

THE DUPLIN TIMES

THE TIMES COVERS DUPLIN LIKE A ROOF

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Find Judgment Record Missing In Court House, Clerk's Statement

North Carolina Delegation In Washington



The above photo shows the N. Carolina delegation in our National Congress in Washington. This picture was recently made and sent to the TIMES by Hon. Graham A. Barden Congressman from this district. Incidentally the TIMES believes that Congressman Barden is making a fine record

and that Duplin County in particular is lucky in having Mr. Barden to represent us. He is a hard working congressman and when matters pertaining to his district come up he rolls up his sleeve and goes to work. Penderlea is operating today mainly as a result of Mr. Barden's efforts. The Warsaw

gymnasium is under construction now as a result of Mr. Barden's personally getting behind the matter. It is expected that additional Federal money will soon be spent in Duplin County as a result of Mr. Barden getting behind things. Our congressman is a hundred per cent Roosevelt man, and the Times is a hundred per cent for Barden.

THE RELIABILITY AND NEED OF THE 1937 FARM SURVEY

(By F. W. McGOWEN)

The crop reporting service of the State and National Departments of Agriculture, was begun in 1919. It combines the facilities of the two departments so as to avoid duplication of work and expense, and at the same time improve the service to the public.

North Carolina held a distinct advantage for its farmers by having county crop acreage information readily available for the Agricultural Adjustment programs. Best of all, the fifteen years training, which these farmers have experienced in reporting their crops to the township tax list-takers, has fitted them for ANY farm relief program, and especially has this experience and information been fortunate for the present AAA Soil Conservation program.

A knowledge of general economic conditions is necessary for successful planting and marketing activities.

Experience has proven that system, planning, and economic methods are just as essential to good housekeeping and farming as to manufacturing and business management. Manufacturers, merchants and good business men make annual inventories and determinations of their profits or losses. They must know or must plan against competition, know when to buy cheapest, and when to sell to best advantage. Isn't this also true with farming?

The non-taxable and non-speculative farm information collected each year from the farmers them-

selves, by the tax list-taker, is the best, quickest and cheapest method of collecting such basic and constructive facts. The tax listing machinery offers the only practical and economical means for securing such information.

The 18 years' experience in collecting these crop acreage reports has largely: (1) eliminated the suspicions of farmers of harmful purposes or results; (2) awakened their interest and care in making such farm reports; (3) largely eliminated errors in their reports; (4) developed reporting ability; and (5) developed county usage of this information to a remarkable degree.

Sometimes farmers may be annoyed by the extra trouble of making crop reports when they give in their tax lists. But, after all, when you consider the tremendous value of these reports, aren't they worth "just a little extra time and trouble"?

"Are the estimates of the Crop Reporting Service reliable?" This is a question that is asked every now and then by farmers over the State. The answer is yes. These estimates are made by averaging the reports from thousands of farmers. By taking the average of these reports, the officials are able to eliminate the errors that creep into individual reports when one farmer estimates a little too much and another goes a little too low.

It has been found that although the estimate of one man may be wrong, the average of many estimates is almost sure to "hit close" (Continued on back page)

A most serious offense has been committed by some one. During the recent term of court it was revealed that a certain judgment docket in the clerk of court's office had been mutilated. Upon the discovery, the Duplin County bar was called into session and a committee appointed to make an immediate investigation and report to Judge Sinclair, presiding.

Clerk of Court, R. V. Wells, investigated the matter and reported to the committee which report in turn was made to Judge Sinclair. Mr. Wells' report was as follows:

CLERK'S STATEMENT

"In the matter of: John A. Grady and wife, Mary A. Grady, vs. J. C. Brown, and wife, James E. Brown, Frank Carter and wife, Sudie A. Carter, and Frank Carter, guardian ad litem, of Sudie A. Carter."

"To Messrs. L. A. Beasley, R. D. Johnson, and George E. Ward, attorneys appointed by His Honor H. A. Sinclair, judge presiding, to investigate the records in the office of the Clerk of Superior Court in the above entitled action."

My attention was called to this matter by Mr. D. L. Carlton on Feb. 16, 1937, and upon investigation I found that pages 244-245 in Docket No. 5 had been removed from the book, it being what is known as a sewed or bound book. I then looked in Index to Judgments to see if a judgment had been rendered in this case and found that it was rendered at the February term, 1910, and properly indexed which showed the judgement was recorded in Judgement Docket no. 5, page 245. I then looked for the file containing the original papers in the case, and finding the file found that the original judgement was not in same. I then looked the Minute Docket containing the minutes for the February Term, 1910, and found the judgement in question properly recorded in full in the Minute Docket February Term, 1910, pages 199-201, a copy of said judgement as taken from the Minute Docket as hereto attached marked Exhibit "A."

"And on the next day, February 17, 1937, I had a copy of this judgement made which I certified and mailed to Mr. D. L. Carlton on February 26, 1937, Messrs. R. D. Johnson, L. A. Beasley and myself examined the records relative to this case very carefully, especially the Index to Judgments covering the period of time from 1907 to 1916 and found that this judgement was properly indexed both as to plaintiff and as to all defendants named in the title.

"On March 15, 1937, my attention was again called to this case, and especially with reference to the index and I found that someone had removed or torn from the book containing Index to the Judgments covering the period from 1907 to 1916 an entire sheet from the letter "B" which contained the names of defendants, J. C. Brown and wife, James E. Brown, and an entire sheet from said Index letter "G", which contained the names of the plaintiffs, John A. Grady and wife, Mary A. Grady.

"I have no knowledge as to who or when the sheets containing the records referred to were removed. It was done in violation

of the law and I ask that they be restored so far as it is possible, from the Minute Docket and otherwise, and recorded and indexed in the proper records.

"Respectfully submitted, this 16th day of March, 1937.

R. V. WELLS,
Clerk Superior Court."

Judge Sinclair directed that the records be replaced and signed a report to the effect:

When the discovery was first made, and an investigation begun only certain parts of the record had been mutilated. Between the first investigation and the second, a matter of about ten days, the same record was further destroyed. The party tampering with the records apparently was an amateur, for the work was so incomplete that the total record was not destroyed and no damage was done.

The offense is serious and carries a heavy penalty. The party committing the offense, in loose in Duplin to-day and the TIMES believes that a thorough investigation should be made. The grand jury should investigate this matter and if necessary call upon the Federal Government to aid in capturing the guilty person or persons. A record is a record and when it is destroyed it is gone.

A.O.T.C. Meets Here Next Wed.

The Auxiliary Officers Training Class will meet in Grove Presbyterian Church in Kenansville on Wednesday at 2:00 P. M. The first phase of the work will be discussed. At 3:30 the round up (Continued on back page)



It takes nature 500 years or more to make an inch of top-soil. What a shame some folks don't realize how fast land goes when erosion sets in.

L. A. Beasley Elected Head Of Sixth District Bar Association

The 6th district bar association was held in Kenansville last Friday afternoon and elected L. A. Beasley, dean of the Duplin Bar and retiring vice-president of the association as president for the ensuing year.

John D. Warlick of Jacksonville retiring president, presided over the meeting held in the court house in the afternoon. Leaving the court house, the members enjoyed a shad supper at the local community building, after which a series of brief talks were made with Judge Grady acting as toast master.

Onslow County was chosen for the next meeting place with the exact location left up to the Onslow County Bar.

Other officers besides President Beasley elected were: George B. Green, vice-president and H. Hubbard, secretary-treasurer. Members of the executive committee named were: George B. Ward, Wallace, Henry E. Faison, Clinton, George W. Phillips, Jacksonville, P. H. Crawford, Jr., Kinston, Fitchum Wallace of Kinston was re-elected district councillor.

Throughout the meeting, brief talks were made by Judge Grady, Solicitor Powers, Major George E. Butler, Albert S. Grady, George E. Greene, F. E. Wallace, Rivers D. Johnson, Ely J. Perry, John Gavin, Sam Turlington, L. A. Beasley made the welcome address and greetings were extended by Judge Stanton of Kenansville and Fred Sutton of Kinston.

Duplin Farmers Receive \$135,000

Duplin County farmers this week received 2500 checks totaling \$135,000.16 for the Soil Conservation program. This amount represents approximately half of what is expected to be received in this county with in the next few days. 2,025 farms participated in the program. In total our farmers will receive about \$275,000 for cooperating with the Federal government.

ATTENTION

To Readers of this Newspaper: Beginning with this week's issue our paper will carry a new feature "OUR YESTERDAYS" by A. T. Outlaw, Register of Deeds. Mr. Outlaw needs no introduction in Duplin County. He is well informed on matters of local historical interest, biography and genealogy. Your editor, after several requests, feels fortunate in having procured this new weekly feature for our readers. It will usually appear on the inside at page two and will be short and easy to read. Resolve now to begin a scrap book. It will be well worth while and profitable.