

National Forest
Unexcelled Climate
Unsurpassed Scenery
State Game Refuge
17 Peaks Over 5,000
Feet High
Ideal Dairy County
Creamery, Cannery
Excellent Highways
Cheap Electric Power
for Industries
Law-abiding Citizenship

COME TO MACON COUNTY—
HEART OF A MOUNTAIN EMPIRE RIPE FOR DEVELOPMENT

100,000 H. P. Under-
developed Water Power
Abrasive Materials
Copper, Timber
Precious and Semi-
Mica, Kaolin, Asbestos,
precious Gems
Abundance Good Labor
Ample Transportation
Facilities
Pure, Clear Water
Productive Soils

The Franklin Press

VOLUME XLIV

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1929.

NUMBER EIGHTEEN

The Osborne Farm On the Pigeon River

Managed by Woman and In Fifteen Years Has Made Remarkable Progress—Lands Grow Two and Three Crops Each Year—Macon County Farmers Should See Osborne Farm.

A trip to the Osborne dairy farm four miles up the Pigeon river from Canton is one that every Macon county farmer should make. This farm is owned by Arthur Osborne and his sisters, Misses Lou and Florence. Miss Florence is general manager of the farm and always has the hundreds of details of management at her finger tips. The farm in question has been in the possession of the Osborne family since 1784 when an immense tract of land was conveyed to Ephrim Osborne, grandfather of the present owners. An ancestor, William Fitz Osborne, commanded half of the army of William the Conqueror in the battle of Hastings, 1066, when Harold, the last of the Saxon kings was defeated. As a reward for his services in that battle William Fitz Osborne was made Earl of Hartford and was given the isle of Wight by the Conqueror.

The history of the Osborne family since the Battle of Hastings shows that the family possessed to a superlative degree the spirit of the pioneer. The family was one of the first to enter what is now Haywood county.

When the Osbornes first settled on the Pigeon river the entire valley was covered with immense walnut trees. Here Ephrim Osborne cleared the present farm. For years it is said that the farm was managed as other farms in the community. The land was rich and produced an abundance for the family needs. As the years rolled on with little or no attention paid to the upkeep of the soil the present owners in 1914 found themselves with a "run down" farm. In 1910, however, the Osbornes started dairying in a small way with two or three cows of the grade variety. In 1914 Miss Florence Osborne came to the conclusion that grade cows were not so profitable. At that time they had 13 head of cattle on the place. These were replaced with a few thoroughbred Guernseys.

For the past fifteen years Miss Florence Osborne has devoted her attention to the improvement and enlargement of her herd of thoroughbreds. She now has more than eighty thoroughbred Guernseys on the place. Among these is Eliza Gale, state champion last year. Another is Sophie. This cow gave 2,000 pounds of milk last March. Last year four cows of the Osborne herd produced 7,000 gallons of milk. Nearly all of the cows make more than 400 pounds of butter fat each year. Last year Eliza Gale's record was 795 1-2 pounds of butter fat. "Would you sell any of your best cows?" Miss Florence was asked. She only smiled, but it was easy to see that her best cows are not for sale at any price. The champions she owns were raised on the Osborne farm, and not purchased. Consequently Miss Florence is justly proud of her efforts along this line. Her success in the dairying business while out of the ordinary has been due to many experiments, hard work and the application of good, hard, common sense. She believes that what she has done others can do.

There are only seventy-five acres in cultivation on the Osborne farm. In 1914 the farm had practically ceased to produce ordinary crops. Quite a bit of the bottom land was in swamps. Miss Osborne then proceeded to drain the swamps and to build fences and cross fences. To produce food for her thoroughbred Guernseys she saw that the soil must be improved. Consequently, no little time and attention has been devoted to this phase of her activities. First of all it became apparent that the one crop system where two or three could be grown was a losing proposition. Now the Osborne farm produces each twelve months two or three crops—three always if several weeks of grazing be considered a crop. The manure from the barns is spread on green crops, such as barley, vetch and alfalfa, each fall. In this way no leaching process takes place and the crops and lands get an immediate and 100 percent benefit from the fertilizer. For the past several years not one pound of commercial fertilizer has been used on the Osborne farm. Each fall small grains are sowed. When crops are a few inches high cattle are permitted to graze thereon for several weeks. Then the cows are removed and the crops are permitted to grow until spring when they are cut for hay. Immediately thereafter corn and other spring crops are planted. For fifteen years the same 10-acre field has been planted in corn and each year the corn becomes better. In fact from this field 200 tons of ensilage

are produced each year. On eight acres of sweet clover Miss Osborne pastured forty cows one summer. Not a square foot of tillable land on the Osborne farm is allowed to lie idle for one day in the year. From the 75 acres in cultivation enough roughage is grown to feed the 80 odd head of cattle. For the grain component of the ration Miss Osborne formerly mixed the feed at home, but now she is using commercially prepared feed sacked by the Purina company. Among the interesting crops found growing on the place was a field of alfalfa. This crop is cut three or four times per year and will average about four tons per year to the acre.

As a sideline Miss Osborne raises white leghorn chickens. She now has 400 hens and 1300 baby chicks. The baby chicks were bought from a hatchery and are being reared in brooder houses by means of the Simplex automatic oil burning brooders. This year Miss Osborne is starting out with silver foxes as another side line. Fur farming has become quite a business in Canada and in the northwestern part of this country. She also has mink.

On the Osborne farm are a number of hogs and sheep, the sheep being kept to clear the pastures of weeds. The writer also noticed a percheron horse and colt. Also fine white collie dogs.

Now to sum up: Fifteen years ago Miss Osborne started with a run down farm. Scores of farms better than the Osborne farm fifteen years ago can be found in Macon county to-day. But there is not a farm in this county to-day that can equal the present Osborne farm. From the producing standpoint probably no farm in Western North Carolina will yield as much, acre for acre, as the farm managed by a woman over on the Pigeon river. From the proceeds of this farm two immense barns and three silos have been constructed. The farm has been drained and fenced and from 13 head of grade cattle the herd has been increased to more than eighty thoroughbreds—all within the span of fifteen years. As an object lesson every farmer in Macon county should visit the Osborne farm. There they can learn something of the ins and outs of dairying, but above all they can learn how to build up the soil so that one acre will produce more than five acres yield at present.

On the trip over to Haywood several Macon county farmers and two or three men from Franklin went along. Among those making the trip were W. R. Higdon, G. W. Dowdle, Hal Slagle, J. C. Higdon, Frederick Sloan, George Crawford, Robert Enloe, Jim Gray and two small sons, George and Fred, Sam Franks, and S. A. Harris. While there George Crawford bought a thoroughbred bull calf and brought it home in a car. The calf was only a few days old and cost George 25 good American dollars. Had this calf been of the common scrub variety usually found in Macon county a blow in the head with an axe would have been its fate. It costs no more to rear and feed a thoroughbred than a scrub and just why the otherwise intelligent citizenship of Macon county persists in raising scrub live stock in preference to thoroughbreds is a matter that was more or less discussed on the trip to Haywood and return. The general idea seemed to prevail that it is a matter of expense in getting a start with the thoroughbreds. It was suggested by one prominent farmer making the trip that all scrub cattle be sold and the money invested in a lesser number of thoroughbreds.

Train Schedule Changed

Taking effect on the 28th day of April the Tallulah Falls railway announced a change of schedule. The train now arrives at 1:00 P. M. and leaves at 2:00 P. M. The running time between Cornelia and Franklin has been reduced by ten minutes and between Franklin and Cornelia by fifteen minutes.

Thad Watts Dead

Mr. Thad Watts died at his home at Teresita on April 26, 1929 and was buried April 27 at Gillispie's Chapel, his home church. Heart trouble is said to have been the chief cause of his death. Mr. Watts was a good citizen, a good husband and father and leaves behind a wife, several children and some grandchildren.

DEAN REPLIES TO J. A. PORTER

In Effect Denies That He Promised Porter Not to Vote For Billings—Intimates That Election of School Supt. is Function of Board of Education.

In reply to the letter of Mr. J. A. Porter published in last week's Press in which Mr. Porter accused the new members of the board of education of failure to carry out their promises to him not to vote for M. D. Billings as county Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Dean, one of the men so accused, discloses his vote. In effect Mr. Dean denies that he made any such promise but admits voting for Coggins rather than Billings. However, after Billings received a majority of the votes Mr. Dean moved to make the election unanimous. Mr. Dean further states: "It seems that Mr. Porter tries to leave the impression that the new members of the board of education are charter members of the Annias Club." In closing his communication Mr. Dean intimates that the election of a superintendent of schools is a function of the board of education. Mr. Dean also asks a few questions concerning Mr. Porter's record in the last general assembly.

The letter of Mr. Dean follows:

Editor Press: It seems that Mr. Porter tries to leave the impression that the new members of the board of education are charter members of the Annias Club.

I had a short talk with Mr. Porter just before he left for Raleigh.

He said since the Republican convention had endorsed me for a member of the board, he aimed to appoint me as he believed the minority party ought to have representatives on the board. He also asked how I would vote for County Superintendent of Schools. I told him I would vote for T. J. Johnston. He seemed to think Tom would make a good one and he thought we could get him for about \$1800 per annum.

So on April the 16th the board met to elect a superintendent. Mr. Johnston was not an applicant. The election was by ballot. Mr. Billings received a majority of the votes cast. I voted for Dr. J. C. Coggins. I had become acquainted with him. He had been in my home, I had heard him preach. He seemed to be a highly educated christian gentleman, well recommended and seemed well qualified to fill the office.

We need more christian workers in our county, especially men who will magnify the christian religion in precept and example. Since there seems to be a spirit of modernism pervading our state schools,

I can't conceive of the idea that the few Jews and Catholics in our state should exclude the bible from our schools.

Teach it not—sectarianism, but christianity. Let Luke be read and reported on instead of some fictitious love story.

So when the vote was announced, I moved that we make the election of Mr. Billings unanimous. Motion carried.

Mr. Porter asked me the result of the election soon after we adjourned. I told him. He wanted to know how we all voted. I told him how I voted but not how any one else voted.

The board took the oath of office which, I suppose we all regard as a sacred thing. I suppose it is or should be our sincere desire to better the schools of Macon county.

The board is composed of honorable and influential men (myself excepted).

We want to do the right thing if we know it, and solicit the cooperation of all friends to public education. Life is made up of successes and disappointments.

Some of us thought the legislature would repeal the obnoxious absentee ballot voting law, close the filling stations and stores (except drug stores) on Sunday.

A good many voters of the opposite party from Mr. Porter voted for him thinking he would at least carry out the platform.

The question arises, did he try, or did he vote with the dominant faction of his party who tried to defeat nearly all propositions proposed by members of the minority party local or otherwise?

I am not intending to criticize

THEY WIN TEN DOLLARS IN GOLD

Macon County Chapter U. D. C. "Brings Home the Bacon."

The annual meeting of the First District of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was held at Black Mountain Saturday, April 27.

The following delegates from our local chapter attended:

Mrs. S. L. Rogers, Mrs. F. L. Siler, Mrs. Lyman Higdon, Mrs. Carl Slagle, Mrs. W. C. Cunningham, Miss May Beryl Moody.

A prize of ten dollars in gold was offered by the District Director, Mrs. David Hall of Sylva, for the largest attendance from any chapter, the size of the chapter and mileage considered. Our Macon County chapter won on both counts and was presented with the prize by Miss Dula of Old Fort. "The Baby Chapter" as our chapter is called, being the youngest in this district received the congratulations from the 20 or more delegates assembled.

Mrs. McKee of Sylva, the state president gave a splendid address. Luncheon was served by the Black Mountain chapter, after which a paper on Fort Fisher was read by a lady from Wilmington.

The U. D. C. of North Carolina will within the next four years, raise five thousand dollars to commemorate brave old Fort Fisher, the very last of the Confederate forts to fall!

The women of the South bore the burden of the war! The women of the South perpetuate the memory of our gallant men of the sixties. It has been said that the U. D. C. keep alive sectional feelings.

Any one thinking this should have seen the decorations at the beautiful high school building at Old Fort. There were a dozen flags of the "Stars and Stripes" to one of the "Stars and Bars."

The Macon county delegates were given little flags of the Stars and Bars as souvenirs to wear home.

Our chapter announced our Centennial celebration for June 15th and invited every chapter in the District to attend.

Five dollars of our prize will be kept in the treasury as a "golden nest egg." The other five will be used to pay for planting rooted flowers along the bus route, that come again from roots each year.

In this way, the largest number will benefit or enjoy our prize money.

A list of those giving plants for our bus route from the eastern city limits to the Ga. line will be found under "Centennial Notes."

Boys Arrested

Frank Carver and Will Elmore, two boys about 17 years of age, were arrested Monday at Sylva by the sheriff of Jackson county. The boys had received permission from the Perry-Jones Chevrolet company to try out a car that the company had for sale. The boys remained away for three or four hours and Mr. Perry finally became uneasy about the car and telephoned to Sylva. Mr. Perry went to Sylva and after receiving an explanation from the boys he became convinced that they did not intend to steal the car. Consequently, he requested the sheriff to release them which he did.

In Memory

Mrs. Sarah Ann McPherson
Sarah, Ann Angel McPherson was born February 19, 1854 and died April 16, 1929. She was 75 years, 1 month, 28 days of age. She was married to R. H. McPherson November 23, 1876. She joined the Presbyterian church when but a girl and lived a christian life until her death. She leaves to mourn her death one brother, two sisters, one son, one daughter and a host of friends.

antagonize Mr. Porter, just asking questions.

As a general thing members of the legislature are kept so busy explaining away their sins of omission and commission, that they don't have time to participate too freely in the election of County Superintendents, but leave it up to the boards of education.

With kindest regards for all concerned, I am

Your truly,
H. D. DEAN

VETERANS TO BE HONORED GUESTS

At Macon County Centennial on June 15th. Attorney and Mrs. T. J. Johnston To Entertain the "Soldiers In Gray."

Plans for the Centennial are progressing nicely. Among the interesting features of the celebration will be a general roll call of the old Confederate Veterans who will be the guests of Attorney and Mrs. T. J. Johnston. According to the records at the court house there are only eighteen of the old soldiers alive in Macon county. Perhaps there is an error in the list. If so the committee in charge of arrangements requests that the list be revised. If there are veterans whose names do not appear below, their names should be sent to Mrs. F. L. Siler at Franklin. The survivors of the Lost Cause are dear to the people of Macon county and the entire county will take delight in paying them homage on June 15th. The list of survivors appears below:

John N. Arnold, Company K. 9th; J. C. Bates, Company B. 39th; J. A. Bates, Company B. 39th; John L. Cabe, Company I. 39th; J. L. Conley, Company E. 6th; J. H. Dewese, Company K. 9th; W. M. Gregory, Company C. 6th; R. H. Hall, Company A. 65th; Jefferson Martin, Company B. 29th; W. C. Mason, Company B. 29th; W. W. Parrish, Company H. 16th; Sam Ramsey, Company (Berry's) Thomas Legion; T. W. Rhodes, Company B. 39th; A. M. Shope, Company D. 62nd; James Stockton, Company I. Thomas's Legion; J. T. Winstead, Company I. 39th; William E. Roper, Company B. 16th; W. V. Haney, Company B. 39th.

Centennial Notes

All the old veterans do not talk The Press.

The U. D. C. is hereby asking anyone living nearest these veterans to please inform them of the plans for June 15th.

We are trying as near as possible to get our bus route in bloom by that date. The unsightly spots are being planted in flowers that will come again and also multiply each year from roots "raw." Banks are being planted in vines.

The following ladies have given such as, Pink Rambler and Iris plants, Zinnia seed, Mrs. Tom Slagle; Thousand Mile Vine, Mrs. Joe Sesser; Iris, purple and gold, Giant Swamp Pea Vine, Mrs. Carl Slagle; Iris, Golden Glow, Zinnia seed, Mrs. Henry Slagle; Lemon Lily, Seven Sister rose vines, Mrs. Fannie Siler; Cottage Lily, Pink Rambler, Dusty Miller, Mrs. F. L. Siler; Cosmos plants, Miss Lily Rankin; Cherokee Rambler, Iris, Mrs. Will Cunningham; Iris, Zinnia seed, Mrs. Moody; Cannas, Mrs. George Slagle.

Anyone having plants for the bus line please notify Mrs. Will Cunningham at her store.

All of the merchants in town have donated flower seed for the highway. The State Highway Commission has given us permission to plant anything on the highway right of way and are glad we are interested in beautifying same.

DROVE FIRST WAGON TO MACON COUNTY

The late George Carson, grandfather of Mrs. J. P. Conley, is said to have driven the first wagon brought to the county by the white men. His descendants do not know the route over which the wagon was driven, but from all reports, Mr. Conley experienced considerable difficulty in getting the wagon across the mountains. In those early days only Indian trails crossed the Coweas and the Nantahalas.

North Skenah News

Mr. E. L. Dehart is slowly improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Blaine was in this section Saturday and Sunday.

Miss Vernon Ledford was the guest of Miss Bertha Carpenter Saturday.

Mr. E. B. Dehart was in this section Saturday and Sunday. Mrs. Anna Ledford was the guest of Mrs. Irene Stedman Sunday.