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Mappy Mappy Christmas Observance Was Illegal In Early **American Times**

Celebration of Christmas the most widely observed religious holiday of the modern world -- was at one time illegal in early American his-

tory, Colonial New England did not celebrate Christmas, according to researchers at Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia, because the stern Puritan colonists believed that such activities were wholly pagan and forbade them by law Christmas came to the American colonies while it was the subject of strenuous controversy in England, English puritans condemned it as "popish" and the secular celebration as "wanton Bac-chanalian feast."

Opposition of the English

Puritans to festivals culminated in an act of Parliament in 1647 which abolished the observance of Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide, This was echoed in the American colonies in 1659 when Puritans enacted a law in the general court of Massachusetts to punish those who 'kept Christmas."

The law read "Whosoever shall be found observing any such day as Christmas or the like, either by forebearing of labor, feasting, or in any other

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OF FIRE CRACKERS

IS A CRIME!

State Law and Ordinances of the Town of Murphy prohibit the sale, possession, or use of fire crackers.

"It shall be unlawful for any individual, firm, partnership or corporation to manufacture, purchase, sell, deal in, transport, possess, receive, advertise, use or cause to be discharged any pyrotechnics of any description whatsoever within the State of North Carolina.

"Possession of Pyrotechnics (Fire Crackers) by any person shall be prima facie evidence that such pyrotechnics are kept for purchases in violation of this ar-

Protests from many of the citizens of Murphy have resulted in the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Murphy instructing the Town Policemen to arrest any and all persons violating the above law.

way.... shall be subject to a fine of five shillings."

The law was repealed in 1681 but many of the Puritans were not reconciled to this action. Secular reveling at Christmas had often interfered with religious devotions and offended the Puritan's moral sense. This intensified their sectarian hostility to the re-ligious observance of Christmas -- an attitude they maintained for the better part of two centuries in parts of New

The fun-loving Dutch colonists of New Amsterdam, however, celebrated Christmas as their chief holiday. They brought the old customs from their homeland, especially the Christmas stocking and obser-vance of the feast day of St. Nicholas.

In the Southern colonies, the planters celebrated the yuletide with feasting, singing and dancing. On many planta-tions slaves were given a holiday as long as the great yule log burned.

The latter half of the eighteenth century saw a swing of attention to the realm of economics and politics and religious controversies became of less importance. The fact that English and Hessian troops celebrated Christmas during the Revolutionary War may have added a patriotic to the denominational

controversy.
General Washington crossed the Deleware River n the night of December 25, 1776 to surprise and defeat the Hessian troops stationed at Trenton, N. J. In the opinion one writer, Washington's bold venture succeeded because the Hessians were entheir customary Christmas revels and failed to maintain the usual watch and

However, denominational opposition to the ecclesiastic observance of Christmas continued into the second half of the nineteenth century. An account in the New York Daily Times for December 26, 1855 "The churches of the Presbyterians, Baptists, and Methodists were not open on Dec. 25 except were some Mission Schools had a celebration. They do not accept the day as a Holy One, but the Episcopalian, Catholic and German Churches were all open. Inside they were decked with evergreens."

In the twentieth century, all denominations have embraced Christmas widely both as a religious and as a social celebration, Today, men, women and children in every Christone fourth of the world's popu-lation about 8-- million people profess some form of Christian faith.

The splendor and beauty of Christmas observances is very different from the humble stable in Bethlehem where Christ was born; but the message he brought to the world is the same -- "Glory be to God in the highest; and on earth peace, good will to-



Ed Davis, 82,

Of Route 3.

Dies In Hospital Edgar Earl Davis, 82, of

Rt. 3, Murphy, died Wednesday morning, Dec. 11, at 1 a.m. in a local hospital. He was a member of Hi-

wassee Baptist Church, His

first wife, Mrs. Mabel Pal-

mer, preceded him in death in January, 1931. Survivors include his wid-ow, Mrs. Sally Kate Fricks Davis; two daughters, Mrs. Charles Beavers of Blairsville, Ga.: and Mrs. Alice Davis of the home; two sons, Sam L. and John C. Davis, both of Murphy; two daugh-ters by his first wife, Mrs. O. J. Peevy, and Mrs. Lee Thompson of Waldboro, S. C.; and three sons, Frank D., and Robert E., of Canton, N. C.; and James L. Davis of

grandchild. Arrangement, under the direction of Townson Funeral Home were incomplete on

Cartersville, Ga.; one bro-ther, Fred Davis; seventeen grandchildren and one great-

Cherokee Scout & Clay County Progress, Thurs., Dec. 20, 1962

"The South South ailway THE **EMPTY** STOCKING

THERE'S A MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR "present" missing from your Christmas stocking this year, but it is not our fault. We tried to put

it there.

More than a year ago we asked permission, as present laws require, to make a deep reduction in the prices we charge for hauling grain into and within the South. These lower prices would have saved you-the people of the South-some \$37 million in transportation costs this year, and every future year. This is money that belongs to you.

Despite this great saving to the families of the South-to everyone who eats bread, meat, poultry, eggs-our request to lower freight charges on grain has yet to be granted. A few selfish interests (largely waterway barge operators) who profit-at your expense-seek to keep railroad freight rates high. They have done and are doing everything possible to block us because our lower prices would reduce their high profits. But we have a duty to serve you well at the lowest possible cost and we will not shirk that duty. We will continue our efforts until these rates are put into

We're not Santa Claus. Our lower prices will save you money-they will make money for our railroad, too. In the public interest, it is high time that we be allowed to stuff your stocking with these enormous savings in transportation costsnot just at Christmas time, but the year around!

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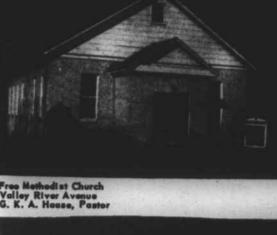
First Methodist Church Valley River Avenue Clark W. Benson, Pastor



Messich Episcopal Church Peachtree Street Hamilton C. Witter, Pastor



St. Williams Catholic Chapel Andrews Road Father Raymond Dehen, Pastor





Murphy Presbyterian Church Valley River Avenue Robert A. Potter, Pastor



First Baptist Church Peachtree Street William J. Thompson, Paster

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