

The Rocky Mount Record.

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A Newspaper For The Home. Published Every Thursday Morning.

"REMINISCENCES."

Biographical and Historical Sketch by Dr. P. S. Hicks, Treating of Local Persons and Scenes.

We dug pits and threw up breastworks all night. We remained there two weeks and were released and fell back about two hundred yards where the second breastwork was formed. The place we had just left was where the mining and blow up took place. I saw it but it is too tedious to describe here. At that place I was appointed gunner, to fill the place of Corporal Slate, who was killed by a stray picket—shot in the night between our lines and the yankees while out getting Irish potatoes. I went from forge driver to water carrier, and from water carrier to gunner. To be a gunner was on the line of promotion, but that kind of promotion didn't suit me. A gunner in artillery is a most responsible and daring position in a battery.

At this period of the war soap had become an object, and was much needed. I was in possession of a secret for making soap without lye or grease, so now was the time for me to show what I could do—get a position to make soap that would wash me away from the front and give up my place as gunner. I pressed it and it worked well. I told my captain of my skill in making soap and he at once endorsed me for that purpose, and said I was the right man for that place, and gave me permit to our Colonel, John C. Haskell, of South Carolina. I went at once to his tent, and he asked me in. I made him acquainted with my ability as a soap-maker and he at once approved my application, exempted me from all other duties and from answering roll call, and gave me a permit to pass, to go and come from Richmond or Petersburg at will, and to have my headquarters to suit my convenience. I was to furnish my own chemicals and furnish our battalion soap at cost to the commissary.

Soap was greatly in demand in and around Richmond and Petersburg, and from that time on to the close of the war, about twelve or eighteen months, I had the best position of the kind, to be in the war at all, of any man I knew. I drew all the clothing I needed. I drew no rations at all but messed with the commissary and had plenty to eat. That is a grand thing for a soldier they say. Time passed on and at last we moved to the north side of James river, four miles below Richmond on Gaines farm, near the place where I first went into camp when I first entered the army. As I said before my quarters were with the commissary at the wagon yard.

On Saturday evening the 1st of April, before the surrender on the 9th, we got orders in our camp to be across Mayo's bridge by 9 o'clock that night and to leave all of our tents and most of our cooking utensils and to move with as little other burden as possible. I packed up, put all the soap I had on hand in our commissary wagon and gave my tent and other camping things to an old citizen. I took my blanket, my knapsack and one oilcloth, canteen and tin cup, and bid good-by to Gaines' farm and then let out for Richmond. I took one man with me—Smithwick—a man of my company who had been disabled from the explosion of a cannon. He had been home on a furlough and had come back after a discharge, but no time then to talk about a discharge. We let out for Richmond on our own hook, and got there a little after dark. Things were in an awful condition when we reached Richmond. The saloons had been taken by the marshalls, all the whiskies, brandies, etc., confiscated and poured out into the gutters of the streets and it was rushing and roaring down the sidewalks as if it had been a shower of rain. I could hear and see soldiers scraping and dipping up whiskey with their tin cups, drinking and pouring some into their canteens.

Orders had come from headquarters to secure all good horses from the citizens and take them along. It was a terrible time in Richmond that night. Horses were hidden in dwelling houses and even many a parlor that night was packed full of horses. There were lots of burglars and plunderers at work that night. I had a watch that I had left in a shop for repair, but was afraid to call for it as the door was closed and was afraid of being shot, so I went on until I got to the corner of 14th and Main Street, which leads to Mayo's bridge. If I am not mistaken on that corner there was a large brick building and at that time it was used as a storage for Confederate goods, clothing, shoes, etc. There were a number of soldiers standing around the building crying out, "throw out some more, or we will break in!" Yes, there were a lot of men upstairs at the windows throwing out shoes and the soldiers below were

scrambling for them. I stopped a minute and viewed the scene. Smithwick proposed to me to stop over all night, said we might make something worth staying for. I told him he could stay if he wished, but I must go on, so he decided to go with me. I had not gone but a few steps before I stumbled over a pack of nice clean underwear lying in the middle of the street. It was a God send to me, for just about that time I needed them. We crossed the bridge and stopped all night at a place known as McDonalds Hotel, a large wooden building in the center of Manchester, but was used as a hotel at that time. Smithwick and I slept on the second floor in a large room with the doors open all night so as to keep a lookout and to listen. Smithwick was asleep. I was lying in the east door, as it was looking down James river, my elevation was such that I had a good view. I think about midnight, I saw a tremendous flash of light in the element at the same moment a terrible jar. It was the "Merry Mack" the noted Confederate war ship. It was evacuated and blown upon purpose by the Confederates to keep it from falling in the hands of the Yankees. The jar frightened Smithwick and gave him the night mare and he galloped off hollering "we are gone, we are gone." I woke him up and told him we were not gone yet but soon would be. We slept no more that night, we could hear a hollering and fussing over in Richmond all the balance of the night.

Next morning I went to Richmond to see how things were getting along. When I got to the foot of the bridge there were three or four generals who seemed to be consulting over the condition of things. I spoke to them and asked if it would be safe for me to cross. One of them asked me which side I wanted to be on, I told him the side I was on. He then told me if I crossed it would be at my own risk that he did not know how long it would be before the bridge was burned.

(To be continued.)

State Farmers Union Organized.

Charlotte, April 1.—Preliminary steps were taken here today at the convention of the members of about a score of county unions to formally organize the North Carolina Farmers' Union, the twelfth state to be thus added to the ranks of the union now numbering two million farmers. The opening exercises were held at ten o'clock in the morning and were open to the public.

The farmers immediately thereafter went into secret session, and tonight completed and adopted a constitution for the state organization. There will be meetings tomorrow when a full quota of officers will be elected and the state union formally launched. There are approximately one hundred delegates present. Mr. Barrett, national head of the union stated that the preliminary work in this state had been more promising than in any of the other eleven states organized. There are several delegates from the mountains of Cherokee, while the entire state is likewise well represented. The membership is confined not alone to cotton planters but to all farmers and agriculturists and none others are eligible. The organization claims its origin in Raines county, Texas, four years ago. Mr. G. W. Fant, of Texas, has been in the state five months perfecting the organization of the counties. There are over five hundred members in Mecklenburg.

Russell Williams Killed in Runaway.

Thursday morning Russell Williams, the 17-year-old son of ex-Deputy Sheriff James Williams, of Nash county, met a violent death in a runaway near his home at Hilliardston, Nash county. The young man was hauling fertilizer from the railroad station, to his home, when his team got unmanageable and ran away. He was thrown from the wagon against a tree and his skull was crushed, causing instant death.

Deputy Sheriff Williams was officer under Sheriff Warren for a long time and is a well known and prosperous farmer of Nash county.

Postoffice Receipts.

The receipts for the year ending Mar. 31st, at the Rocky Mount postoffice amounted to \$17,626.27, against \$15,084.63 for the previous year, a gain of \$2,541.64, or about 17 per cent for the year. Considering the general depression in business throughout the country for the last half of the year the increase in the postoffice receipts in Rocky Mount shows up well for the city.

When you are looking for high grade shoes, of course Cochran's is the place Edwin Clapp's, for men, leads.

HIS BODY HORRIBLY MANGLED.

J. E. Holmes, Young Car Inspector, Instantly Killed on the Yards at South Rocky Mount.

Mr. J. E. Holmes, a young man from Mt. Olive who came to take a position as car inspector on the yards at South Rocky Mount only two days before, was instantly killed while attending to his duties early Friday morning. He was under a box car on a track in the middle yard, adjusting a coupling when the engine to take the train out came back, and striking the "string" with much force sent the cars back several car lengths. Holmes was caught unawares and was thrown across the track and was run over. He was horribly mangled and died instantly. Both legs and one arm were cut off, and a part of his right side was mashed off by the wheels. Pieces of his body were scattered about for some distance. These were gathered up and placed in a coffin and sent to his people in Mt. Olive. Mr. Holmes was apparently about 24 years old and unmarried.

Mr. R. L. Davis Speaks on Prohibition

Rev. R. L. Davis, State organizer for the Anti-Saloon League, addressed an audience of several hundred in the First Methodist Church Sunday afternoon, in which he sounded a clarion call to arms of the friends of the cause, cautioning against the danger of indifference, and appealing to the voters of the east to join the aroused west in rolling up a majority for prohibition in State election May 26th, that will forever put rest in North Carolina the question of the sale and manufacture of whiskey in the State. He pictured in graphic style the evils of intemperance and its great financial cost to the State. In voting prohibition, the speaker said, the manhood, that best of all assets of a community, having temptation removed.

Mr. Davis told of the progress of the campaign and was especially enthusiastic about the west. He also addressed audiences at North and South Rocky Mount, Sunday, in which much interest was manifest in the work in each place.

Will Shoot Projectile Over 300 Miles

London, April 1.—The government expects today the report confirming the claim of W. S. Simpson a well known metallurgist, who has invented an electric cannon that is capable of throwing a projectile 300 miles. Col. Maude, one of the foremost authorities is now testing the said gun today.

"The cannon will revolutionize all naval construction, forcing its abandonment of armor, making the speed the primary requirement of all fighting vessels, the gun is very simple in construction and with it it will be possible to bombard Paris from London."

The inventor, Mr. Simpson, said the gun represents as great an advance over the ones used now as the electric light over the candle.

Simplicity in its constructions, handling prime factors. It is cheaper than ordinary artillery and lasts one hundred times as long. The weapon develops a velocity of thirty thousand feet per second and experts say it can discharge fifty shells of 50 pounds each per minute.

An Unusual Case of Trespass.

A rather extraordinary case of trespass was tried before Squire Harris, Tuesday, in which the defendant is a young man who works at the A. C. L. shops at South Rocky Mount, and the trespass consisted in his going to the home of his sweetheart after being forbidden by the father, who objected to his suit for the young lady's hand. Mr. B. F. Weaver, father of the young lady, was prosecutor and the defendant was Willie Joyner. There was no bitterness on the part of the prosecutor, the action being brought in the court rather to show the ardent young suitor that he must respect the father's wishes in the matter. Judgment was suspended on the payment of the cost, but the young man was warned that a fine of \$25 would be imposed if he repeated his visit.

A Narrow Escape.

(Tarboro Southerner.)
Lonnie Pittman, colored, who is employed by E. Miller, proprietor of the Cyclone Department Store, masticated two rat biscuits with relish this morning, and two hours later learned of his mistake. He hastily went to the Edgecombe drug store, where J. K. Hollowell administered antidotes.

Although his condition is serious, he will recover. Pittman ate the poisonous biscuits, thinking they were cakes.

ROCKY MOUNT HAS 11,000 POPULATION

Martelous Growth of the City Since 1900 When Census Showed Only 2900 Inhabitants.

The city of Rocky Mount and its environs now have a population of 11,000 souls. This is a conservative estimate based upon a police census just completed showing a population within the corporate limits of 7,882. This census report does not include the suburban population of the Falls, the settlement west and southwest of Little Raleigh, a large part of Happy Hill and 300 living beyond the corporate limits, near the cemetery, numbering fully 3,000 in all, and all of whom are in the jurisdiction of the recorder and work within the limits of the city.

The census of 1900 gave Rocky Mount a little more than 2,900 and the growth of the city within seven years to 11,000, or an increase of nearly 400 per cent. It is unparalleled in the history of North Carolina and is incomprehensible to people not familiar with the city's growth. This growth has been steady and permanent, and business and home building have kept abreast, until now stands a real live, bustling little city where only a decade ago there was a struggling little town.

The report of Census taken J. H. Cuthrell shows by wards, within the corporate limits the following:

First ward: whites, 368; colored, 870.
Second ward: whites, 629; colored, 1218.
Third ward: whites, 1587; colored, 347.
Fourth ward: whites, 1266; colored, 404.
Fifth ward: whites, 382; colored, 133.
Sixth ward: whites, 425; colored, 274.

The total population within the city limits is 7882. On the Nash side of the railroad there are 3908, and on the Edgecombe side, 3975. There are 638 whites and 3246 colored residents within the city limits.

Wilson High School Beats So. Ry. Mt.

The Wilson High School didn't do a thing to the South Rocky Mount A. C. L. team, at Wilson, Saturday. The Railroaders succeeded in blacking the score only once while the Wilson boys formed a continuous procession and marched around the bases 23 times.

The protracted meeting at the M. E. church closed last week with five new members added. Rev. Mr. Everton assisted by Mr. Browning preached some very able sermons.

Eld. A. J. Moore filled his regular appointment at the Baptist church Saturday and Sunday and preached good and true gospel sermons, free from all fanaticism, with peace and good will to all mankind.

Mr. and Mrs. McDearman, of Rocky Mount, come Saturday to spend Sunday in the hospitable home of Mr. M. J. Battle.

Mr. and Mrs. R. U. Brooks, of Nashville, were here last week on a visit.

Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Turnage, of Farmville have been here visiting relatives.

The beautiful residence of Dr. J. C. Braswell on corner of Pippin and White Sts., is nearing completion and when finished it will be quite an ornament to that part of our town.

Mr. W. H. Bond's show-case in his store was robbed on Saturday evening and two watches taken by two negro thieves. They were spotted Monday morning and arrested and bound over to next term of superior court of Edgecombe county.

Poor old Brund and Rover begin to howl whenever the church bell tolls as if they have a presentiment that the governor is going to make a prohibition speech.

We were glad to meet on our streets Sunday Mr. Walter Ruffin, of Tarboro, one of our former young townsmen, now assistant register of deeds.

The governor with all of his brilliant fanatical prohibition oratory will never be able to defeat the peerless American patriot and statesman, Lee S. Overman for U. S. Senator. The idea of asking 150,000 American freemen to vote for a State prohibition law and debar them from manufacturing brandy and cider from their fruits to save 2000 drunkards who have to take "Keeley cure," is simply preposterous and absurd. Fanaticism in its ultra form. We heard a doctor in Richmond who was a close observer say not long ago that he made it a point to watch certain subjects, and the only difference between a whiskey fiend and a cocaine fiend was that the whiskey fiend would get sober and if he had done you a wrong his first thought was to make amends, apologize and shake your hand and the cocaine fiend would rob, steal, murder, and commit suicide.

"Rolyat."

If you are looking for shoes, try Cochran's, where the largest stock and the most beautiful Oxfords are kept.

Rocky Mount Wins From Warrenton.

Rocky Mount High School team defeated Warrenton High School team on the local diamond Friday by the score of 6 to 3, in the fastest game played here so far this season. The locals were much more effective with the willow and secured seven hits off Weeks, while Avera only allowed two. Avera's pitching was one feature of the game. Beginning strong his speed and control was all to the good, only showing a slight weakening in 9th inning. Gunn's brilliant stop at short and quick throw under adverse circumstances was a feature also. Jordan and Hobgood both caught a beautiful game, but Jordan had the best of it in throwing to the bases.

The game was spirited from beginning to end, and notwithstanding the cold wind prevailing, a large crowd of rooters were in attendance and felt fully repaid for their discomfort. Rocky Mount has not lost a game so far this season and in defeating Warrenton it takes much pride, inasmuch as Warrenton won from Trinity Park High School, and is a strong team.

Score by innings: R H E
Rocky Mount 300 000 300-6 7 1
Warrenton 000 100 002-3 2 5
Batteries: Rocky Mount, Avera and Jordan; Warrenton, Weeks and Hobgood.

Umpire: Williford.
Time: 1 hour and 35 minutes.

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HAPPENINGS IN POLICE COURT.

Comedy and Tragedy of a Week as Enacted in Calamity Hall Before Mayor Thorp.

Archie DeKaysner, colored, who was charged with being a blind tiger, by his sister, was discharged upon preliminary hearing, for lack of evidence. Will Rackley, a colored youth, was given 30 days on the roads for vagrancy, Thursday morning, and Jimmie Battle, a 12-year-old negro boy, was discharged for throwing rocks at a woman with the proviso that his aunt give him a sound thrashing under the eye of a policeman, which was done.

Saturday morning Mr. T. K. Redmond pleaded guilty to assault, in striking Mr. J. W. Phillips, and was fined \$10. The two have been conducting a saloon business at the corner of Tarboro and Washington streets under the firm name of Redmond & Phillips, and decided to dissolve, when in an altercation growing out of a disagreement Mr. Redmond struck Mr. Phillips. Parties interfered and stopped the row. An offender against the ordinance forbidding teams being left unfastened on the street was fined \$2 at the same session.

Booze was at the ottom of most of the cases before the recorder Monday morning, and the docket was pretty heavy. Besides some sanitary law offenders there were: Baldy Whelless, a colored boy, for trespassing on the property of the Tar River Lumber Co.; not guilty, as it was shown the boy lived on the company's tract and worked for them; Wright Battle, colored, whom liquor inspired to go to the house of his wife, from whom he is separated, and start trouble, \$10 fine with the injunction that a road sentence would be imposed next time he appears at the bar; Lige Blackley, for tanking up and whipping a woman, 60 days; Sam Perry and Richard Battle, two Spring Hope boys, for driving a horse on the street, each in default of \$10 fine; Sam Smith, fast driving, due to drinking also, \$10; and Estelle Guild and Lula Wright, disorderly, \$7.50 each.

Madison Mitchell, "Snow," as he is familiarly known, was the first mourner in the recorder's court Tuesday morning, and the charge was, the same that has been preferred against Snow divers times. A 30 days' treatment was adjudged well and fit for him for his latest offense. Dave McDongall, colored, was fined \$10 for driving over the fire hose, Monday afternoon.

Death determined to choose a Prime Minister. All the diseases were permitted to come before him and argue their claims for the position. First came consumption and urged his claim, showing the thousands he killed in a year and maintaining that though his work was slow it was sure. Gout hobbled up and put in his claim. Asthma's inability to speak was a strong but silent argument in her favor. Fever pleaded with burning words her claim.

War, pestilence, famine and plague showed the thousands they slew in a day. While all were pleading there was heard the sound of music and dancing and a beautiful woman entered the room and thus addressed all of these diseases: "Stand aside ye band of sickly pretenders and let me, your lawful mistress take my place." Do not I freed and nurture you all! They asked her name and she answered "Intemperance." On hearing this they all went away and Intemperance assumed her place as Prime Minister of Death a position she has held ever since. Destroy her work in the "Old State on 26th of May."

D. H. Tuttle.

P. O. Money Orders For Past Year.

The Rocky Mount postoffice handled during the past year, closing Mar. 31st, 14,098 money orders, aggregation \$92,101.30, divided as follows: Domestic, 14,052 orders and \$90,009.64 handled; international orders, 40 and \$2,091.67 handled. Some idea of the amount of business done at the local office can be gathered from the above figures, which are for only one branch of the business.

Early Morning Services.

Rev. D. H. Tuttle will conduct services at the 1st Methodist church every morning next week from 6:15 to 7 o'clock. The subject for Easter service will be an early morning scene in the New Testament. Everybody invited.