

The Smithfield Herald

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A LITTLE BIT OF COUNTY HISTORY

The Old Smithfield Academy During Its First Years of Existence. Contract Let for Its Building One Hundred and Eight Years Ago Today.

(By John A. Mitchener.)

I am enclosing for publication in the issue nearest to August 10, this year, a bit of history concerning the "old Smithfield Academy" which once stood near the cemetery when I was a student there (in 1866) under instruction from Rev. W. B. Jones, a Baptist minister, assisted by the late Lieut. (C. S. A.) J. T. Ellington and Mrs. Lina Beckwith-Webb. The old Academy was torn down about the year 1900. Its site and the playground of school boy days is now a part of the cemetery and the last resting place perhaps of many who once played there. Very few are now living who stood in the long spelling class held every evening and his stand in the class was on his merits as a speller alone—for some one was ready to "cut you down." Of those who were in the A, B, C, department there are more to answer the roll-call, but like the old veterans of 1861-1865 all are getting old and the line shorter and shorter—soon there will be one, and then—none.

As the official or public record enclosed will take up considerable space I shall make this shorter than you hope I otherwise would and before closing I wish to make this suggestion, that all who ever attended the "Old Academy" send to you their names, the year and the teachers. Let's call the roll again and perhaps there are enough left on deck to form a class and have a spelling class and to start a dollar subscription list to put a marker on the spot where once stood the first and biggest Academy in Johnston County. Now, as will be seen by the P. S. to this letter, in history Aversborough is given the honor of being the first to build an Academy. The advertisement for bids is eight years ahead of the Smithfield "Notice to Carpenters," but Aversborough Academy, according to the best information I can get is not now and never was a part of Johnston County—an error. So Smithfield claims the honor of being first and I reckon also stands head with the idea of a Lottery to raise money for building an Academy. To those who never knew this history of the "Old Academy", this may be worth clipping and can be used for reference without fear of contradiction.

JOHNSTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Aversborough Academy, 1804
On the 23rd Day of June next, at Aversborough, will be let to the lowest bidder, the building of a framed house in said town, thirty-six by twenty feet and twenty feet pitch, for a Seminary of Learning. Materials are now on the spot. Further particulars will be exhibited on the day by the Commissioners.

ISAAC WILLIAMS,
ROBERT DRAUGHON,
GERARD BANKS,
Commissioners.

Raleigh Register, June 11, 1904.

P. S.—As will be seen by this advertisement, Aversborough asked for bids in 1804. Smithfield eight years later, 1812. Aversborough not being in Johnston County and never has been from the best information I have, Smithfield is the first place to build an Academy or Big School House. I have no record of how the Lottery, authorized by law, turned out. Several schools in the State tried to raise money by Lottery for "Literary Advancement," but no record of how it turned out is published that I have seen. Some abandoned the plan owing to "the scarcity of cash" and called in all tickets sold. Newton Academy near Asheville and the town of Asheville for one after having tickets on sale for over a year to raise \$7,000 for Newton Academy and a "Female Seminary" in the town of Asheville.

I hope this may prove worthy of space and not too long, and that on the 10th of next August a reunion of the "Old Academy" students may be held in Smithfield and that a suitable marker will then be unveiled. It's an historical spot and I believe the State assists in marking those spots. Time is short. The roll over yonder is being called, and if the passing gen-

eration is to take part, action must be taken quickly.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY, 1812.

To Carpenters:—

Will be let to the lowest bidder, in the Town of Smithfield, Johnston County, on Monday the 10th day of August next, the building of an Academy in said town. The dimensions will be 22 feet, by 40 feet, two stories high, with such conveniences as is necessary for an Academy. This undertaking will be well worth the attention of workmen. The terms of pay will be made known on the above day. Bond and approved securities for the faithful performance of the contract, will be required by Commissioners:

DANIEL BOON,
DAVID TURNER,
WILLIAM SASSER,
W. W. HOPKINS,
ROBERT H. HELME,
HENRY GUY,
ELICK SANDERS,
W. W. BRYAN,
SAMUEL MITCHNER.

Smithfield, Johnston County, N. C., July 21, 1812.—The Star, July 31, 1812.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY UNDER DR. WHITE, 1813

The exercises of the Smithfield Academy will commence on Monday the 11th day of October next under the direction of Dr. Willie N. White. Board can be had at four or five dollars a month at convenient and respectable houses.

WILLIAM SASSER, Sec'y.
Oct. 7, 1813.—The Star, Oct. 8, 1813.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY LOTTERY, 1820.

Lottery for the benefit of Smithfield Academy.

The subscribers having been appointed by an act of the Legislature of North Carolina, managers of the above lottery; and having entered into bond for the faithful performance of duties; and the payment of all prizes according to law, now offer the public the following

SCHEME.

1,400 Tickets at \$5 are \$7,000

1 Prize of \$1,000 is	\$1,000
2 Prize of 500 is	1,000
5 Prize of 100 is	500
15 Prize of 50 is	750
30 Prize of 20 is	600
165 Prize of 10 is	1,650
250 Prize of 6 is	1,500

468

\$7,000

Subject to a deduction of 15 per cent, and not two blanks to a prize.

The managers trusting to the public spirit, which has hitherto and still ought to animate every town in support of education, upon which more than anything else, our national honor and independence depends confidently hope that the patronage of enlightened individuals and the public at large will soon enable them to complete the sale of tickets, and the drawing of the Lottery.

The present scheme does not embrace the capital for which the managers have given bond, nor does it contemplate to raise the sum authorized by law; yet as the experiment is untried, they have thought proper to propose the first class on as small a scale as possible, reserving to themselves the right of proceeding in future to one or two additional classes.

As soon as a sufficient number of tickets are disposed of, the drawing will commence, and the public will be notified through the medium of papers when the drawing is closed.

The prizes will be paid in sixty days after the drawing, and all prizes not demanded within one year from the drawing will be considered as forfeited for the benefit of the institution.

SAMUEL MITCHNER,
THOMAS RICE,
M. LLOYD HILL,Managers.

Smithfield, Johnston Co. N. Carolina.
N. B.—If no drawing takes place within twelve months of the first day of March next, the purchase money is to be refunded for all tickets bought when demanded.—The Star, January 28, 1820.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY UNDER ROBERT POOR, 1820.

Smithfield Academy.

The exercises of this institution will commence on the first Monday in March next, under the superintendence of Mr. Robert Brevard Poor, A. B. Mr. Poor graduated at Cambridge (Mass.) last August, with the dis-

tinguished honor of that University, and comes recommended to us in the most flattering terms.

By order of the Trustees.

M. LLOYD HILL, Sec'y.

February 21, 1820.—The Star, February 25, 1820.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY UNDER A. W. GAY, 1827.

Smithfield Academy.

The public are informed, that the exercises of this institution are in successful operation, under the immediate superintendence of Rev. A. W. Gay. The Trustees can with pleasure state, that their expectations concerning this gentleman, have been more than realized since witnessing his superior management in the business of instruction. The school year in this Academy, is divided into two sessions, of 5 months each; provides for two examinations, a private and a public, and but one vacation, to continue from the middle of August until the middle of October, allowing the scholars the privilege of being at home two months in the fall. Students may here prepare themselves for either of the classes in the University.

SAMUEL MITCHNER, Pres't.
—Raleigh Register, March 9, 1827.

Teachers in Smithfield Academy, 1827

SMITHFIELD MALE AND FEMALE ACADEMY.

The third quarter of this institution will commence on Monday the 15th of October next.

The subscriber is happy to be able to inform the public that he has employed Miss A. D. Salmon of Fayetteville, to take charge of the Female Department.

Instruction will be given in all branches usually taught in Academies.

A. W. GAY, Principal.

The Editors of the Newbern Sentinel will please insert the above once a week for 3 weeks.

Sept. 17.—Raleigh Register, September 28, 1827.

Smithfield Academy Under J. Warnock, 1828.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY

This Institution will be opened after the Christmas vacation on the 1st January, 1828, under the superintendence of Rev. J. Warnock, as Principal. Mr. W. is a graduate of Glasgow University, from his testimonials which are numerous and satisfactory, from his experience and success in teaching during the last six years in this country, the Trustees feel confident in saying that the advantages of this Academy will equal any in the State. The classical course will be adapted to that observed at Chapel Hill. From the unremitting attention which will be paid to the morals and improvement of students sent to this Academy, the Trustees expect that it shall receive a liberal share of public support.

Six or Eight Students can be accommodated with boarding in the family of the Principal.

By order of the Board of Trustees.
SAM'L MITCHNER, Pres't.
Smithfield, Dec. 20.—Raleigh Register, December 28, 1827.

Smithfield Academy Under Wm. Broome, 1835.

SMITHFIELD ACADEMY

The exercises of this institution are now in operation, under the superintendence of the subscriber. Having for some years been engaged in school teaching, he flatters himself that he will be able to render general satisfaction. Eight or ten boarders can be conveniently accommodated in the family of the subscriber. Payments to be made quarterly, for board and tuition. Terms of tuition:

Spelling, reading and writing,	pr. session	\$ 6.00
Arithmetic		8.00
English Grammar and Geography		18.00
The art of Surveying		10.00

Wm. BROOME.
Smithfield, Johnston County, February 19th, 1835.—The Standard, Raleigh, February 27, 1835.

Thanks for the Fine Tomatoes

Mr. James H. Woodall, one of Smithfield's successful gardeners, brought us a half dozen fine tomatoes of the Ponderosa variety Saturday afternoon, for which we return our thanks. The six weighed six pounds and are the finest half dozen tomatoes we have seen this season. Mr. Woodall has given his garden his personal attention and has kept his tomatoes staked and tied up and he is now reaping the reward for his labors.

ABSENCE OF BUZZARDS IS VERY NOTICEABLE

Even Where Many dead Animals Are Found There is No Buzzard in Sight—Many Tunnels Passed Through in Mountains From Seattle to Los Angeles

(By Dr. R. J. Noble)

ARTICLE V.

It may have been my fault that many mistakes were made in my last letter for I was interrupted so many times that I lost connection with my thoughts often. So I will not fault the printer. I intended to say that we saw no buzzards on all that trip even where the dead horses were plentiful. I would like to know why there are no buzzards in that country. I have read of birds of prey being in that region and as soon as a deer or wild animal was killed there was a race between man and bird for the animal killed. Now, in Charleston, South Carolina, there is a heavy fine for killing a buzzard. Once when I was in Charleston I went to the market house about four o'clock to see the buzzards. Not one was to be seen. I spoke to an attendant at the market about it. He said, if you will be here tomorrow morning soon after nine o'clock you will see them come in from the swamps about ten miles from here where they roost. All of them have been at two o'clock in the afternoon and come back about nine in the morning. Said he, there is another thing about them. They know when Sunday comes for not a buzzard is to be seen here on Sunday. Who would have thought that a buzzard knew when Sunday comes. I am going to find out why there are no buzzards in that section. Having crossed the divide going down the Columbia, or Kootenai river, for three hundred miles is one of the wonders of the West. The railroad follows the river as best it can, going through the mountains, twisting and turning in every conceivable direction. Once when coming down the mountain I saw away down the mountain a pretty little house, from where I was on the train it seemed behind us; just here I looked at the mountains and thought we were shut in completely; that we would never see that place again. Just then we started in a tunnel. Before going in the tunnel I looked down the mountain and saw the railroad in four places—that is the railroad on four levels—and about one hundred feet below us I saw a tunnel in the mountain. We had to look quick to see these places for we were running in snow sheds nearly all the time, and could only see down or up the mountain at openings in them. Then in the tunnel we went for some minutes it seemed to me, and when we came out it was at the tunnel I saw down the mountain. We had made a circle in the mountain, coming out something like one hundred feet below where we went in. Our car was an observation car and we could see all around. After going around and about for sometime we came to a halt at the pretty little house mentioned above, and found it to be a hotel. There were beautiful roads all through the mountains for it never rains to wash them. I saw in a paper a few days ago an account of an automobile accident on one of the roads on the side of the mountain where we went, in which three out of the four of the people in the auto were killed. The accident was caused by the driver, getting scared and grabbing the wheel which turned the auto over the side of the mountain some three hundred feet. When an auto goes off the road there is nothing to stop it till it hits a tree or big rock. We had stopped so long at Glacier Park, which we did not regret, that when we arrived at Spokane, Washington, we had to go right on to Seattle.

Spokane is the second city in Washington, and well worth a day's stop-over, but we had to be in Portland on Tuesday and we had to stop in Seattle which is the metropolis of Washington and the West and terminal of the Great Northern Railway. There our train was turned over to the Southern Pacific. Before we arrived at Spokane we went through a tunnel three miles long. We were pulled through this tunnel by an oil burning engine or an electric engine, for I remember we had very little smoke in

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SMITHFIELD LADIES IN CAMP AT ASHEVILLE

Observe Strict Military Regulations—Drills and Exercises Make Full Program for Day—Entertained at Grove Park Inn Organ Recital.

(By Cora Belle Ives.)

The first camp of three camps of the United States training camps for women was opened at Asheville on July 15th, 1920. This camp is under the supervision of Commandant Susana Cocroft, of Chicago, Ill. The camp is located on a beautiful knoll northeast of that wonderful resort hotel, Grove Park Inn. In the first camp which ended July 29th, there were 13 states represented and 150 women enrolled. In the second camp there are 25 states represented and over 225 women enrolled. This camp is operated on a strictly military basis. Reveille is sounded at 6:30 in the morning, setting up exercises at 7:15 and breakfast at 8. Then comes inspection of tents and streets. We have a relaxation period of one-half hour, during which time not one word is spoken and absolute quietness reigns. (If you don't believe 225 women can be quiet, you should come and see.) At 11:15 we have a lecture. Mess at 12:30. From 2 to 3 we have nature study, and from 3 to 4 drill. Then comes another half hour of relaxation. Then another lecture. Supper at 6 and retreat at 7. Usually every night we have a concert, so the day is pretty well filled up. One of the prettiest scenes any one could witness is at retreat, when all of the companies are in dress uniforms and in formation.

The first camp was very fortunate to have Dr. Alfonso Smith, who is professor of English at Annapolis, speak on "O Henry," and to hear Mrs. Jane Gentry, of Hot Springs, N. C., sing the old English ballads. Mrs. Gentry is the only person in the world who knows these old English ballads. She knows over 100, and to hear this dear old lady sing is a treat no one should miss. Then we were invited over to Grove Park Inn for dinner on Thursday, July 22nd, when seven courses were greatly enjoyed by the 150 camp girls. Mr. Suley, the manager of Grove Park Inn, has been unusually nice to the girls, and on Sunday, July 1st had the camp over to hear the most wonderful pipe organ in America. There are two stops in this organ which have never been used in any other organ. The organist can also play a piano from the key board. This organ is strictly an orchestral organ, and differs from the other pipe organs. There are six organs, three in the north end of the room, two including the solo and orchestral organs in the south end, and the echo organ in the hallway of the next building to the south. It required over 60 miles of wire to do the electrical work in this organ. It requires a 15-horse power motor to blow it, and there are 7,000 pipes. It required three freight cars to bring this organ from the factory and it took four months to install it.

The second camp will end August 12th.

The following people from Smithfield attended the camp.

Jone Abell, Sadie Puckett, Virginia Puckett, Mrs. E. F. Ward, Mildred Young, Cora Belle Ives, Bettie Adams, Mrs. H. D. Ellington.

What Defeated Gore.

Oklahoma support of the policies of the President was shown emphatically in the defeat of Senator Gore by Scott Ferris. Mr. Gore voted for the McLemore resolution warning Americans to keep off vessels of the belligerent nations, did not vote at all on the resolution declaring a state of war, voted against the draft law and was lukewarm if not neutral to the food control law. Wherever the people have had the opportunity they have registered their disapproval of an attitude of this sort. Their verdict was emphatic in Oklahoma.—News and Observer.

Struggling in Vain.

Dobbins—I hear that your daughter's married a struggling young man. Jobbins—Well, yes, he did struggle, but he couldn't get away.—Edinburg Scotsman.

OUTLINES POLICIES IN RINGING SPEECH

Great Throng Witnesses Nominee's Acceptance of Leadership of Party—Marches in Parade of Hosts of Democracy—Raps Republican Policies

Fair Grounds, Dayton, O., Aug 7.—

The Democratic presidential standard with the League of Nations and progress its chief issues, today was marched into the 1920 campaign by Governor James M. Cox.

A throng of cheering Democrats estimated variously at between 40,000 and 75,000, witnessed Governor Cox' acceptance of party leadership in the presidential contest, following formal notification by Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, chairman at the San Francisco convention, of its choice.

To the ceremonies at the Montgomery county fair grounds Governor Cox with Franklin D. Roosevelt, his running mate, at his side, marched for a mile in a broiling sun at the head of a parade of Democratic delegation reviewed at the grounds. Their presence was an eleventh hour thought of the governor, who had planned merely to review the Democratic hosts which came in thousands from Ohio and also other States. The parade line alone, sprinkled with two scores of bands, was estimated to contain 20,000 marchers.

For two hours the governor, in his address of acceptance, kept the vast throng cheering as he gave, with emphasis his campaign policies. He made the league his paramount declaration, declaring he stood for American and world peace by its adoption with "interpretations" preserving its vital plan. He declared the league was a part of the Democratic offering of progress as against Republican reaction. His advocacy of the league drew lengthy demonstrations from his audience and statements of approval from party leaders gathered here for the Democratic ceremonial.

Two reservations he has suggested to the league covenant were emphasized by the governor regarding the controverted Article Ten. He was cheered loudly in comparing it to the Monroe Doctrine, with its peace record. The Democratic legions also shouted approval of declarations for women suffrage, law enforcement—his only inferential reference to prohibition—reduction of taxation and scores of other issues he proclaimed.

The candidate's address closed, a evening fell a day of Democratic jubilation. Rain early in the day, which threatened to mar the event, gave way to bright sunshine by afternoon, with sultry humidity, but shortly before the governor concluded, another light rain poured upon the crowds, causing many to leave and somewhat marring the closing.

With pointed forefinger to vigorous arm thrusts, the Governor got more applause as he emphasized his indictment of the Republican platform and leadership. The crowd also voiced its approval of his declaration that the loss of the league would mean moral armament expense.

The candidate's tribute to President Wilson, and his depreciation of Republican "discourtesy," given in lowered voice, were given further rolls of applause. A prolonged demonstration followed his assertion that Republican "sleuthing" had failed to unearth dishonesty in the administration direction of the war. This he hammered in, pounding his table and clenched fist.

More cheers approved the candidate's pledge to aid ex-service men. Several demonstrations marked his declarations for consideration for women, including ratification of the equal suffrage amendment.

Repeated thumps of his fist punctuated the Governor's criticism of Senator Harding's stand on "party government," and the audience evidenced its sympathy frequently.

The Governor delivered only one sentence of his statement on education, jumping to the subject of campaign contributions, and he was cheered in declaring the Democrats would not attempt campaign dollar competition with the Republicans.

As he closed his address, the Governor's collar was wilted, and he appeared somewhat tired, but he turned happily to meet groups of congratulators.—Associated Press.