

Madison County Record  
Established June 23, 1901  
French Broad News  
Established May 16, 1907  
CONSOLIDATED NOV. 3, 1911

# The News-Record

AN X MARK HERE  
Means that your sub-  
scription has expired.

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN MADISON COUNTY

VOL XXI

MARSHALL, MADISON COUNTY, N. C. FRIDAY, MAY 23rd, 1924.

No 30

## Madison County Derived Name of 'Bloody Madison' Because of Numerous Homicides There

The following article entitled "Bloody Madison" was written by James M. Baley Jr. age 12 years who is a student in the eighth grade of the Marshall High School:

Madison County derived the name of "Bloody Madison" several years ago by reason of numerous homicides committed within her borders. The darkest period in the history of Madison County, in regard to the homicides, was between 1890 and 1900. At each term of the criminal court of Madison County during this period, there was from one to seven murder cases on the docket for trial. The expenses of the courts in trying these numerous cases was so great that the county became very badly involved, so much so that the county's paper was practically worthless.

I will undertake to relate in detail a few of the numerous homicides committed in the county during the decade above mentioned. Mr. Hansel Rector, a deputy sheriff, was shot from ambush in the Little Pine Creek section of the county. This killing was committed by two brothers, it was claimed one of whom was arrested shortly after the killing and lodged in the Madison County jail at Marshall, and before a term of court convened at Marshall, he escaped and was never recaptured. The other brother was never captured. It is supposed that, when the first named escaped from jail, the two brothers fled to the far west; hence the murderers have never received the justice of the law.

Another most blood-curdling homicide was committed on the west side of the French Broad River in the mountains near Barnard. A man is alleged to have beat his wife to death and dragged her lifeless form down the mountain by the hair of her head. This man was arrested and tried in the courts of this county and, possibly by some technicality of the law, he was found guilty of second degree murder only and was sentenced to the penitentiary at Raleigh, for a period of thirty years; but before he had served anything like the entire sentence given him the Governor of North Carolina pardoned him.

Another homicide that attracted considerable attention, was committed in what is known as the Shelton Laurel section of the county on one Saturday night, in one of the homes of that section, a social dance was given, and the young men and women for miles around gathered to enjoy the hospitality of the host and hostess. Of course that was before the days of prohibition and it was as much the custom, in that section, to have the bottle at the dance as it was the fiddle and the banjo. In due course the music was started and the call came "Partners for the next grand quadrill." The merry dancers were soon at their places and the dance began. Between each dance the contents of the bottle were gradually consumed and by the time the mid-night hour arrived the contents of the bottle were having their effect a general row began; numerous parties were engaged in the row, and a considerable number of pistol shots rang out in the midnight air, and when the smoke of the battle cleared away a man by the name of

Stanton was dead, having been pierced through the body by several pistol balls. W. B. Shelton was arrested and tried for the killing and was found not guilty by the jury; thus the scene closed on that Saturday night dance that caused so much disturbance.

About the year 1900 a new era began in Madison County and while it worked slowly a complete revolution has been brought about.

A small number of Presbyterians came to Madison County and began to build churches and establish schools and in a short time more than half a dozen good schools were in progress in some of the darkest corners of the county; and while the Presbyterian denomination is not directly entitled to all the credit of better conditions too much cannot be said of their influence in bringing them about. Their energies stimulated the other denominations and they began to make rapid strides along the same line. Only one small church represented all denominations in the town of Marshall the county seat of the county. The Baptist Methodist and Presbyterian denominations have all built nice churches in the town since that time and now there are now four churches with preaching in each church every Sunday. There was not a school building of any consequence in the town; now there is a n elegant school building with an attendance of about 400 students and, be it said to the credit of Mr. and Mrs. Blankenship, the principal and assistant principal, an accredited high school has been established. The same thing may be said of other sections of the county in regard to Christianity and education.

One of the longest steps in the tremendous reformation of the county was the adoption of prohibition. Before the adoption of prohibition the courts of the county were crowded with cases directly or indirectly traceable to the cause of whiskey; in fact the name of "Bloody Madison" was derived from homicides due to the effect of whiskey. No county in North Carolina has received a greater blessing from the adoption of prohibition than Madison County. I am told by prohibition agents that this county gives them less trouble than any other county in Western North Carolina; and the majority of the whiskey cases tried in the courts of this county are men captured in passing through the county transporting whiskey from Tennessee to Asheville.

Another very important item, relative to the progress of this county, is the wonderful improvement in roads and bridges. It was a herculean task, requiring much patience and a great deal of money to grade roads in this mountainous section, yet little by little a system of good roads has been built, comparing favorably with roads in other counties in the Western part of the state. Several new bridges were built across the French Broad River; some of which had scarcely been completed when a terrible freshet, in 1916 swept them all away. By much energy, grit and determination these bridges have all been rebuilt.

I cannot class this composition without mentioning the names of a few of the prominent men produced by this county. Hon. James M. Cudger, who represented the Tenth Congressional District in Congress for a number of years, was born and reared in this county. Hon. Hezekiah A. Gudger, who was Consul from the United States to Panama, was for several years and

## News Story

Screen sides and canopy tops are now being supplied by the Ford Motor Company as additional equipment for the new Ford one-ton truck equipped with all-steel body and cab.

Since its introduction a few months ago, the Ford haulage unit has steadily gained in popularity among truck users throughout the country. With the addition of fereen sides and canopy top its utility is greatly extended and the uses to which it may be adapted become wider than ever including most every delivery service demand.

The screen sides, which are of heavy mesh in strong frames are securely bolted to the cab and body. The top is covered with weather-proof material, similar material being used for sides and end curtains which are rolled up and held in place by straps when not in use.

The end doors form a feature which appeals to many for they permit complete enclosure and protection of the load. The doors are swung on sturdy hinges and are held closed with a double locking device which may be padlocked.

With the screen sides and top the truck has a loading space of approximately 114 cubic feet. The body is four feet wide, 7 feet, 2 inches long, and has a loading height of four feet.

Truck users everywhere are rapidly turning to the use of the one ton trucks as the most economical and efficient. The new equipment now available with the Ford truck provides not only a complete haulage unit, but also gives the truck user several body combinations to choose from and permits him to make selections which are best suited to his particular requirements.

## Five Tragedies

A man struck a match to see if the gasoline tank in his automobile was empty. It wasn't.

A man patted a strange bulldog on the head to see if the critter was affectionate. It wasn't.

A man speeded up to see if he could beat the train to the crossing. He couldn't.

A man touched a trolley wire to see if it was charged. It was.

A man cut out his advertising to see if he could save money. He didn't. —Exchange.

afterwards United States Judge in Panama, was born and reared in Madison County. Hon. Jeter C. Pritchard represented the State of North Carolina in the United States Senate for eight years. He was then appointed Judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia; he held this position until appointed Judge of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in which he served until his death. Mr. Pritchard was an adopted son of Madison County. All of these honorable and beloved men have been called to their reward leaving a heritage that might well be emulated.

With the conditions that once prevailed in this county and the condition that I have pointed out which prevail now, I am wondering if the good old County of Madison, whose citizens have labored so strenuously, has not reached the point that the name of "Bloody Madison" may be eliminated.

## Announcement by the Citizens of Madison County For County Commissioner

We the undersigned Citizens of Madison County, most respectfully ask that in the Republican Primary June 7th, 1924, that G. L. McKinney be nominated as Chairman of the BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

In making this announcement we are doing this on our own volition and unknown to Mr. McKinney. We know Mr. McKinney has made a splendid member of the Board, and know that if we should lose Mr. McKinney's service as County Commissioner, that Madison County would lose one of its most valuable assets on the Board, and would be detrimental to the interest of the tax payers of Madison County. The time has come for us all to lay down our personal grievances, (if we have any) and vote for the best men to fill this very important Office as Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. We are friends of all the candidates who have announced for County Commissioner. We only ask that Mr. McKinney be elected as Chairman of the Board in view of his fitness and wide experience on the Board, and in doing so we feel the Tax Payers will have made no mistake. So hoping that Mr. McKinney will be our choice for Chairman of the Board. We are most respectfully for, the success of Mr. McKinney.

J. Hubert Davis, W. E. King, Pete Rice, H. B. Barnes, Ira Plemons, Elisha Tweed, W. L. Roberts, R. L. Tillery, L. Z. Eller, I. E. Rumbough, E. C. Coats, T. E. Hunter, A. W. Ensley, Cecil Buckner, C. T. Waldrup, J. C. Phillips, T. I. Tillery, T. M. Cargile, G. B. Clark, J. E. Fox, Z. V. Fisher, H. A. Wallin, J. D. Crowder, J. N. Fisher, A. H. Bryan, M. P. Wild, C. C. Fox, R. O. Eller, H. L. Fox, W. D. Ponder, E. F. Sprinkle, J. B. Fox, J. P. Fox, C. C. Clark, E. G. Hunter, Hermon Crowder, J. M. Baley, Enoch Rector, A. J. Bridges, R. H. Ward, Andrew Stines, John E. Rector, M. E. Candler, M. M. Ramsey, L. R. Rector, J. W. Redmon, Jas. Hensley, W. L. Rector, J. E. Carter, H. H. Stines, T. H. Stines, Dr. W. A. Sams, M. D. Rober Norton, C. C. Norton, J. L. Shelton, A. L. Coats, Tillman Gosnell, W. C. Silver, A. W. Bryan, Roy J. Wall, J. W. Buckner, M. V. Paek, J. H. Hutchins, F. R. Sprinkle, T. A. Higgins, C. W. Coody, R. F. Payne, J. R. Buckner, R. Gentry, Hanson Messer, W. E. Calwell, Bob Price, Jim Bargin Massey, W. C. Groans, Joe Price, J. M. Payne, G. W. Buckner, W. M. Payne, J. J. Miller, Sam Messer, Ransie Rathbone, C. H. Grooms, W. G. Grooms, W. A. Rathbone, C. R. Grooms, A. F. Sluder, R. W. Kent, W. H. Payne, R. B. Roderts, M. M. Farmer, Jonas Payne, J. H. Redmon, Henry Martin, C. H. Brown, Lida Brown, R. C. Payne.

## A Few Fillers

A new petrified forest has been found in the Mojave Desert in California.

The American flag is the second oldest flag on earth today.

## A Few Items From Detroit And River Rouge Folks

River Rouge, Mich., May 12, 1924.

Just a few items from the Detroit and River Rouge folks.

We are having lovely weather now, glad to see spring coming again.

Mr and Mrs. Thomas Frisby and family have returned from their trip South. Glad to know Mrs. Frisby's mother is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wild motored to Toledo Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Campel Askew visited Mrs. O. L. Reese a few days back.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ode Davis a daughter.

Mr and Mrs. Fletcher Martin are planning to go South on a visit in a couple weeks.

On last Sunday afternoon quite a few of the people from the South went for a drive up to Wall Lake, about thirty-five miles from here.

The following was the crowd: Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Baker and family Mr. and Mrs. Hal Wild and Edna, Mrs. Charley Treadway and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Wild, Mr. and Mrs. Troy Wild, and Edwin, Mrs. O. L. Reese and three daughters, Misses Nina Allie and Maud and Mr. Burlin Clemmons. One thing that added to the trip more than any other one thing we got into little hills like fun. Just up one little hill and down the other all paved.

Everyone seemed to enjoy their trip fine and want to go again to Wall Lake on a picnic soon.

Mrs. Asthell Clemmons, and Calrus are planning a trip home soon.

We are always glad to get the Marshall paper.

## Death of Mrs. C. M. Sawyer

On May the first, Claud Sawyer and family were called to Pacolet South Carolina to see Claud's mother, that was stricken with paralysis that day, and who died May the third. Mrs. Sawyer was born in Madison County and was sixty years old at her death. She had lived in Marshall until 1924, her family moved to Pacolet, South Carolina. She had made that place her home since, excepting the year, 1923 that she spent with her son here.

Mrs. Sawyer leaves her husband and six children, three daughters, Mrs. C. B. Jackson, Mrs. E. R. Patrick and Mrs. B. Trent, three sons, Claude, Ped, and Herman, ten grandchildren and one sister-to miss her. Mrs. Sawyer's body accompanied by her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Trent, Mr. Ped Sawyer and Mr. Cook, a nephew of Mrs. Sawyer, was brought to Marshall and buried near Mr. Job Redmon's on May the 4th.

We wish to thank our friends for their kindness during our recent bereavement.

Claud and Effie Sawyer.

## Religion In Politics Tested On Election Day

No citizen really professes any more religion than he practices on election day.

The voting-booth is the laboratory wherein the acid test is applied to a person's faith.

If religion has done nothing for a man's citizenship, then it has done nothing for his soul.

Prayer-meeting professions that do not accord with election day practices indicate that on one occasion or the other the Christian is a hypocrite.

If "good" men and women could not be counted upon by bad politicians to leave their religious convictions at home on election day, there would be no use in a political machine's trying to live; for good people are in the majority; and whenever their righteousness becomes really operative, it dooms the "organization" type of politics.

Politics has no place in religion but religion expresses itself in politics.

When a Christian's lips pray, "Thy will be done in heaven," and his ballot prays, "The bosses' will be done on earth," what does he really mean?

Religion that does not work out in civic righteousness is entirely out of employment.

Give the devil the votes and he will not care who gets the hal-lujahs.

Preachers who write letters endorsing the candidates of corrupt combinations of predatory politicians should not complain if their endorsement of godliness also goes unheeded.

—Union Signal.

## Auditor's Report of The County's Bonded Indebtedness

Having been requested by some of the Tax Payers of the County, I hereby submit the following report on the County's Bonded Indebtedness

Court House.....	\$30,000.00
Jail and Funding.....	\$85,000.00
Roads.....	\$300,000.00
Bridges.....	\$65,000.00
Roads.....	\$125,000.00
Roads.....	\$100,000.00
Roads.....	\$50,000.00

Total Bonded Indebtedness.....\$755,000.00

There has been paid on the above amounts the following:

Court House.....	\$15,000.00
Bridges.....	\$51,814.62
Total.....	\$66,814.62
Sinking Fund on Certificate of Deposit.....	\$38,816.33

Total Amount paid and Sinking Fund.....\$105,630.95  
Leaving a total Balance of bonded indebtedness.....\$649,369.05

\$755,000.00 \$755,000.00

The above is a true and correct report of the County's Indebtedness to date, with interest paid on the above \$649,369.05, to July 1st, 1924.

Respectfully,  
J. N. WHITE,  
Auditor.