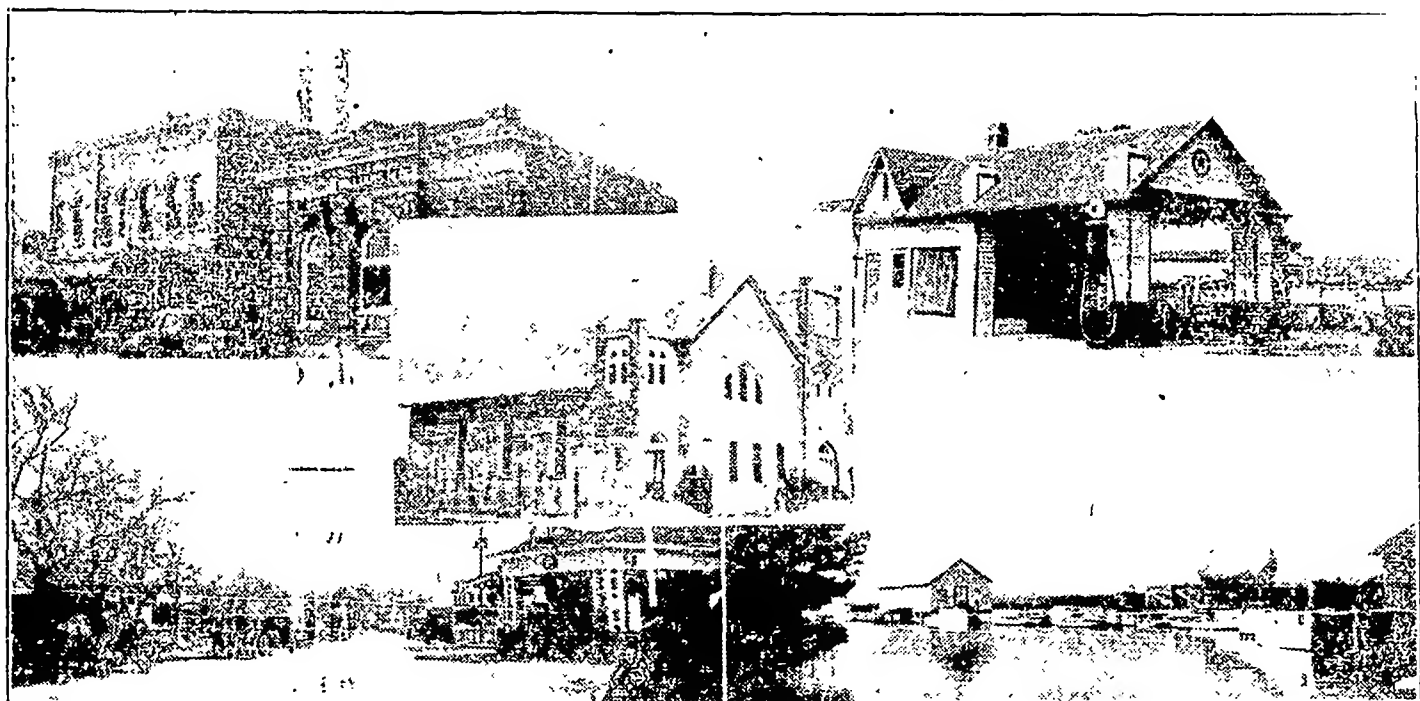


Some Scenes in Swan Quarter, Capitol of Hyde County



SWAN QUARTER is a pretty place, as may be seen from the above snapshot. In the upper right may be seen the Williams building which houses the law offices of Hon. O. L. Williams, and also the branch of the Engelhard Banking and Trust Company. Next to this building is the Berry Company building, where Dan Berry, Swan Quarter booster, operates a large store. In the upper left is Dan Berry's modern Texaco filling station. The central picture shows the Swan Quarter Methodist Church, the new church built to replace the famous church "moved by the hand of God," about which you will read elsewhere, and which has been outgrown. The lower left shows a view along the main street of Swan Quarter, and the lower right a scene along the splendid harbor leading up to the village

HYDE'S GLORIOUS

(Continued from Page 2)
thrift and superior intelligence to become rich, and from whom the Lords Proprietors usually selected their deputies; and the freemen who were the ordinary and un-instructed emigrant. Among this class was another set, whose crimes had reduced them to temporary slavery. There were the transported convicts who had been brought in and sold to the planters under temporary bondage. Their condition was worse than any other of the white people in the colony, but they were a great deal better off than the poor people of London were. They were bound out for a certain term of years, at the expiration of which they became full citizens.

Sent Delegates to Assembly
The earliest record of representatives of Hyde in any Assembly is of the delegates sent to the general meeting at New Bern on August 25, 1774. Hyde county sent Samuel Smith and Rochas Latham. To the meeting at Hillsboro in 1775 Hyde also sent delegates, and to the Congress at Halifax, April 4, 1776, she sent several delegates.

The inhabitants of Hyde lived far apart and there was only occasional intercourse between them. For many years the General Court and Assembly had no fixed place for session and the meetings were oftentimes at the private residence of one of the Counselors. There was no mail service, and all communication except by personal intercourse had to be by private messenger.

This difficulty was felt a great deal by the upper class, but more so by the servants and laborers. No white bondsman could leave his master's land but under restrictions as amounted to virtual prohibition, and a hired laborer could not come and go as he pleased. Sunday was the day of rest and freedom, but not even then could the people gather together at the places of worship, for there were no such places for many years. The English hunter and the wild Indian were the only ones that did much visiting, and they probably saw more of the inhabitants than any one else in the province.

Man Was Head of Household

Circumstances made society simple in those pioneer days. The man was the armed protector and the woman was the house-wife. Most all were hunters, many depending in a great measure for their meat upon venison and bear's flesh procured by the rifle. The first lesson that Hyde county settlers learned was the necessity of self help; the next, all must help one another. Log-rollings, house-raising, corn-shuckings, (in Hyde called corn gatherings,) when all the neighbors came together to do what the family itself could hardly accomplish alone, was the occasion of a frolic and dance for the young people. Other amusements were foot-races, cudgel playing and wrestling. The young men prided themselves on their bodily strength, and were always eager to contend against one another in athletic games, such as wrestling, racing, jumping and lifting barrels. The young people were often invited to cotton pickings, which were occasions of a great deal of fun and amusement. The cotton was spread out in a big roll in front of the blazing fire made in the spacious fireplace. The task to each one was to pick one shoe full of cottonseed, after which all could engage in play.

The costumes of the rich folks were the same as those in England under Queen Anne and George I reign. The common people lived in comfort and were generally clad by the industry of the women of the province; for they made first the cloth and then the garments from cotton, wool and flax. Almost every house contained a loom and nearly all the wom-

en knew how to weave and make cloth. The buildings were being improved on all the time, until once in a while a house built entirely of brick could be found, and nearly all of the houses had brick chimneys. When the people first emigrated to America the houses were nothing but little log huts.

The women and children were a great help to the early settlers. They could handle a canoe well and their wives were always ready to help their husbands in any service way. The girls were taught to sew, spin and attend to the household affairs and dairy. The children of both sexes were very quick at learning. There were few, if any, good-for-nothing ones among them, and instead of wasting what the industry of their parents had left them, they improved and added more to it. They were married when quite young.

The improvement of the county went forward by felling the trees and draining off the rich lands, until about 1830, when the development of the county had grown with astonishing rapidity. Those who came to the county as families separated and went to their farms, usually called clearings, as they were always made by first cutting off the timber. The stumps were left to dot the fields of grain and Indian corn. Corn was the invariable resource of the Hyde county settler.

The title to some of the land was obtained from the Indian Chief, Long Tom, as a record of it has been found in the courthouse of Hyde county. Not only was the clearing of the forests the first preliminary to cultivation, but it was also the surest means of causing the Indians to move westward in search of hunting grounds. All the land was shrouded in one vast forest, and stretched in sombre and melancholy wastes from Lake to Sound.

In those trying times prior to the 1812 War, the settlers of Hyde county had but little money; barter was the common form of exchange, and peltries were often used as a circulating medium. Real estate was almost without value. A Lake farm of about one hundred acres, it is said, sold for enough calico to make a lady's dress. The same farm today can be bought for one hundred dollars per acre.

Goosemeat Used for Bread
It has been told that early during the eighteenth century, the settlers had been cut off from a crop by excessive rains and storms until some of the people were on the point of starvation. A lady with a family residing about five miles from Swan Quarter had but one goose left to eat. She baked the goose as dry as she could to serve both as bread and meat for a while, after which she would gather her children about her and die of starvation, but Providence would have it differently. News came to the home that a boat had arrived at Swan Quarter with corn. The corn and wheat was ground into meal and flour by a small hand grist mill out from rock.

During the period just prior to the Civil War, the rich lands of Hyde county, owing to cheap labor, became very valuable. Judge John R. Donnell owned a farm of six thousand acres, three thousand of which were cultivated by two hundred to three hundred slaves.

Confederates Put Up a Fight
The great Civil strife came on in 1860. There was one battle fought in Hyde county in 1863, between the Confederate and Federal troops, on the main thoroughfare from Swan Quarter to Lake Mattamuskeet, and within one and a half mile of Swan Quarter. The Confederates attacked the Federals from ambush. As there is no written record of this battle I will quote from a letter written by L. S. Dickey of Chicago, Illinois; who was in a raid to the county a few days after the fight: "I was not along with the ambushed party. They belonged to the 3rd

New York Calvary Company F and were commanded by Capt. Collier Richardson, with a Howitzer Company G Inst. North Carolina Vols. They debarked at Rose Bay Bridge."

In his report the Capt. says, "The crossings of the roads were destroyed by the negroes under orders of one Henry Credle, whom they took to New Bern as a prisoner. About three miles from Fairfield they found some of the enemy, and when they arrived there the place was nearly deserted. I then moved on and drove in mounted pickets during the whole march from Lake Landing to within one and a half mile of Swan Quarter, when I was attacked from the swamp on the right of the wood by about eighty Rangers, and ordered to surrender. A deep canal eight feet wide ran between me and the attacking party. As my vedettes were passing, the Rangers fired one shot.

"Lieutenant Benson immediately charged the first platoon of cavalry and received a volley killing three of my men and wounding the Lieutenant and several others. Six horses were killed and many wounded. I ordered the infantry to deploy into the woods as skirmishers and ordered Lieut. Burke to give the enemy a few rounds of canister. Here Lieut. Burke was wounded. The enemy were dispersed and fled. This happened Wednesday, March 4, 1863. The following week, March 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 the expedition

that followed marched around the Lake. L. S. Dickey was in command of this expedition."

"We reached the residence of the people we were to move and their household effects were put in to a rickety cart with a sorry specimen of a horse to haul it. When we were about to start the return trip a little boy of five or six years of age stood by weeping bitterly because he was being left behind. He was an orphan who had been living with the folks we were taking away, and they did not wish to take him alone. The grateful look of the little fellow as he dried his tears was my reward."

In our circuit around the Lake toward the sound we had started on this raid as foot soldiers, but by this time, a majority of our force was riding, mounted upon horses, mules, donkeys, oxen and even cows, or were drawn by them in vehicles of various kinds, from the family carriage to the home made wagon. It was a grotesque and comical procession and it amused me greatly, but there was such a lack of order and discipline that from another view of it I was disgusted.

"Once I mounted a diminutive donkey and rode along with my feet dangling close to the ground. The animal went along nicely for a while, but becoming tired of my company, he suddenly jumped under the wagon and scraped me off his back. When we halted for

dinner that day some of the boys found a roast of beef, so prepared at a farm house and carried away and as a faithful chronicler I must confess that I partook of it. We arrived at Swan Quarter

in the evening and bivouaced in the dining room floor for us. The town Capt. Alexander as usual found a good place for some of the troops to sleep. It was a very comfortable Mr. Lewis and we slept on feather beds which she was kind enough to spread on

No large expressions of the Federals came to the county again during the war. Only two executions in Hyde County have been out two legal executions in Hyde county—one

white and one negro man—and that was prior to 1836. One negro man was lynched during the Civil War. It is said that Hyde county has the smallest per cent of criminals of any county in the (Continued on Page 6)

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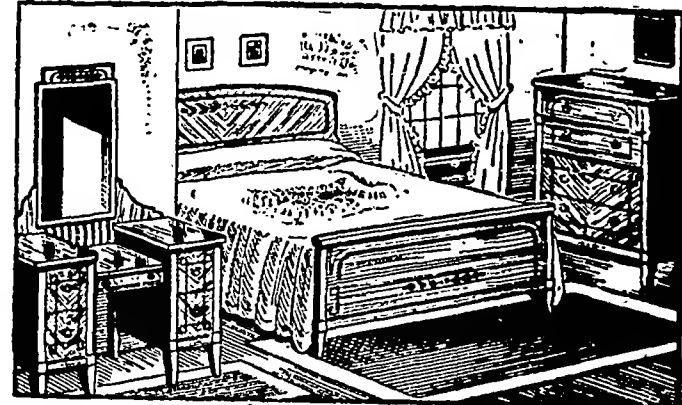
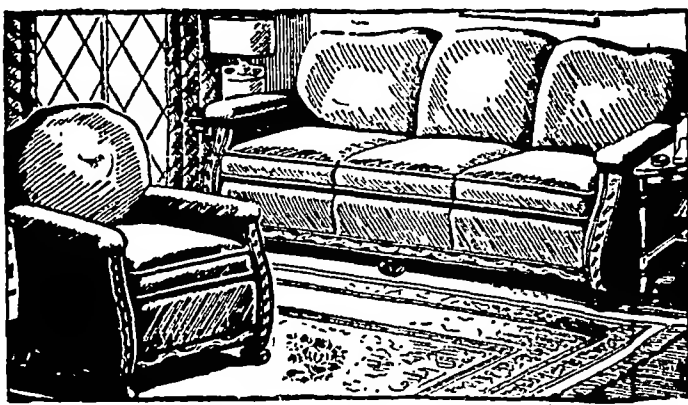
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