

# GATES COUNTY INDEX

The Only Newspaper Published in and for Gates County

Volume 13, No. 25

Gatesville, N. C., Wednesday, February 21, 1945

(One Week Nearer Victory)

12 Pages This Week



**WINS PILOT'S LICENSE.**  
—Dorothy Wiggins, above, daughter of J. S. Wiggins and the late Mrs. Wiggins of Trotville, recently earned a commercial pilot's license and an instructor's rating at Texas fields.

## Funeral Services For L. C. Carter

Funeral services for Lonnie C. Carter, who was born in Carter's section on February 7, 1888, were held at Gatesville Baptist Church Tuesday afternoon. The Rev. T. Sloane Guy, pastor, officiated, assisted by the Rev. T. A. Collins, pastor of the Methodist Church of Gatesville.

A quartette composed of Mrs. T. Sloane Guy, Mrs. Sallie Hathaway, Charles Blair, and W. M. Spivey sang "Rock of Ages", "Sometime We'll Understand", and "The Christian's Good Night". For 43 years he was a consistent member of Gatesville Baptist Church.

Pallbearers were W. B. Mann and J. J. Joyce of Norfolk, L. L. Hoggard and S. B. Carter of Suffolk, L. C. Hand, Hertelle Hofler, W. Henry Overman, and Rob Brown of Gates county.

Mr. Carter, who was associated with the Reliance Fertilizer Company of Norfolk for the past eight years, died of a heart attack while driving his car near Roanoke Rapids last Saturday afternoon.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Naomi Pittman Carter; one daughter, Mrs. L. P. Hinton of Hobbsville; a sister, Mrs. L. C. Powell of Portsmouth; two brothers, C. H. Carter of Hobbsville, and Dr. T. L. Carter of Gatesville.

## County Red Cross Quota Is \$3,500

The annual quota of the Gates County Chapter of the American Red Cross for the year 1945 is \$3,500. The drive to secure this amount will begin March 1.

The same plan of township organization as was used last year will be used again this year. The set-up is now being made, and it is expected that it will be completed within the week, according to T. Sloane Guy, chairman.

## Godwin Assistant Transport Officer

Recently reporting for duty as assistant transportation officer at the San Antonio (Tex.) Aviation Cadet Center was Second Lieutenant Edward R. Godwin, of Gatesville. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Godwin, of Gatesville.

Lt. Godwin was last stationed at Ellington Field in Texas.

## Ellenor Imposes Fines on Vagrants In Gates Court

Two cases of vagrancy in Gates county Recorder's Court Tuesday resulted in fines amounting to \$75. Ed Walton, Jr., Negro, for a second offense, was fined \$50 and costs; George Riddick, colored, was fined \$25 and costs.

Jasper R. Rountree of Powellsville, and Joe Hayes of Eure, Negroes, were fined \$50 and costs each and were deprived of their driving licenses for driving drunk.

Found guilty by Judge E. S. A. Ellenor of assault with a deadly weapon, Hubert Cullens, colored of Hobbsville, was fined \$50 and costs.

Charges of assault with a deadly weapon lodged against James Park, colored of Roduco, were found to be frivolous and the prosecuting witness was taxed with the costs.

Wiley Piland of Gatesville, paid \$10 and costs for speeding. M. F. Capps of Raleigh was fined the same amount for a similar offense.

## Lawrence Held On 4 Forgery Counts

P. D. Lawrence of Gatesville, was arrested in Norfolk by Virginia police and has been brought back to Gatesville for a hearing Tuesday before Judge E. S. A. Ellenor on four charges of forgery.

According to Sheriff L. F. Overman, the alleged forgeries last summer involved sums totaling \$150.00. The charge is that Lawrence signed the name of Henry Walton, colored, to four checks and cashed them, or passed them in Gates county. Lawrence has been working in the Naval base at Norfolk and was just located last week, Sheriff Overman said.

## Program Week Of Prayer Held

Sunbury.—Mrs. A. V. Hofler, president of the woman's society of Damascus Christian Church over the week of Prayer program held at the home of Mrs. Almira Hinton last Friday. Those taking part were Miss Annie Lassiter, Miss Blanche Pierce, Mrs. Walter Hofler, Mrs. E. A. Johnson, Mrs. J. M. Byrum and Mrs. Hinton.

## Whit Langston Knight Missing

Whit and Lucy Knight of Gatesville have received a telegram from the War Department advising that their son, Cpl. Whit Langston Knight, has been missing in action in France since January 29.

Knight, Gates county Negro youth, who formerly worked at a Portsmouth service station, had only recently been awarded the Bronze Star medal for heroic achievement in Belgium. He entered the armed forces in November, 1942.

**LASSITER MADE SERGEANT**  
Notice has been received of the promotion of Waymore Lassiter from corporal to sergeant in the U. S. Army. He is serving in France.

## Baines Is Waging Campaign To Exterminate 'Wild' Cats

### "February Court Day" Lacks Its Old Excitement

"February Court Day" in Gates has lost much of its excitement in the past five years, and on the Monday just passed the only activity marking the traditional third Monday was that of mule trading in front of the courthouse.

February Court Day had its beginning away back before the Civil War when it was known as "February Hiring Day." Fishermen from the fish landings that flourished along Gates county rivers came to town to seek help for spring operations, and Gatesville was filled to overflowing with people from miles around.

Later it became February Court Day, and in the words of oldtimers, it was a day of trading, fighting, drinking, greeting old friends and seeing who could tell the biggest lies.

You could get a drink or a fight or almost anything you wanted on the third Monday in February. Before the February term of Superior Court was discontinued, it was also the opening day of court and thereby came to be known as "February Court Day."

Patent medicine vendors and horse traders added to the excitement and color.

But the day, described in Gates county as "a sort of unofficial get-together," has lost most of its color. Except for the mule trader who sold his wares Monday, the day might have passed completely unnoticed.



**DOWNES JAP.**—Major William R. Cowper, above, shot down his first Jap plane recently. He crippled and partly accounted for a second one the same day.

## Maj. W. R. Cowper Gets Nip Plane In Single Burst

Headquarters, 13th AAF, Southwest Pacific.—P-38 Lightning fighter pilot, Major William R. Cowper, Jr., of Gatesville, shot down his first Jap plane, a Lily (medium bomber), as he led his 13th AAF Fighter Command's White Knights unit in an attack

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**DATES SERVICE MEN ONLY.**—Chief reason for running this picture of Anne Sargent Lincoln, selected as the most glamorous debutante of the 1944 social season, is that she dates service men only, and thereby gets her name and picture in the papers. We don't know where she lives, boys.

## Like 'Being Home Awhile' To Read Index, Is Said

In a letter to the editor dated February 4, Philippine Islands, Phil Godwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Godwin of Gatesville, wrote "First, I will say that Dad has been sending me the paper every week, and when I get it, well, it's almost like being back home for a while. I look forward to it, and when I get it I read everything, the want-ads included."

To his friends in Gates county, Phil wishes the Index to say for him: "I have received many Christmas cards and letters from many of you, and I wish I had the time to write each of you a letter of appreciation. I want you all to know that I do appreciate the cards and most of all I appreciate you remembering me."

"I just hope it won't be too long before I can be back there with you. When I do get back, you won't be able to drive me away with a gun even."

## Pvt. Wiggins In Army Hospital

Camp Pickett, Va., Feb. 20.—Pvt. Melon S. Wiggins, husband of Mrs. Kathleen Wiggins of Corapeake, has arrived at the U. S. Army General Hospital, Camp Pickett, Va., from the European theater, where he has seen action with the First Army in the battles of France, Belgium, and Germany.

An alumnus of the Hobbsville high school, Pvt. Wiggins was engaged in industry with J. S. Wiggins of Trotville, prior to his induction into the armed forces.

## Greatest Single Menace To Young Game, He Asserts

Generally regarded as one of the county's foremost sportsmen, John Baines is waging a one-man war against what he terms the greatest single menace to the conservation of wild life in Gates county. The common house cat, reared in the wild state, destroys more game than all hunters combined, he declared in an interview Monday.

The woods and brush of the county harbors them by the thousands, he added, and Baines is credited with being about as thoroughly acquainted with Gates county woodlands as any man in this area.

It was just a week or so ago, he said, that his hounds treed near Bennett's Creek. "I found they had treed a huge tabby who held a big quail rooster in his teeth," he went on. "I killed the cat, but even in death, he held the quail clenched tightly."

**Woods Full of 'Em**  
Baines declared they are in the woods actually by the thousands, and he lists among the game that falls prey to them small squirrels, rabbits, young turkeys and quail. "I know they kill and eat this game, he said, "because I never saw a wild cat yet that wasn't sleek and well-fed."

"Many fellows think it's bad luck to kill a cat, but they're a bigger nuisance than foxes, and I kill every one I find. The man who doesn't think the woods are

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## E. L. Riddick West Point Alternate

Congressman Herbert C. Bonner today announced the appointment of Raymond Evans Fearing as principal to West Point. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Pratt Fearing of Elizabeth City.

Alternates to the principal appointment are David Collin Barnes, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Barnes of Murfreesboro; William George Jackson, son of Mrs. Elsie B. Jackson of Poplar Branch; and Emmet L. Riddick, son of Mrs. Nellie Riddick of Gatesville.

Mr. Bonner stated that this appointment was to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of a former appointee.

Fearing is a private in the Army, and is now serving in Ft. Riley, Kansas. Barnes is a private in the Army and is now serving in the Pacific area. Jackson is at present in school at Fork Union Military Academy, Fork Union, Va., and Riddick is also serving with the Army.

## Meeder Visits Old Friend In 'Frisco

Since finishing a furlough on December 17, John Meeder, Jr., C. Phm. of Gatesville, has been in San Francisco and has had the pleasure of making frequent visits to the home of John S. Rawls, C. Phm., and his wife. Rawls is also a Gatesville boy. Recently, just before leaving for the fighting zone, Meeder called his parents over long-distance telephone from San Diego.