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LOCAL HISTORY MADISON COUNTY TO BE DESIRED

Prominent Gentleman of This
State Presents His Views
On The Subject And
They are Good.

The letter below is perhaps the most important bit of correspondence carried recently by the News-Record. (See issue of June 3, 1927). The letter, a copy of which was sent to every city and county board of education in the State of North Carolina by the secretary of the State Historical Commission suggests the appointment of a county historian and stresses the importance of preserving all local history material. Practically every daily and weekly newspaper in the State published the letter—many accompanied by a long editorial, some converting the letter into a news item of considerable length. The News-Record comments as follows: "The following letter explains itself and we pass it on to our readers."

SUGGESTS COUNTY HISTORIAN
Importance of Preserving All Historical
Material

May 24th, 1927
To Chairman of County Board
of Education:

North Carolina has a history which surpasses both in scope and in richness that of many of the States in the American Union. But whereas state history has been preserved and made available by the State Literary and Historical Association and the North Carolina Historical Commission, local history in North Carolina has not generally had that systematic promotion which its importance deserves. What has been done for state history should and can be done for local history by local agencies. In New York, a state law requires the appointment of a local historian in each town and city has stimulated greatly the preservation and writing of local history.

In every county in North Carolina there exists historical material without which an adequate county history cannot be written; yet if not collected and preserved, its destruction is certain. In every county there has been a record of achievement which if written and published, would stimulate local pride and achievement and add to the knowledge of North Carolina history. In every county there is someone already experienced in historical work or deeply interested therein, who, if given the position of local historian, would be honored and stimulated to greater efforts in collecting material, writing history, and organizing a local association. In the face of these conditions, there is no need for those interested in the cause of education and history to await the legal establishment of the office of county historian. If results can be achieved independently, the prospect will be favorable for legislative co-operation two years hence.

Will you not consult with your Board and perhaps with the County Commissioners, and select someone to serve, unofficially of course, as county historian? The person of your choice should be interested, capable, and, wherever possible, trained or experienced in historical work. If you wish, the Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission can be of assistance in the final choice; and when the choice is made, he will be glad to advise with and assist the county historian in every way possible.

You are in position to make a distinct contribution to the history and education of your community and state; and the Historical Commission is sufficiently interested to cooperate with you, and hope that you will cooperate with others who already are effectively.

Very truly yours,
A. R. NEWSOM, Secretary.

Every community—whatever its type—is historical in character, and is partly what it is because of the ideas struggles of the past. Persons, events, conditions, developments, influences of various kinds, have contributed to give the community its characters. The community of Madison county is no exception. Certainly mountains, valleys and rivers, soils

and resources have influenced the location of settlements. The Indians roamed over Madison until far into the nineteenth century; The history of their occupation might be pictured from archeological and ethnological remains. Biographical sketches of the early pioneers and knowledge of the Scotch-Irish, German, Welsh, English, and other racial strains in the population of the country furnish excellent background material. Relations with other communities have been affected by the old trails, roads, ferries, bridges, stages and taverns. It is an interesting fact in the history of the county in the early part of the nineteenth century, Marshall was a resting point on the lone hog-drive from Kentucky and Tennessee to the coastal cities. Other fields for study in Madison county, largely a land owned by the negro tenant, the absence of the negro tenant, the farmers of Madison county, largely a land owning class, the introduction of the textile and other industries—the progress of governmental and educational institutions, of religious and philanthropic societies, and fraternal orders; art, folk songs and music, and literature; the contributions of community builders; and the influence of Madison county in state and national history.

There are a number of good reasons why such a history of Madison county should be written. Among other values of local history is the strictly cultural value. Local history is worth knowing, if merely for the sake of knowledge. Yet from a study of one's community may be gained a better understanding of both the home community and the world in which he lives. The average man is comparatively ignorant of both. Is not each community something of the world in miniature? It is true there may be found representative institutions of many kinds, persons with all the varying types of personality, nearly all the types and tendencies of mankind. Certainly here is a microcosm of ideas—a sort of universality of mind. Life in any one community is a microcosm, an epitome, a replica of life in many other communities, and to understand one is to know much about every social group. The community is playing a part—however significant or insignificant—in that greatest of dramas, which is the evolution of ideas, institutions and cultures everywhere. And how "bloody" and "muddy" Madison has changed to a progressive, peace-loving community, is a scene which cannot be omitted without impairing to some extent the whole of the drama.

In the third place, local history furnishes the substance from which is developed pride in the loyalty to the community—the qualities of community patriotism and community consciousness—not accommunity consciousness and admiration that leads to a narrow "provincialism" but, on the contrary, one inspiring to greater progress. Madison county saw an exhibition of local pride when a young attorney called attention to the fact that one lone portrait graced the walls of the Madison county court room. This was a portrait of the speaker's father, Judge Peter Conley Pritchard, and he was urging the placing of the portraits of three other distinguished sons of Madison in the court room. Three distinguished sons named by him were Colonel J. S. McElroy, Judge Heskiah Gudger, and J. M. Gudger. He declared that Madison county "owes it to these departed and distinguished sons to place their portraits in a place where it will serve as an inspiration to attorneys following in their footsteps, the three having at one time practiced law in the Madison County Superior Court." It was an unusual coincidence, that the judge presiding in the court as the resolution was presented was Judge Pender A. McElroy, a son of Colonel McElroy named above and father of John McElroy, who was practicing law in the same court room. There are few communities which do not recall with similar pride the achievements of its sons, who are called great.

A fourth value might be attributed to a history of Madison county in the usefulness of such a volume is the solution of the present problems of Madison county. James Harvey Robinson insists that only through history can we understand the world in which we live. There is a school of writers which insists that history should be utilitarian. Professor Chas. A. Murray declares that the aim of history is "to bring the past into manifest relation to the present." Another professor, J. G. deR. Hamilton maintains that in history need be included only events, persons and developments which have been vital in shaping the conditions, present and future, of the generation in which we live. Professor Herman Harrell Home insists upon the functional, pragmatic, utilitarian view of historical research, and Dr. E. C. Branson that we should "let history work for the present welfare of the community." Madison counties would understand present social, political and economic conditions much more clearly if they knew facts of how they had developed.

In Europe, history of province and city has long been an essential factor in even an elementary education. Nearly every intelligent peasant boy is fairly well informed in the annals of his locality; his heroes are his own; his glory is reflected in the soil.

asm with which he recites their deeds to the passing stranger. But where in America is such true? It is true that local tradition and history does mean much in some sections of the country and that in New York, a state law requires the appointment of a local historian in each town and city. Generally speaking, however, in the United States too little attention is paid to this phase of history writing. The value of the letter quoted above lies in the fact that North Carolina is beginning a movement which will likely spread to other states where the value of community history has not been appreciated. Another generation may see a hitherto most neglected field of American historiography receive its due recognition and an American communities profiting thereby.

Questions which Madison county must solve in the connection are three fold: who will be appointed county historian? Where will the material of local history be placed for proper preservation? When will local history clubs be organized to study the various characters and institutions and the development of Madison county? Will the people of Madison county exhibit a spirit of cooperation in this program of preserving history material and of picturing the county's past?

ALL DAY SERVICE AT COUNTY HOME

An all day service was enjoyed at the County Home, the third Sunday. The Walnut Creek choir was present and did some good singing which was enjoyed by all.

The welcome address was given by Miss Nellie Crough and then some wonderful talks were made by Rev. N. H. Griffin, Rev. Burgin Robertson and Mr. R. V. Deaver.

After these talks Rev. A. P. Rich, of West Asheville preached a wonderful sermon at eleven o'clock. After a song by Walnut Creek and Davis Chapel choirs, the meeting adjourned for dinner.

A nice dinner was spread with plenty for all, by the following: Mrs. R. H. Clark, Mrs. Sallie Payne, Mrs. Elias Allen, Mrs. Texanna Bandy, Mrs. R. L. Crough, Mrs. O. C. Davis and Mrs. Clemet Henderson and Mrs. Burin Price.

Mr. and Mrs. Clark, Supt. of the Home, had a kind word for all and tried to make everyone welcome.

After dinner two good talks were made by Mr. Smiley and Mr. Tom Ball of Walnut Creek church. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in singing and the meeting adjourned at four o'clock.

Madison Short Term Schools Start Aug. 1

Superintendent Carl M. Blankenship announces that the short term schools for Madison county will start on August 1st, instead of July 25 as previously announced. Notices are now being sent to the different teachers who are employed to teach these schools, and a Teacher's meeting is being called for Saturday July 30. Professor Blankenship has gone to Raleigh to attend a meeting of superintendents and auditors of the state, which is being held at State College. He was accompanied by J. N. White, auditor of Madison county.

Madison's Banks Place Resources At \$1,784,542 Figure

The Madison's county's four banks, the Bank of French Broad and the Citizens Bank of Marshall; the Citizens Bank of Hot Springs, which is a branch of the Marshall Citizens Bank; and the Bank of Mars Hill, in a statement to the Corporation Commission made at the close of business, June 30, 1927, placed their resources as follows:

Bank of French Broad, \$724,199.88; Citizens Bank, local and Hot Springs branch, \$883,667.95; and the Mars Hill institution, \$176,674.68, making a total of \$1,784,542.46.

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION FOR MASONRY

On Wednesday August 3rd from 2-6 and 7:30-10 P. M., in the Masonic Lodge at Canton will be held the first of three days' meetings for the purpose of reviewing the secret work, instruction in Masonic Education, and the interpretation of symbolic and ritualistic work in Masonry. These meetings will be held by Dr. W. C. Wicker, Educational Field Secretary of the Grand Lodge of this State.

On Thursday August 4th there will be a meeting held from 2-6 in the afternoon and 7:30-10 P. M., at night in the lodge at Waynesville.

On Friday August 5th, there will be a district meeting of the Lodges in Haywood County the 41st District. This District Meeting will be

held in the Lodge at Waynesville, and all of the lodges of the District are urged to be well represented.

Though only the lodges of Haywood county are being served this week, Masons of the lodges of Madison county are quite welcome and requested to attend where possible. Madison County Lodges will be served at an early date—which will be announced a little later on.

Come! Attend the meetings nearest you, especially the Friday District meeting at Waynesville. Dr. Wicker is able to help you. Come and take advantage of the free service he offers.

Camp View Meeting In Full Swing

I am sure the readers of your paper, especially the sick who saw the testimony of Mrs. J. G. Ramsey, about her healing last August will be interested to know that Miss Mattie E. Perry, whom the Lord used to pray for Mrs. Ramsey, is attending the camp meeting at Camp View, West Asheville, which began July 17, and continues until the 31st. Miss Perry came Saturday and already the sick are coming to the Camp for prayer or healing and some have been healed in answer to prayer. See James 5:12-16.

Thousands of sick and suffering have been healed as a result of Miss Perry's prayers, because God has made abundant provision for the whole man in His plan of redemption (Isaiah 53:4-5 and Matt. 8:16-17.)

A large congregation attended the opening of Camp View meeting last Sunday, and the meetings are to be heard during the two weeks, including Rev. Raymond Browning, evangelist, of Asbury College; Rev. J. S. Hodges, of the New Bern Baptist Tabernacle; Rev. S. H. Styron, who is president of the Free Will Baptist State Convention; Prof. R. F. Pittman, of Eureka College, who has charge of the music and many others. All persons are invited regardless of denomination and room and board can be had on the grounds.

Written by Rev. R. V. "Bob" Self, founder and president of Camp View camp ground, West Asheville, N. C.

Mrs. Ponder Was Church Worker

Late Mars Hill Resident Formed
First Mission Society There

Mrs. Cornelia E. Ponder, age 64, who died at her home at Mars Hill Monday night, was the daughter of the late Rev. John Ammons. She was a devout Christian, and much beloved citizen. She organized the first Woman's Missionary Society of Mars Hill and was the able president of it for a number of years. She was an active member of the Mars Hill Baptist Church until the last years of her life when she became an invalid.

Beautiful floral offerings and many telegrams of condolence at the funeral Wednesday, attended the love and esteem of her host of friends.

The deceased is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Ralph Monger, of Sanford, N. C.; three sons, Max L. Ponder, of New York City; J. F. Ponder, of Wheeling West Va., Louis, of Mars Hill; also one sister, Mrs. L. M. Allen, Mars Hill and five brothers, W. C. L. G. J. M., Ammons of Mars Hill, and E. E. Ammons of Asheville, and J. J. Ammons of Stockville.

MADISON BOYS OFF FOR HAWAII

Garland P. and George W. Goforth sons of Mr. George Goforth, of Barnard, N. C., who recently enlisted in the Regular Army, sailed today from the Brooklyn Army Base with 516 soldiers on the United States Army Transport, Cambrai, for Hawaii.

The trip will include a cruise along the Atlantic coast to Colon, the port of Panama. The Goforth brothers will then sail through the Panama Canal, the greatest engineering feat in history, up the Pacific coast, and through the world-renowned "Golden Gate" to San Francisco.

A week's voyage across the two thousand miles of the placid waters of the Pacific will then bring them to their port of debarkation at Honolulu elected the Infantry branch of the Regular Army for service, will be assigned by Major-General, Edward M. Lewis, commanding the Hawaiian Department to one of the regiments stationed in Hawaii.

Before sailing today the Goforth brothers were members of the garrison at Fort Slocum, N. Y., an historic army post on Long Island Sound where the received training as soldiers under the supervision of Colonel J. J. Bradley, the post commander.

Jennie—Dick didn't blow his brains out when you rejected him. He came round and proposed to me. Jennie—Then he must have got rid of them some other way.

Workman on ground (to unfortunata bricklayer)—Fall on your back Jim—you'll get more compensation.

MORE ABOUT YOUR BIG TAX PAYING.

By IRA FLEMMONS

The State of North Carolina employs more than 1600 people who draw approximately \$235,000.00 per month, or \$2,820,000.00 per year. This does not include the officers, and those appointed as heads of the departments at Raleigh, to this sum must be added whatever the elective officers receive.

The elective officers and the department heads receive much higher salaries than those included or under the supervision of the salary and wage commission. The Salary and Wage Commission raised the salaries of a number of State employees in the total sum of \$70,000, this year.

Has the farmers and business men had any raise this or last year? Yes; their taxes was raised.

If our county is on an average, we have sixteen townships and the state would have sixteen hundred townships; each township in the state is supporting one state employee at a salary of between seventeen and eighteen hundred dollars a year, keep in mind that no elective officers or included, no county or city officer is included. The tax payers must have another raise very soon, unless something is done and is done very quickly.

The state bonded debt is \$158,199,491 bearing interest at four percent and this enormous sum goes to, are most of it goes to New York bankers and very few if any of these dollars get back to the state unless it is borrowed. You note that the interest we are paying out on the state debt alone will pay and buy our entire county, covering all the real and personal property in it.

It's hardly possible to find out what the total indebtedness of the state, counties, and towns are, but I suggest that a very good guess is that it is very near to one billion dollars, or a payable interest of forty millions each and every year. It is no wonder that the taxing agencies are sipping as with a fine tooth comb for taxables, and that assessments and rates are going higher and higher every year. Keep in mind that most of this money goes back to Wall Street, and very little gets back only as it is borrowed again. Except for that amount of tax that is collected from the people outside the state, and that is comparatively small the balance of the money necessary to meet interest, salaries, and other expenses must come directly from the pockets of tax payers of the state.

No one denies that we are receiving some benefits from our taxes, but are we receiving what we should for the money it costs. I claim we have too many officers, and that the systems under which we are operating is crude in the extreme, and that crudeness equals extravagance, was to equal to unreasonable taxes.

Mark that I have not charged any one with graft, I do not want to believe that anything of that sort is going on, and hope that it is not, but system we have is wrong, too much duplicity of work, and no coordination of efforts each taxing agency operating with its own little schemes in view without trying to find out what the other taxing agencies are doing.

Is our roads costing too much, we all think yes whether we say so or not. Is our school system costing too much? Well, yes. Books are changed every few years, perhaps some should be but not all, and the parents are paying hundreds of dollars for books that are not necessary. Just another form of extracting money from the people.

Why in our county must we have six paid men on the Board of Education? Not one of them is elected by the people. But the system is such that we must have them or whether they are competent or good citizens or not. I do not mean to convey the idea that some of the men on the board are not good citizens, are competent or not.

We four men in the state that draw the neat sum of \$23,220.00 for the service that two men could do for one half that sum, and then draw about as much pay as one hundred farmers can make on their farms. These farmers and business men must pay the tax for these extra men and that without voice in the matter. Is it right?

LARGE DOCKET FOR AUGUST TERM

Mr. J. Huber Davis tells a News-Record reporter that there 108 cases filed for the August term of court which convenes the 22nd day of Aug. He says that by the time that court starts there will be at least 150 cases on the Docket.

GRADY GRIFFIN

Mr. Grady Griffin, aged 21, died at his home on Walnut Creek after about two weeks illness. Burial was in the Chandley cemetery. His father and several brothers and sisters are left to mourn his loss.

KEEPING AWAY SNAKES

Traditions handed down by the Indians and superstitions traceable to negro slaves during the early settlement of this country, says the biological survey, have credited certain ornamental plants with remarkable attributes as snake repellents. The odor or emanations from the tree and from its dead leaves on the ground have been held to make the mountain ash obnoxious to snakes. In the southern states, colored people for generations have planted the snake calabash and the snake gourd and trained the vines to grow over their houses and along their garden fences in the belief that the odor of these gourd vines would repel snakes.

The pungent fishy odor given off by fullgrown leaves of the horseshoe geranium is also thought by some to drive away snakes. Various other plants are supposed to possess similar powers, but careful investigation has failed thus far to corroborate, any potency of this sort on the part of any plants. So far as known, no North American plants will drive away snakes or cause snakes to avoid areas on which they are growing.

None of the various repellents, such as cayenne pepper, fresh slaked lime, or powdered sulphur, which have been suggested from time to time, have been found to possess any particular merit.

In many parts of the West the old-time horse or cow-hair ropes, about 30 feet long, were and still are used by cowboys, ranchers, and prospectors to surround their beds when sleeping on the ground, in the belief that they would exclude snakes. Experiments with rattlesnakes as well as with harmless snakes have shown that no protection is afforded by a hair rope. Repeated trials have proved that a rattlesnake will crawl over a hair rope without hesitation.

HEAD PIERCED FOURTEENTH TIME BY RED HOT STEEL ROD INDIANA MAN IS ALIVE

HAMMOND, Ind., July 9—Paul Kosty was still cheating death in a hospital here today, the fourteenth time his head was pierced by a 2 1/2 inch red hot steel rod.

Kosty, 37, foreman in the LaSalle Steel company here, was brought into the hospital to die two weeks ago after he was struck by the steel rod while at work on his straightening bench in the steel plant.

The rod struck him in the neck on the left side, passed through his mouth and protruded twenty-two feet on the outside of his head. Still conscious, he shouted for help and with the assistance of fellow employees, pulled the remaining portion of the rod through his head.

Kosty who has been conscious ever since the accident, ate his first full meal yesterday. Propped up on his cot the injured man consumed a bowl of tomato soup, a dish of mashed potatoes, string beans, apple pie, custard pudding and two glasses of milk.

A jagged hole in Kosty's neck more than an inch in diameter is rapidly healing. Surgeons removed two square inches of bone from his skull. X-ray examinations showed four definite neck fractures. A wife and three children are constantly at his bedside, while he talks, eats, laughs and tries to allay their fears.—Spartanburg Journal.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JULY 23

Editor News-Record,
Marshall, N. C.
Dear Sir—

The orthopaedic clinic for the free examination and treatment of indigent cripples being held under the auspices of the Rotary Club in the Biltmore Hospital at Asheville will be held again on Saturday, July 23rd.

We should appreciate your giving notice of the time and place of the clinic to the residents of your community in the next issue of your paper.

Yours very truly,
H. L. STANTON,
Supervisor, Vocational Rehabilitation

COLONEL CHAS. A. LINDBERGH

Mr. Raymond Staples,
Southern Baptist Assembly,
Ridgcrest, N. C.

Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh has requested the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce to reply to your congratulatory communication of recent date.

The great volume of mail addressed to Colonel Lindbergh makes it physically impossible for him to personally reply to same. However it is his desire that all be acknowledged and that thanks be extended to the thousands who have so generously felicitated him on his flight to Paris.

Very respectfully,
HAROLD M. HIXBY,
President St. Louis Chamber of Commerce.