence Barbour was the son of the late John Henry Barbour and Mrs. Mendy Higgins Barbour, who lived near Smithfield. He entered the military service July 16, 1917, at Goldsboro. After a short stay at Camp Wadsworth, he was sent to Camp Sevier, where he received his training for overseas service. He was a member of Company C, 119th infantry and went to France some time in May, 1918. He saw much severe fighting before he met his death in France last October.

Letter From L. Porter Johnson to His Sister, Miss Blanche Johnson.

LeManc, France,
Jan. 14, 1919

My dear Sister:

Your letter received last night, and you can't imagine how glad I was to hear from you. I know you wonder why I don't write to you more often, but to tell the truth, I have been busy ever since the war ended getting ready to go home. I wish I could tell you just when I'll be home, but you see I don't know. Practically all of the boys in my regiment think we will be back in the States by the first of March. I think, at least I hope, to be back by April.

I am learning to like France very well, but the weather, oh, my! It has rained every day since the first of November, and the mud is knee deep. It is dreadful to have to stay in it, but I hope I won't have to endure it allways.

Well, what are the people talking about now since the war is over? I must say I never want to see another war, especially one like this one. From what I have heard the Civil War was bad enough, but it was nothing to compare with this one. I shall never be able to tell you just what I saw while the war was going on. I would not take anything for it. You know, it must be dreadful to be a slacker.

I guess you have heard what a good record my division made. We sure did some good fighting. I spent three months in Belgium and I saw some horrible things the Germans did to the poor Belgian people. But the Americans sure put the finishing touch on the Germans and I think they will be have themselves for a while.

I have had good health since I came back from the hospital. Remember me to all my old friends and you may say to them I hope to be with them some time soon.

Your brother,
L. PORTER JOHNSON.

How long before a new courthouse for Johnston county?

THE NEWS IN AND AROUND BENSON

Two Marriages Within the Past Week. Many Personal Notes—Revenue Officers Find Plenty to Do.—Soldier Boy Home After a Fifteen Months' Stay in France.

Benson, March 17.—Deputy Collector E. G. Richardson, of Raleigh, was here Saturday on business connected with his department.

Mr. Howard Weeks returned to Benson yesterday after having spent fifteen months in France in the American army. He has not yet received his discharge.

Miss Evelyn Boone returned Saturday from Winston-Salem, where she is in college, for a few days' visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Boone.

Rev. E. M. Hall, pastor of the Benson Methodist church, will move his family here this week.

Rev. G. W. Rollins returned this morning from Micro, where he conducted services yesterday.

Mr. James Rayner went to Chapel Hill Saturday to visit his wife and children, who are with relatives there.

Mr. William Canaday, who has been in Richmond for the past year or two, is here on a few days' visit to relatives.

Mrs. W. D. Boone and children spent Saturday in Raleigh shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. June Johnson, of Dunn, spent the day here yesterday with his brother, Rev. Charlie Johnson.

Mrs. A. T. Lassiter and children returned yesterday from a few days' visit to relatives in Cleveland township.

Mr. Alonzo Parrish returned the last of the week from Florida, where he spent several days with his wife and children, who are spending some time there.

Miss Bettie Yelvington is spending a few days here with her sister, Mrs. A. T. Lassiter.

Mr. Mack McLamb, who lives near here, was married Wednesday of the past week to Mrs. Susan Lee.

Miss Lessie McLamb spent the week-end here with relatives and friends.

Mr. J. G. Dixon is preparing to erect a five thousand dollar residence on Church street on the site of his present residence.

Miss Irene Hodges, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Hodges, was married Saturday afternoon to Darius Johnson, of Smithfield. The young couple drove through the country from here to Fayetteville, where the ceremony was performed. They left on the night train after the ceremony for a honeymoon. The groom is a popular young business man of Smithfield.

Revenue Officers George F. Moore, R. L. Flowers and others connected with the work have made several raids from here in the past few days and on each raid have brought in from one to two stills. The liquor traffic seems to be on the increase at the present time near here judging from the number of stills that have been recently taken by the officers.

Million Dollar Fire in Atlanta.

Damage estimated by railroad officials at approximately \$1,000,000 resulted from the complete destruction by fire Sunday night of the Southern Railway Freight Transfer at Inman Yards. The Inman Yard plant was said to be one of the largest freight transfer stations in the South, and was the receiving and re-routing point for freight from the extreme South billed for northern cities.

The Little Matter With Germany.

It is said our bill against Germany totals \$750,000,000 and we are holding \$800,000,000 worth of German stuff. In other words, we are holding enough to pay our claims and give Germany a few barrels of canned beef and seven carloads of sauerkraut in change. When the allies get through with Germany she will feel like an old gray goose after the down harvest has been gathered.—Houston Post.

Sugar Beets.

Sugar beets at \$10 a ton are attracting the interest of Colorado farmers to the extent that there is in prospect this year in that State beet acreage aggregating at least 160,000 acres. In view of the fact that Colorado beet acreage of 1918 was but 97,000 acres, this is held to mean an increase of farm receipts of over \$5,000,000.—Denver dispatch.

The New Hampshire Senate has voted down a bill that would permit baseball, golf and other games on Sunday. The vote was close, 12 to 10.

TOWN ELECTION ON MAY SIXTH

New Registration Ordered—Walter M. Grantham Appointed Registrar

At their regular meeting held on Tuesday, March 4, the town aldermen appointed the following election officers for the regular election to be held in Smithfield on Tuesday, May 6: Registrar—Walter M. Grantham. Pollholders.

First Ward—D. T. Lunceford.
Second Ward—C. V. Johnson.
Third Ward—J. T. Gurley.
Fourth Ward—H. H. Radford.

An entire new registration is ordered. To be able to vote in the May election one must register in the ward in which is now living.

CLUB NOTES.

Now is the time to get busy with the spring garden. The following vegetables should be planted in March: carrots, potatoes, beets, lettuce, onions, radish, spinach, kale, mustard, turnips, beans and garden peas for a succession. If you care to have early canteloupes, cucumbers, squash, and watermelons, sow the seed in three-inch pots, four seed to the pot, and place in a sunny window. Transplant to the open about the 25th of April. The three-inch pots are inexpensive, and can be secured at any hardware store.

If it is difficult for you to produce English peas on your garden plot it may be that the soil needs lime. English peas are legumes, and the soil requirements are the same for them as for other plants of their class. The following varieties grow well in this section: Alaska, Telephone, Champion of England, and Prize Taker.

There is a greater need for practicing economy in dress this season than ever before. For one reason prices of material and garments have advanced even more than those of foods, because of the shortage of two of the standard fabrics, wool and linen. The following suggestion may prove helpful in buying this season:

1. Buy only materials and garments that are really needed.
2. Buy good standard material.
3. Do not buy imitation types of material; for example a cotton serge.
4. Materials that have been in stock for some time are superior in quality to the new goods and are less expensive.
5. Note the following things to determine the wearing qualities of any material.

- a. Evenness and strength of fiber.
- b. Firmness of weave.
- c. Fiber content. Use burning test to distinguish between animal and vegetable fiber. Test for cotton in wool material by boiling sample ten minutes in a solution of lye in the proportion of one tablespoonful to a cup of water. The wool is destroyed.

- d. Fastness of color. Test by laundering.
- e. Presence of weighting in silk. Test by burning sample. Residue in the form of the original material is the weighting.

These tests should be made on the samples before purchasing.

MAMIE SUE JONES,
Home Demonstration Agent

The Priscilla Club.

Kenly, N. C., March 15.—The Priscilla Club enjoyed an unusually delightful meeting last Thursday afternoon when Mrs. A. J. Broughton entertained for them.

The guests were met at the door by the hostess and were shown the cloak room, from where they were ushered into the parlor.

The fact that St. Patrick's day is near at hand was impressed upon the guests as they entered the spacious parlor, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. It seemed as if some magic power had suddenly opened a door and turned them into Ireland amid the shamrock and clover leaves.

After the guests had arrived quite a pleasant hour was spent embroidering, crocheting and knitting.

Later on in the afternoon delightful refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by Miss Beulah Bailey. The first course consisted of pressed chicken, pickles and sandwiches, but in the shape of a shamrock, colored green, and ornamented with green cherries. Lastly green mints were served and favors of the shamrock and pipe were given.

Later the guests reluctantly took their leave declaring Mrs. Broughton a most charming hostess and this the most pleasant club meeting of the season.

The 113th Field Artillery with Colonel Albert L. Cox commanding is expected to arrive in New York today from overseas. Arrangements are being made for this regiment to parade in Raleigh. Quite a number of Johnston county boys are in this regiment.

BAD ACCIDENT AT BENSON MONDAY

Jesse McLamb Hurt Very Badly When Shifting Train Hit Truck on Which He Was Riding—Two Others Hurt Eight Year Old Boy Hurt by Stalk Cutter.

Benson, N. C., March 17.—An eight-year-old son of Mr. Junius Ennis, who lives a few miles west of here, was very badly hurt today when he was running a stalk cutter and got caught in the machinery. He was taken home and Dr. Parker called to render medical assistance. An examination revealed that he was severely cut and bruised in several places. He will be confined to his home some time.

An engine shifting cars here today ran over a Ford truck loaded with wagons and driven by Mr. Jesse McLamb, who is employed by J. H. Boon & Son, hurting Mr. McLamb very badly and completely demolishing the truck and wagons with which it was loaded. Master William Boon, the young son of Mr. Boon, was riding on the truck also. He jumped when he saw the engine, which was backing upon them at good speed, and a wagon wheel struck him. He was hurt about the head and ear, though the physician cannot say how badly he was injured. Archie Ray, a colored man who was on the machine, was also badly hurt, being cut and bruised and hurt internally. The truck on which the parties were riding at the time of the occurrence was carried a distance of two hundred feet before being thrown from the engine. A long freight was standing on the track and it had been cut into for a crossing on Harnett street, leaving space for passing of traffic. The engine, which was backing, was coming from the south, and the truck came on the crossing just ahead of the engine, which could not be seen by those on the truck till it was upon them. It is said by those who were near that no sounding was given by the engine to warn any passerby of the approaching train.

Mr. Noah Raynor, a son of Mr. J. I. Raynor, was married yesterday afternoon to Miss Agnes Stephenson, a daughter of Mr. Haywood Stephenson of Pleasant Grove Township. Miss Stephenson has been teaching at Beasley's Grove School below Benson near the home of the groom. The ceremony was performed by Rev. W. Y. Moore, at his home near here. The couple will make their home at the present with Mr. J. I. Raynor, father of the groom.

New Chairman of A. R. C. to France

Dr. Livingston Farrand, the new chairman of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross, has just sailed for France to be gone until the latter part of April. Having set in motion at headquarters plans for the future of the Red Cross, Dr. Farrand goes abroad to study organization problems in Europe and to confer with Henry P. Davison, formerly chairman of the War Council, who is now at Cannes arranging for the international conference of Red Cross societies to meet at Geneva thirty days after the declaration of peace.

Dr. Farrand has made arrangements to have a number of American health experts join him at Cannes for the purpose of conferring with similar experts from the allied countries relative to matters that are to be taken up at Geneva.

SOLDIERS GET FIVE CENTS PER MILE.

Public Law 300 approved February 28, 1919, entitles enlisted men honorably discharged from the Army, Navy or Marine Corps after November 11, 1918, to five cents per mile "from place of his discharge to his actual bona fide home or residence or original muster in to the service at his option."

Men discharged hereafter will receive five cents per mile to place of induction into service. Men already discharged will eventually be reimbursed for the difference between the travel pay they then received and the amount to which they are now entitled. All discharged should delay applying for such reimbursement until specific instructions have been issued by the Director of Finance as to how this application should be made. These instructions cannot be given until an expected opinion of the Comptroller of the Treasury has been rendered construing the words quoted above. As soon as specific instructions are received from Washington they will be published.

A. M. JOHNSON, County Chairman Home Service.

Letter postage will again be two cents after July 1.