

# The Smithfield Herald

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SMITHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

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## A BRIEF HISTORY

### OF SMITHFIELD

Some Facts of Interest About the Old Town Little Known to the General Public. Once Proposed as State Capital.

Smithfield is the county seat of Johnston county, which was formed from Craven county in 1746. Our county was named in honor of Gabriel Johnston, Governor of North Carolina from 1734 to 1752. Afterwards parts of Duplin and Orange were added to it. Little thought is given to the history of Smithfield by its inhabitants. We should be interested, however, not only because it is our home, but because of its historical importance.

Smithfield was named for Colonel John Smith, who owned the land on which our town was built. It was incorporated in 1777, when the Legislature was in session at New Bern. Later the Legislature met here. There must have been, however, a settlement much earlier in this section. There is an old cemetery south west of the school building where stones may be found with dates before this time. Smithfield lost the honor of being the State Capital when Raleigh won by one vote. The deciding vote was cast by the representative of this county, who for some reason was not in favor of Smithfield's being the Capital.

When travel was mainly by water, Smithfield, as it was the head of navigation on the Neuse River, was a busy place. Dibble and Worth ran a steamboat from New Bern. They brought salt and other supplies here on flat boats and carried back timber and turpentine. These things were sent to northern points from New Bern.

The North Carolina Railroad was surveyed to come through Smithfield. There was also another survey leading through Wilder's Township. Representative Watson from this township voted against the Smithfield route, because railroads were new and people were superstitious about them. They thought that the smoke and cinders of the "Dreadful Monster" would destroy their crops, kill their slaves and cattle, and harm the town in every way. Another road was started from Goldsboro to Salisbury in 1882, but only came as far as Smithfield. This is the "Captain Jack Road" and is still in use. Three years later in 1885, the Atlantic Coast Line was built from Wilson to Florence and passed through here.

When Mr. McPherson was Mayor, much was done to beautify our town. Blocks were laid out, containing four acres each and running what was supposed to be exactly north and south. Also some of our oldest trees were planted at this time.

In the time of the "Civil War" one of the last battles was fought between Johnson and Sherman at Bentonville, fifteen miles away. Preparations were made for a battle to be fought in Smithfield, but Johnson retreated farther north when he heard of Lee's surrender. Sherman marched on through here and spent one night in our town.

In 1876, Zebulon Vance, our best loved governor, came to Smithfield. The town had quite a celebration and he spent the night in an old house that was where the home of Mr. E. W. Potts now.

Up to this time there were only two churches here: the Methodist and the Baptist. In 1812 Smithfield Academy was started but little is known about this school prior to 1840. H. W. Guy was the first principal after this year. For several years at the time of the "Civil War" the school was closed. In 1866 the Reverend H. B. Jones came here and taught for something like fifteen years. About 1880 John L. Davis came and later Ira T. Turlington from Elevation Township and together they founded "Turlington Institute" which later developed into "Turlington Graded School" which is second to none in the state. The class of 1904 was the first to graduate from the present school.

Before the great fire of 1887, the business portion of the town was from the court house to the river. This fire destroyed practically all of the business part of Smithfield. It started on Sunday from where Mr. Kirkman's garage now stands, and burnt to where the picture show is; besides burning many houses on other blocks. In 1885 Mr. E. J. Holt established

## SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES

At the Methodist Church. Mr. Cotton delivered a very impressive sermon last Sunday morning, his text being found in the first chapter of Isaiah, the eighteenth verse—"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

"Our Father," said Mr. Cotton, "is ever ready to bear with us with the greatest patience. Though our sins be as scarlet He is willing to make them white as snow. God is calling to us every day in order to reason with us. Are we prepared to reason with the Lord?" For an illustration of this Mr. Cotton showed the betrayal of our Lord by Judas Iscariot. Was Judas prepared to reason with the Father? No, not until he realized his great sin and asked forgiveness of Him. So it is with us. Unless we ask forgiveness of God for our sins we receive no forgiveness. Christ is today as he was then, always willing to forgive us of our sins.

At Episcopal Church. Rev. Howard T. Hartzell, rector of the Episcopal church, delivered a very interesting sermon at the Sunday morning service. His text was from the 21st verse of the 15th chapter of St. Mark. "And they compelled one Simon, a Cyrenian, who passed by coming out of the country to bear His Cross." Simon did not know Christ but the soldiers compelled him to take His cross. Perhaps some of you have been asked to bear a cross. Did you, like Simon, do it willingly and submissively or did you rebel and say, "Why should I have to take it? Why not some one else?" We should bear our crosses patiently and say, "Father, Thy will be done and not ours."

At Baptist Church. Rev. H. W. Baucom preached a very impressive sermon Sunday morning at the Baptist church, taking his text from the 15th chapter of First Samuel.

The main thought of the sermon was that disobedience to God means a failure in life. His subject was a promising young man who made a complete failure of his opportunities. Saul was the man whose career Mr. Baucom so interestingly and instructively traced.

At Presbyterian Church. Rev. J. J. Murray rendered a very good sermon Sunday night at the Presbyterian church. His text was taken from the eleventh chapter of John, 25-26 verses—"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" The main thought of his sermon was that this life is not an end within itself. Mr. Murray showed conclusively that the soul is immortal.

### Hunter-Horne.

At the beautiful home of the bride in Clayton on Saturday at noon Mr. Cary J. Hunter, of Raleigh, and Mrs. Rena B. Horne, of Clayton, were united in marriage. Rev. O. I. Hinson, pastor of the Horne Memorial church, assisted by Dr. T. W. O'Kelley, pastor of the First Baptist church of Raleigh officiated. Only a few intimate friends were present. After the ceremony the couple went by automobile to Raleigh and from there left by rail for northern cities. Their future home will be in Raleigh where the groom is a very successful business man. Mrs. Hunter is well known throughout the state as a very charming and talented lady. Their many friends wish them much happiness.

### Charlie Chaplin's Wife Wants Divorce

We note by the papers that Charlie Chaplin's wife, Mildred Harris Chaplin, is suing for a divorce. Her grounds are on account of non-support. She claims that Charlie refused to buy her a new Pierce-Arrow car but gave her one that he had already driven 2,000 miles. Her husband proven in court by check stubs that he had given her \$50,000 last year.

The first Hardware Store in the county. In 1898, the late Allen K. Smith founded the present "First National Bank" which was also the first in the county.

Smithfield has grown more in the last fifteen years than in any other period of its history; and it now has many of the improvements which constitute a "Modern City."

## FAMINE FACING NEW YORK CITY

The Railroad Strike Made Half Million Idle Saturday—Fuel and Food Famine Threatened as Result.

Latest reports from Washington tell that orders went out Saturday to United States district attorneys to investigate the "unauthorized" railroad strikes in their districts to determine whether there had been any "joint action" designed to interfere with the distribution of necessities of life or whether such interference was contemplated.

Famine Faces New York. New York, April 10.—New York tonight faced the menace of a food and fuel famine and complete paralysis of passenger traffic by the unauthorized strike of 20,000 railroad workers, coupled with the harbor employes strike. Railroad schedules already have been disrupted and railroad stations are crowded with those waiting for trains that have been cancelled. Many slept in the waiting rooms.

Half a million persons were kept idle today by the strike, it was estimated, and strike leaders said "all freight and passenger service would be paralyzed tomorrow." Railroad officials said conditions were "extremely grave."

Two thousand switchmen, brakemen, yard conductors and marine workers in the Pennsylvania freight yards are on strike, the officials said, and six hundred workmen employed by the road's contractors at Greenville, N. J., and on harbor front piers also had joined the walkout.

Pensioners and members of the terminal staff who are familiar with road operation were pressed into service at the Grand Central station in an effort to keep New York Central trains moving. Signs were posted in the Grand Central stations advising passengers the road would be able to get trains through Sunday with loyal employes but "the crucial test for all railroads would come Monday."

### NO STRIKE ON RAILROADS SAYS SAMUEL GOMPERS.

Head of American Federation of Labor Will Use His Influence to Settle It.

Cleveland, O., April 11.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, who arrived here today to attend the convention of the Cigar-makers International union, expects to confer with the chiefs of the three transportation brotherhoods tomorrow, he said, and expects to urge the striking switchmen and yardmen to return to work, possibly in an address at a mass meeting. Mr. Gompers expressed confidence that the strike would soon be ended and declared he had no fear of its effect on the Union labor movement generally. "The strike is a mistake," he said. "These men don't realize the millennium cannot be made in a day. Progress comes only by years of perseverance and labor."

### Latest Ladies Fashions.

Paris, April 10.—Women's wear next fall will be even more "undressy" than the past winter, according to Paris wholesalers, who welcomed the fact because of the fabulous prices of materials.

Woolens have increased 50 per cent, silks 100 per cent and cotton 75 per cent, which means that the average woman will be able to buy just about one-half the amount of dress goods she bought this past winter.

On the other hand new dresses seen in London are showing more drapery than ever before, and even for day wear the throat is less open than was the style last year. The new waistcoat is a dainty affair, higher than for many seasons and closing at the throat with a ruffle or a fall of lace.

Fashionable London dressmakers who go to Paris for inspiration are setting themselves squarely against the low-cut gowns. This was emphasized recently when one of these dressmakers saw a gown in a Rue de la Paix establishment which she liked.

The question now is will the Americans follow the French or the English?

A cheerful heart and a well trained hand will take a man through any land.

## CLAUDE KITCHEN SUFFERS COLLAPSE

At Close of Debate of Peace Resolution the Famous Tarheel Has Slight Stroke of Paralysis.

When Representative Kitchen challenged the Republicans to submit a straight-out proposal for repeal of war time legislation the Democrats were aroused to an outburst of cheering. He charged the Republicans with "pretense and hypocrisy." At the close of this speech, Mr. Kitchen suffered a collapse resulting from what was said by his physicians to be a slight stroke of paralysis. Latest reports say that he is improving steadily.

The sorrow expressed in the House and the deep interest, manifested throughout Washington was not confined tonight to the party colleagues of Representative Kitchen, but scores of Senators and Congressmen, together with friends of the North Carolinian here in private life, called and inquired of his condition.

### Cherry-Talton.

Sunday, April the 11th, Mr. S. W. Cherry of Greenville, N. C., and Miss Lillie Talton of this city were quietly married at the Yarborough Hotel in Raleigh by Rev. Dr. Caviness of the Central Methodist church. The bridal party then had dinner at the Yarborough, after which Mr. and Mrs. Cherry left for Northern points. Those present at the wedding were Misses Addie Talton, and Annie Peacock; Messrs. Madison McGowan, of Greenville, A. S. Chesson of Wilson, Marion Ritchie of Columbia, S. C., W. M. Gordon of St. Louis, and W. H. Ragland of Raleigh.

Mr. Cherry is a prosperous young farmer of Greenville. Mrs. Cherry is a very popular and attractive young lady whose score of friends will miss her very much but who wish her much happiness.

### President Takes Automobile Ride.

Washington, April 11.—President Wilson took an automobile ride today for the first time in two weeks. Accompanied by Mrs. Wilson he drove around the speedway along the Potomac River and then through Rock Creek Park, returning to the White House within an hour.

### Raleigh's Automotive Exposition.

The Carolina Automotive Exposition, the greatest event of its kind ever staged in the Carolinas, was formally opened Monday night, April 12. It will continue to the 17th.

Thousands of people are attending this event, which promises to be the best attended attraction of the season.

### Danish King May Lose Throne.

King Christian Tenth, the oldest reigning monarch in Europe today, is in danger of losing his throne because he opposed the demands of the Labor Socialists. The Labor party is so well organized and the king is so undecided as to what he should do that if the Socialists should desire it he would have to abdicate.

When Christian first came to the throne he was greatly disliked by his people. But later in his life sentiment changed and he was loved perhaps better than any other monarch in Europe.

### Civil War Threatening Mexico.

Nogales, Sonora, April 11.—Customs houses and all property of the Federal government of Mexico were formally seized in the name of the "Republic of Sonora" here today.

Sonora state officials, headed by Governor de la Huerta, who has been proclaimed "Supreme Power of the Republic of Sonora," by the State Congress declared today, while the state had seceded, it would return to the Mexican republic upon guarantee from the National administration that there would be no infringement of the State's rights by the Federal government.

The secession, according to the officials, was brought about by Carranza ordering Federal troops into the state. They said the next move was up to Carranza. Unless he acts, political leaders of Sonora said, the new republic would defy the Mexican Federal government and resist with armed forces any attempt of Carranza to take back the state by force.

## THE TRIANGULAR DEBATE

Clayton, Selma, and Smithfield entered the Triangular Debate this year. Clayton found it necessary to drop out of the triangle because their school was closed so long on account of influenza.

Smithfield won the decision of the judges in the debate held in Smithfield, and Selma the decision of the one held in Selma. Misses Margaret LeMay and Jeanne Gordon upheld Smithfield's affirmative and James Fields and Cronger Earp Selma's negative at Smithfield. Misses Annette Lawrence and Jean Abell of Smithfield who were on the negative and Baxter Ray and Jennings Talton on the affirmative debated at Selma.

The schools had an understanding that the judges selected in each place were to be college graduates. The judges in Smithfield were: Mr. Clyde Fore, A. B. University of N. C.; Mr. L. T. Royall, A. B. Wake Forest College; and Mr. G. A. Martin, A. B. University of N. C. The judges submitted in Selma were: Mr. C. K. Proctor, A. B. Trinity College; Mr. Woodward, student one year in the Pharmacy Department at the University, and Mr. G. F. Lattimore, student part of two years at Washington and Lee.

Smithfield received the vote of the only college man on the committee. Because of the misunderstanding about the other judges' qualifications, the Smithfield debating team which debated in Selma challenged the Selma team which debated against them to re-debate the question again at once in any town outside of Johnston county before three judges who meet the requirements originally agreed to by both Selma and Smithfield.

Our school has no hard feelings toward the Selma school but our debaters hoped that the Selma debaters would accept their challenge to debate before judges with the qualifications agreed to before the debate. However, Selma has refused this challenge.

### Monument of Battle to Be Erected.

A monument, which symbolizes the defense of Paris, will be erected at Verdun to commemorate the heroic stand of the French in 1916.

M. Rodin conceived the idea for the statue in 1882 as symbolical of the defense of the French capital eleven years before, and entered a model of it in a nation-wide competition. However, the judges refused to consider it.

After the battle of Verdun, Holland offered an enlargement of the Rodin statue to France, 10,000 Dutch citizens, headed by 80 notables, subscribing the cost of the work. The offer was accepted by France, and despite the difficulty in finding the material to complete the statue, it is now nearing completion and is considered one of the finest examples of Rodin's art. —Copyright, 1920, by the Sun and New York Herald.

### Dead Thirteen Years—Returns.

Richmond, Va., April 9.—Mourning as dead for many years, Howard Bell now 21 years old, a veteran of overseas service, living at 516 South Salisbury street, Raleigh, N. C., turned up here this week and had a happy reunion with his mother, Mrs. R. H. Berry, 7 South Mulberry street, it was learned today. He was supposed to have drowned in 1907 when he drifted out into Chesapeake Bay in a row boat.

It developed, however, that he was picked up by a party of fishermen who carried him to Wilmington. He was only eight years old at this time. Often he tried to get into communication with his parents but he never succeeded. Bell fought overseas and was wounded several times. Recently he found his mother's address and is now planning to come here to work.

### Rheims Cathedral Will Be Restored.

The Cathedral of Rheims was one of the most beautiful and renowned structures in the world. It was started in the 13th century and was completed nearly three hundred and fifty years later. It is of Gothic architecture, and it is especially noted for its statues and its great rose window.

This building was ruthlessly destroyed by the German advance in 1914. All of the statues and the great pipe organ, which has 3516 pipes, were mutilated.

The Cathedral wetaoin etaoin aoi The Catholics who own the church say that they will restore the parts that are torn down.

## STATISTICS CONCERNING JOHNSTON COUNTY

Size of County and Estimated Population—Interesting Figures Are Given—Fourteen Banks in County.

Some statistics of our county should prove interesting to all Herald readers. Not many of us care enough about such things to look up old records, so we are not usually informed on these subjects. Johnston county is one of the largest counties in the State, comprising an area of 740 square miles. It is bounded on the north by Wake and Nash, on the east by Wilson and Wayne, on the west by Harnett, and on the South by Cumberland. In all, there are 17 townships with a total population of about 48,000—33 per cent of which are colored. Sixteen per cent of our people over 10 years of age are illiterate; 30 per cent are church members and 47 per cent are tenants. About 50 out of a hundred men live in their own homes. The average wealth per man in the county is \$332. In 1914 we had 215 miles of improved roads. In the same year there were only four Girls Canning Clubs with 35 members; now there are 280 members. In 1913 there were 184 boys in Corn Clubs; now there are 220. These boys raised 62 bushels of corn to the acre while the farmers produced only 20 bushels. There are 96 white schools, 30 colored and 10 high schools in the county.

The main industry of Johnston is agriculture. It ranks first as a corn growing and second as a cotton growing county. It has 27,000 head of cattle and 70,000 of hogs. It's money crop is cotton for in 1919 it produced 57,000 bales of that article. During the last year we produced 14,000,000 pounds of tobacco.

As a manufacturing county, Johnston is rapidly progressing. It now has seven cotton mills, 3 oil mills, 100 saw mills, 50 cotton gins, 2 brick yards and 1 ice plant and 1 veneering plant where automobile tires are made. There are 5 tobacco warehouses in Smithfield and Benson.

In other lines also our county is making great strides. We have 14 banks which are doing business on a tremendous scale and 4 newspapers which enjoy a wide circulation. We have produced three writers of poetry—Miss Vida Munden, Mrs. Ida H. Horne, and Mr. Riddick. Mr. A. Vermont, former Superintendent of Turlington Graded School, has written two French text books, as well as the charming historical drama, Esther Wake. There are other facts of like importance about our county and we should sometimes pause in our mad rush for business and money to think over what is being accomplished around us.

### Would Refuse Democratic Nomination

Herbert Hoover Saturday telegraphed Chandler M. Wood of Boston, who was active with Edward A. Filene in forming the Hoover Democratic Club of Massachusetts, that he could not accept a Democratic nomination for the Presidency. Under date of Wednesday Mr. Wood wrote:

"I feel that the Democrats who are active participants in the movement for your nomination upon their ticket are entitled to know whether or not you will accept the Democratic nomination if offered you, and for that purpose I am addressing you this letter."

Mr. Hoover's response was: "Your published letter asking if I would accept the Democratic nomination has been received by me this morning and I appreciate the implied compliment. I gather that it was written prior to a statement of mine last Saturday which appeared in Boston and other papers. You will no doubt, therefore, now appreciate that the answer to your inquiry is 'no.'"

### Simmons Expects Ratification.

Senator Simmons believes the action of the State convention in endorsing the Susan B. Anthony suffrage amendment assures its ratification by the North Carolina General Assembly to be called into extra session in July by Governor Bickett.

Representative Clyde R. Hoey, the convention's temporary chairman, expressed a similar opinion that North Carolina Democrats made ratification certain and the women of America would participate in the elections of this year.