

TORPEDO BOATS PROVED VALUE IN WAR EVENT HERE

Aid of Civic Organizations To Be Sought in Building Suitable Memorial

Torpedo boats, as a necessity of war, swept into importance in the War Between the States when such a vessel under the command of Lieut. W. B. Cushing sank the famous ram "Albemarle," iron-clad champion of the Confederate cause, on the night of October 27, 1864.

This torpedo carrier was crude in style and did not resemble the famous U-Boats nor submarine craft of the World War, but they were effective, as they could so direct their explosives that they would penetrate the vessels in their unprotected bottoms that rested in the water several feet.

With this knowledge, Zeb Vance Norman, president of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and vice president of the Southern Albemarle Association, representing this county, wishes to secure the aid of civic organizations including the American Legion, United Daughters of the Confederacy and any such organizations that will help to devise a plan to perpetuate the memory and arrange for a physical historical attraction to Plymouth for tourists.

It is his idea to build a replica, either the same size, if money is available, if not, maybe of a miniature nature, to satisfy the desires of those who revel in historical sights and who visit the shrines of history annually on tours of this country. Some have suggested a painting, if nothing else. A tablet on the courthouse grounds commemorates the sinking of the ship.

This boat was built at Edward's Ferry, between Scotland Neck and Halifax, on the farm of Peter Smith, by a man named Smith and a Mr. Elliott. The boat had no runways or dry dock, but was constructed in a "sink" in a bank of the river that was large enough to hold the boat. Dikes prevented the water rushing into the opening in the bank.

Before completion of the wooden boat, President Jefferson Davis, on March 19, 1864, ordered the boat to proceed down the Roanoke River to Plymouth. During its course, the railroad iron that was bent into gunboat metal in Richmond and sent down here, was bolted on the sides en route to Plymouth.

Prior to its arrival the Federals had secured a hold on Plymouth. General Hoke, a Confederate commander, was awaiting the help of the ram "Albemarle," and upon its arrival the boat and the troops assaulted Plymouth and took the town for the South. Hoke, with his men, was stationed near Ward's bridge on the Martin and Washington County line. He was made a major general by President Davis for the part he played in taking Plymouth from the Yankees.

The "Albemarle" was under the command of Capt. J. W. Cooke, while Gen. A. F. Warley was in command of the troops. The vessel was 153 feet long, 35 feet wide with a draft of 8 feet. It was classed as a screw steamer, iron-clad, yellow pine fastened with iron and tenails. It had two engines, two boilers, two funnels and two guns.

The "Albemarle" sank more than 16 enemy vessels. Among them was the "Miami," which cost the enemy \$179,051.23. The commander, C. W. Flusser, was killed. The "Southfield" was also a victim. It cost the Union forces \$65,000. Acting Volunteer Lieut. Charles A. French was in charge. Both were sunk in the Roanoke River near the old veneer plant. Seven more boats were accounted for at the mouth of the Albemarle Sound.

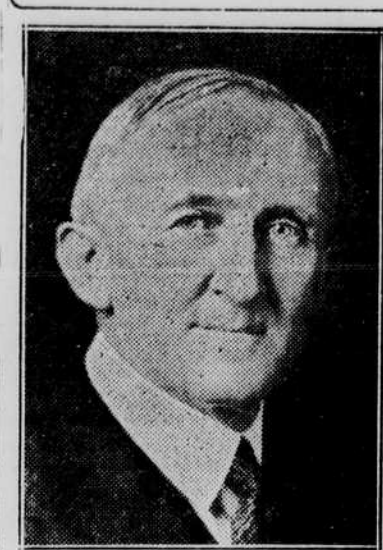
Upon arrival of the Albemarle in Plymouth waters the Confederates took the town from the Union forces the first time, with General Wessels surrendering on April 21, 1864, turning over to the south 2,500 prisoners and 28 pieces of artillery and a large quantity of provisions. Three days after the sinking of the "Albemarle" the Federals captured Plymouth for the second time.

Fort was built and guns trained on the Roanoke River toward the Sound. The canny Yankees with light-draft ships treaded the shallow waters of the Middle and Cashie Rivers into the Roanoke River, coming in from the east, while efforts were being made to protect it from the west.

Betty Graham, a pretty and wise spy from Virginia, was sent down here by President Davis to watch operations of the enemy from this section. She loved a Confederate officer. However, she "worked" the Yankee officer in charge here and found out that the attack was going to be made from the west, but after receiving her information the Con-

Farmer Is Burned To Death Near Jamesville

CHURCH SPEAKER



Dr. Grant K. Lewis, of Indianapolis, Ind., executive secretary of Department of Evangelism of the Christian churches (Disciples) in the United States and Canada, who will speak at the One-Day convention at the Williamston Christian church on Monday, December 2nd.

Increased Acreage of Food and Feed Crops Reported in State

Million More Acres Planted This Year Than in 1930; Farms Increase

Under the AAA programs, North Carolina farmers are growing this year over 1,000,000 acres more food and feed crops than they did five years ago.

Much of the 870,000 acres taken out of cotton and tobacco cultivation has been put into corn, wheat, oats, hay, sorghums, pasture and other crops for consumption on the farm.

According to the agricultural census taken this year, reported Dean I. O. Schaub of State College, the total land under cultivation has increased from 5,809,754 to 5,965,547 acres since 1930.

The number of farmers in the State increased by 21,259, or 7.6 per cent. However, the gross value of farm land decreased 26 per cent.

On the farms were found 13,000 full owners, 4,000 part owners, and fewer than 5,000 tenants.

The corn and hay crops were increased by approximately 450,000 acres each, while the wheat crop jumped from 350,000 to 500,000 acres. Irish potato plantings jumped up 52 percent, or 32,000 acres, and the sweet potatoes 58 per cent, or 35,000 acres.

With the larger production of corn, hay, oats and pasture crops there was an expansion in the number of cattle by 217,254 head, an increase of 46.5 per cent in five years. Of this number 124,753 were cows and 108,000 were hogs.

The number of horses decreased from 86,000 to 66,000, but the number of mules remained close to 295,000.

Corn Yields in Cleveland Are Increased 100 Percent

Cleveland County corn yields have been increased 100 percent in field demonstrations where 100 pounds of the nitrate per acre was added 45 days from planting, reports the farm agent.

Many Mecklenburg 4-H club boys have selected swine for project work next year in an effort to produce more meat at home.

Federate forces did not have time to secure reinforcements.

Sinking of the Albemarle emphasized the need of torpedo boats, and excerpts from a letter written to a representative in Liverpool, England, by S. R. Mallory, secretary of the Navy of the Confederate States of America, under date of November 21, 1864, from Richmond, Va., "recent destruction of our iron-clad Albemarle" and our own operations against the enemy have attracted our attention to torpedo boats, of which our enemy already has a fleet; arrange to get us six such boats."

This boat was raised April 21, 1865. It was taken to Norfolk and sold by Commander A. H. Kitty to J. N. Leonard and Company for \$3,200 on October 15, 1867. It cost the Confederates \$79,944 to build it.

This information was secured from the knowledge and library of Recorder John W. Darden, who has a good library and who has family records that have served to enlighten him on this matter.

John Page Falls Into Fire While in Stupor And Horribly Burned

Details of Horrible Tragedy Described As Pitiful by County Officers

Williamston, N. C., November 26.

—John Page, rehabilitation farmer was burned to death early this morning near his home about three miles from Jamesville, county officers describing the death as one of the most horrible ever reported in this county. His every stitch of clothing burned from his body, even the socks within his shoes, the man was left in a semi-conscious condition and died about four hours later or a 5 o'clock. The meat was cooked from the neck down, the attending physician finding it difficult to locate a spot in the baked flesh that would hold a hypodermic needle.

Pitiful are the details that led up to the tragedy. Sheriff C. B. Roebuck, who was called to the scene about two o'clock, said upon his return. Page, 45 years old, with his son, John, jr., about 15 years old, had carried a load of peanuts on a mule and cart to Williamston early yesterday. Said to have been drinking before he reached the market with the peanuts, the man after making the sale, purchased a pint of liquor in Williamston. After consuming that, he purchased a pop bottle full of domestic liquor on the way home. In Jamesville the manager of the legal liquor store refused to sell him, and Page, according to the story told by the youthful lad and faithful attendant, purchased a pint from another bar in Jamesville.

Time was passing rapidly and it must have been about midnight when the man and son neared their home. Fearful that his mad-drunk father would abuse his mother and his brothers and sisters, the lad suggested that they stop and build a fire along the roadside and warm. They were hardly more than 300 yards from the home provided them by rural rehabilitation authorities, but Page, the boy said, agreed to the plan. The mule was tied to a tree, and a large open fire was soon burning, the boy lying down on one side and the father on the other. The lad, tired and weary after dragging around with his father, was soon asleep, but he had slept but a short while before he was awakened by the horrible groans and moans uttered by his father. The man apparently had attempted to get up and fell into the fire, and while the son ran to a near-by home for aid, the father cooked in the fire that burned from his body everything except his shoes. The flesh cracked almost to the bone when neighbors moved him to his home.

Arrangements are being made for the burial this afternoon, but details could not be learned here.

John Page was the son of the late Seth Page, of this county. He lived a greater part of his life in the Cross Roads section, but about a year ago, he was picked up by the rural rehabilitation forces and placed on a farm near Jamesville. His wife, the daughter of the late Buck Clark, and seven children survive.

Reports reaching here state that Page, not so long ago, expressed a desire to be drunk when he died, explaining that he was only happy when drunk. He got his wish, but surely in a different way than he had desired it would be.

Organize Young Tar Heel Farmers Club

A local chapter of the Young Tar Heel Farmers of North Carolina, a subsidiary organization to the Future Farmers of America, has been organized in the new vocational agriculture department in the Plymouth High School under the supervision of J. O. Cooper, teacher.

Seven officers have been elected for the group of three classes. This organization is set for a meeting that is to be held in Roper on December 13 with farm students from high schools in Jamesville, Plymouth, Roper, Creswell, and Columbia present.

Negro Falls Dead at Gathering in Church

Antone Barnes, about 50, colored, fell dead in the study of the New Chapel Baptist church here Friday. He was a delegate to a negro gathering from Creswell. He went into the study of the pastor of the church and died suddenly, slumping to the floor while standing. Dr. L. S. Mitchell said death was due to a severe heart attack. He died instantly.

Union County Farmers Raise Turkeys To Sell

Numerous flocks of nice turkeys have been grown in Union County this summer at low cost and are being finished for the holiday markets.

To Hold Exams for Auto Drivers in All County-Seat Towns

Arrangement at Present Time Is Temporary, Patrol Head Says

"Regarding the administration of the new drivers' license law and provisions made for the examination of applicants for license in all of the counties of the state, this is to advise that it is the intention of the State Highway Patrol to hold these examinations in the county seat of every county throughout the state."

This is a reply to the letter from Senator Carl L. Bailey to Charles L. Farmer, Raleigh, captain of the State Highway Patrol. The correspondence was necessitated by the present emergency which makes people in Washington and Tyrrell counties have to go to Williamston to be examined for drivers' licenses. This has occasioned a protest from people in these counties who brought their protest to Senator Bailey to get his aid.

"As soon as the rules and regulations are gotten up so that we may intelligently examine new applicants and give them the rules of the highway laws so that they can study same, we do not intend to slight any county, and we want to make this as convenient for the people that are making application for these licenses as we possibly can."

"The present set-up is merely temporary and as soon as we can get equipment we will publish exactly the time we will hold these examinations," concluded the letter. The patrolmen have been examining those from this section in Williamston.

COTTON STAPLE SHORTER THAN IT WAS IN 1934

Short Staple Has Tended To Depress Price To Some Extent

The staple length of North Carolina cotton crop is shorter this year than in 1934, but the grade is about the same.

The short staple has tended to depress the price, said Glenn R. Smith, cotton marketing specialist of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

On a given market, he admitted, the buyers may not pay more for a bale of long staple than for a bale of short staple cotton.

But the average price of cotton on a market where most of the lint is of good length will be higher than the average price on markets where the staple is short.

Even though the grade is good, he continued, the shorter length of the staple reduces the quality of the cotton.

The only way to produce long staple cotton is to plant good seed of a long staple variety, Smith pointed out. This year, there were a number of growers who planted inferior seed, or good seed mixed with bad seed.

He commended the farmers for picking, handling, and ginning their cotton according to the recommended methods, as these methods are necessary to the production of clean, high grade lint.

Only 42 per cent of the cotton ginned up to November 1 this year was an inch or longer in staple length, as compared with 54 per cent last year.

Thirty-one per cent was less than 15-16 inch, as compared with 21 per cent last year. Approximately 6 per cent was less than 7-8 inch, while last year the amount was less than 1 per cent.

However, Smith said, most of the cotton grown this year has a longer staple length than that of the 1933 crop.

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BIG MOTORCADE FROM SECTION TO GO TO RALEIGH

100 Cars Expected To Make Trip to Hearing Before Road Commission

When delegations from the four counties travel to Raleigh early next month to lay their program of development and improvement of Washington, Tyrrell, Hyde, and Dare Counties before the State Highway and Public Works Commission, they plan to do it in style.

They will ask for a motorcycle escort with patrolmen flanking them and leading the way into the Capital City. In the cavalcade will be at least 100 cars. Washington and Tyrrell delegations will meet at Williamston and will meet those from Dare and Hyde in Zebulon from where they wish the attendance of patrolmen.

If they can't get there on the date that the commission meets they will ask for a special meeting and they want it to be held in the first floor of the Capitol building, where every delegate from all the counties will have ample room, as not less than 500 are expected to attend the meeting. Part of these will be women.

W. M. Darden, secretary of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, with a committee composed of D. B. Fearing, Dare; J. A. Polson, Hyde, will have the responsibility of raising a fund of \$1,000 for the operation of the Southern Albemarle Association, which will sponsor the event. They intend to put their needs directly up to the state commission.

Z. V. Norman, president of the commercial body, is expending every effort with his committee to have the program ready as early in December as possible. It will contain projects of highway improvement in each of the four member counties.

Sunday Schools in Meeting Sunday

Roper.—The quarterly convention of the Lees Mills Township Sunday School Association was held Sunday at Mount Zion Baptist church.

Of especial interest to every one was the talk which the Rev. M. L. Ambrose gave on the "Influence of the Bible to Us."

Special music was rendered by Mr. D. E. Poole and also by a quartet, composed of J. C. Knowles, R. W. Lewis, Russell, Chesson and the Rev. M. L. Ambrose. Mr. D. W. Gardner and Mr. Harden sang a duet.

Morton Marrison gave the address of welcome and Mr. J. R. Carr gave the response.

Work Is Being Done On Telephone Lines

A crew of 20 men of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company arrived here Monday to begin repairing and rebuilding the telephone lines between Plymouth and Columbia and Plymouth and Williamston.

They will put down a number of new poles, repairing the wire where it is necessary and in some places rebuild the entire line. This is expected to greatly increase the availability of good telephone service, and the company will also work on the local dial system, where it is deemed necessary.

ROPER

Mrs. A. C. Bissette and little daughter, Beth, have returned to Bailey after spending a week with Dr. and Mrs. W. T. Gibson.

Mrs. Bryan Harris and little daughter, of Wenona, were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Highsmith.

Mr. Alger Ben Snell, of Norfolk, spent the week-end here.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Williams, of Norfolk, were week-end guests of Mrs. Lily Williams.

Mrs. Vernon Pilon, of Norfolk, was the week-end guest of Mrs. J. E. Phelps.

CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY MISS HATTIE MARIE BREY

Roper.—Miss Hattie Marie Brey was guest of honor at a birthday party given in honor of her twelfth birthday, Friday afternoon. She received many pretty and useful gifts. The guests numbered about 25.

After an enjoyable afternoon of games and contests, the guests were served a delightful course of fruit gelatin topped with whipped cream and cake, in which the color scheme of pink and white was carried out.

One-Day Meeting Will Be Held in Williamston

Home and Club News
By Mary Frances Misenheimer

Schedule for Next Week
Monday, Plymouth colored club.
Tuesday, Hoke Club.
Wednesday, Roper 4-H club and Woman's Club.

Thursday, Chapel Hill.
Friday, Beech Grove.
Saturday, 10:30, Morrattock colored club.

Curb market at usual time on Saturday morning. Much interest was shown last Saturday at curb market. A large Thanksgiving box, consisting of jellies, pickles, nuts, pop-corn, carrots, turnips, and collards, was given to the customer who held the lucky number. Numbers were drawn at the beginning of the market. Mrs. Mary Clayton was the lucky customer.

Mrs. E. M. Chesson, of Beech Grove club, led the sales this time. Although Mrs. Chesson does not lead the sales ever Saturday, she always runs a close race for the highest sales.

The following report from Creswell Club was given to me, which I think is a mighty splendid one:

Creswell Home Demonstration Club wishes to submit the following report:

22 old members, 10 new members, making total membership 32.

The three projects during the year were Clothing, Canning, and Yard Improvement.

Clothing leader, Mrs. Cecil Swain, reported: adult garments 1,250; children's garment, 2,300; other articles 4,605; making a total of 8,155 articles.

Canning leader, Mrs. Lewis Spruill reported: 409 quarts meat, 1,000 qts. fruit, 1,500 quarts pickles, 1,617 qts. vegetables; making a total of 4,526 quarts.

Yard improvement leader, Mrs. C. N. Davenport, sr., reported 25 yards improved.

Garden leader, Mrs. Renzy Sawyer, reported year-round gardens for each club member.

12 regular meetings held during the year.

At our January meeting, we voted to solicit funds for silver for community use. We now have 4 dozen each of knives, forks, salad forks, and spoons. Our club is indeed proud of winning first prize at the Plymouth fair. The money will be used as a cornerstone in erecting a club house for Creswell community. It was through the untiring efforts of our fair committee, Mrs. A. H. Tucker and Mrs. Fred Smith, that we won first prize.

We have no words to express our sorrow in losing our agent, Miss Paterson, whom we learned to love, but we are very glad to welcome Miss Misenheimer as our new agent and know that we will learn to love her and feel we will do efficient work with her leadership.—Mrs. R. T. Hopkins, president; Mrs. Fred Smith, secretary and treasurer.

Club members, let us not forget to be thankful that we have had a good year in our club work and that the blessings received have been manifold. I hope all of you will have a happy Thanksgiving.

V. E. P. Has New District Salesman

K. D. Worrell, formerly collector for the Williamston division of the Virginia Electric and Power Company, has been promoted to salesman of the district. He will represent the company in renting ranges and refrigerators and the usual sales of all appliances.

He succeeded Jack Downing, who joined the sales force of Thalhimer's in Richmond. Mr. Worrell will be succeeded as collector by C. B. Clerk, who came up from the ranks of the employees of the company.

Roper Town Team Wins Over School

Roper.—In a closely contested game, the Roper High School basketball team was defeated by the Roper town team by a 17-22 score.

Marrow, Mizell and Floyd were best for the town team. Everett and Peacock starred for the high school.

Representatives of Nine Counties Are Expected to Attend

Grant K. Lewis, of Indianapolis, Will Be Main Speaker

The Williamston Christian Church will be host to representative delegation from several counties next Monday at a one-day district convention of Christian churches of eastern North Carolina. Delegates are expected at the convention from churches in nine counties, Pitt, Beaufort, Hyde, Washington, Tyrrell, Chowan, Pasquotank, Currituck and Martin. The convention will be under the direction of Grant K. Lewis, national leader among the Disciples of Christ, of Indianapolis.

Mr. Edwin Marx, Missionary to China, will be among the speakers of note having parts on the program. Other Missionary and educational leaders of the Christian churches will be present, it was announced.

There will be three sessions, beginning at 10:30 a. m., 1:15 p. m. and concluding with a banquet at 6 p. m. Both lunch and supper will be served by the ladies of the church at a nominal charge, it was announced.

Every church in the Roanoke district is expected to send its officers, teachers, leaders of young people's work and church leaders in various departments, Rev. J. M. Perry said. All delegates should plan to take in all three sessions as they discuss the new type of every member canvass, stewardship and the "New Responsibilities."

The convention will have as its theme, "Recovery and Advance," and is under the general direction of the "Unified Promotion," which is a newly formulated plan of the brotherhood by which the churches and all her causes may move forward with new vision in a more unified and cooperative way than ever before in the history of the Disciples of Christ.

Pastors, chairmen of the official boards, presidents of missionary societies and Sunday school superintendents are urged to notify the Christian church at Williamston at once approximately how many to expect from the several units.

SKINNERSVILLE

Rev. and Mrs. O. L. Easter, pastor of the Creswell M. P. circuit, Mrs. C. N. Davenport and son, Joe Baker Davenport, of Creswell, and Misses Eva and Alice White were the Sunday afternoon guests of Mr. and Mrs. Guilford Davenport.

Mr. and Mrs. Alger Ben Snell, of Norfolk, were here Friday night, the guest of Mrs. Snell's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Everett.

Mesdames Corbett Swain, Tom White, Will Bell and Walter White were callers in Columbia Thursday.

Mr. C. V. White, who was very ill the past week, is up and improving some.

Mr. and Mrs. N. D. Bateman, Mr. S. A. Holton, and Lewis Bateman were the guests of George Holton and Fred Bateman at Wake Forest College Thanksgiving.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Alexander, a son, on November 13.

Mr. Guilford Davenport spent Wednesday night with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Everett in Belhaven.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter White and daughter, Miss Margie White, were guests of Mrs. M. J. Alexander in the Pleasant Grove community Sunday.

\$1,001 Appropriated For Building Privies

A total of \$1,001 has been approved for privy work in Washington County by the Works Progress Administration. This will give employment to nine workers, including Joe Weede, who is foreman of the job.

Already under the FERA more than 100 privies have been built and erected on rural premises. This new work is expected to yield 75 more, bringing the total in the county to close to 200. This was approved under the community sanitation program.

Mr. Weede is of the opinion that about three a week can be built. The work will be done on the owner's premises with the owner providing the material. This appropriation is expected to last for several months.