

# THE GASTONIA GAZETTE.

PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK—TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

SINGLE COPY 3 CENTS.

Devoted to the Protection of Home and the Interests of the County.

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

VOL. XXXI.

GASTONIA, N. C. TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1910.

NO. 61.

## ORGANIZATION FORMED.

**Majority of Landowners on Crowders Creeks Meet and Organize Crowders Creek Dredging Association—Committee Appointed to Investigate Work in Process in Lincoln and Catawba Counties.**

Responding to a call which was issued two or three weeks previous, quite a number of the largest landowners living on Crowders Creek between Baker's mill and Riddle's mill met at Pleasant Ridge Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock to discuss the practicability of dredging this stream and straightening the channel in places. A majority of the land affected was represented at the meeting in the persons of the following farmers and landowners: J. E. Falls, W. S. Grissom, S. A. Lewis, G. W. Falls, W. A. Falls, Sam Bradley, H. F. Forbes, D. M. Walker, E. W. Carson, R. A. Caldwell, W. M. Crawford, Rozelle Stroup, W. D. Anthony, W. N. Davis, James Adams, J. A. Crawford, R. A. Falls, D. D. Grier, Ed Crawford, Oscar Torrence.

An organization was effected, to be known as the Crowders Creek Dredging Association, and the following officers were chosen: President, W. A. Falls; vice-president, H. F. Forbes; secretary, Sam Bradley. They, together with the other men mentioned above, were enrolled as members. It is the expectation of the association to enroll as members every landowner on this creek between the two mills mentioned. The distance covered is about 12 miles.

A number of the gentlemen present made short talks, the object of the meeting being to obtain as much information as possible relative to the amount of land affected, the distance, possible cost of dredging, what has been accomplished in other counties where dredging has been done or is now in process.

Following a free discussion, participated in by practically all present, a motion was made and carried to the effect that the chairman appoint a committee of six, the chairman and secretary included, to go the second week in August to Lincoln and Catawba counties and make a thorough investigation of the dredging of Clark's creek and any other streams that are being worked on in that territory with a view to obtaining definite information as to just how the landowners proceeded, what the cost is per acre, how long the work requires and any other facts that might prove valuable to the association here. It was also suggested that every member who could possibly do so accompany this committee on this trip.

It was also moved and carried that the secretary be instructed to communicate with Mr. J. D. Elliott, of Hickory, the father of the dredging movement in Catawba and perhaps the best posted man on this work in the State, and ask him to come to Gaston, after they have made this trip, and address the association, giving all the practical information on the subject that he has at hand. Those present who are personally acquainted with Mr. Elliott and who know something of his work in this line thought that no better man could be obtained than he and the opinion was that he would be glad to come to Gaston and give the association the benefit of his experience and observation. On the return of the committee from its trip of investigation and after Mr. Elliott has set a date on which he can be here, announcement will be made through The Gazette of the next meeting of the association. At that time it is hoped that not only every landowner on Crowders Creek but every man in Gaston county who is interested in the dredging of our creeks will be present to hear what the committee and Mr. Elliott have to say on the subject.

Mr. Rozelle Stroup stated that he had recently been in Lincoln county and had seen the work which is being done on Clark's creek. He was favorably impressed with it and stated that up the stream where the dredging was commenced some eight or ten months ago corn was being grown on land that had for years been uncultivable because of the overflow from the creek.

This work is being done, it is understood, under the provisions of a special act of the General Assembly but there was no one present who was familiar with the stipulations of that act. It was the belief, however,

er, that the plan of operation included an assessment of \$5 per acre of the affected land annually for a term of three or five years.

It is estimated that from Riddle's mill to a point near Baker's mill, to which it will be necessary to dredge, is a distance of about 12 miles and that the land now valueless because of the fact that it is not cultivatable is about 2,000 acres. Twenty-five years ago, it is stated, all of this land was under cultivation and was highly productive. While the owners continue to pay taxes on it they derive no results whatever. Since the tearing away of the old dam at Riddle's mill a year or more ago there has been a slight improvement noticeable in that the water runs off from the creek bed more rapidly in times of heavy rains than formerly. But the improvement is not such as to restore any lands to cultivation. The bed of the creek is so clogged with trees, stumps, sand and other obstructions that no remedy short of dredging out a new channel is worth while.

Those present at Saturday's meeting were favorable to the project and many of them were enthusiastic over the prospects. The purpose is to get all the information possible in hand before anything definite is done; in fact it will be necessary to do this in order to go about the matter intelligently.

Mr. E. W. Carson stated that he had written to Congressman Webb to ascertain if there was any possibility of obtaining government aid. Mr. Webb replied that he could very likely get the government to furnish an expert engineer to survey the creek and give the association the benefit of his knowledge in the way of suggestions as to how the work should be done.

## McAdenville Matters.

Correspondence of The Gazette.

McADENVILLE, August 1.—Mr. A. C. Kelly was a Charlotte visitor Friday.—Rev. R. S. Howie and Mr. R. H. Fisher attended District Conference at Dallas last week.—Dr. and Mrs. Anderson and daughter, Ruth, of Lowesville, were the guests Thursday of Mr. and Mrs. David McGee.—Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Bland and son, Master Charles, returned Friday to Charlotte after spending several days here with Mr. James McAden.—Capt. I. W. Shields, of Lowell, spent Friday and Saturday with relatives in Mecklenburg.—Mr. F. D. Earney has been indisposed for the past week at his home in Albemarle.—Mrs. Frank Earney and sons, Boyden and Grant, spent Saturday in Charlotte shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Ingle and the former's sister, Mrs. Sarah Scott, of Tampa, Fla., and Mrs. W. B. Roberts visited friends and relatives at Charlotte last week.—Messrs. S. A. Cloninger and John Barnhill attended court at Charlotte last week.—Miss Lottie Albee is spending some time at Salisbury with Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jackson.—Mrs. L. A. Funderburk was a visitor to Gaston Saturday.—Mr. H. J. Wilkerson spent Friday and Saturday at Clover, S. C.—Mr. C. W. Hooper was a Charlotte visitor Saturday.—Mrs. S. H. Mangum returned Saturday from Spartanburg, S. C., where she has been spending several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. T. M. Bynum. Mrs. Mangum will in the near future visit friends and relatives at Page-land and Lancaster, S. C.—Mr. I. F. Mabry is spending some time at Asheboro on business.

The annual protracted meeting is now in progress at Hickory Grove church near here. Rev. Mr. McClure, the pastor, is being assisted by Rev. J. J. Beach, of Gastonia. The services are being well attended by the people of the neighborhood. The crowds Saturday and Sunday were especially large. Reports are to the effect that much good is being accomplished.

McAdenville's first baseball team went to Clover, S. C., and played two games Friday and Saturday. Friday's score was McAdenville 5, Clover 7. Saturday's score was McAdenville 1, Clover 0. The team from here drove through the country. They were in charge of "Big Chief" Abernethy, who is all smiles.

Mr. C. S. Smith and Mr. R. L. Payson, of Gastonia, were visitors here Saturday.—Mr. and Mrs. James Turner, of Charlotte, spent Sunday here with Mrs. Harriet Simmons.—Mr. Joseph L. Webber spent Sunday with homefolks in Charlotte.

## UNION PICNIC.

**One of the Largest Crowds That Ever Gathered at This Historic Church Was Present Friday at Farmers' Union Picnic—Speakers Failed to Come But Day Was Pleasantly Spent.**

Between 1,500 and 2,000 people gathered Friday at Union church, six miles south of Gastonia, to attend the picnic given by Eureka Local No. 167 of the Farmers Union. Persons who have attended every picnic at this place for the past number of years declared the crowd was as large as that of two years ago, which was the largest ever seen at Union on a picnic occasion. To look at the vehicles and horses and mules that were grouped in scores over several acres of ground one would almost have been ready to believe that half of Gaston county was on hand to enjoy the hospitality of the good people of the Union section.

Despite the fact that the day was one of the hottest and dustiest of the summer so far the people began to arrive early. The Farmers Union Band was there to furnish music and played a number of pieces for the entertainment of the people before the hour for the speaking arrived. Under a group of large trees near the church the farmers union had a good-sized stand where ice cream, cold drinks, cigars, etc. were sold and it was well patronized from early in the morning until the crowd had dispersed in the afternoon.

Just south of the churchyard a speakers stand had been erected and slab benches provided for several hundred people. Greatly to the disappointment of the entire crowd the speakers who were expected, Dr. Templeton, of Raleigh, and Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of Charlotte, president of the State Farmers Union, did not arrive. Dr. Alexander delivered an address in Montgomery county the day before and it was presumed that he was unable to make railroad connections that would enable him to reach Gastonia on Friday. It was not known why Dr. Templeton did not get there.

At the appointed hour for speaking, Mr. Eli P. Lineberger, president of the Gaston County Farmers Union, called the gathering to order, and prayer was offered by Rev. G. A. Sparrow. Mr. Lineberger then announced that the speakers who had been engaged had failed to show up and stated that Rev. G. A. Sparrow would deliver an address of welcome. Mr. Sparrow spoke for fifteen or twenty minutes and was heard with much interest and profit by the audience. After extending to all a welcome to Union church he spoke on the farmers union, what it stands for and what it has accomplished. He paid a high tribute to the American farmer and gave his unqualified endorsement to the organization known as the farmers union which has accomplished much and which promises to accomplish much more for the producer of the world's food and hence of its wealth. Mr. Sparrow is a speaker of ability and is always heard with pleasure by a Gaston county crowd.

Following Mr. Sparrow, Mr. Lineberger made a short address in which he reviewed the history of the farmers union since its organization in 1902. North Carolina, he said, was one of the last States to organize but had made marvelous progress since 1907 when the organization first entered the State. Today there are 30,000 members in this State and every year adds hundreds more. Gaston county has a membership of 700 which is steadily increasing. The speaker reviewed briefly the history of the Grange and the Alliance, both of which organizations served a good purpose in their day but went to pieces on the shoal of politics. The farmers union as now organized is keeping its skirts entirely clear of political affiliations. He told of the wonderful things accomplished by the erection over the Southern States by the union of cotton warehouses and the great reduction in the price paid by the farmers for commercial fertilizers, this being effected by reason of their strong organization. Mr. Lineberger made a forceful and convincing argument why every farmer should join in this great movement.

At the conclusion of Mr. Lineberger's speech Mr. A. C. Stroup was introduced and talked briefly, turning his attention mostly to the subject of corn raising. Mr. Stroup has

had charge of the farm demonstration work in this county and he told his hearers some of the things accomplished during the past two or three years since the new method of corn raising have been in use in Gaston. He told his hearers that, under the demonstration method of farming, 75 farmers in Gaston county had made an average of 43 bushels of corn to the acre, whereas the average for the entire State is only 13 1-3 bushels. Last year one man in the county made 90-odd bushels to the acre on several acres and this same man is expecting this year to make 100 bushels to the acre. One has but to travel around over the county a little and look as he goes to see the results of the demonstration work. Last year the acreage of corn in this county was increased twenty per cent over the previous year. This year witnessed another twenty per cent increase in the acreage and the end is not yet in sight in the matter of corn raising. Mr. Stroup was heard most attentively and his address no doubt did good in that it will stimulate his hearers to devote more time and attention to the raising of corn.

At noon the long improvised tables under a group of oaks in front of the church were loaded down with the most tempting things that the culinary art of the housewives could devise. The dinner was a "Union" picnic dinner and that means it was the best that could possibly be provided. And there was plenty of it. Everybody had plenty and to spare—and there was not a little left over. In the afternoon there was a ball game, those who didn't care for baseball attended to more important matters in the shade of the trees, the children romped and played and the old folks swapped views and experiences. Altogether it was a day to be remembered and those present who are so fortunate as to live outside of the Union neighborhood felt that they were under lasting obligations to the good people of that section for a day of unalloyed pleasure.

## Death of Mr. John Hovis.

Mr. John Hovis died at his home near Hickory Grove Baptist church last Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, aged about 66 years. Mr. Hovis had been in ill health for several months and his death was not unexpected. He was a confederate veteran and a member of Hickory Grove Baptist church, and is survived by two sons, Amzi and James, and two daughters, Mrs. Mosely and Miss Caroline Hovis. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. McClure, of McAdenville, Friday afternoon at two o'clock, and the remains were laid to rest in the Hickory Grove cemetery.

## Miss Sue Stowe Entertains.

Miss Sue Stowe very delightfully entertained a number of her friends at her home in Belmont on the evening of the 28th of July. Eleganticed refreshments were served. Those present were Misses Ola and Clara Sloan, Cora Hart, Vivian Hand, Louise Mason, Dumont, Maggie Hall, Ethel, Bertha and Gertrude Stowe, Edna and Ida Rankin. Dr. Taylor, Messrs. Reece Stowe, Ross Ratchford, Jeff Sanders, Will Ford, John Ramsey, John Rankin, Holland Hand, Paul Hoover, Spratt Hanks, George McKee and R. S. McGaw.

## To Preach Next Sunday.

Brother Kuboka, of Oita, Japan, will preach at Main Street Methodist church next Sunday morning at 11 o'clock and probably Sunday night. Brother Kuboka was converted under the ministry of Rev. R. A. Wilson eight years ago and has been in this country for the past two years as a student at Trinity College and Vanderbilt University, preparing himself for ministerial work among his own people.

—At the August meeting of the board of county commissioners held in Dallas yesterday only routine business was transacted, including the drawing of the September jurors, a list of whom appear in today's Gazette.

—Prof. Fallberg and wife, the musicians who were to give a recital at Main Street Methodist church last night failed to show up and as a consequence there were quite a good many disappointed people. No explanation as to their failure to keep the appointment has been received from them.

## REPUBLICANS AND THE SALARY SYSTEM.

**Several Counties in North Carolina are Solidly Republican But Not a One of Them Has Made Any Move to Change from the Old Fee System to the Salary Basis—Four or Five of the Biggest Democratic Counties in the State Have Changed to Salary System, Saving These Counties Thousands of Dollars Annually—Republicans Advocate Change Only in Counties Where They are Hopelessly in Minority in Hope of Making Political Capital—Inconsistencies of the G. O. P.**

In view of the fact that the Gaston county Republicans, at their recent convention, adopted a platform one plank of which declared in favor of placing the county officers on a salary basis, and in view of the further fact that The Dallas Advocate, mouthpiece of McNinch and the G. O. P. in Gaston county, is making an effort to delude the voters of the county into the belief that, if they want their officers put on salaries instead of fees they must vote for the Republican candidates, we take pleasure in presenting below an editorial from Saturday's Raleigh News and Observer which knocks into a cocked hat The Advocates claims and shows the unbiased reader just what the facts are.

The News and Observer says:

There are quite a number of counties in North Carolina where the Republicans hold all the county offices. Not in a single one have Republicans ever made a movement to adopt the salary system. And yet in Democratic counties, whenever there is Democratic division, Republican bosses in order to try to make political capital howl for a salary system. Everybody knows that the politicians who did that in Wake and who are doing it in Iredell care nothing for the principle. Indeed, in the Federal courts where Republicans could change it if they would, fees are paid and they are so excessive as to amount to a practical denial of justice to many poor litigants. Did you ever hear a Republican advocating salaries in a Republican county? Honor bright, did you ever hear of it?

Wilkes is a big and rock-ribbed Republican county. The Wilkesboro Chronicle, a leading Democratic paper, says that if the county officers of Wilkes were put on the salary basis it would save \$6,000 to \$10,000 for roads. Has any Republican in Wilkes seconded Editor Deal's motion? Mr. Deal says:

"There is considerable agitation over the State on the question of putting county officers on a salary basis. Wherever it has been tried it has proved to the good, and has saved money to the tax-payers. Just now there is much interest in road matters, and in the county there are various suggestions such as road taxes, bond issues, etc. A big start on good roads could be had without additional taxes or bond issues by putting the officers on a salary basis and using the money thereby saved in building good roads. With the officers on a salary basis and a good non-partisan business set of county commissioners to manage the county affairs, some \$6,000 to \$10,000 could be put into good roads every year without a particle of additional tax. A majority of the people of Wilkes favor a salary basis, regardless of politics, but they won't do anything but talk a little under their breath. As soon as the political ring cracks its whip they fall in line without a protest. Its time our people get a little manhood in them. We give below a short editorial on the subject from The Progressive Farmer, the best farm paper in the South. Read it carefully:

"We take pleasure in calling attention to the article in this issue urging the farmers of the South to have all county officers put on a salary basis as a substitute for the wasteful and unbusiness-like fee system now in force. Only a week or two ago we called attention to the experience of one Southern county which saved \$10,000 to its roads and schools by adopting the salary system. Another county is reported to have saved \$20,000. Start an agitation for putting your county officers on a salary basis. Bring up the matter in your party convention and your farmer's meetings. Write it up in your local paper, and see if your editor won't face the opposi-

tion of the court house officials and advocate the plan for your county. And whenever and wherever your candidate for the Legislature appears, on the stump or elsewhere, make him tell where he stands on this matter. If you want your taxes used for building roads and improving the county, put your county officers on a salary basis."

Four or five of the biggest Democratic counties have changed to the salary basis, but no Republican in a Republican county has advocated a change. When Wilkes, Madison, Yadkin, Henderson, Sampson, Surry, Stokes, Swain, and other Republican counties advocate salaries for their Republican officers then their advocacy of it in Democratic counties would show that they are sincere. As it is they hold on to fees when Republicans get the fees, and only clamor for salaries in Democratic counties in the hope of making political capital. But the people know their insincerity and will not care what Republicans say. They are either "for" or "agin" any proposition in any county where they think they can gain a vote by taking either side. No men who want reform can have any part or lot with them.

## JURY LIST.

**Names of Jurors Selected for September Term of Gaston Superior Court.**

The following is a list of jurors chosen at the August meeting of the county commissioners to serve at the September term of Gaston Superior Court, which convenes at Dallas on Monday, September 12th:

### FIRST WEEK.

J. F. Starnes, Gastonia.  
S. G. Fry, Gastonia.  
Robert F. Lay, Dallas.  
J. C. Crawford, Gastonia.  
H. J. Shannon, Gastonia.  
D. L. Payne, Crowders Mountain.  
Fred E. Carpenter, Cherryville.  
R. J. Durham, Dallas.  
W. A. Hendricks, Gastonia.  
J. H. Ramsey, Cherryville.  
E. H. Armstrong, Gastonia.  
G. W. Ragan, Gastonia.  
W. H. Adams, Gastonia.  
Miles Witherspoon, Cherryville.  
R. B. Sarvice, Gastonia.  
J. O. White, Gastonia.  
Sidney L. Kiser, Dallas.  
J. G. Shannon, Gastonia.  
J. F. Lineberger, Jr., Dallas.  
R. C. Mauney, Cherryville.  
Ed Vickers, Cherryville.  
M. A. Sarvice, Gastonia.  
John Wilson, Gastonia.  
G. L. Webb, South Point.  
S. B. Barnwell, Gastonia.  
J. Bynum Long, Gastonia.  
W. A. Leeper, Sr., South Point.  
Ed E. Carson, Crowders Mountain.  
W. A. Farris, Cherryville.  
J. H. Kennedy, Gastonia.  
T. L. Payne, Crowders Mountain.  
M. C. Auten, South Point.  
Clairo Harris, South Point.  
W. W. Wilson, South Point.  
C. E. Mason, Crowders Mountain.  
J. R. Howell, Gastonia.

### SECOND WEEK.

R. J. Sifford, Gastonia.  
Fox Paysour, Gastonia.  
N. W. Thrower, South Point.  
W. D. Quinn, Dallas.  
A. M. Smith, River Bend.  
W. W. Bennett, Crowders Mountain.  
Wirt Summey, Dallas.  
R. L. Rankin, Gastonia.  
J. L. Nell, Gastonia.  
C. S. Wells, Crowders Mountain.  
M. T. Wilson, Gastonia.  
H. D. Roberts, South Point.  
R. E. Currence, Gastonia.  
David Wright, South Point.  
W. L. Ormand, Crowders Mountain.

Frank Alexander, Cherryville.  
D. W. Mitchem, South Point.  
J. L. Bryan, Gastonia.

—Mr. A. P. Deck, of Bessemer City, route one, was a business visitor to Gastonia yesterday.