

# The Smithfield Herald

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## JOHNSTON COUNTY LOSES GOOD CITIZEN

### Arch Vinson Passed Away Tuesday Morning; Fun- eral Wednesday.

The town of Clayton suffered a distinct loss Tuesday in the death of one of its most prominent citizens, J. A. Vinson. Mr. Vinson had been in failing health for several months past, and two weeks ago suffered an attack of pneumonia, and this with complications, was the cause of his death. He passed away shortly before 4 o'clock Tuesday morning at the home of his brother, Mr. Tom Vinson.

The deceased was fifty-two years of age and was the son of the late Ahaura and Mary A. Vinson. He was born about four miles from Clayton, October 27, 1871. For thirty years or more he had lived in Clayton, from which place he conducted an extensive lumber and farming business. He might be termed the "lumber king" of Johnston County. He loved the woods and had acquired vast timber and farming possessions not only in Johnston county but in Wake, Sampson and other nearby counties. In the beginning his business was on a small scale, but his square dealings and upright methods soon drew him customers and his business grew until at the time of his death his estate was rated at over a million dollars. He was identified with a number of business enterprises of Clayton in addition to his private business affairs. He was president of the Farmers Bank, and was local representative of the Ford automobile.

Mr. Vinson was a member of Clayton Baptist church, and was one of its substantial and faithful members. He was a Mason and a member of the Knights of Pythias. He was never married and lived a simple, unassuming life, but no man in the community had more friends than he.

The funeral services were held in the Clayton Baptist church Wednesday afternoon and that spacious building was filled with friends and relatives assembled to pay a last tribute of respect to their departed friend and kinsman. Beautiful floral designs banked the altar. Soft music was rendered as the funeral procession which included a large number of Masons filed into the church. The Masons of the Polenta Lodge of which the deceased was a member had charge of the service. After the choir had rendered "Some day, sometime we'll understand," Dr. J. T. Gibbs, of the Methodist church read the scripture lesson. Then Rev. Mr. Matthews of Raleigh, who had held evangelistic services in Clayton, paid a splendid tribute to the deceased and Rev. A. O. Moore, of the Baptist church, led in prayer. "Under His Wings" was then sung by the choir and the simple service was over.

The remains were taken to the old family burying ground near Wilson's Mills where beneath the sheltering pines which he loved so well his body rests in peace. Near to nature's heart, on soil which has been in the family of the deceased since George III of England granted it to his great-great-grandfather, his body awaits the resurrection morn. A large concourse of family connections and friends were present at the burial. The deceased is survived by one brother, Mr. Tom Vinson, of Clayton; three sisters, Mrs. Rosa Duncan, of Clayton; Mrs. S. P. Cox, of Durham and Mrs. H. B. Ipeck, of Clinton.

## CLAUDE KITCHEN IN WILSON HOSPITAL

Wilson, May 1.—Representative Claude Kitchen, former minority leader in the lower House of Congress, is a patient at a local hospital taking the "rest cure." Mr. Kitchen entered the hospital yesterday and his condition is declared by his physicians to be not serious.

Representative Kitchen recently suffered an attack of influenza and his already run-down condition was said to have been greatly weakened. He came to Wilson from Scotland Neck yesterday by automobile, accompanied by Mrs. Kitchen and his two sons-in-law. His physicians said today that the former minority leader is in fair spirits. — Associated Press.

## DR. EDGAR KNIGHT SPEAKS AT BENSON

### Commencement Occasion Quite a Success; Twelve in the Graduating Class

The finals of the Benson High School took place in the school auditorium on Thursday, May 3rd. The features of the day time part of the commencement exercises were the declamation and recitation contests, the commencement oration, and the awarding of certificates and prizes. The graduating class, consisting of twelve boys and girls, gave a play and musical selections at night.

The commencement oration was delivered by Dr. Edgar W. Knight, a member of the faculty at the State university. His speech was a half-hour long and made a strong appeal to his hearers. The beginning of his speech contrasted education in the South as it was when Henry W. Grady made his famous New South speech in Boston and as it is today. His pictures of the transition period of our education from the days in which the teachers "boarded out" to this splendid day of grace and opportunity were vivid enough to bring forth both smiles and tears.

We have broken well away from the sixty-day school year of twenty years ago, he declared, and still have hardly started. He stated that the school buildings now under construction in North Carolina are worth more than every school building we had at the beginning of 1920. This shows to some extent what has been accomplished in school building construction within the past three years. We have 480,000 school children now in the State, and only five per cent of them are in high school. This we have determined to remedy. "The State," declared he in closing, "owes every child a good school house and a good school teacher to go to. We must not lose sight of the vital fact that every thing we do is done for the children."

Following Dr. Knight's address was the announcement of the decision in the declamation and recitation contests, which awarded first prize to "Mother, Gird My Sword Around Me," Bruce Creech on his declamation, and Mary Raynor on her recitation, "High Culture in Dixie."

The certificates of perfect attendance, the seventh grade certificates, and the graduation certificates were delivered by Miss Mary E. Wells, assistant superintendent, of Smithfield. In presenting the certificates of perfect attendance, Miss Wells congratulated the children and the school for having the largest number of such certificates up to the present date of any school in the county. She complimented several of the seventh grade graduates upon the splendid papers they had made. In addressing the graduating class Miss Wells told them that their certificates were not teachers' certificates which would entitle them to teach school next year, but were merely passports to the training schools and colleges. She hoped that each one of them would attend college next fall.

The Benson High School has been for the year just closing under the supervision of Prof. H. C. Renegar, of Chapel Hill. He has had a faculty of twelve teachers. It is understood that he will again have charge of the school next year. In his remarks for the day he announced that the rumor was out that Benson would have only a six months school next year. This he declared to be a false alarm, and that the school would certainly be eight months or not nine months long.

## BOY HURT WHEN GUN SHELL EXPLODES

William Clifford, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Clifford, was painfully burned late Sunday afternoon when a gun shell, from which the shot had been removed, exploded. The boy was pranking with the shell, it is said, attaching a fuse to it. His forehead was badly burned and at first it was feared that he would lose his left eye as a result of the explosion. Drs. C. H. Sexton and P. A. Stewart dressed the wounds and later he was taken to the Pittman hospital at Fayetteville, and it is not thought his injuries will prove serious. — Dunn Dispatch.

## MEMORIAL DAY EXERCISES MAY 10

### Confederate Veterans Will Be Guests of Sanders- Holt Chapter U.D.C.

Each year on the tenth of May the old Confederate veterans, whose ranks are thinner each Memorial Day, are the guests of honor of the Sanders-Holt chapter of the U. D. C. The program for next Thursday has been arranged part of which will be given in the court house, and part at the cemetery. The exercises will begin at eleven o'clock in the court house with the following program:

Song—"Carolina."  
Chaplain's Invocation.  
Song—"How Firm a Foundation."  
Welcome to Veterans by Mayor.  
Response from Veterans by Mr. J. A. Mitchiner.  
Prayer by Mr. Julius Broadwell.  
Song—"Dixie."  
Address.  
Song—"The Homespun Dress."

At the conclusion of this song those present will adjourn to the cemetery where the grave of soldiers will be decorated with flowers. While at the cemetery, an old camp song, "Tenting Tonight," will be rendered; the national song, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," will be sung and a prayer will conclude the program.

Then the Confederate veterans will be driven to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Sanders where the Sanders-Holt chapter of the U. D. C., will serve them a dinner on the lawn.

## POSTMASTER RESIGNS WHEN OIL BOOM HITS

WASHINGTON, May 2.—When an oil boom hits a one-man postoffice things begin to happen, as witnessed by the tribulations of the postmaster at Smackover, Ark.

Smackover was basking in the sun, a town of 200, last fall when oil was struck. Almost overnight the population swelled to 10,000, and this message came to the Postoffice Department from Postmaster Fred V. McDonald, who meantime had grown wealthy in oil lands:

"The office is out of my control; letters arriving 5,000 to 7,000 daily; parcel post by the tons; can't open mail any longer, no place to put it; accept resignation."

Thirteen assistants were rushed to Smackover and the salary was increased from \$600 a year to \$2,500, but Postmaster McDonald refused to stay longer on the job than was necessary to get things running smoothly.

## SUDAN PREPARING FOR CEREMONIALS

WASHINGTON, N. C., May 2.—According to reports from New Bern Sudan headquarters are hurrying preparations for the annual spring ceremonial which will be held in this city Thursday, May 17th. Dr. J. F. Rhem, recorder of the temple, says that the indications are that the largest class of candidates in many years will be disposed of. He says that while many applications had already been received he expected many more in the final rush. No applications will be received, he said, after midnight of Tuesday, May 2nd.

Rumor has it that several of these candidates will be from Washington. The outlook points to a large number waiting to tread the sands of the desert enroute to Mecca. Mr. B. L. Sussman wants 250 rooms in Washington to sleep the visitors. Let him know at once how many you can accommodate. This is going to be the day of days. Final arrangements for the occasion are fast coming to a head.

## Thrown Off Back Of Mule

Mr. Buren Faulkner, who lives on Smithfield, Route One, had the misfortune Tuesday to be thrown from a mule's back resulting in painful cuts about his face. He was riding the mule home from the field at noon, when the mule became frightened, jumped and threw him against a barbed wire fence. The cuts on his face required several stitches to be taken. He came to this city for medical attention.

## FOUR YEARS OF ROAD BUILDING IN N. C.

### 1,127 Miles of Road Have Been Completed; Lot of Money Still Not Spent

The North Carolina Good Roads Association is in session in Raleigh this week, and Mr. Frank Page, highway commissioner, has been asked to review the work of road building in the state during his administration. The following from The News and Observer gives an idea of the wonderful development in road building:

Two hundred and ninety-four projects, aggregating 2,902.08 miles of every type of road completed, under construction or under contract, and costing a total of \$53,513,013.62, and more than 3,200 miles of road under maintenance in the achievement with which Frank Page completed his fourth year as State Highway Commissioner Wednesday.

The day was the fourth anniversary of his induction into office under appointment from the late Governor Bickett, and the second anniversary of the re-organization of the Commission under the Connor-Doughton-Bowie road act in 1921. The detailed history of the achievement will be one of the principal subjects to be discussed at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Good Roads Association here today.

Two thirds of Mr. Page's term of office, after which he expects to retire to devote his time to his neglected private interests, were done yesterday, but before his full time is out, he expects to complete all work now under construction and have approximately 1,500 miles additional road under construction or completed. Mr. Page has definitely determined to retire at the end of his term.

Of the \$65,000,000 authorized for road construction by the General Assembly of 1921 and of 1922, approximately \$38,500,000 has been obligated in contracts or expended for construction under way or complete. The remaining 15 million dollars comes from the old automobile license fund collected in 1919 and 1920, amounting to about \$3,000,000 and a total of \$11,682,265.75 from Federal aid funds covering the four year period.

Remaining to be applied to new construction not yet let to contract is approximately \$26,500,000 of the funds authorized by the two General Assemblies, or sufficient to build about 800 miles of hard surfaced roads, and about an equal amount of gravel and other types of highway, and the bridges required. This expenditure will be distributed over a period of two years, determined largely by the condition of the labor and material market.

The work now under various stages of completion throughout the State comprises 208 separate projects, with a total mileage of 1,756.25 miles of various types of road, costing, together with bridges, a total of \$34,172,474.20. Fourteen projects let to contract, but on which work has not yet begun, account for 75 miles of road costing with bridges, \$2,496,045.01.

Seventy two projects have been completed, with a total mileage of 1,127.55 miles of various types of roads costing \$17,803,544.86. This mileage goes back to the beginning of the Page administration in May, 1919, and includes all work completed up until April 1. During the present summer, if weather, labor and material conditions are at all favorable, approximately 1,000 miles of road will be finished and put into use.

In reviewing the achievements of the Highway Commission, Mr. Page lays greatest stress upon the maintenance division which took over approximately 5,000 miles of road, rebuilt much of it, and put all of it into usable condition 19 months ago. Making a great mileage immediately serviceable to the people of the State he regards as the most important immediate result of legislation for roads.

The largest single project which has been let to contract during the past four years is the Lumberton-Maxton road in Robeson county, with approximately 19.5 miles of concrete road. Let last fall to James O. Heyworth at a cost of \$647,888.05. Some what longer, but less costly is the Williamston-Bethel route let to W. T. Hadlow for \$493,900.40. Several

## SIMMONS IN ACCORD WITH HARDINGS VIEWS

### Favors Entry of This Country Into International Court of Justice; For League of Nations.

WILMINGTON, May 2.—Senator F. M. Simmons, Democrat, of North Carolina, is in accord with President Harding and Secretary of State Hughes, in favoring the entry by this country into an international court of justice, as a step in the right direction, which will eventually probably lead to the entry by the United States into the league of nations, according to an exclusive interview given to a representative of the Wilmington Morning Star.

The present chaotic condition of affairs in Europe is attributed by Senator Simmons to the failure of this country to enter the league of nations, and he thinks the Republican party is favoring the international court in order to protect this country from the evils which would follow Europe's total collapse.

Senator Simmons says: "I am not only in favor of the United States becoming a member of the international court of justice, an institution created by the league of nations, but I am also in favor of the United States becoming a member of the league of nations."

"If we had joined the league at the time it was created, I am satisfied that most of the ills which now afflict Europe would have been averted and the ultimate result would have been the establishment of peace throughout the world."

"Of course the international court of justice cannot take the place of the league of nations, but it will be a step in the right direction, and if taken, will probably lead to our ultimate full participation in the league."

"I presume that President Harding's attitude with reference to our participation in the international court of justice is dictated by a conviction that the United States must do something to save Europe from the chaotic conditions into which it has been plunged and protect us from the evil consequences of its continuance."

"I do not wish to characterize harshly the opposition in the Republican party to his position, but I cannot escape the conclusion that the inspiration of the opposition to the court, as it was to the league itself, is largely political."—Associated Press.

## INFANT DEAD, MOTHER IS PAINFULLY INJURED

### Terrific Cyclone Hits Shelmerdine Section Near Vanceboro; Several Injured.

VANCEBORO, May 2.—During a terrific cyclone last Saturday night in the Shelmerdine section, a few miles west of here, the six-months old baby of Mr. Jasper Cannon sustained injuries by falling in of the house top that resulted in the death of the child a few hours later in the night.

Mrs. Cannon, the mother, was also so badly hurt that her course from the wrecked home to a neighbor's house could be traced by the blood that was shed from her bleeding wounds. Three of her ribs were broken. Mrs. Cannon and the baby seem to have been left alone that night, and in the absence of a man the horrors of the night were greatly intensified for that lonely mother. After the passing of the storm Mrs. Cannon searched and found the baby, and she picked its dying body up and rushed to the home of a neighbor. In just a short while after reaching the neighbor's house the baby died. The mother is still suffering, but there is hope for her recovery.

Luther Burbank has accepted a place on the board of directors of the national campaign for boll weevil control. He is one of several leaders in financial, agricultural and scientific circles to take an active part in this crusade against the pest that is destroying millions of dollars' worth of cotton each year.—Dearborn Independent.

projects under construction run beyond the quarter of a million mark.

## FRENCH MAY REFUSE GERMAN PROPOSAL

### Officials Feel Sure France's Reply Will Be Flatly in the Negative.

PARIS, May 2.—The proposals contained in the German note, which was delivered at the foreign office at four o'clock this afternoon in the German language are regarded in French official circles as for Anglo-Saxon and neutral consumption only. The terms of the note appeared "so preposterous," to the members of the French government that it was assumed there was no hope or desire on the part of Berlin that they be accepted.

"The scheme amounts to the reopening of the whole question of reparations as settled by the treaty of Versailles," a high official of the government said. "The plan is aggravated by the suggestion that in case of failure of a loan, the question of payment by Germany would be referred to a commission, on which would be represented neutrals who are loaded up with marks and have every interest of boosting them by getting Germany off as easily as possible."

To Confer With Allies.  
Another official said: "There is not the slightest prospect toward settlement in this proposition. It is impossible for the French government to consider it for a moment."

Premier Poincare is studying the translation of the note as it is being made and is reserving comment until he has the whole document before him, but those about him did not cancel the unfavorable impression the note had made. They are all of the opinion that the reply will be flatly negative.

M. Poincare will probably confer with France's allies before giving his answer, but it is thought it will be unnecessary to consult with Great Britain and the proposals have as their object the evacuation of the Ruhr, in the occupation of which Great Britain has not participated, and for similar reasons there will be no exchange of views with Washington.

Proposal Inacceptable.  
It is regarded as doubtful if the premier will consider it necessary to make a detailed reply, but if he does he will point out that the proposal is inacceptable both from the viewpoint of the amount of money offered and the conditions under which it is offered, and that there is nothing in the proposals to form a basis for serious negotiations.

The French government has a plan for the settlement of the reparations problem, which it is holding in reserve, to bring out when the time is thought to be opportune, but it will be only when Germany has ceased resistance to the allied action in the Ruhr and has manifested a desire to reach a serious agreement although it is improbable that it will be brought out in reply of pessimism in official and political circles, and the general conclusion is voiced by The Temps in its leader, which terminates with these words: "let us exploit the Ruhr."

A more vigorous application of penalties and the probable extension of the territory occupied on the right bank of the Rhine is thought to be the logical sequence of Germany's declared intention to continue passive resistance.—Associated Press.

## RUM FLEET OFF JERSEY BEGINS TO MOVE AWAY

Highland, N. J., May 2.—A general exodus of the rum fleet that has been off the New Jersey coast for several months began late today when the British tanker, Warsseawa, and the yacht Istar got up steam and sailed out to sea. Both were out of sight by dark.

The vessels departed soon after a government cutter had hauled and searched a small unidentified steamer that was steaming towards the fleet. When the cutter headed back towards rum row, the tanker, which had been on the row since February, steamed out to sea on a northeast course. The Istar followed a few minutes later, headed southeast.—Associated Press.