

Seven County Men Leave For Service Early Wednesday

Five of Group Are Married; Only Two Come From County Farms

Seven Martin County white men, including two youths who just last August reached their eighteenth birthdays, left here Wednesday morning for final induction into the armed forces at Fort Bragg. Five of the group are married and they left behind beside their wives, seven children. While the past few calls drew heavily from the eighteen-year-old group, the one this week centered on those young men 24 years old and older. Two were 27, one was 28 and another 29, the maximum age limit subject to the draft at this time if the registrant holds a job in one of the thirty-five classifications. Recent calls also drew heavily from the farms, but the one this week into industry for most of its inductees, taking only two from the farm.

The names of the men answering the current call, their registration and last-given addresses, follow:

William Marvin Coltrain, Williamston.
James Taylor Whitley, Everetts.
Marion Thomas Hardison, RFD 1, Jamesville.

Hubert Gray Coltrain, Robersonville and Greenville.
William Edgar Price, RFD 1, Oak City and Hamilton.

Charles Clancy Carson, Hamilton.
Garland Staton Barber, RFD 1, Jamesville.

According to unofficial reports, no calls for final induction have been received in this county for December, but calls for white and colored men for pre-induction examinations have been received. It is understood that no large number will be called, but the exact size of the call and the dates the men are to report could not be learned.

A fairly heavy registration of eighteen-year-old youths was reported in the county for November, meaning possibly that the next calls for final induction will center on those lads in their teen ages. There are a few eighteen-year-olds now in the reserve list but they had not been in that list long enough to be subject to the call answered this week.

In addition to the young men leaving this week for final induction, one youth, Fred Wheeler, volunteered a few days ago for service in the Navy, and Collins Peel reported to Baptimore last week-end for service in the U. S. Coast Guard.

Americans Pushing On Toward Roer

While the intensity of the fight grows day by day, gains on the Western Front are being measured in yards and even feet. Where the Allies once swept across France at the rate of 25 miles a day, travel has been reduced to 1-25th and much less in most sectors along the German-French border in recent weeks. However, several divisions in General Hodges' and Simpson's Armies are still advancing and the drive is centering on the Roer River with Cologne and Dusseldorf as the apparent objectives.

Several more towns have been taken in that area, a report stating that more and more of German demer are being found piled up in the newly captured centers. The enemy is fighting back east of the Roer, and the struggle has reached a new high in destruction on both sides.

During the meantime, Allied armies are pounding strategic targets in Germany and lending every possible aid to the Allied Armies.

The Russians this week opened a new drive toward Vienna, capturing several important centers during the past few days.

In Italy, General Mark Clark's men have suffered slight reverses, the fight there clearly indicating that the enemy's resistance is strong in more than one place.

The Japs are still trying to reinforce their men on Leyte in the Philippines and the Americans are still wiping them out. A seventh convoy was destroyed yesterday, the action boosting the total loss of Japs trying to reach Leyte to almost 30,000. The approximately 50,000 Japs on Leyte are weakening fairly rapidly, according to latest reports.

Reports gradually leaking out of Tokyo indicate that the damage done to the Jap capital by Superforts is running into big figures. Three raids have been made there in six days.

County Boy Is Promoted To Rank Of Sergeant In Italy

Marvin B. Manning, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Roy Manning, RFD 3, Williamston, was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant over in Italy, it was announced by the Public Relations Office, Fifty Army, in Italy, recently.

The young man is a squad leader with the 34th "Red Bull" Division of Lt. General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army in Italy.

Commissioners Of County To Start New Year Next Monday

Holding their last meeting of the current term, Martin County's Commissioners R. L. Perry, Joshua L. Coltrain, C. D. Carstarphen, C. A. Roberson and R. A. Haislip will wind up their business and make ready for starting a new fiscal year. With one exception, there'll be no change in the personnel and it'll be hard to determine where the old board leaves off and the new one takes over. Commissioner Carstarphen has announced that he will not qualify for the position to which he was re-elected the 7th of last month. The appointment of his successor by Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne is not expected immediately, certainly not in time for the appointee to enter upon the duties of the office next Monday.

During the meantime, the four-member board is expected to proceed with its reorganization which, in all probability, will remain unchanged. Bonds will be prepared and

approved for the various county officers, and other business will be handled, including the appointment of a tax supervisor for 1945. No formal applications have been received for the tax supervisor's job, it was learned yesterday. It was also stated that few or no applications for the listakers' jobs have been received to date.

A revaluation of all real property is scheduled for 1945, but it is understood that the authorities have already tentatively agreed to maintain the old schedule of values primarily because the list is in the best shape it has ever been and also because of the shortage of help.

Asked yesterday if he was considering any applications for the commissioner's post, Clerk L. B. Wynne said that he had received no applications and up until that time he had no one definitely in mind for that position.

HOLIDAYS

Meeting in regular session here next Monday, members of the Martin County Board of Education will fix the Christmas holiday dates for the schools, it was announced this week by the office of the superintendent. In all probability, a short holiday will be ordered.

Very little business is scheduled for consideration other than that of a routine nature, and the board will be in session only a short time, it is predicted.

B. Frank Copeland Dies In Guilford

B. Frank Copeland, Guilford College lumber dealer and builder, died at his home near Guilford College, last Saturday afternoon at the age of 63 years. He had been in declining health for three years.

Mr. Copeland was a native of Northampton County and when a young man was married to Miss Josephine Nolan, a native of Martin County and a granddaughter of the late Abram Fisher who was prominently associated with the old Jamesville and Washington Land and Railroad Company at Dymond City in this county for a number of years. Mrs. Copeland died about three years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Copeland moved to the Guilford College Community forty-four years ago, but returned to this county for regular visits with old friends.

Funeral services were held at New Garden Friends Meeting House at Guilford College Monday afternoon by Rev. Joseph Peele and Rev. Russell Branson. Interment followed in the Holly Springs Friends Cemetery near Ramseur.

Surviving are five sons, S/Sgt. Leslie Copeland and Sgt. Howard F. Copeland, in the army overseas; Walter P. Copeland, Upper Darby, Pa.; Bevan H. Copeland, Guilford College, and John I. Copeland, vice consul, Costa Rica; two brothers, Ernest H. Copeland, Fair Hope, Ala., and Elton A. Copeland, Guilford College; two sisters, Misses Ruth W. and Cora I. Copeland, both of Guilford College, and two grandchildren.

Two Dozen Cases On The Docket in County Court

A busy time is almost certain for Judge J. C. Smith when he reopens his county court here next Monday following a two weeks' holiday. Up until late yesterday twenty-four cases had been placed on the docket and others are expected to crowd their way into the list before the docket is closed.

A fairly good assortment of cases is in the list, including seven for drunken driving, seven for speeding, three for assault with deadly weapons, three for no drivers' licenses or allowing unlicensed drivers to operate cars, and one each charging assault on a female, possession of illegal liquor, improper parking and bastardy.

LAST SALES

The last sales of the 1944 tobacco marketing season were held on the local warehouse floors yesterday when 25,108 pounds were sold for \$10,063.33. Prices held up to the very last pile. However, the average—about 40 cents—was not up to par, but the lower figure was traceable to inferior quality of the tobacco offered. Grade for grade, the price was right there.

According to semi-official and recognized figures, the Williamston market sold 10,769,306 pounds of tobacco during the 1944 season, the figure topping all previous records. The gross income was \$4,616,631.02 or an average of \$42.87.

The season was a hectic one in that the market was blocked week after week for nearly two months.

Ten County White Men Pass Initial Test For The Army

Seventeen Reported To Have Been Rejected Recently At Pre-Induction Center

Ten Martin County white men out of approximately twenty-seven reported were accepted by the armed services at Fort Bragg on November 20, according to an unofficial audit just recently returned to the county draft board.

The names of those passing the initial examination follow: Hoke Smith Roberson, Benjamin Franklin Lilley, Jr., Russell Bailey Wynne, William Gray Waters, Jr., Luther William Ressay, George Tilghman Lilley, John Daniel Lilley, Jr., Marvin Richard Knox, Ramon Otis Farmer, Willie Lilley, Jr.

One young man, Joseph Thomas Johnson, scheduled to answer the call, failed to report.

No official list could be had, but it was learned from one of the boys making the trip and passing that seventeen were rejected, including Hubert Lilley, Leslie Manning, Harper Peel, Jr., Hoson Burroughs, Harry Ayers, Frank Harrison, Jerry Raynor, Thos. Martin, Ernie Mobley, J. D. Willoughby, Hallett Davis, Warren Whitaker, Jimmy Mitchell, Daniel Hardison, Richard Williams, William Nelson and Thurman Bowen.

Out of the last group of about forty-nine colored men called for pre-induction examinations in October, eleven were accepted. It is understood that 27 were rejected, that six failed to report and five others were transferred to other boards.

The names of the colored men passing the pre-induction test on October 5, follow: R. S. Howell, William Thomas Smallwood, William Oscar Andrews, Arthur Brown, William Jasper Keel, John Davis Staton, Geo. Henry Lyons, Jr., Samuel Norfleet, John Lee James, William Arthur Bell.

The following men were transferred to other boards for the pre-induction test: Robert Small to Philadelphia, Thurman Bell to Norfolk, D. Leonard James to Richmond, Listus Herring to Warsaw, and Fate Albist Spruill to Baltimore.

James Edward Thompson, George William Mayo, Heriouis Little, Sam Rogers, William Bluford Wilson and Booker T. Bridges failed to make the trip.

Local Boy Promoted In Italian War Area

15th AAF In Italy—James W. Watts, Jr., Williamston, N. C., has been promoted to staff sergeant at his bomber base in the Mediterranean theater.

An aerial gunner on a B-24 Liberator, Sergeant Watts arrived overseas last August. Since that time he has flown eighteen combat missions over enemy territory.

He was awarded recently the Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activities against the enemy."

Sergeant Watts, a graduate of Williamston High School, and former student at North Carolina State University, enlisted in the Army Air Force on June 6, 1943. He attended AAF technical schools at Keesler Field, Miss., and Laredo, Tex., graduating with his wings in March, 1944.

TOBACCO CARDS

A special call was issued today by the office of the county agent, urging all farmers in Martin County to surrender their tobacco marketing cards to the agent or his representative. The cards, it was pointed out, must be turned in before new allotments can be issued, and since it will take some time for the office to handle the task, farmers are asked not to delay in delivering or mailing the cards to the office in the agriculture building.

Robt. W. Perry Dies At Daughter's Home Late Tuesday Night

Funeral Services for Retired Farmer Are Held Here Yesterday

Robert W. Perry, retired farmer, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Robert Jones, on the Jamesville Road, near here, last Tuesday night at 10 o'clock following an illness of a little over two months' duration. He had suffered heart trouble for some time, but was getting along about as well as usual until last Sunday when he suffered a stroke of paralysis. His condition was recognized as serious, pneumonia developing and causing his death.

The son of the late Simon D. and Martha Hardison Perry, he was born in this county 78 years ago on September 22. He lived in Griffins Township most of his life, farming there until he was forced to retire on account of the advancing years. Following the death of his wife, the former Miss Emma Griffin, he made his home with the children, and was living in the home of his daughter here when he was stricken a short time ago. In addition to his farming activities, Mr. Perry, an able mechanic, maintained a blacksmith and repair shop for a number of years, rendering a valuable service to the people of his community and section.

Mr. Perry was a member of the church at Smithwicks Creek for many years. He was regular in attendance upon its services and was loyal in its service and to its teachings.

He is survived by the following children, Will Perry of Rocky Mount, Simon Perry, Mrs. Minnie Ward, Mrs. Martha Ann Jones, Mrs. Donnie Corey, Dewey Perry and Mrs. Annie Hardison, all of Martin County.

Funeral services were conducted in the Smithwicks' Creek Church yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Elder P. E. Getsinger, assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington, county Baptist minister. Interment followed in the J. A. Revels Cemetery in Griffins Township.

Funeral For Native Is Held Wednesday

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of the Advent here Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Rev. Jos. Huske, Jr., for Mr. Amelock Campbell Roberson who died suddenly at his home on Staten Island, N. Y., last Sunday night. Interment followed in Woodlawn Cemetery here.

Reaching here about noon from New York, the body was removed to the church where it lay in state until time for the service.

Those attended the service from out of town were: Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Alexander of Portsmouth, Lt. and Mrs. William Roberson and Mrs. A. C. Roberson and Jerry Roberson of New York, Miss Emily Roberson of Raleigh, Hubert Cooke of Portsmouth, Mr. and Mrs. Radford Holden of Ayden, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harrison of Greenville and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Coltrain of Farm Life.

Sheriff Undergoes Treatment For Eye In Durham Hospital

Almost blind in one eye since his serious illness in a Washington hospital during most of October and November, Sheriff C. B. Roebuck entered McPherson's hospital this week for treatment. It could not be learned how long he would be there, but a late report states that the condition of his eye is much improved.

COTTON GINNING

Cotton ginnings, recognized as being well on toward complete for the season, are the lowest this season than at any other time in years, according to government reports just released by the United States Bureau of Census through its agent, Mrs. Strelssa Y. Griffin.

According to the report, there have been 2,633 bales of cotton ginned from the current crop up to November 14 as compared with 3,123 bales ginned during the corresponding period from the 1943 crop.

Bond Sale Over Half Completed In County

\$138,915.00 of the 'E' Bond Quota Already Sold In This County

Sales Zooming in Jamesville, Williams, Bear Grass and Robersonville Districts

An unusually encouraging report was released late yesterday by County Chairman Herman A. Bowen on the Sixth War Loan Drive in this county. It is now believed that the drive will be well over the top before December 16, but it is not yet time for anyone to rest on the oars, but invest in another war bond. The quota may be exceeded, but we can't buy too many as long as Martin County boys are fighting, suffering and dying on the foreign battlefield.

According to Chairman Bowen's latest report, the "E" bond sales now stand at \$138,915.00, or \$6,984.25 more than half the original quota. The sale of negotiable bonds really tore loose from the moorings since the last report and jumped from a comparatively small sum to \$412,500.00, a figure just \$42,500.00 short of the original quota. To date, a total of \$550,515.75 has been invested in war bonds during the Sixth Drive in the county.

Seven out of the ten townships reporting since earlier in the week, have increased their "E" bond purchases. After going over the top early in the drive, Jamesville added another \$2,000 to its total, and it is possible that Chas. Davenport, the chairman, and his people will subscribe the over-all amount in "E" bonds. The district has a \$500 negotiable bond to its credit also. Williams is less than \$300 short of its quota. Only a small purchase has been reported recently in Griffins, but they are holding a rally at Farm Life tonight with Jimmy Taylor auctioneering, and it won't be at all surprising to see that district over the top in the next report. Bear Grass more than doubled its purchases since the last report and is now within about \$2,000 of its quota. Williamston, still lagging, did very well since the last report, the chairman stating that sales jumped from around \$17,000 to \$32,250. Cross Roads possibly made the greatest percentage gain, but like Williamston, its \$918.75 is far short of the quota. They are scheduled to hold a rally there tonight and a good report is certain before next Monday afternoon. Buying more than \$24,000 since late Tuesday, Robersonville is just a little over \$10,000 short of its quota. Three townships, Poplar Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest made no report since early in the week, but the facts now at hand are really encouraging.

In the negotiable list, Williamston is leading the county with \$316,000, or \$21,000 in excess of its negotiable bond quota. Robersonville reported \$95,000 negotiables, leaving the district about \$41,000 short of its quota. Jamesville reported a \$500 negotiable bond, and Oak City listed a \$1,000 negotiable in its latest report.

Several counties in the nation have already reached and passed their (Continued on page four)

Soldier Is Wounded In Gun Accident

Cpl. Barney Lee Conway, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Gurkin of near here, nearly shot off two fingers on his left hand accidentally yesterday afternoon, reports from the hospital stating that there was some doubt if the fingers could be saved.

The young man suffered severe shock and details of the accident could not be had immediately. He had just come in from squirrel hunting about five o'clock and is thought to have been cleaning the gun when it accidentally fired. He was on the back porch of the Gurkin home at the time. Given first aid treatment here, he was removed to a hospital in Washington.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Cpl. Conway has been stationed at Camp Butler for some time, and was completing a thirteen-day furlough with his family near here today.

County Youth Returns From The Pacific Area

After a stay in New Guinea, Clarence Thomas, county boy, returned to his home in Hamilton last week-end for a 25-day furlough. Troubled with some type of skin disease, the young man has been receiving treatment in hospitals in this country since his return to the States. He will leave at the end of his furlough for Swanton for reassignment.

Thomas was one of about a dozen Martin County boys stationed in New Guinea. He states that he left them in good health and still longing and hoping to be able to return home ere long.

PRISONER OF WAR



Reported missing in action on September 11, 1944, in France, Private First Class James Samuel Roebuck, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Roebuck, is now being held a prisoner of war by the Germans, it was revealed in a message received this week through the International Red Cross.

Three Motor Wrecks Reported In County

One person, a young colored girl, was known to have been hurt and possibly others were slightly bruised in a series of auto accidents on the highways and streets of the county during the past few days.

Lillie Stokes, ten years old, was dangerously hurt when she walked into the side of a truck driven by B. Frank Lilley, Jr., on U. S. Highway 17 at the Staton farm last Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock. Struck by the body, the child, who lives on the W. L. Taylor farm, was thrown down and it is believed that one of the rear wheels of the truck passed over her arms, breaking both bones in her left arm and breaking her right arm near the shoulder. She was treated in a local doctor's office, and is getting along as well as could be expected, according to indirect reports received here today. The truck driver and owner, while cleared of any responsibility, accepted the expenses, it was learned.

The child, on her way to school with others, was said to have carelessly walked into the side of the truck.

C. B. Ayers, Cross Roads white boy riding with Pete Coltrain in a 1938 Ford, barely escaped serious injury when they struck a truck parked in front of the H. M. Burras home on West Main Street here early last Tuesday night. Ayers moved quickly or just before the right side of the car was ripped and almost torn off. The truck, owned by the Planters Oil Co., was not badly damaged, but damage to the car will run possibly as much as \$250 or \$300.

It is believed that one or more persons were hurt when an Oldsmobile from Virginia turned over on the Robersonville-Spring Green road last Wednesday afternoon. Three colored persons were in the car and they righted it and continued their trip before an investigation could be made.

J. G. Godard Critically Ill At His Home Here

J. G. Godard, retired farmer-banker, continues critically ill at his home here on Marshall Avenue, late reports stating that he was taking very little nourishment. Mr. Godard, 83 years old, broke two of his ribs in a fall in his room a short time ago, and he has been confined to his bed since that time.

LICENSE TAGS

After handling what is believed to be the greatest issuance of automobile and truck licenses ever recorded for this immediate section, the local bureau of the Carolina Motor Club offered the first 1945 motor vehicle state license tags for sale today. A few sales were made, but the rush is not expected until a little later in the month.

Located in the hotel building next door to Ann's Variety Store, the license bureau, operated by Harrison and Carstarphen insurance firm, sold 6,206 plates for 1944, handling approximately \$116,990.

Since November 15, 24 car owners bought plates, paying one-fourth the annual cost when they could have waited a few more days, or until today and saved quite a few dollars. But, what is a dollar now? The new tags may be displayed on cars now.

Court Holds Final Session of Special Term Wednesday

Few Cases Reach Jury But A Goodly Number Cleared From The Calendar

Opening a two weeks term on Monday of last week for the trial of civil cases only, the Martin County Superior Court adjourned late Wednesday afternoon of this week. Few cases, other than the ten divorce actions, reached the jury but a goodly number was cleared from the calendar, either by agreement or voluntary non-suits.

The Stevenson will case with the ten children divided six to four, was bitterly contested, the court, after working two full days hearing the evidence and thrashing out the issues, refusing to set the document aside. Evidence in the case was heard during all of Monday and some little time was spent for rebuttal Tuesday morning. Attorneys argued and argued until early afternoon, and Judge Jeff Johnson, presiding, reviewed every bit of the evidence, delved into the law and offered instructions in a charge lasting about one and one-half hours. The jury took the case at 3:55 o'clock that afternoon and reached a decision fifty minutes later, the verdict favoring the propounders or the four younger children, Roland and Ben Long Stevenson, Mrs. Marie Coburn and Mrs. Frances Coburn. The six "older" children, E. C. and Eli Stevenson, Mrs. Mattie Sterling, Mrs. Mary Perry, Mrs. Eva Coburn and Mrs. Beulah Gurganus, maintained that the will of Mrs. Mary Stevenson was drawn after the propounders had exercised undue influence, and they further claimed that Mrs. Stevenson was in feeble health and not mentally able to prepare a will.

It was intimated that the will represented an estate valued at between \$12,500 and \$15,000.

The court directed Attorney J. C. Smith to proceed with the orderly administration of the estate. A fee of \$400 was fixed for the propounders' attorney, H. G. Horton, and J. C. Smith was allowed \$350 by the court. B. A. Critcher, attorney for the caveators, was allowed \$250 by the court, the total to be paid out of the estate. Dr. J. E. Ward, qualifying as an expert witness in the case, was allowed \$30.

Squeezing in one or two minor cases for trial, the court granted Charlie Mack Mizelle a divorce from Annie Bailey Mizelle, the action being based on two years' separation. A judgment in the sum of \$60 was granted S. J. Tetterton in his case to recover on a note from Walter Bailey.

Frances Whitley was granted alimony without divorce in her case against Jesse Whitley, the plaintiff to receive \$20 a month for the support of her three children. The plaintiff was also given possession of one house table, one wardrobe, one dresser, one linoleum rug, one crib, seven chairs, two beds, mattresses and springs, one table set and one sheet.

While denying responsibility, the defendant in the case of Mildred Wobbleton, who brought suit by her next friend, Mrs. Lewis Wobbleton, to recover damages sustained in a fall from a truck, against Garland Woolard, agreed to pay \$342 to the plaintiff plus \$50 for plaintiff's attorney's fee.

Based on two years of separation, a divorce was granted Jasper Andrews in his case against Louvenia Andrews.

The case brought by Bettie Out- (Continued on page four)

Over 5,600 Register For Liquor Coupons

Signing 5,663 potential customers, the registration for new liquor ration books closing in the county late yesterday afternoon fell short of the high peak reached a year ago by an estimated 700 or 800. The decrease is traceable mainly to those persons entering the armed services during the past year and to those who were ruled ineligible for rations because they had violated some law since the 1943 registration.

Williamston, reporting a last-minute rush that reminded one of the depression bread lines back in the thirties, registered 3,975, and Robersonville signed up 1,688.

Approximately half of the registrants were women, a majority of them colored. There may be transportation problems, but there was little evidence of such problems when the Goose Nest colored population and others swarmed into the registration center here in droves yesterday and a few days before.

County Boy Is Promoted To Rank Of Sergeant In France

Charles W. Gurkin, Jr., 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Gurkin, RFD 1, Williamston, was recently promoted to the rank of sergeant over in France. Stationed at a Ninth Air Force Bomber Base in France, the young man is an engineer-gunner in an A-20 light bombardier group.