

the Tuckaseige Ford and No. 7 terminating not far from the Shallow Ford on Tennessee river. There was some sort of lottery in assigning this work to the respective captains' militia companies. This work was done without compensation and for the public good. That first Board of Magistrates did not believe in any class distinction in their demands for public service. I find in the records of that first court an order appointing Joshua Roberts, the most prominent member of our local bar, the overseer of one of our roads.

"The Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions of that day as they were called," writes Dr. Smith, "were regular jury courts, and I give the names of the first venire summoned to serve as jurors, for the June term following:

1. Wymer Siler.
2. Jonathan Whiteside.
3. Jacob Hice.
4. Wm. Cochran.
5. Benj. Johnston.
6. Wm. McLure.
7. Peter Ledford.
8. Martin Norton.
9. John Lamm.
10. John Addington.
11. Matthew Davis.
12. James Whittaker.
13. Henry Addington.
14. Micheal Wickle.
15. Wm. Welch, Sr.
16. Samuel Smith.
17. Geo. T. Ledford.
18. Ebenezer Newton.
19. Joseph Welch.
20. Luke Barnard.
21. George Dickey.
22. Zachariah Cabe.
23. Mark Coleman.
24. Lewis Vandyke.
25. Thos. Love, Sr.
26. Marc hAddington.
27. Jacob Trammel.
28. John Dobson.
29. Andrew Patton.
30. George Black.
31. Isaac Mauney.
32. John M. Angel.
33. John Gillespie.
34. Joseph Chambers.
35. John Howard.
36. Jacob Siler.

"At the first court for Macon county the court appointed the following named persons commissioners whose duty it should be to draft plans and specifications for a court house and jail for the county of Macon and directing them to advertise the letting out the same to the lowest bidder at the next term of the court June following, viz.: Jesse R. Siler, Thomas Kinsey, Luke Barnard, Mark

Coleman, James Whittaker, Aaron Pinson, John Bryson, Jr. I find in the minutes of the June term of the court for 1829 that the contract for building the court house was awarded to Col. David Coleman at three thousand eight hundred dollars, with Gen. Thomas Love and Zachariah Cabe as securities for the faithful performance of the contract. At the same time the contract for building the jail was awarded to Col. Benjamin S. Brittan for twenty-nine hundred and ninety-five dollars, who gave as securities for the performance of the contract, Joseph Welch, Jeremiah R. Pace and John Hall. The masons who undertook the brick work of the court house were Samuel Lyle and Dr. T. T. Young, of Washington county, Tennessee."

Here is interesting information as regards taxation, as gathered from Dr. Smith's history.

"I find in the minutes for March term, 1829, with a court house and jail to build, this order: Ordered by the Court, that the State tax be 10 cents, and fifty cents on the poll—for public buildings 12½ cents on each poll, for to defray county charges 5 cents—for weights and measures on each 300 dollars value of land equal to one poll"

Times Have Changed

As a mark of the change in sentiment which has taken place since the time of the organization of the county, it is interesting to note that the first official act of the County Court, after organization, was the issue of a permit to an applicant to retail liquor at his store.

An interesting and amusing anecdote of the organization of the county is that told about Mr. Silas McDowell, who, in some capacity, was appointed to draw all the forms for the organization of the new county, for the courts and officers, etc. There being no printing presses anywhere in this country at that time, Mr. McDowell, of course, found it necessary to write all the required forms with pen and ink. He sat at his desk all night, and toward morning having finished his forms, all of which began "State of North Carolina, County of Macon," he laid his head on his desk and went to sleep. His wife called him at breakfast time, and, half sleep, he dropped into his chair, and started in his accustomed reverent voice to say grace. His tongue, however, unconsciously spoke the words he had been writing all night—"State of North Carolina, County of Macon, etc"

The Period of Settlement

The period from 1830 to 1860 may well be termed the period of settlement of Macon, for it was during those years that the gradual process of settlement took place. Slow—certainly, but more the less surely. A settlement that was sound and permanent, one which laid well the foundation of a well balanced town and county.

It is rather Niversally held conception that the greater number of the early settlers of Macon came into this section from North Carolina counties to the east of us and while a considerable number did come from the eastern counties, Buncombe and Haywood a great number also came in from South Carolina through the Walhalla-Rabun Gap gateway.

With the coming of 1835 came the removal of the Cherokee Indians west of the Mississippi. At the time a considerable number of these at that time were still located in Macon county being scattered all along the Nantahala river. General Winfield Scott who was distine to become famous later in the Mexican war sent at the head of a body of troops to attend the removal of the Indian and he established a port on the Nantahala, where Aquone now stands.

The Brownlow Incident

During the early years of the famous Brownlow incident took place, Brownlow who is best known in history as "Parson" Brownlow, the famous "Reconstruction Governor" of Tennessee, was sent to Macon by his church as pastor of the Franklin circuit in 1832. Those were days of intense religion prejudice and demonional controversy and it is not at all surprising that Brownlow soon found himself at daggers point with the Baptist preacher in this section. The Baptist preacher was Rev. Humphrey G. Posey.

From denominational argument these men descended or ascended, as you will, to personal dislike and arrusation. Brownlow was a bitter writer and on one occasion wrote Posey a twenty-four page letter which is today a part of the court records of the county. In this letter Brownlow made certain statements in which he accused Posey of questionable relations with certain of the—at the time—more fragile members of the flock.

Posey considered the statements libelous and indicted Brownlow and he was tried and found guilty by a jury. Fine was imposed upon him and the records shows that it was paid by J. R. Siler.

Mr. Siler, however, appears not to

have paid the cost for execution was made by the sheriff for them on "1 Dun Mare, 1 Bridle, Saddle and Saddle Bags," sold for \$65.50—proceeds into county fund \$53.83."

There is a story extent which has it that there was later a civil suit brought against Brownlow over this matter and that he left Macon between suns in order to escape summons but no record of such action appears. It is however fairly well established that he was given another horse by his earlier benefactor, Jesse R. Siler.

Taxes in 1835

In comparison to present day Macon county the conditions existing in 1835 are interesting. In that year the total taxes collected were \$1157.98. J. R. Siler was the largest taxpayer. He paid the magnificent sum of \$26.25. That, it so well to remember was paid on property which today include half of Franklin and a good slice of the entire county. Thos. Love, with \$24.20 ran Mr. Siler a close second.

Masonic Lodge

The local Masonic lodge known as the Junaluskee Lodge was organized and chartered in 1852. J. T. Siler was Worshipful Master. The first petition for membership in this lodge was that of Maxwell R. Slagle, who's petition for degrees was received shortly after organization, was accepted and the degrees were conferred.

Macon County in the Civil War

With the outbreak of the war between the States the men of Macon county took up the burden of war. Like all other mountain counties, sentiment was divided over the issue but it is to the credit that they showed remarkable tolerance and forbearance at the time when the whole community sat on a veritable powder keg.

Macon had never been a very large slave holding county although perhaps from the early days of its settlement some slaves had been owned. Majority of the citizens were not slave owners, however, and there were some who could not agree upon the question of slavery and secession. In short they were Unionists and quite a number of them left Macon during the war. About 168 of these residents of Macon are known to have entered the Union army.

These people must not be considered renegades nor traitors. They merely believed in the Union rather than in state rights, in freedom rather than slavery, and frankly could see no reason why they should fight for preservation of slavery, an institu-

tion which did not affect them and with which they were unconcerned. After all the states, at the time, meant very little to a great number of mountain people, isolation and lack of transportation facilities leaving far Western North Carolina almost a region to itself.

The great majority of the people of Macon were however strong in their loyalty to the state and supported with every resource, the struggle of the Confederacy. Often male citizenship, Macon gave more than a thousand to the South, out of adult male population of less than 3000 over 1000 went into the Confederate army.

Seven companies of soldiers were organized in Macon county for the service with the Confederate army. The first to go and that which saw largest and hardest service was that which became Co. H. 16th N. C. Infantry. It was commanded by Capt. T. M. Angel, the junior officers being Jas. Cansler, 1st Lieut. C. L. Robinson, 2nd Lieut. and W. McD. Allman, 3rd Lieut.

This company saw service throughout the entire war being attached to the army of Northern Va. under Lee. It surrendered, rather what was left of it, surrendered at Appomattox.

The other companies were: Co. S. 9th Calvary—Capt. T. P. Siler, Co. H. 65th Calvary—Capt. J. T. Siler, Co. B. 29th Infnt.—Capt. A. W. Bell, Co. I. 39th Infnt.—Capt. J. G. Crawford, Co. D. 62nd Infnt.—Capt. R. M. Henry, Co. C. 65th Infnt.—Capt. J. W. Dobson.

We shall not attempt in this sketch to go into details of service seen by any of these. Enough is said when it is noted that over 50 per cent of the men going into service became casualties. This means that over half of the enlistment were either killed or wounded—a terrible sacrifice in a cause for a small slave holding county in which there was not a positive slave sentiment.

The cause of the matchless response to the call of the States lies in the inherent patriotism of these men, their love of their freedom, the freedom of the mountain and valley, their undying love of liberty as possessed through local government, which liberty they conceived to be endangered and emperiled by outside invaders.

It must be recalled that the men of Western North Carolina were opposed to secession but were ready to fight in defense of their land and section, to die in opposition to any invader of their homeland or violator of their common rights.

The period of settlement might be said to have well closed by the end of

Like Mr. Finney's Turnip

When Bill Cunningham started out in the mercantile business he was small fry. Exceedingly small.

The other fellows elevated their smelling organs—and laughed.

"Oh, Bill," they said, "he's bit off more than he can chew. Oh, well—"

But Bill Cunningham has grown.

From the smallest store in Macon County a few years ago, he now has the biggest.

And he continues to grow, day by day, month by month, year by year.

Just like Mr. Finney's turnip.

For Bill Cunningham has built his business on the solid foundation of VALUES.

Unmeetable and unbeatable values.

He does it by buying right, and selling at a short profit. He realizes that ten dimes today are better than a dollar tomorrow. And gets the dimes.

Bill Cunningham carries a \$20,000.00 stock. What you want, at the price you ought to pay, can be found at his store. He beats any Catalog in the world.

And—

HE SETS THE PRICE IN MACON COUNTY!

ON JULY 4th I WILL SELL SUGAR AT7c PER POUND

BILL CUNNINGHAM

THE CASH STORE

FRANKLIN, N. C.