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**Attention, Democrats**  
All democrats of the 1st ward No. 1 township are requested to meet at the court house in Marshall at 3 o'clock p. m., Saturday, July 5th, for the purpose of selecting delegates to the county convention to be held July 11th, 1902.

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**  
The trustees of Mars Hill College will build at Mars Hill, N. C., one school building requiring about three hundred thousand brick. Those wishing to bid on the contract will apply at once for particulars and specifications to W. H. Woodall, chairman building committee, Mars Hill, N. C.

**Call for Primary Conventions.**  
By authority vested in me as chairman I hereby call a primary convention of all democrats in their respective townships to be held Saturday afternoon July 5th at 8 o'clock. Each township will organize by electing a township chairman and an executive committee of three, all of which should be selected from the most active working democrats in your townships. You will then elect delegates to the county convention to be held at Marshall, N. C., at noon, Friday, July the 11th. This convention will elect delegates to the State, Judicial and Congressional Conventions. A full attendance is desired.

Every township chairman is especially requested to be present at county convention on Friday, July 11th, for the purpose of electing a county chairman and other important business will be transacted.  
Convention for county officers will be called later.  
THOS. J. MURRAY, Chairman.  
W. W. ZACHARY, Secretary.

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T. S. MORRISON, ASHEVILLE, N. C.

**THE RECORD**

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY BY THE RECORD PRINTING CO.

W. W. ZACHARY, EDITOR.  
J. R. SWANN, BUSINESS MANAGER.

OFFICE IN 3RD FLOOR REDMON BRICK BLD'G

We extend you a cordial invitation to visit our office whenever you are in town.

**WE CHALLENGE** the Eagle the official organ of the Court-House Ring and the claim speculators of the county, to point out a single instance in which we have made a mis-statement of facts, or have mis-quoted the records of the county.



**Notice to Candidates**

The Record will print your announcement from now until conventions are held for \$3.00. This will carry with it the privilege of your friends writing short letters in your behalf.

**RETROSPECTION.**

**The Record Enters on Volume III.**

It is natural and salutary that the individual should give pause on his birthday or other anniversary, and look back over the pathway traversed, dwell upon the incident by the way and note the progress made. It is no less proper and necessary that a public journal should take a backward glance when it, in passing a milestone in its career, finishes each volume and begins another.

It is therefore with what we trust may be pardonable pride, that the Record, as it enters on Vol. III, takes a retrospective look at the trail over which its infant footsteps toddled, reviewing it on up to the present good hour, when in just, vigorous youthfulness it is ready to still turn its face to the morning of the future, eager to be vitalized and refreshed by the elevating joy of service which it is ever ready to render to the upbuilding of the material and commercial interests of Madison county—than which the state can boast no fairer—and to the promulgation and establishment of the principles of the democratic party—the orthodox politics of the common people—for whose betterment, it is confidently believed history has offered nothing to compare with it, and the present nothing to equal it.

**FREE TO THE BABIES.**

The Eastern Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, will present to every baby, under one year of age, in this county, one solid silver baby spoon with the baby's given name engraved on same. You do not have to pay one cent nor buy anything to get this spoon. The Eastern Manufacturing Co. are large manufacturers and jobbers of jewelry and silverware, and have taken this method of advertising their goods. Instead of spending thousands of dollars for magazine advertising they have decided to give it away direct to consumers.

This paper has stood and still stands for the material, commercial, social, educational and moral betterment of Madison county. It recognizes the sleeping energies of the great water powers, the hidden wealth of minerals, the

waiting forests, the fertile soil, the salubrious climate and the native intellectuality and excellent moral tone in the lives of her people—all these are here. The Record recognizes their presence and the persistent and noble efforts of her sons and daughters in their endeavors to develop and bring to light all these varied elements of wealth and excellence. And in this labor of evolution—this work of upbuilding and of development—this paper has asked, has urged, the outside world to come in and help, and, by the helping, reap the rich rewards that must come to brain and heart and money that spend themselves in a field so promising. The Record wants to see people of culture "lope in" here—men of means to "lope in"—people with philanthropic hearts to "lope in"—men of sinew and brawn to "lope in"—men who will plant the orchards, sow the hillsides in grasses, help build our public highways, and construct school houses in every neighborhood—all these—all good citizens the Record will welcome as brothers who wish to labor in one common cause.

**We Claim the Reward**

The Eagle makes a great do in offering a reward for the proof of a certain statement made in the Record of week before last.

That paper was emboldened to make that offer from the reason that it knew the books of the county were so badly kept and a part of the necessary records to prove the facts were lost, destroyed or otherwise misplaced. That is the fight that the Record has been making all the time: to try to get the officers of the county to make their reports, keep their books and itemize their accounts so there can be no doubt as to what becomes of the public funds.

We will give the evidence that we have of the facts stated in the Record referred to, and we are willing to leave the matter to any disinterested juror in the county as to whether we are entitled to the reward or not.

The taxes of 1897 and the settlements in reference thereto were made, or should have been made under the revenue act of 1897, being Chapter 169 of the public laws of that year.

Section 35 of the said chapter has the following provisions:

"Provided, the sheriff or tax collector shall not collect the taxes for any years until he shall have settled in full with the state and county for the previous year (if he was the sheriff or tax collector) and given the bond required by law, and if upon examination, the commissioners are not satisfied with the solvency of the surety to said bond, they may require new bonds to be given. Before receiving the receipt of the state and county (if he was the sheriff or tax collector of the previous year) to the clerk of the board of commissioners, and in the event the sheriff fails to produce the aforesaid receipt or give the required bond, the board of commissioners shall appoint a tax collector, who shall give bond as is required of the sheriff to faithfully collect and pay over the taxes according to law."

So it may be seen that if a sheriff or tax collector has not made final settlement of the old tax list when the time comes for him to take the new list, which is the first Monday in September, he forfeits his office and the commissioners shall appoint a man in his place, and they have no discretion in the matter.

Upon examination of the receipts in the office we find the following: "North Carolina—Madison County."

"Received of the board of county commissioners of the county aforesaid, the foregoing tax list of Madison county for the year 1898, amounting to twenty-four thousand three hundred and ninety and 60-100 dollars, \$24,390.60, which I am to collect and pay over as required by law. This the 5th day of September, 1898. R. S. Ramsey."

It is a well known fact that R. S. Ramsey had the tax list of 1897 for collection and here we find a receipt in the office of the board of commissioners, where the tax collector had delivered the tax list of 1898 on the 5th day of September of that year.

But the Eagle says the final settlement was made on the first Monday in October. What does that paper mean for us to infer from that statement? Does it mean for the people to understand that they turned over to the tax collector the tax list of 1898 when the tax collector had forfeited his office and

the law said that the board of commissioners should appoint a man in his place? Will the Eagle please explain this matter to the people?

The mistake was discovered in the matter by an examination of the abstract of the year 1897 which abstract the law requires to be kept on file in the Register's office. After the matter had been called to the attention of the people in campaign speeches for several weeks the mistake still stood uncorrected, but sometime afterward someone corrected the mistake on the abstract, and if the county officers will please let us see that abstract it will bear the evidence of the correction on its face. We have asked to be allowed to see that paper since the last issue of the Eagle, but, for some reason or other, it can't be found! So that paper thought it could make a wonderful dodge on the matter and fool the people about it because the incompetent officers of the Court House Ring failed to make any record of their settlement, and that the tax abstract in which the mistake was made had been lost and could not be had for evidence in the case. The point we make in the affair is that when there had been a mistake of over fourteen hundred dollars made in favor of the tax collector that some one of the county officers ought to have discovered it before an outside citizen made the discovery; that if the county officers had discovered it and had not let it be known, and the tax collector had received the next tax list and had not settled in full for the taxes of the previous year, and the records of the county for at least a month showing a mistake in the tax collector's favor of more than fourteen hundred dollars, we say that the last state is much worse than the first and the officers who allowed it ought to be prosecuted for criminal negligence in office. If the Eagle wants any further evidence on the matter, just please produce us the abstract of the taxes of the year 1897, which the law says must be on file in the Register's office, and we will give you all the proof necessary.

But no, the Eagle prefers to attempt to fool the people because the officers of the Court House Ring refused to keep records of settlement as required by law and because the records that contained the mistake are lost but it happens that we got hold of enough evidence to prove our charge beyond a reasonable doubt before any fair minded jury.

Mr. W. W. Heyward of Hickory has come to Marshall and has taken charge of the editorial department of the Eagle. He has the appearance of being a clever and intelligent gentleman, and we hope that he will conduct that paper on a much higher plane of journalism than it has been in the past. If he does, the discussions of public matters between the two papers will do a great good in the county. The people are getting sick and tired of the records and the facts but they don't want to have to read so much stuff to get them.

The Record never has at any time offered any criticism of the action of the board of commissioners for releasing any man who was disabled and was too poor to pay his taxes. The criticisms of The Record only applied to such cases as were released for political reasons.

In explanation of the reference we made to the failure of the tax collector to account in his settlement with the commissioners for the schools part of the 84 insolvents of the year 1890, the Eagle says: "That the school funds for the years '97, '98, '99, and 1900 have received from the insolvent taxes \$136 21."

We have not disputed the fact that that amount was paid into the treasury. But how does that explain what became of that fifty one dollars of school funds. That fifty one dollars is not contained in the \$136 21 so far as any records show. If that money was paid into the treasury there ought to be a record of the matter showing the exact date and the exact amount, if the records are kept right.

Will the Eagle inform us of the date of the paying in of the fifty one dollars? Or will they refer us to any certain item in any record of the county where just that amount of school funds have been accounted for out of the insolvent list?

Vile epithets towards the editor of The Record will not answer these questions in the minds of the people and the Eagle will find it out. If the books were properly kept and the accounts itemized as required by law there would be no trouble over the disposition of public funds, but still some members of the Court House Ring refuse to make their reports as re-

quired by law and the Eagle defends them in their refusal.

**ATTENTION, DEMOCRATS!**

Every Democrat in the county is urged to go the primary convention Saturday, July 5, and elect a chairman and five committeemen for each township and also send delegates to the county convention to be held in Marshall on July 11th.

T. J. MURRAY, Ch'm Dem. Ex. Com. Madison Co.

The most diabolical attempt that was ever made by any newspaper in this or any other country to mislead and defraud the minds of the people was the attempt of the Eagle last week to deceive the people of Madison county in its pretended comparison between the expenses of the county under two years of the democratic board and two years under the republican board.

Since about the year 1895 the claim speculating business in this county has been thriving. The claim speculators would buy up a lot of small jury tickets and other small claims of various kinds and would then take such claims to the board of commissioners and demand that the commissioners give the speculator a claim including all their little claims, which large claim would be an interest bearing claim. Up to the latter part of the year 1896 or the time the present register of deeds went into office the claims thus consolidated were listed along with all the other claims issued by the commissioners. But after that time those consolidated claims were never listed at all and the only record kept of them was the stub of the book from which they were issued.

Upon examination of the stubs it appears that not only the claims of consolidation were not listed but many claims containing amounts other than for old claims were never listed in the regular list of claims. The Eagle in its comparison of the different years just took the claims as listed, containing many of those consolidated claims, for the first two years of its comparison of the expenses and the last two years it took no notice of the claims that had been issued but had not been listed, though many of them appear to contain large amounts, other than old claims as above stated. And when those stubs were examined it was found that from the first Monday in May 1897 and the first Monday in September 1898, which time is included in the time referred to by the Eagle, there were FIFTEEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY THREE DOLLARS AND FORTY SIX CENTS worth of those consolidated claims issued by the late board of commissioners, though not one of them was accounted for in the statement as contained in the Eagle. Such statements and misrepresentations by the Court House Ring and its representatives have been allowed to pass unchallenged until the financial condition of the county has become deplorable. But the people are getting too well informed on county matters to be imposed on in any such style. Why can't you tell the truth?

We would like to ask the Eagle, the official organ of the Court House Ring and the claim speculators of the county, if it is not a fact that about the time the Legislature of 1901 met, there was a conference held in the office of Pritchard and Collins, between Senator Pritchard, T. S. Rollins, Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of the district and County Attorney, I. N. Ellis Representative from Madison county, John A. Hendricks Chairman Republican Executive Committee of the county, the Board of County Commissioners of Madison county, together with some claim holders against the county, in reference to formulating a petition to the General Assembly asking for special taxes of 1.20 on each poll and 40c on 100 worth of property?

And if it is not a fact that T. S. Rollins, attorney for the Board of Commissioners did not have drawn up on his typewriter, a petition to the General Assembly asking for such tax, which a majority of the Board of County Commissioners adopted in open session, copies of which petition was forwarded to the representative of Madison county and the senators of this district?

And if it is not a fact that a bill was prepared in almost the exact terms of the petition and if a copy of the same was not introduced in the Lower House by the representative of Madison county, which afterwards became a law?

**Special Notice.**

Petitions having been filed with the Board for a new ward to be cut off from the 1st and 2nd wards of No. 1 township with the voting place at Walnut Creek school house, near J. N. Jones, notice is hereby given that the Board will consider the matter on Saturday, July 5th, 1902, at Marshall, N. C.

J. R. SWANN, Chairman County Board of Elections.

**Fruit Growing in Madison Again**

Knowing as I do, that many thousand young apple trees were set in the Eastern portion of Madison county last spring, it is all important just now that they should have proper care and attention. Every small limb that is not desired to become a part of the lap of the tree, should be removed. In fact, they should have been removed before this time; however, if it has been neglected, do not neglect it any longer. Cultivate thoroughly. Stir the ground about them often and thoroughly. Let no grass or weeds grow about the young trees. I have cultivated three times already and can show growth of trees set April 26, that measure 27 inches in length. Who can beat that?

Now concerning Bro. Gabagan's theory that the locust tree growing in close proximity is beneficial to the apple tree: The locust may be and in all probability is, more or less leguminous; but my observation is such as to discredit the theory that they are, in any way, beneficial. I have some trees almost surrounded by locusts, some of my very best bearers are so situated; while, on the other hand, some of my most trifling trees are on the same soil and similarly situated. Appletrees, like men, are hard to understand. Some do well with little chance, while others are no good with all the chance you can possibly give them, though this is the exception and not the rule. There is something remarkable about the satisfactory results Bro. Gabagan got from that "patch" of trees he set on blue grass sod and gave no cultivation. They would not live on my land on bluegrass sod, surrounded with locust sprouts or trees. My opinion is, that his land is admirably adapted to the growth of apples, or his trees would have died before the bearing period. Had they received careful attention from time of planting until the bearing period doubtless the results would have been much more satisfactory to him.

The greatest wonder to me is that people in our county grow such little fruit, even apples, to say nothing of pears, peaches, cherries, plums, grapes, etc., etc. All these fruits will grow to perfection in Madison, and why not each farmer for himself find out which kinds are best adapted to his farm and plant them.

Let us all awake to a higher sense of our duty as farmers.  
Respectfully,  
J. R. SAMS.

**Bluff Dots.**

Editor RECORD:—I will give you a few dots from Bluff.

There have been two weddings recently, Chas. Finley and Miss Nancy Wardrop were married a few days ago, and Mr. Will Gregg, and Miss Duda Morris was married lately.

A. E. Melton and wife went visiting Sunday. Hope they had a good time.

Mrs. Annie Landers was visiting her father Sunday.

Mrs. Delia Lanford was visiting her sister and brother-in-law, Chas. and Jane Moore, Sunday.

Crops are looking extra fine on Spring Creek. Good luck for the farmers.

J. G. Reynolds one of our old neighbors is very low with droopy. Hope he will recover.

Wm. Lavender was visiting in our village Sunday.

Jeff Moore bought a fine cow the other day.

Moseley's splashing men seem to be doing a good business splashing logs.

I have been told of an "Eagle" that has lately made its appearance in the county. I think the farmers had better look after their lambs and pigs pretty close, for they tell me that Eagles are bad after lambs and pigs, but from what I can find out it does not fly very high, so there may not be much danger. I guess it is like a good many other things gotten up, it is only a scare crow, so don't be afraid. It will die in a few days. Success to The Record.  
Yours,  
A. B. G.

Bluff, June 23, 1902.