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76TH REUNION OF SILER FAMILY

Noted Family Meets Today at Camp Nikwasi—Many Expected to Attend From All Parts of United States.

Descendants of Weimar Siler will gather here today for their annual reunion. It will be the seventy-sixth consecutive reunion, or "Family Meeting," as the Silers call it.

The meetings were begun back in 1853, when the four sons of Weimar Siler and their families gathered around the festive board on New Year's, and decided to make the reunion an annual affair. They and their descendants have met each year since, at the home of some member of the family living here in Macon county.

The family is widely scattered now, and Silers from many states are expected today. It is not unusual, in fact, for cousins from the Pacific coast to journey to Macon county primarily to attend the Family Meeting, always held the first Thursday in August.

Strangely enough, there probably will be less than a dozen adult males bearing the surname of Siler. Aside from the fact that the Silers are scattered all over the United States, they, as a member of the family put it, are "the galinest set of folks anybody ever heard of," and this of course makes for obliteration of the family name. As a matter of fact, a creditable proportion of the population of Macon county is descended of Weimar Siler, but the name Siler is extremely rare here.

The Siler family reunion, it is said, is perhaps one of the oldest, if not the oldest, in the South, and it has an interesting history.

Weimar Siler's parents came from Germany. To quote a letter, written by a lineal descendant of the first emigrant, penned after a careful investigation:

"In the year 1741 a boat left its moorings high up in Germany in the classic banks of the Rhine, laden with emigrants bound for America. At Rotterdam they took a sea-going vessel and were landed on American shores. One of the party of emigrants was a small, dark-skinned youth of 22 years, bearing the name of Plikard Dederic Siler, born in Germany May 29, 1719. Another was a sprightly, blue-eyed girl of 14 summers, whose name was Elizabeth Hariso, born in Germany September 29, 1727. These two became attached to each other during the long voyage. A few years after, young Siler, under a law of the times, paid in leaf tobacco for the privilege of marrying Elizabeth, and they settled down as man and wife in Pennsylvania."

The name "Siler" originally signified a rope-maker, or perhaps a dealer in or worker with ropes, the same letter relates.

Drawn by the fact that they had heard that "sweet potatoes could be grown in North Carolina," Plikard Siler and his wife migrated to this state, settling near what is now Siler City, where they are buried.

His son, Weimar Siler, ancestor of the Silers who gather annually for their "Family Meetings," first located in South Carolina, later removing to Buncombe.

It was from that county that his four sons, William, Jesse Richardson, Jacob, and John migrated to Macon county, being among the county's first settlers. After becoming comfortably situated here, they returned to Buncombe for their aged parents.

It was the families of these four brothers who first began to gather annually for a reunion, but the families and descendants of their three sisters later were included, thus bringing to the Family Meetings the Lowrys, the Weavers, and the Gashes.

Today's meeting will be held at a somewhat unusual place, Camp Nikwasi, near Franklin, property of Miss Laura M. Jones, great-granddaughter of William Siler. But except for the unusualness of the meeting place, the day probably will go as most of them do—the program varies little.

The big picnic dinner will be spread on out-of-door tables under the shade of trees. The tables will be loaded with good things to eat, prepared with the utmost care by Siler housewives. A hush will fall over the assemblage, while a minister says grace, an item that is never omitted. There will be baskets of food left over, and this will be put away to be carried to members of the family who are ill and unable to attend, or to others who are ill.

The meeting will be opened—unless an almost invariable rule is broken—with the singing of "Blest Be The Tie

BOY SCOUTS IN NOVEL SHOW

The Macon County Court House Will be Scene of a Novel Entertainment Saturday Night.

"The Puppet Show" is to be staged at the courthouse Saturday evening at 8:30, sponsored by the boy scouts. Something new, novel, entertaining, entirely different from anything that's ever been given here.

It is not a circus. But Sis Goose, Brer Rabbit, Fox, Tiger, Lion, Dog and Mr. Elephant will all be there dressed in their very best. In the first act the small puppets will come out and perform the miniature stage. Have you ever seen a rabbit laugh, or a fox snore, or a dog cry? Be sure to come out Saturday night and see all this.

Aunt Appeline, the old black mammy has charge of these cunning creatures and they dance, they sing, in fact they do most everything.

Then the boy scouts will put on the second act. They are puppets too,—life sized ones. They are those same animals on a larger scale and playing a different role. Besides the acting they have a Charleston and Clog contest—all but Mr. Elephant. As a grand finale, however Mr. Elephant comes out and dances with so much grace and skill he carries off all the honors.

"The Puppet Show" has its headquarters in Thomaston, Ga. They played in Atlanta, July 14.

Mrs. G. A. Alexander, formerly in charge of English and public speaking in the State University, after seeing this performance said, "The Puppet show, given by Misses Dallas and Holman is unique and entertaining. It fills the hearts of children with purest glee, and makes older people young again. The costuming and setting are most artistic, and the story material excellent. The only regret one can possibly have concerning this show is that it ends."

This company comes to us from North Georgia, where they gave a series of programs. In Athens they played at the University of Georgia Summer school, Fairhaven Hospital, and Georgian Hotel. One of the most enthusiastic audiences was Thursday evening, July 28 at Camp Dixie.

They come highly recommended, the only company of this kind in the entire South—so don't miss this novel entertainment. It is to be at the courthouse at 8:30. The children, as well as the grown ups, will enjoy it. Everybody come. You all saw "Rose Time" a fair sample of productions sponsored by the boy scouts. Well this is even better and something entirely different. It is to be at the courthouse, Saturday, August 6, at 8:30 o'clock.

Cannery Building Completed

Mr. Zeb Conley, in charge of the construction of the new cannery building, reports that the structure is completed and is now ready for the installation of the machinery. Those in charge of the cannery state that the machinery will be put in place this week and that the cannery should be ready for operation by the middle of next week. The Press was unable to learn just what farm produce it is planned to can first. Probably an announcement concerning this matter will appear in next week's Press.

That Binds," and T. J. Johnston, chairman, will call the meeting to order with a gavel cut from the historic tree under which Siler and William Britton held a pow-wow with the Cherokee Indian chieftain, Santteetlah, in 1818.

There will be the minutes of the last meeting, the usual good-natured jibes at the spinsters and bachelors, the demands for speeches from the newly weds, and the reports of committees, including that which reports deaths of Silers during the year past.

Today's meeting, despite the jests and surface good cheer, will be overcast with sadness, for all know that the obituary committee must report the passing, just a fortnight ago, of the venerable "Cousin Tom" Gray, beloved and respected kinsman and citizen, who for more than half a century served as secretary of the Siler Family Meeting, thus realizing one of the fondest ambitions of his life. A silver loving cup was presented him by the family in 1922, at the conclusion of his service of 50 years. He had been an invalid for two years, and had urged the election of a successor, but the family declined to consider the suggestion, and his son, J. M. Gray, of Raleigh, has served as acting secretary.

NATIONAL DAIRY EXPOSITION

To Be Held at Memphis Oct. 15-22—First Time This Show Has Been Held in South.

That the farmers of Macon county may realize the importance of attending the National Dairy Exposition to be held at Memphis on October 15-22 the Press is publishing below the program and other information concerning this show. The county agent is anxious to have a large delegation from Macon county attend. The trip will be made by auto, the nights being spent in camp along the route.

The National Dairy Exposition is "the picture-story of a great industry." It is the annual round-up of national dairy interests, bringing together progressive dairymen from all sections of the country and picturing every branch of dairying from the cow on the farm through to the producer.

Dairymen who want to improve their herds and increase their profits will find the exposition of great value. Farmers who desire to diversify their activities can secure valuable first-hand knowledge about the dairy business. Manufacturers and handlers of dairy products will find much that will help in their business.

Here are some of the important things for you to see and do.

See the World's Best Dairy Cattle

One thousand head of purebred dairy cattle from the leading herds of the country will compete for prizes in the show ring.

An exhibit of good grade cows with production records—the kind that farmers can profitably keep.

One hundred calves owned by 4-H club boys and girls from many states, illustrating the development of dairying and the improvement of cattle resulting from club work.

Other cattle exhibits, showing how to improve quality and increase profit through breeding up dairy herds. Daily demonstrations and lectures on cattle selection, feeding and herd management, giving easy-to-learn lessons in profitable dairy husbandry.

The dairy industry, which is the leading branch of American agriculture, maintains its own National Dairy Exposition, the largest of the kind in the world. The objects of the exposition are the improvement and development of dairying in all of its branches.

Exhibits of Everything for Dairying

Exhibits of equipment and supplies for the dairy farm—separators, milkers, stanchions, light plants, feed grinders, farm machinery, ect.—everything needed in outfitting the modern dairy.

Competitive exhibits of dairy products from the leading dairy states, showing samples of the best butter, cheese and other dairy products.

A wonderful display by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, showing results of research work for herd improvement, profitable milk production and marketing of dairy products.

"Dairying in Dixieland," a new and unusual exhibit by agricultural colleges of ten states, visualizing the rapidly growing dairy industry of the South and helping to promote further growth.

The National Dairy Council's attractive display, showing the need of milk and its products in the diet for the maintenance of health and strength.

Educational Work is A Feature

Contests, demonstrations and educational features by and for club students, 4-H club members, high school students and farmers.

Motion picture program daily, giving interesting and useful information for dairymen.

Meetings and conferences daily, attended by leading dairymen and agricultural leaders from every state.

Trips and Excursions

Memphis is easily reached by good roads from practically all of the Southern Mississippi Valley. Hotel accommodations are ample and in the latter part of October the weather should be fine for a trip. County agents, agricultural college people and railroad representatives are organizing tours and excursions from many sections. Get in touch with them or see your creamery-man or milk dealer to learn about plans from your neighborhood.

This is a lifetime opportunity. The exposition has never before been held in the South. Come for a week or come for a day—but be sure to come. There will be something entertaining and useful for you to see and do every minute of your stay.

ITEMS OF NEWS FROM HIGHLANDS

Interesting Locals and Other News From Macon County's Popular Mountain City.

We have been having clear, delightful weather recently in Highlands, and a touch of the city in having a big and successful land auction sale. Yes, the barbecue was just right and the band fine.

The tri-weekly dances given at the Highlands Health center by Miss Margaret Harry for benefit of the local Red Cross are not only largely attended, but a source of much enjoyment to residents and visitors as well.

An interesting business transaction was the purchase of the handsome Whittle home by W. W. Sullivan, of Anderson, S. C., the deal being consummated by Pierson and Staub.

We are glad to report work has already begun on our big golf course. The lake basin is being cleared and rubbish burned as the first progressive step in this work.

Interest in the progress of this course is further stimulated by the presence in Highlands recently of Messrs. Scott Hudson and Donald Ross, golf course architect, Hal Hentz, the architect commissioned to design the club house, and Colonel Henry Robertson, attorney, all of whom were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Nesbitt Evans.

A bazaar was held at Highlands Inn, for the benefit of a proposed Community Club house. Refreshments were served and numerous beautiful and useful articles were on sale.

Among our well-known summer visitors are former Governor Hugh Dorsey and family of Atlanta, who are spending a few weeks at the summer place of Mr. C. A. Sisson, of Atlanta.

DEATH CALLS

MRS. JUD WEST

Mrs. Jud West, 35, died at her home in Franklin July 26. The deceased was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Womack and was married in 1910. For years she was a faithful and energetic member of the Franklin Baptist church and had a large circle of relatives and friends who were grieved to learn of her death. The remains were interred at the new cemetery, her pastor, Rev. George Steed, preaching the funeral oration.

The deceased is survived by her husband and two boys, Daniel and J. L. West.

W. O. W. Rally

Woodmen of the World and their friends will gather at the courthouse here Saturday night at 8 o'clock for a rally, at which speakers of the order will explain in detail features of the organization, and its benefits.

The speakers will include W. H. Grogan, Jr., of Brevard, and Grant Matthews, the order's national lecturer.

In addition to the addresses, there will be plenty of music. Vocal selections will be rendered by the Dalton quartet, "Whistling Rufus," Sam Cunningham, and Hal Zachary will furnish instrumental musical numbers; and from Dillard, Ga., will come the following musicians: Ed Hopper, Bill Lamb, G. C. Howard, A. L. Howard, and Earnest Henson.

Officials of the order's local camp expect the rally to be largely attended.

Apartment House

Mr. George Wurst is making progress on his new apartment house next to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank Smith on Harrison Avenue. Including the basement this house will be four stories in height. At first Mr. Wurst intended to build only two stories over the basement. Later he decided to make a roof garden as an extra story. Now he is considering the advisability of turning the roof garden into an apartment. Mr. Wurst states that he has applications for all the apartments in the building. One man also wishes to rent the absement, which is entirely above ground, as dwelling place. Mr. Wurst has decided to name his new apartment building The Orlando.

ANNUAL BANQUET CAMP TAUKEETAH

First Term Closed With Delightful Entertainment—Town Guests Present—Honors Awarded.

The annual banquet was held at Camp Ttaukeetah Saturday evening, July 30, in celebration of the closing of the first term of camp. It was a joyous group of campers, all in their whitest of camp clothes, who assembled at the mess hall. But was it the same mess hall? That, too, was in its banquet dress. The color scheme of green, brown, and white, was carried out by dainty little place cards bearing the camp monogram and a wee green candle at the side, burning brightly. There were tall burning candles down the centers of the green and white tables; and the basket of summer flowers swinging from the ceiling made complete the festive scene.

Miss Maude Merrimon acted as toast mistress, and under her charming lead clever songs were sung to the town guests and others. The toasts were cunning, serious, and otherwise, offered amid enthusiasm and cheering. They were: Welcome—Alice Carmichael; To our Guests—Louise Harrison; Response—Mr. George Patton; To Miss Patton—Frances Harrison; Response—Miss Patton; To the Councillors—Nina Hoffman; Response—Elizabeth Paylor; To Friends—Mary Rucker; To Lessons—Margaret Weil; To Tennis—Ellen Douglas Bush; To Horseback Riding—Douglas Long; To Hiking—Katherine Hardeman; To Swimming—Rosalie Harrison; To Horseshoes—Margaret Franks; To Dancing—Kitty Pierce; To The Ttaukeetah Tattler—Loretta Sparrow.

The climax of the program, however, was the awarding of the honor emblems—the camp monogram and letter,—and the swimming ribbons won in the meet. It was with the greatest thought that all campers had voted upon that girl to whom the honorary title of "Camp Spirit" was to be given. It must be bestowed upon her who gave to each sport and activity of every kind her best; who had been not necessarily the one who excelled, but the one who responded with a willing and never-grumbling attitude. There was no doubt of the consensus of camp opinion, when the heartiest of cheers and clapping greeted the announcement that "Camp Spirit" was to be Nina Hoffman. Miss Hoffman is from Mount Airy, N. C., and has meant much to camp life.

The swimming ribbons were awarded as follows: Diving—first place, Douglas Long; second place, Kitty Pearce; third place Mary Jane Foote. In the Senior swimming meet: First place, Trudie Carver; second place, Mary Long Benbow; third place, Kitty Pearce. In the Junior swimming: First place, Ada Trotter; second place, Rosalie Harrison; third place, Agnes Leake.

Other honors bestowed were: The camp monogram, to Nina Hoffman, Catherine Franks, Mary Long Benbow, Billie Burke, and Rosalie Harrison. The camp letter, to Margaret White, Marian Weil, Margaret Weil, Fern Harlike, Louise Stone, Frances Jones, Carolyn Welch, Kitty Pearce, Mary Rucker, Agnes Leake, and Margaret Franks. These honors were awarded according to the point system, by which each camp activity outside the regular program participated in, counts so many points.

After the banquet, a program of entertainment was presented in the lodge. Stunts were given under the direction of Miss Loretta Sparrow. A dance concert was given by the camp orchestra, under the direction of Miss Elizabeth Casey. Miss Casey has done much good work in organizing her orchestra and arranging the vaudeville acts that always enliven its programs.

CORRECTION

Through a typographical error in the list of the county's teachers, published in last week's issue of the Press, the school at Clark's Chapel was not listed, and the names of the two teachers at Patton's were omitted, making it appear that Misses May Carpenter and Ruth Higdon were the teachers at Patton's.

Misses Carpenter and Higdon, as a matter of fact, are teaching at Clarke's Chapel, and the list as it came from the county superintendent's office shows that the teachers at Patton's are Misses Mary Louise Porter and Fannie May Reese.