

WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS FIRE DRILLS IN HIGH SCHOOLS

During this, the week of October 7-12, fire-prevention week has been observed throughout the State of North Carolina. Very little has been done in Washington county with the exception of a few fire drills in the schools.

Fire Chief L. W. Gurkin and Lee Roy Harris went to the various schools in the county and observed them in their fire drills. A report of the results of this has been sent to the State department. The State Department requires that every school should have at least one drill a month, yet there hadn't been a drill in any one of the schools of the county. Superintendent Norman this week sent out circulars and other information instructing the teachers to conduct these drills monthly.

Results of the drills this week that will be sent in to the State department are as follows:

Plymouth High School, first attempt was one minute and 45 seconds; second attempt was one minute and 15 seconds; Hampton Academy, or primary grades, first attempt was one minute and 30 seconds while the second attempt it was one minute; after three attempts it took Roper one minute to clear the building; Creswell took one minute and nine seconds the first attempt but cut it down to 45 seconds the second attempt and at Cherry the children cleared the building on the second attempt in 25 seconds. The Negro schools at Plymouth and Creswell were the only colored schools tested these cleared the building in 50 and 20 seconds respectively.

BILL BOOSTER SAYS

"OUR HOME NEWSPAPER IS THE TOWN'S MOST FAITHFUL BOOSTER! IT LOYALLY PROCLAIMS THE TOWN'S VIRTUES, CONCEALS ITS FAULTS AND PROUDLY BEARS ITS STANDARD ABROAD IN THE WORLD! IT WORKS FOR ALL IMPROVEMENTS, PROMOTES HARMONY AND ASSISTS IN THE SUCCESS OF THE BUSINESS PEOPLE."



ALMO THEATRE TONIGHT

AND Saturday Night

Karl Dane and George K. Auther

IN "All At Sea" Sixth Episode
Fire Detective COMEDY

COMING!
OCTOBER 21.

"The Pace That Kills" MEET ME THERE

First History In Carolina Began At Durants Neck "Craddle Of The Colony"

The following article was written especially for the Beacon and News by E. T. White Jr., who now lives in the Leigh house. This is probably the first time that a history of this, the first settlement in North Carolina, has ever been published in a newspaper. It is right in line with the work being done by the Albemarle Society, which was organized for the preservation of history and other assets of the Albemarle counties, of which Washington is a part. Durant's Neck will probably be dubbed the "Craddle of the Colony."

In 1660 George Durant, a planter from Virginia, enthused by the reports he had heard about the fertile land lying South, set out on an exploring expedition to see if the reports were true. He found the Indian land, "Wilkacome," now known as Durant's Neck, to be a very desirable place to live. He roamed in and around the Indian village Chepanock, now called Cedar Point, nearly two years. He decided to bring his wife, family, and chattles into this new land. He selected a place near Chepanock to build his home, and at once began to clear away the forest for his plantation.

The old Indian name Wilkacome vanished from history and this historic spot has every since been known as Durant's Neck. The Weapomick changed to the Albemarle Sound and the Katoline River changed to Little River.

We look back to George Durant who acted honest with the Indians, with pride. It is with him, the connected history of North Carolina begins. He bought from the Indian Chief Kilcoknen, the land on which he established his home and plantation. The deed is now in the courthouse in Hertford, Perquimans county, and is the earliest record in the history of our State.

The news soon spread about this fertile land and others came here to live. Such men as Captain John Hecklefield, Samuel Precklove, George Catchmaid and Richard Sanderson, while later still the Blounts, Whidbees, Newbys, Skinners and Harveys, names still prominent in the Albemarle, came to Perquimans county and settled.

The public business for many years was transacted at the homes of the planters at Durant's Neck. Courts were held, councils convened assemblies were called, while from the wharves of the planters in Perquimans county, on Little River, white ships sailed, with the products of the rich fields and forest to the West Indies and Mother Country.

The most interesting events in the early history of the Albemarle occurred at Durant's Neck. The Culpepper Rebellion, of which George Durant's and John Culpepper were among the leaders, began in Pasquatank county, but reached its highest point at George Durant's home on Little River. The cause of the Culpepper Rebellion dates back to the passing of the Navigation Act by Cromwell's Parliament. Cromwell held sway in England and over the American colonies. This act prohibited the colonies from buying any goods, except they were shipped from Europe and forbade the use of any but English vessels carrying on trade. This would cause interior trade to cease. England alone should be the market

for the buying and selling of goods in this part of America.

The large built English vessels could not pass through the shallow waters of the Albemarle section that connected the Carolinas with the Atlantic inland waterway. To obey this law would be a death blow to commerce and prosperity to the Albemarle settlers. The planters in Durant's Neck paid little attention to the trade laws. They had built small boats, which sailed the waters along shallow places and had furnished the settlers with things which they needed. The principal crop of the Albemarle section was tobacco and the Proprietors passed a law that a tax should be paid on all exported tobacco. The Proprietors appointed Eastchurch governor and Thomas Miller collector of customs for the Albemarle section. These men were at that time in England, but they had lived in the Albemarle and were hated by some of the settlers. They soon left England to take up their duties in Carolina. Stopping at the Isle of Navis, Eastchurch became charmed with a Creole maid and was soon married. He appointed Miller his deputy and sent him on. The people of the Albemarle section received him kindly and let him fill Eastchurch's chair. As soon as Miller began to reign, he enforced the trade and navigation laws. The planters resented. They only needed a spark to light the flame. That spark came in a few days when Captain Zackry Gilliam, a shrewd New England shipmaster, came in his little vessel bringing with him supplies needed by the settlers for the winter days. In this vessel was the beloved George Durant. The vessel stopped at Captain Crawford's landing on the Pasquatank River. They were having a glorious time telling of the loved ones in the Mother Country. All at once Miller appeared on the scene and accused Gilliam of breaking the law. Miller was not able to arrest George Durant and Captain Gilliam, so he left the boat. Shortly he returned with several government officials and went on the boat to complete his work. In the meantime, several planters had heard of the disturbance, and anxious for the safety of their friends, rowed out to the boat. The tide quickly turned. Miller and Biggs were taken over to the home of George Durant. About 70 men had conveyed there to try Miller and Biggs for treason. But before the trial was ended, Governor Eastchurch and his bride had arrived in Virginia and ordered the men to return to their homes. This the planters refused to do and sent armed forces to prevent Eastchurch coming in their territory. Eastchurch became sick and died.

Biggs escaped and went to England. Miller was kept in prison for two years in a little log cabin built for a jail on George Durant's plantation. The jail was near where the Leigh brick house now stands.

Ten years the Albemarle colony prospered under the wise and prudent management of the officers whom the people put in charge of affairs without leave or license from King or Lord. George Durant and Culpepper decided of their own authority to restore the management of the affairs to the Proprietors. Seth Sothel was appointed governor for the Albemarle section. The Hecklefield house must have

been a large one as it was used for a place of meeting for Governor's Councils, the general court and on one occasion, as Legislative Hall of the General Assembly of the Albemarle. The Hecklefield farm was in Durant's Neck on the plantation adjoining George Durant. The old residents of that place can point out the site of Captain Hecklefield's home; it was about 300 yards to the North of the main Durant's Neck road. An old Sycamore tree, whose great girth gives evidence of the centuries it has seen, stands by the side of the road at the entrance of the lane. For more than 40 years after the first recorded settlement in North Carolina, no towns had been built. Therefore we know there were no public buildings of any kind, courthouse or capital, established. Records show that no less than 20 times did executives, judicial, and legislative officials assemble at Captain Hecklefields to perform their various duties. In 1708, the assembly met at the Hecklefield plantation to investigate the Cary-Glover question and to decide which of these two claimants had the right to govern the people. It was at this same place that Governor Eden was sworn in as ruler of North Carolina under Queen Anna.

Of all these old homes in Durant's Neck, where so much history was made, there is none left, they are gone.

Colonial James Leigh, an Englishman, migrated to Durant's Neck in the later part of the 18th century and began to buy tracts of land until he owned several thousand acres of land. About 100 years ago he built a brick mansion on the land once owned by George Durant. This old home is visited by many tourists from all parts of the United States. It is a typical old slave plantation with the quarter houses.

The Leigh house is two-faced. That is, there no front or back as far as the appearance. The back has the same type of steps, which are stone pillars, and porticos as the entrance. This house 60 feet by 60 feet, including front and back porches. The building is four stories high. The first story consists of basement. An average person can walk under the porticos. The outer walls are twenty inches thick, while the inner walls are 14 inches. In the hall you will see about the center, an arch. The house is built of brick, and has eight fire places. All of the mantles are hand carved and have marble hearths. Between the parlor and the living room are large sliding doors. The stair steps leading to the third and fourth floor, are in the hall. You can imagine the size of hall and rooms as there are only four rooms and a hall on each floor. The only difference in rooms down stairs and up stairs, the end windows upstairs are inset, while the ones down stairs are not. The fourth floor has two large arched windows. This room was used for a dance hall.

An old tombstone, found in the Albemarle Sound, which is now at the lower steps of the side porch, is said to have once marked the grave of Seth Sothel. The inscription on the stone is now worn off. (He Was The Most Despised Governor Of North Carolina.) Under an elm tree in the Leigh yard, you will see the slab that is said to have marked George Durant's grave.

Mrs. C. H. Robinson, a granddaughter of Colonial Leigh, now owns the brick house and about 1000 acres of land.

Albemarle Society Met Edenton Monday Night; Washington Is Member

YOUNG TAR HEEL FARMERS MET MONDAY NITE AT ROPER

The Young Tar Heel Farmers Club of the Roper High School had its first meeting for the coming year, in the agricultural class room Monday night with 25 members present. The purpose of this meeting was to reorganize the club and elect officers to serve for the coming year. The meeting was opened by Aubrey Ainsley, retiring vice-president, who gave the history and purpose of the club.

The new officers that were elected to serve were Thomas Tarkington, president; Roy Blount, vice-president; Aubrey Ainsley, secretary; Aumack Everett, treasurer; Leslie B. Spruill, reporter and B. G. O'Brian, Advisor. After the election of officers short talks were made in behalf of the club by all the new officers.

After the election of officers and short talks, 13 new members were accepted and initiated in the organization. One of the projects for the coming year is the building of a log cabin (club house) in which to hold their regular meetings. This cabin will be built on one of the nearby beaches.

The program and plan of work for the coming year will be drawn up at the next regular meeting to be called by President Tarkenton.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to take this method of thanking our many friends who have so generously assisted us during the period our daughters were recuperating from an automobile accident a short time ago.

MR. & MRS. R. G. HARDISON

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rev. A. H. Marshall, Rector, Mr. Frith Winslow, Lay Reader. Sunday School at 10 A. M. No Service at 11 A. M.

WE WANT NEWS

In every community in Washington county, something of interest to people throughout the county happens - you let us know and we'll tell everybody else.

T. J. Swain, V. B. Martin, Rev. and Mrs. R. G. L. Edwards, Mr. Ferrell, Misses Parker and Dunning attended the Duke football game at Durham Saturday.

POET AND PEASANT

"I understand that the Connty Commissioners ordered the sheriff to clear Washington county of slot machines, last Monday," said the Peasant.

"Yes they did," replied the Poet, "but that doesn't make a damn bit of difference. It isn't the first time that an attempt has been made to clear the county of these machines. A few years ago they were ordered discarded and were for a very short time then they came back stronger than ever."

"I believe that they are gone for good this time," said the Peasant. "Well," replied the Poet, "I certainly hope that they are, but the people are crazy about gambling and will find some other means to take chances which will probably be even worse."

Another step towards constructive organization was lent the Albemarle Society Monday night when representatives from Chowan, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Dare, Currituck, Bertie and Washington counties met in Edenton and formulated constitution and by-laws. These by-laws will not be officially adopted until after they have been passed by the various counties constituting the Albemarle section. It is hoped that by the next meeting Gates, Hertford and Tyrrell counties will have entered.

Briefly this organization was formulated to exploit the counties washed by the waters of the Albemarle Sound and its tributaries, historically, commercially and agriculturally.

Those who attended were: J. L. Wiggins, M. F. Bond Jr., Clark Kinnaird, Edenton; J. S. McNider, Hertford; Dudley Bagley Moyock; Lee Roy Harris, Plymouth; Herbert Peele, D. D. and W. O. Saunders, Elizabeth City; J. E. Ferbee, Camden; J. A. Pritchett, E. S. Askew, J. H. Harrell, Windsor and W. C. Lawrence, Theodore Meekins, Manteo.

Before the meeting, the delegates were dinner guests of Mayor J. L. Wiggins at Hotel Hinton.

UNITED DAUGHTERS WIN THREE PRIZES

Mrs. B. A. Sumner is in receipt of a telegram of congratulations from the State Convention of United Daughters of Confederacy meeting in Statesville this week congratulating the Major Louis Charles Latham chapter at Plymouth for winning three competitive prizes of \$10 each.

This is one of the youngest chapters in the State, being organized a year ago, and under the capable leadership of Mrs. Sumner as president, has gained recognition as one of the outstanding organizations in the county.

The aim of the chapter is to erect a suitable monument in some prominent place in Plymouth to our confederate dead. The efforts of the chapter to raise funds to this end are going steadily forward with the untiring cooperation of the whole chapter.

Mrs. E. G. Arps, Mrs. John Brown and Miss Hermine Ausbon delightfully entertained the Daughters last Friday and the entire staff of officers were re-elected in addition to Mrs. Stark Holton as historian.

"I will have to disagree with you on the point that people are crazy about gambling," said the Peasant. "Like heck you will," said the Poet. "This life is nothing but a game of chance itself. Nearly every person you see is always after something for nothing which is the paramount reason for gambling. Suppose you knew that if you were to put 25c in one of these machines and get out \$2.00, wouldn't you do it; sure you would."

"Sure I would," replied the Peasant, "but you never know whether you are going to get back \$2.00 or nothing. If these machines would not make money they would not be operating, therefore I say that they should go to protect the weak minded and children."