

The Lenoir News.

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Volume XV

Lenoir, N. C., Tuesday, September 30, 1913

No. 94

WITH THE CORRESPONDENTS.

Items From Our Regular Correspondents and Neighboring County Papers.

WATAUGA.

(Watauga Democrat.)

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Blair, of Lenoir, after spending some two weeks with relatives in Watauga, passed through yesterday on their return home.

The heavy frosts since Monday night have done right considerable damage to the late buckwheat crop, green beans and fodder, although it is thought that the corn crop is but little if any damaged.

Dirt has been broken for the Valle Crucis Bank, and the cement foundation is being put down. The cement blocks for the structure are all ready, and the weather permitting, the building will soon be ready for occupancy. The promoters are much pleased with the outlook, and predict a good business from the very start.

Many of our readers doubtless remember that in February, 1912, William J. Snyder, was shot to death on the Longhope Mountain, while in company with a young girl, by his two sons, Conley and W. C. Snyder. The young men surrendered to the authorities, given a preliminary hearing before a board of magistrates, and released, the evidence, as they saw it, making it a plain case of killing in self-defense. The young men have since spent much of their time in Tenn. After their acquittal, a chain of evidence began to lengthen until the last term of Watauga Superior Court, the case came up before the grand jury and a bill was found against the boys for murder. Last week Deputy Sheriff Lewis received a message from Mountain City, stating that the boys were there, if wanted. Lewis phoned to a Johnson county officer to arrest and hold them until he got there, which he did, and today Conley and W. E. Snyder (as the case is not a balable one) are confined in the county jail to await the next term of Watauga Superior court to answer to the grave charge of paricide.

BLOWING ROCK BREEZES.

(By Old Hurrygraph.)

Blowing Rock, Sept. 29.—The days at this delightful place are a charm now—soft and mellow with the glow of golden leaves, mingled with the fires of the garnet and the emerald of the pine and spruce. Chestnuts are opening rapidly and next week will witness the height of their gathering. The crop this year is a good one and they seem to be freer from worms than for many years past.

Mr. H. C. Martin is placing lumber preparatory to remodeling and making extensive improvements to his cottage, in this village. When completed it will be one of the prettiest and most modern of cottages of which Blowing Rock can now boast of having a goodly number and they are increasing each year.

As an evidence of the conduciveness of the Blowing Rock climate to longevity, it is only necessary to state that Mr. H. W. Weedon, of the Grand View House, last week celebrated his 92d year, and he is very active and possesses all of his faculties to a remarkable degree. His

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Interesting Reading Matter of Local and National Affairs in Condensed Form.

The Gastonia School Board has employed Dr. A. Stovall to look after the health of the school children of that city at a stipulated monthly salary.

Squire L. McAdams of near Mebane, reports having found a large copperhead snake coiled inside a large water melon he broke open in his field recently. How the snake got inside the melon is a mystery to those who saw the sight.

The sixth annual Wilkes Fair has proven an unqualified success. With perfect weather, a new building, a flying machine and 20 splendid race horses, the three days were filled with interest for those in attendance. The fair began Tuesday and lasted through Thursday.

No clues as to the identity of the man or men who Thursday night entered the store of J. H. Taylor in Greensboro, and shot him to death. The coroner's report verdict stated that "Party came to his death by a gunshot fired into the body by some person or persons whose identity we have not been able to discover." The body was taken to Ruffin, Rockingham Friday for burial.

Rockingham, Sept. 26.—By a hairsbreadth, Geo. S. Nance, the Hamlet wife murderer, escaped an attempted lynching here tonight. About 7 o'clock Sheriff Homer was warned by friends that full plans had been laid in a neighboring town to storm the jail and take the life of the prisoner. Taking his prisoner and a few trusted deputies in a high powered automobile, he was able to catch the S. A. L. north bound train at Hoffman, 16 miles distance, and thus saved Nance's life.

They say that seeing is believing, but we saw a man yesterday we wouldn't believe under oath.

friends hope he will round out his century work with his usual good health.

Col. Thos. H. Coffey of the Watauga Inn, has purchased a union suit and is now harvesting his crop of fodder and tops. He talks to silent "ears" in the field just the same way he talks to his guests. The corn listens and gives him several grains for thought.

Many of the cottages have closed for the season. A few other cottagers linger as if loath to leave this splendid climate and lovely scenery. The visitors have practically all left. There may be as many as thirty who are enjoying the delights of chestnut gathering.

Mrs. Patterson Miller and her three children, Miss Cora Brooks of Philadelphia, and Mrs. Rosa C. Etheredge, her son and daughter, Mr. Etheredge and Miss Virginia Etheredge, of Norfolk, Va., are the remaining guests of the Watauga Inn. It is the first visit of the latter to this section, and they are perfectly charmed with its beauty and the climate. Mr. Etheredge killed his first boomer Friday, and it was the first mountain boomer he had seen, and he thinks he has saved several squirrels for his future hunts.

CALDWELL COUNTY HISTORY

Historical and Biographical Sketches of Some of The Most Prominent Families and First Settlers.

(By Rev. I. W. THOMAS.)

THE POWELL FAMILY.

(Continued from last Tuesday.)

Nelson Albright Powell was born January 23rd, 1816. He was married first to Mary Perkins Sumpter, September 17th, 1840, Rev. Philip Powell officiating. The children by his first wife were Sarah Emma, Simpson Jones, Caroline Lucinda, and George Sumpter.

Sarah Emma married Dr. Boone Clarke and moved west. Simpson Jones died at Guinea Station, Va., during the Civil War, in which he was a Confederate soldier. Caroline Lucinda married Dr. Tate Powell and moved to Starke, Florida, where they lived for some thirty years. At present she is living in Lenoir. George Sumpter married Alice Blackwelder and lives in Asheville, N. C., and is engaged in the real estate business.

Nelson Albright Powell's first wife died December, 13th, 1849. His second marriage was to Myra Julia Sudderth, December 13th, 1850. By this marriage there was one son born, Wright-stelle Haigler, who died early in life. His second wife died January 1, 1852.

His third marriage was to Sarah Louisa Dula, daughter of John Dula. She was born September 3rd, 1829, and married December 22nd, 1852.

Children by this marriage were Orpha Ann, Mary Lewelyn, Wm. Robert, Anna Laura, Eva Hill, Sallie Ann and Charles John. All are living except Orpha Ann, Anna Laura and Wm. Robert.

Eva Hill was born on the day Stoneman's Raid passed through Caldwell, April 1865, and an officer learning the delicate situation, had a guard placed at the front gate and allowed no one to disturb the home. Mr. Powell lived then in the Broy-hill house just east of Lower Creek church. Third wife died June 16, 1911.

Mr. Powell spent all his life in Caldwell County except a short while in Morganton. He was a justice of the peace many years and was a member of a court called Pleas and Quarter Sessions, July 26, 1841. He says the first session was held in the store house of George Powell near the house of Geo. Smith. This court elected E. S. Moore first sheriff of Caldwell

Good Roads Meeting

Last Friday there was held in Granite Falls an enthusiastic and well attended good roads meeting. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Pratt of Chapel Hill, Mr. J. D. Elliotte of Hickory, Mr. W. C. Newland of Lenoir and Mr. A. A. Whitener of Hickory. A good roads association was organized and an active campaign was begun for the voting of \$25,000 township bond issue for the building of roads in the township. The addresses were all practical and strongly in favor of the voting of the bond issue and the sentiment of the people present was almost unanimous in favor of the measure as far as we were able to learn. Lovelady Township is a

County; Elisha P. Miller first Clerk of County Court, and Abraham Sudderth first Register. Among the numerous acts of the Court, Mr. Powell mentions the first license issued to retail spirituous liquors in Caldwell County. The issue was to J. C. Smith and the place his store on the Johns river. He remembered well what was popularly called the "Falling of the stars" in 1833. He was too old for service in the Civil War. He was a farmer and a fine mechanic. Politically he was a Democrat and religiously he was first a Methodist and later in life united with the Episcopal church. He had a very high regard for religion, the Bible and the House of God. He would not think of putting his hat on after the benediction on leaving a church, until he had reached the door. He did not believe the congregation, after dismissal, ought to engage in worldly conversation.

He was genteel and polite to every one and preferred to have others treat him likewise. Once upon a time a man approached him saying, "Is this old Nelson Powell?" and he replied "Some folks call me Mr. Powell, some Nelson Powell, and some old Nelson Powell, just according to how they have been raised."

Nelson Albright Powell died June 3rd, 1910, and was buried at Lower Creek Church Cemetery.

Rev. John Bowman Powell was born on Lower Creek May 2, 1825. He joined Lower Creek church August 13, 1846, and was licensed to preach May 15, 1847, and was ordained May 19, 1848.

He was pastor of Lower Creek Baptist church about 30 years. During his ministerial life he served the following churches: Lower Creek, Kings Creek, Sardis, Union and Yadkin in Caldwell County, and Antioch and possibly Three Forks in Alexander County. He was a very eloquent preacher and his services were very much in demand on occasions of funerals and revivals. He took part in the great revival in the town of Lenoir in the fall of 1865. The meeting was held in the grove just south of Major Harper's.

(Concluded next Tuesday.)

progressive and wide-awake township and we heard one well informed man say he did not think 25 votes would be polled against the measure. While discussing the matter with the people of the vicinity, we learned that some of the roads of the township were sadly out of repair and some of the bridges positively dangerous. That one at the Granite Falls cotton mills was spoken of as being badly in need of attention. We look for the good people of that progressive township to vote for the measure by a good majority and think that Lovelady will set the pace for other townships of the county to follow.

Subscribe for the News.

LENOIR'S REMARKABLE CITIZEN.

Greatest Achievement in The Annals of History by Local Citizen.

Lenoir has many people and other things of which it is justly proud. It has within its limits some most remarkable characters. Good, bad and indifferent. Wise and otherwise. We are not sure but we feel that many people who live in Lenoir and Caldwell County are not fully acquainted with the rather unusual and remarkable circumstances that seem to have shrouded and enveloped the early days (and we mean early days as you will, no doubt, note before you finish this) of one of our most familiar and interesting and remarkable characters, to-wit: Frank F. Smith, alias "Jack".

An autobiography or personal history of this most remarkable of Lenoir's citizens need not be protracted here as it would be unnecessary and such is not our intentions. However, there is one chapter in this man's active career that we do intend shall be placed before the people of this county and thus find its way into the public annals of the doings of the great. It is a most astonishing story and one that one would not hesitate to brand as an idle dream, if they did not know the man himself and his reputation, which is such that no one can gainsay anything in the shape of a story that might pass through his teeth. Just read now and see for yourself if we are not right in asserting that Frank Smith, alias Jack, is not the most remarkable man ever recorded in the history of Caldwell County and we'll go further and say in the history of the entire world, have we never heard of such a record made by mortal man.

Frank Smith, alias "Jack" is at present 43 years of age according to his own statement which you will all readily accept for we have stated he is a truthful man.

During the year of 1865 there was published in Salisbury a newspaper called the North Carolina Watchman, at that time said to be the second paper in the State. This paper was owned and published by Messrs. Bruner & Beard, and at the time of its establishment its owners were considered real plungers as there was already one other paper and printer in the State. Some kind of competition that. The paper was printed on an old Washington hand press on the second floor of a building in Salisbury. The statement has been made by Mr. Smith alias "Jack" aforesaid, that during that time he was an employee of this print shop and was operating this press during the year of 1865. (Right here is where the remarkableness of this tale begins, as Smith alias "Jack" according to his say so was born in 1870, or five years after the happenings were are about to record.) General Stoneman the Federal general then raiding in North Carolina passed through Salisbury on a certain day in 1865 and glancing up saw this press operated by our worthy citizen. Stoneman seemed to be much impressed with what he saw for he ordered the shop entered and the press and material thrown out in the street. He was no doubt of the opinion as were others, that one paper and print shop was sufficient for the people of this state. The

LOCAL AND PERSONAL NEWS.

Items of Interest to The People of Lenoir and Caldwell County.

Mr. Ben Davis, Jr., of Morganton, was a visitor in Lenoir Friday.

Mr. Maston Smith was a pleasant caller at this office Saturday.

Mr. H. A. Steele of the Yadkin Valley, was a pleasant caller at this office Friday.

Mr. T. C. Curtis of Finley, was a caller at this office Friday, while a visitor in Lenoir.

Mrs. J. A. Dula returned last week from a pleasant visit among relatives in Avery County.

Mr. W. H. Hartley of Hudson was in Lenoir Friday and was an agreeable caller at The News office.

Mrs. Legran of Butler, Tenn., is visiting her mother, Mrs. S. F. Curlee, who has been in feeble health for some time.

The school at Hibriten is progressing nicely under the efficient management of Prof. John M. Downs and Miss Annie Belle Moore.

Mrs. Thos. Hartley spent several days last week with her aunt, Mrs. Mary Williams, at Wilkesboro, and also attended the Wilkes County Fair.

Fall apples are beginning to make their appearance on the local market and they are of a fairly good quality, even if the supply is some what limited as is claimed by many growers and buyers. The apples of Western North Carolina are the finest that are grown.

office is said to have been completely wrecked, the paper burned, and after the raiders passed and the wreckage put together, there was no paper to print the issue on. Window curtain goods were then used and the paper issued.

This same press was later bought by The News and used for a number of years for printing this paper until the present fine press was installed. It was then sold to the Watauga News at Boone and is now being used to print that live paper each week.

This may sound like a dream to some folks but we have seen these statements in print before and the person writing has used our remarkable citizen Frank Smith alias "Jack" as his authority and stated that he knew that he was noted for his truthfulness for which you will readily vouch for.

We do not feel that we have overdrawn our character in the least as we wished to merely put the facts before the good people of this county and town so that they might know just what a remarkable man lived in their midst. A prophet is without honor in his own land, but we do not intend that our worthy citizen shall sink into oblivion on account of lack of publicity in the matter of his early history. No human ever achieved what he has done. Is it not a most wonderful thing to record even for this place, that a citizen was able to run and operate an old style Washington hand press at a period 5 years before his birth? Do you not feel that Lenoir has much of which it can be proud and the least of these is not one Frank Smith, alias "Jack." "That's who."