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THE NEWS-RECORD

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CIRCULATION—2000

BUCKNER EXPOSES THE FALLACIES OF M'DEVITT

In reply to the letter of Mr. N. B. McDevitt, published in the News-Record last week, I wish to say that I repose every confidence in S. B. Roberts, Ben Wade Gahagan, R. A. Edwards, the men who assessed the land in Madison County for taxes. I believe they performed their duty honestly and the value which they placed on the land is as high as it ought to be, and the tax lists listed the personal property for taxes in due regard to the oath which they took.

The total assessed value of all the property in Madison County, including the corporations, is \$10,606,877. The assessed value of the land in Madison County is about \$5,000,000. My article, to which Mr. McDevitt attempted to reply evidently tended to lift the cover from off of Mr. McDevitt's political maneuvering and his attempt to try to mislead and fool the people. It seems that in exposing McDevitt's attempted scheme to mislead the people so infuriated him that he had something of a brainstorm and rushed to one of the men he appointed Justice of the Peace and swore out seven warrants against the County Commissioners, all of which we are confident was without the authority of law.

If taxes can be reduced by acts of the legislature sponsored by Mr. McDevitt, then why make the tax levy as he attempted to do, \$1.75 on the \$100.00? Why not cut it down to 50c or a less amount on the \$100? There are certain things that the law compels the Commissioners to do in regard to levying taxes. The Commissioners are compelled under the law to levy a sufficient tax to pay the interest on County indebtedness and to provide for paying off the indebtedness of the County. The County Auditor, with the assistance of an expert sent out from the University of North Carolina, worked on the County Budget about six weeks and while the expert figured that the County Commissioners should levy \$1.00 on the \$100.00 of taxable property to take care of the interest and sinking fund required to retire the indebtedness of Madison County, after much labor and investigation the Commissioners decided to cut the rate to .95c on the \$100.00 of taxable property which raises the gross sum of \$100,765.00.

The Board of Education provided in its Budget for a levy of 91c on the \$100.00 of taxable property. The Commissioners cut this amount to 90c on the \$100.00 which raises in taxes the gross sum of \$95,461.89 and the school board now says that it will hardly be possible for the schools to get through on this amount. The total amount which will be raised to pay interest and create sinking fund to retire bonds and the amount for schools, exclusive of the special school tax is \$196,226.89. The \$1.75 levy on the \$100.00 taxable property provided by McDevitt's law would raise from all taxable property in Madison County \$185,620.34. In round numbers this is \$11,000 less than it takes to meet the interest on the County indebtedness and create the sinking fund required by law to be applied to retire County bonded indebtedness, and the amount of the school budget which would be \$11,000 less than nothing to pay salaries of the County officers to provide for the poor, to pay the Court expenses and all other expenses incident to running the County, outside of the bonded indebtedness and the schools.

It is true the assessed value of the land is fixed for four years but when making up the budget and the amount of money required to be raised by law, if the Commissioners had followed McDevitt's requirement of \$1.75 levy on the \$100.00 we again reiterate that the only way the \$1.75 levy could have been complied with, would, before the final report of the Commissioners who assessed the land for taxes, to have requested them to make a re-assessment and put a value on the land high enough that the taxes raised from land would have made up the deficiency in the amount of money required to be raised by law.

M'DEVITT WRITES

Referring to Chairman W. G. Buckner's advice and appeal to the Solicitor and his special appearance in the Asheville papers to the public in general, I have this to say:

If the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Co. Supt. have violated the law, why don't you law them, Mr. Buckner? It was your duty to see that they complied with the law, as you and your board list and levy taxes on the folks for the money they spend.

You have recently put up a duplicate of a bond you say you made as Chairman of the Co. Commissioners. If that duplicate is good and the supreme court holds the law constitutional you bonding Co. will be called on to forfeit your bond; on the other hand, you did not give a bond as Chairman of the road Board and did not even after I appealed to you to give it. If you are convicted of not carrying out the road law as you admit, then you stand as having neglected and declined to make a \$5,000.00 bond as required by law as Chairman of the road Board, and the taxpayers have lost by your negligence and refusal.

That beating 'round the bush about politics—no politics in it. The rate of \$1.75 was named for both Democrats and Republicans and that 30c additional you levied on both Democrats and Republicans. The road law was for the men deep in the bushes regardless of this political affiliation, and the bond required were for the benefit of all taxpayers regardless of politics, church affiliation of what ring or band they belong to. The bonds would if executed properly insure the laws being carried out and save the taxpayers of hereafter deficits as has been the case.

There is nothing personal or political on my part in swearing out the warrants for the commissioners—I just want the laws carried out, regardless of friendship or politics and I am under the impression that the Solicitor will do his duty even if you had not asked him to single you out and look into your case.

Attorney John McElroy represented the State and read to the court the Solicitor's letter at the J. P. hearing. There was not even an indication that I represented the Solicitor as I am not an attorney—"sorry."

Chairman Buckner and the other members of the Board of County Commissioners are men of great power and influence in the County. They hire and turn off, list property and levy tax, draw juries and say yes and no to their friends and foes, but I see no reason why these gentlemen should have a right to run roughshod over the laws that were made for the benefit of the taxpayers of Madison County regardless of politics.

So far as I am informed, the Chairman of the road Board, the Chairman of the Commissioners and the County Superintendent and the Chairman of the Board of Education, have not been required to give the \$5,000.00 bonds for the faithful performance of their duties, until the last legislature passed a bill for Madison County requiring them to do so, two Democrats and two Republicans all bonded, or should be, alike, to carry out the laws. No more deficits if the bonds are made.

Yours truly,
N. B. McDevitt.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

AT CANEY FORK CHURCH
ON LITTLE PINE CREEK
November 20 10 o'clock A. M.

Will have some interesting Sunday School discussion.

Bring sandwiches and cake. Coffee will be served by Committee.

Every Sunday School in No. 7 Township expected to be present.

VISITORS WELCOME.

MISS MARY T. MORRIS,
Township President.

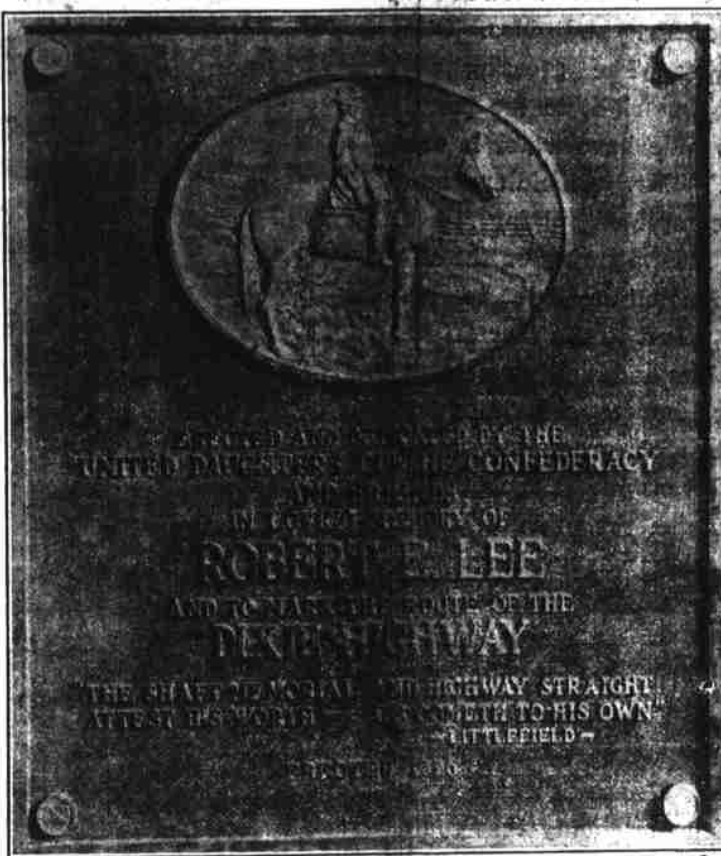
SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION

will be held at
BALDWIN'S CHAPEL

4th Sunday in November, at 10 o'clock A. M.

J. O. BALDWIN, Township President

It is astonishing how many collection forms are in vogue.



COMBINATION CELEBRATION OF ARMISTICE DAY HERE

Marshall was the scene of Patriotic Loyalty on Friday, Nov. 11, 1927. In addition to the celebrating of the Armistice, the unveiling of the beautiful bronze marker in memory of Robert E. Lee, presented by the Presidents and Directors of the French Broad and Citizens banks, and designed by Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., of Asheville, took place. Most impressive were the ceremonies. A most appropriate and well planned program arranged by Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., and Mrs. W. H. Morrow, was executed. The white-haired men in the gray and blue uniforms, the Spanish-American War Veterans and quite a large number of the khaki-clad World War veterans were most prominent among the 2000 people gathered to do honor. Many prominent people of Asheville, Hot Springs, and many points in Madison County, were here. Special traffic officers were furnished by Marshall Camp No. 571, Woodmen of the World, in regulation uniform. Captain Jack Edwards, of Asheville, commander of the Zebulon Vance Camp, United Confederate Veterans, and Capt. George Lloyd, G. A. R., were color bearers, and official representatives of the fast-departing ranks of the Blue and the Gray. Many other veterans of the Civil War were in attendance.

During the splendid address of Hon. Guy V. Roberts, of Marshall, who presented the Lee Marker, to prove that the animosity between the North and South had been superseded by friendship, he asked the audience to witness the handclasp of these two captains, one of the Blue, the other of the Gray. Much applause was given as they clasped hands be-

fore the Robert E. Lee Marker.

The program has been printed before in this paper, but special attention and commendations should be given to this program which was so beautifully carried out. The Reverend Dr. Clarence Stuart McClellan, who has been the much-beloved rector of Calvary Episcopal Church at Fletcher, for about seven years, and who, by his wise leadership, has increased the membership of that church, gave a feeling address on "Why These Memorials." All were impressed with his earnestness and enthusiasm.

Mrs. Gudger's address and appropriate tribute to Robert E. Lee as the Marker was unveiled was beautifully expressed, and much applauded. A large key to the Town of Marshall was presented to Mrs. Gudger by the Mayor of the town.

Time forbids our mentioning each one on the program as we would wish, but too much can not be said in praise of the work done by Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Morrow for their untiring work to make the program the success it was. The Committees selected by these co-operated well, as did the whole town of Marshall.

The site upon which the Marker is erected on the Courthouse Green was given by the Commissioners of Madison County; the boulder, a granite shaft, taken from the birthplace of Zebulon Vance, N. C. War Governor, whose home was about two miles from Marshall, was donated by contributions from the citizens of Marshall. The fund for the purchase of the original die of the Lee Marker, now owned by the N. C. Division, U. S. C., was raised by Mrs. Gudger. The stores, banks, and all public

buildings, and many homes were decorated with the national colors, and the Confederate flags and the Stars & Stripes were waving everywhere, presenting quite a gala appearance.

Following the services Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., organized a committee to take subscriptions for a tablet to be placed on the other side of the Courthouse Green on next Armistice Day, in honor of the boys who came back and in memory of those who remained. The names of all the boys who made the supreme sacrifice will be placed on it. The plan of Mrs. Gudger, who made the first subscription, is for every man, woman and child to subscribe one dollar. The following persons subscribed \$1.00 each for the proposed tablet: Olie Kennedy, Paint Rock, \$1.00; Major Tweed, White Rock, \$1.00; Tony Anz, Walnut, \$1.00; Dr. C. S. McClellan, Fletcher, \$1.00; Mr. W. H. Morrow, \$1.00; Mrs. Guy V. Roberts, \$1.00; Mrs. H. L. Story, \$1.00; Mr. Harry Roberts, \$1.00; A Friend, \$1.00; Mrs. Clara Ramsey, \$1.00; Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., the first subscription. General Chairman—Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr.

Chairman Madison Co.—Mrs. Guy V. Roberts.

Vice-Chairman—Mrs. Ralph Fisher.

Treasurer—Mr. C. Eugene Rector.

Members Committee—Marshall—Mrs. Clara Ramsey, Mrs. Carl Stuart.

Hot Springs—Mrs. Warren Davis.

Mars Hill—Mrs. Len Carter.

Little Pine Creek—Mrs. Wiley M. Roberts.

Marshall, R. 3—Mrs. Leroy Tweed.

Bluff, Spring Creek—Mr. G. Vance Russell.

Joe—Mr. T. H. Stamey.

White Rock—Mr. Major Tweed.

Sandy Mush—Mrs. Henry Roberts.

English—Mrs. Guy English.

Walnut—Mrs. C. A. Clark, Mrs. Sherman Ramsey.

The guests were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will H. Morrow and Mr. and Mrs. Guy V. Roberts. Taking dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Morrow were: Capt. Jack Edwards, Mr. Dillard, Dr. and Mrs. Hall, and Mrs. Scroop Stiles and daughter, May Madeline, all of Asheville.

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Roberts: Mrs. J. M. Gudger, Jr., Dr. McClellan and Mr. Harry Roberts.

HEAR MADISON OFFICIALS' CASE ON NOVEMBER 28

WARM ARGUMENT BEFORE THE COURT IN CHARGES WHICH WERE BROUGHT AGAINST THE MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

Last Saturday after a heated discussion by attorneys before Magistrate Sams and a great crowd of the citizens of the county were present. Judgment was waived and the case sent to Superior Court which opens here Nov. 28 in the case of N. B. McDevitt, charging the county commissioners with using road funds contrary to law.

The commissioners were arrested Monday of last week on charges of levying an excess tax rate in the county, and failing to expend road funds as provided by law.

The charges were brought by Mr. N. B. McDevitt, of Marshall, representative in the general assembly, who claimed in seven warrants that the commissioners had violated the law providing for paying road expenses and had failed to appropriate and spend road money as required, in the area where the road tax is collected.

The attorney for the commissioners was Guy V. Roberts, of Marshall, while Mr. McDevitt was represented by John H. McElroy, also of Marshall.

After a heated discussion between Mr. Roberts and Mr. McElroy, the case was moved before W. R. Sams, magistrate, instead of Magistrate Bryan, who was at that time presiding over the court. Mr. Roberts then asked that the case be dismissed because of lack of jurisdiction of this court. After both sides asked to delay the trial, the case was sent on to the date named. The courtroom was crowded with interested citizens of the county.

The commissioners claim that they have carried out the law to the best of their ability and have not knowingly violated the statutes.

BUYS TOLL LINE

MADISON TELEPHONE COMPANY CONTINUES IMPROVEMENTS OVER THIS COUNTY

The Madison Telephone Company of Marshall, announce the purchase of a toll line extending from Marshall to Walnut and Barnard. The employees of the company have been engaged during the past few days in rebuilding this line and service has been restored to these thriving communities.

This acquisition together with the recent completion of an additional copper circuit from Asheville to Marshall is in keeping with the remarkable growth of the telephone business in Marshall.

During the past three months the number of stations connected with the Marshall exchange has increased more than 100 per cent and the volume of toll business has kept pace with the increase in the local stations.

The Marshall exchange is operated by J. V. Erskine of Weaverville in conjunction with the Weaverville Telephone Company which also serves the towns of Mars Hill, Democrat, Barnardsville and many other North Buncombe communities.

Mr. Erskine states that despite the present business depression that the total volume of business enjoyed by his associate companies for the first nine months of 1927 is the greatest in their history and shows an actual increase of 27 per cent over the same period of 1925 and 1926 was supposed to have been a banner business year in Western North Carolina.

"MARSHALL CRUSADERS"

The above is the name of a recent interdenominational organization of Christian men of all the churches in Marshall. The motto of the organization is "Marshall for Christ." The motto expresses the purpose of the organization, which if executed will mean much for the betterment of Marshall. When further prepared, members of this band will be available for service not only in Marshall but also in other districts of Madison County and adjoining counties.

From what we can learn the Atlantic ocean seems to be the only spot in the world that is suitable for flying, and for landing, too.

WADE REDMON HOUSE BURNED

Fire destroyed the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wade H. Redmon Monday afternoon. Mrs. Redmon was the only member of the family at home when the fire was discovered and before she could get in touch with the fire department the fire had made too much progress to be extinguished. It is supposed that the fire started in the basement, where a fire was running to heat some water. Practically all the furniture, clothing and so forth were destroyed. Mr. Redmon says he had spent around \$20,000 on his home and that he was carrying \$10,000 insurance on the residence and \$2,500 on the furniture.

RED CROSS WORK

Mr. Story, Editor, News-Record, Marshall, N. C.

While other communities are having their Red Cross drives, is it not a good time to get our own stirred up and get a local chapter reorganized?

There are so many ways in which the funds raised through the Red Cross could be used right in our own midst—to better conditions—it seems a pity not to take advantage of this opportunity. No telling either when we ourselves may be needing aid such as is being given in New England at this time.

Heretofore moneys have gone out from our communities to the National Red Cross for which we have gotten no credit, as we had no local organization. While we do not wish to work for credit in itself, still I think we feel more respectable to have a part and showing in the worth-while movements of the day.

Hoping we may be able to do something about this, I am,

Yours sincerely,
MARY T. MORRIS

MRS. J. M. GUDGER, JR.