Entertainment & Recreation

The Story Of The Kenansville Sword

By JULIEN D. MARTIN
Star-News State Editor

Although many articles have been published about the Confederacy and its struggle for independence, very little has been written on the weapons with which the gallant Southern men fought.

A brief article appeared in "The Confederate Veteran" of January, 1903 by Richard A. Stewart, and Theodore T. Belote prepared a bulletin for the National Museum, on Confederate swords, but in neither of these accounts are two Wilmington sword makers mentioned. Neither is an account given of the sword factory known to have existed at Kenansville, in Duplin County.

The outbreak of the War Between the States found thousands of old-type swords stored in Federal and State arsenals in the South. Most of these were clumsy weapons with heavy iron scabbards, wooden grips and iron gunards.

Needed Light Swords

Early in the war, the Union forces sent Col. George L. Schuyler to Europe and in September, 1861, he wrote the Union Secretary of War that he had contracted for "20,000 light cavalry swords of the Montgomery pattern." As soon as a few of these light swords fell into the hands of the Confederates their thoughts likewise turned to "a light weight sword," according to existing Confederate records.

In Debow's Review of March-April, 1862, a list of known Southern manufacturers of swords was given. There are frequent references in Southern newspapers of the war period to the manuafacture of arms including swords, for the Confederacy.

In the June 3, 1861 issue of the Richmond Examiner reference is made to the manufacture of "fine Bowie knives" in that city, adding "the manufacture of fine, light-weight swords is also possible with our skilled help."

Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of War, reported to President Jefferson Davis in March, 1862 that the need for light swords was apparent. He stressed the importance of including swords in proposed legislation being considered by the Confederate Congress.

Begged for Swords

Although a large number of swords are known to hve been brought into the Confederacy by blockade runners, cavalry units begged for more swords.

Within the Confederacy there were no arsenals at which war materials were constructed. No arsenal, except that at Fayetteville, had a single machine above a foot-lathe. Such arsenals had been used as depots for storing arms, including swords, that had been manufactured in the north. The South was primarily an agricultural region, but with the secession the CSA leaders turned to the manufacture of implements of war.

In a two-page "Act" to increase the efficiency of the Cavalry of the Confederate States, appears the following:

"The Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, shall cause steps to be taken to insure the importation of a full supply of cavalry arms of the most approved patterns, and of such ammunition therefore as cannot be manufactured in the Confederate States; and also, of such amount of cavalry equipment as he may deem necessary."

Cape Fear Fishery

Col. I. M. St. John Commissary General of Subsistence, CSA, wrote Davis that, "to get leather properly tanned we established a fishery on the Cape Fear River to get oil for mechanical purposes, getting from the sturgeon, at the same time beef for our workmen."

Louis Froelich, who operated a small repair shop in Wilmington, was one of the Tar Heels to offer his services. He is known to have worked, with 15 or 20 men, at Kenansville producing "pikes and swords." This factory operated until its capture, on July 4, 1863, by Gen. J. G. Foster, U. S. Cavalry.

Referring to this raid, The Daily Journal, published in Wilmington, for July 6, 1863, says:

"On Saturday last (July 4)the enemy burned Mr. Froelich's Sword Factory and one or two houses in their raid on Kenansville."

Kenansville Raid

Again on July 6, the same paper adds:

"From the best information obtainable the enemy numbered 916 men when they raided Kenansville on July 4, having with them four Mountain Howitzers, and one large gun. They took 20 horses from the citizens, and 24 cavalry horses belonging to Capt. Lane's company. They burnt the Sword Factory and two small buildings nearby."

Little is known of this factory, although some of the older Duplin residents recall their fathers and grandfathers telling of its existence. Col. Owen Hill Kenan, of 111 South Third Street, Wilmington, whose ancestors, founded Kenansville, recalls hearing of the existence of the factory.

Col. Kenan has said some of the metal pikes manufactured in the Duplin County seat still existed and were used for ornamental purposes around one of the old homesteads.

The only known specimen of the Kenansville manufactured sword bears the initials "L. B. F." and so far as research reveals Louis B. Froelich, of Wilmington, was the only sword manufacturer with these initials.

Kenansville Sword

The Kenansville sword has a 32-inch blade and a brass mounted black leather scabbard. It is similar, in design, to a sword manufactured by L. Haiman and Brothers in Columbus, Ga.

That at times, the Confederates went far afield for their swords is shown by the fact that in the Confederate Museum, Richmond, is a Persian yataghan, carried by a Confederate officer, and in the Springfield, Mass., Museum is a Turkish scimitar captured from a Confederate officer.

The Confederate naval cutlasses were nothing about which to boast. Most of them were modeled after the type used by the U. S. Navy in the Mexican War, with short-doubled edge blades similar to the obsolete foot artillery swords.

The top ten tunes of the week as selected from your cards and letters

Compiled by
NELSON KING and MARTY ROBERTS

Hi ya, friends and neighbors; greetings from we all up here on the WCKY HILLBILLY HIT PARADE. The holidays are behind us now, and we're all settling down to work again . . . suppose you are too . . . by the way . . . here's a bit of news about us, which may interest some of you . . . Both of us are getting set for a series of personal appearances throughout the Mid-west and South. We'll let you know ahead of time whenever possible, so you can come and get acquainted when we're in your neighborhood. We're both looking forward to meeting as many of our friends as possible . . . It's going to keep us busy . . . but probably not as busy as our old friend PEE WEE KING. He told us, when we saw him recently that he's now doing his regular Saturday nite network radio show; a TV show from Cleveland on Wednesdays and also a TV show from Louisville on Thursdays. In addition, PEE WEE and the gang are set for appearances soon on the PERRY COMO and ED SULLIVAN TV Shows . . . KITTY WELLS . . . was honored recently by receiving a citation from the hands of Tennessee's Governor Frank G. Clement as "an outstanding citizen reflecting great credit on our state." . . . PFC FARON YOUNG, recently did a "command performance" at the "Little White House" Augusta, Ga. for President Eisenhower . . . WEBB PIERCE, has been named the title as "BEST" by the juke box operators of America, for 1953. HANK WILLIAMS was second with CARL SMITH in the third spot.

Well . . . you kept your favorites up on top . . . but you added three new ones . . . and put one back (Tennessee Wig Walk).

Here's how you asked for 'em to be played on the WCKY HILLBILLY HIT PARADE. Note; the first number after the title is your rating last week; the second number is Billboard Mag.'s National rating.

1. There Stands The Glass (3) (1) — Webb Pierce
2. Let Me Be The One (1) (3) — H. Locklin
3. Bimbo (5) (4) — J. Reeves
3. I Forgot More Than You'll Ever Know (3) (3) — Davis Sisters
5. Tennessee Wig Walk (-) (10) — Bonnie Lou
6. I'm Walking The Dog (-) (-) — Webb Pierce
7. I Love You (-) (-) — G. Wright—J. Reeves
7. Dear John Letter (7) (-) — J. Shepard—F. Husky
9. Release Me (-) (5) — J. Heap
10. Wake Up Irene (6) (6) — Hank Thompson

And that's the end of the tune for this week. Glad we could be together again. Keep singing . . . and until next week in this same paper . . . and each night on the WCKY HILLBILLY HIT PARADE and JAMBOREE where we like to visit with all the friends and neighbors . . .

So long,

Nelson and Marty

RE-ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS TO ACCOMPLISH ELECTRICAL WORK, IN TOWN HALL, WALLACE, NORTH CAROLINA

Bids will be received by the Town Clerk of Wallace, N. C., until 2:00 p. m., Wednesday, January 20, 1954, for electrical work in the Town Hall, Wallace, North Carolina. The Town reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept any bid, considered to be to their best advantage.

TOWN OF WALLACE, N. C.
J. W. Hoffler, Mayor
Helen HUNT, Clerk
1-14-1t.

Back your home community — fault-finding folks can stop the growth of any city or town.

RED PINE
©1953 National Wildlife Federation

In competition for public favor, the sensible alternative is not always the winter. It is sensible to call this tree the Red Pine because of the flaky orange-red bark of the young trees. In spite of this, it is known far and wide also as Norway Pine although it is a native American species. Some say early explorers took it for Norway Spruce. Others offer the explanation that large stands of the tree were to be found near Norway, Maine. In this latter case, one wonders whether it is not as likely that the village was named after the tree rather than the tree after the village. It was apparently introduced to the British Isles in 1756.

The Red Pine may grow to a height of 150 feet, according to some authorities, but more conservative students set the limit at 100 feet with a trunk diameter of 3 feet. Unusual trees have been known to have a trunk diameter of 5 feet. Red Pine is a beautiful, clean-looking tree at all times of the year. Each year's growth may be identified by falsewhorl of branches such as may be found also in the White Pine.

The needles of the Red Pine are in 2s though sometimes they may appear in 3s in areas attacked by insects. Normally there are relatively few insect and fungous pests in trees grown in the open. The needles are from 4 to 6 inches long, clean dark green and flexible. They remain in position on the tree from 3 to 5 years.

The cones that bear the seed and those that bear the pollen are separate but are to be found on the same tree. Two years are required for the maturing of the cones which are erect the first year and turn downward the second. The cones bearing seeds are from 1½ to 2½ inches long and ,when mature about as wide as they are long. The seeds are shed from September through October and weigh about 61,000 to the pound. They are distributed by the wind and may germinate from 70 to 80%. The seedlings bear 6 to 7 cotyledons and by the end of the first year after germination may be over 1 inch high.

The wood of the Red Pine is light and hard and about 40% as strong as white oak. It weighs 30.3 pounds per cubic foot, is close-grained and pale red.

Red pine is valuable as a timber tree and as an ornamental. Its timber has been used for piles, masts and in general heavy construction. The bark has been used in the tanning of leather.

Normally, the Red Pine ranges from Nova Scotia through Quebec and south through Pennsylvania and Minnesota in northeastern U. S. It may grow in pure stands at which time the trunks are tall and straight and things of genuine beauty as well as of great value to the forester. Grown separately, the tree quickly develops stout lateral roots which give good wind resistance.

The National Wildlife Federation through its stamp program and through other activities endeavors to develop in the public an understanding of how useful trees like the Red Pine may best be handled to continue their usefulness."

E. Laurence Palmer

Colored Sorority Meets In Clinton

By Marie S. McCalops

The Psi Theta Ioata Chapter of the Alpha Chi Pi Omega Sorority held its Xmas meeting in Clinton, N. C., with Mrs. Marie S. McCalop, presiding. Mrs. Birtha T. Armstrong of McCoy Street was hostess. Members present were: Edna Wallace, Dorothy E. Powers and Azlee Merritt of Wallace; Lillie M. Faison of Faison; Marie S. McCalop, Lossie Bowen of Warsaw, and Birtha T. Armstrong of Clinton.

After the business part of the meeting was carried out, Miss Senia Gant, Mary Edna Cozart and Annie Lois Johnson served refreshments with Christmas decorations. Later games were played under the direction of Mrs. Azlee Merritt. The next meeting will be held January 18, 1954 at 6:00 P. M. in Faison, N. C. with Mrs. Lillie M. Faison as hostess.

Licensed beauticians who wish to join the sorority are invited to be present. Chapter officers are: Marie S. McCalop, Basileus; Loosie Brown, vice- basileus; Bertha T. Armstrong, keeper of records; Ludie Bowen, keeper of finance.

The sorority also held its annual Bazaar recently at the Douglas High School in Warsaw.

Words of the Wise

The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it.
—(Sir James Matthew Barrie)

Income Tax Returns Prepared
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With Your Township
List Taker Now

Nu-Pont Drive-In Theatre
Highway 258 - Richlands Road - 2 miles out of Kinston
Thurs., Fri., Jan. 14 - 15
"Presidents Lady"
—Starring—
Charlton Heston Susan Haywood
Sat., Jan. 16 Double Feature
"Perilous Journey"
—Starring—
Vera Ralston
—ALSO—
"Voo Doo Tiger"
—Starring—
Johnny Weissmuller
Sun., Mon., Jan. 17 - 18
"Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
—Starring—
Jane Russell - Marilyn Monroe
Tues., Wed., Jan. 19 - 20
"Leave Her To Heaven"
Thurs., Fri., Jan. 21 - 22
"Treasure Of The Golden Condor"

IT'S MONEYTIME U.S.A.
Motor Park Drive-In Theatre
PINK HILL, N. C.
"Where the whole Family Goes"
To See Good Shows Telephone 2841
Your Weekly Movie Guide
Sunday, Jan. 17th.
"Return Of The Texan"
Dale Robertson
Joanne Dru
Cartoon
Mon., Tues., Jan. 18 - 19
"Dream Wife"
Gary Grant
Deborah Kerr
Cartoon & News
Wed., Thurs., Jan. 20 - 21
"Plymouth Adventure"
Spencer Tracy
Gene Tierny
Cartoon & Serial
Fri., Sat., Jan. 22 - 23
"Cattle Town"
Dennis Morgan
ALSO
"Fearless Fagan"
Cartoon

TWILITE THEATRE
BEULAVILLE, N. C.
NOTE: Opens at 6:00; show starts at 6:30 Mon., thru. Fri. Open 5:30; show starts at 6:00 Saturday and Sunday.
Wed., Thurs., Jan. 13 - 14
"All Ashore"
In Technicolor
Mickey Rooney - Dick Haymes
Peggy Ryan - Ray McDonald
Fri., Sat., Jan. 15 - 16
"Montana Desperados"
Johnny Mack Brown
—ALSO—
"Hard, Fast and Beautiful"
with Claire Trevor
Sun., Mon., Jan. 17 - 18
"South Sea Woman"
Burt Lancaster - Virginia Mayo
Tues., Jan. 19
BARGAIN NITE — 50c PER CAR
"Savage Mutiny"
Johnny Weissmuller as Jungle Jim
Also Selected Short Subjects

Hula Drive In Theatre
CHINQUAPIN, N. C.
Sun., Mon., Jan. 17 - 18
"Abbott & Costello Meet Dr. Jeckyll & Mr. Hyde"
Short - News - Cartoon
Tues., Wed., Jan. 19 - 20
"Trader Horn"
Harry Carey
Cartoon
Thurs., Fri., Jan. 21 - 22
"Last of Comanches"
Brodrick Crawford - Barbara Hale
Saturday only, Jan. 23
"Three Desperate Men"
Preston Foster
Cartoon - Short - Serial

STAR THEATRE
Beulaville, N. C.
Clean — Comfortable — Relaxing
WEEK OF JANUARY 17
SUNDAY & MONDAY
"Thunder Over The Plains"
IN COLOR
Randolph Scott - Phyllis Kirk
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
"Shark River"
IN COLOR
Steve Cochran - Carole Mathews
THURSDAY
"Out of The Past"
Robert Mitchum - Jane Greer
FRIDAY
"Hot News"
Stanley Clements - Gloria Henry
Serial
SATURDAY
"Gunbelt"
IN COLOR
George Montgomery - Tab Hunter
Serial
COMEDIES AND SHORTS EVERY NIGHT

DUPLIN THEATRE
WARSAW, N. C.
NEW WIDE SCREEN
Sunday & Monday, Jan. 17 - 18
"EASY TO LOVE" (technicolor)
with Esther Williams & Van Johnson
Cartoons
Tuesday & Wednesday, Jan. 19 - 20
"DEVIL'S CANYON" (technicolor)
with Dale Robertson & Virginia Mayo
Serial
Thursday & Friday, Jan. 21 - 22
"REACHING FROM HEAVEN"
with Cheryl Walker & Regis Toomey
Cartoon
Saturday, Jan. 23 Double Feature
"SIX GUN DECISION"
with Guy Madison
"CONFIDENTIALLY CONNIE"
with Van Johnson

KINSTON'S LEADING DOWNTOWN THEATRES
-PARAMOUNT-
NOW Thru. SAT. . .
ROLAND
Diamond Queen
News - Cartoon
STARTS SUN., Jan. 17th
JOHN WAYNE
"Hondo"
3 DIMENSION WARNERCOLOR
WARNER BROS.
GERALDINE PAGE
-CAROLINA-
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
CHARLES STARRETT
In
"Laramie Mountain"
Also Chapter 5 JUNGLE DRUMS
SUNDAY & MONDAY
Dean Martin - Jerry Lewis and Mona Freeman
"Jumping Jacks"
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
"Submerine Command"
—Starring—
William Holden - Nance Olson

CENTER THEATRE
Mount Olive, N. C.
Sun., Mon., Jan. 17 - 18
"Marry Me Again"
—Starring—
Marie Wilson - Robert Cummings
Tues., Jan. 19
"Count The Hours"
—Starring—
Teresa Wright
Wed., Thurs., Jan. 20 - 21
"The Moonlighters"
Barbara Stanwyck
& Frederick Murray
Fri., Sat., Jan. 22 - 23
"Escape From Fort Bravo"
—Starring—
William Holden

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Attention Mr. Farmer
And Mr. Poultryman
We are pleased to announce that we have been appointed representative for the famous "COBB-O-LINK" Pullet, the highly vigorous and productive Sex-Link.
Many years of sound breeding has made the COBB Sex-Link the outstanding layer for the market egg producers.
Insist on the Sex-Link Strain with the famous name. Ask for the "COBB-O-LINK".
This is truly the profit maker. Let us handle your requirements for the coming season.
Contact Charles Jackson in person or by mail at our branch.
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Phone 1880 Clinton, N. C.

CAPITAL THEATRE
KENANSVILLE, N. C.
WEDNESDAY, Jan. 20
"KEY LARGO"
with Humphrey Bogart - Lauren Bacall
Chapter 14 "LOST PLANET"
SATURDAY, Jan. 23 DOUBLE FEATURE
"TUMBLEWEED"
with Audie Murphy - Lori Nelson
"BANDITS OF SHERWOOD FOREST"
with Cornel Wilde

Bring Coupon And Save
$2.85 Alarm Clock with coupon $1.89
$1.25 Absorbine Jr. with coupon 79c
100 Pure Grain Aspirin with coupon 9c
$1.19 Chlorodent Value, Giant Size Tooth Paste & Free Pencils 69c
Man Size Kleenex 15c
1 Pint Pure Cod Liver Oil 59c
Electric Heating Pad with coupon $4.00
Large Size Listerine 79c
Pint Pure and Tasteless Squibbs Mineral Oil 69c
Lighter Fluid with coupon 10c
Standard Drug Stores
Kinston, N. C.