

# The Cleveland Star.

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SHELBY, N. C. FRIDAY, MAY 5 1911.

\$1.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

## GARDNER IS NEW MAYOR

ELECTED BY A MAJORITY OF 94 VOTES

Succeeds Mr. W. H. Jennings as Mayor of Shelby After a Warm Campaign—New Board of Aldermen Messrs. Z. J. Thompson, J. L. Suttle, L. E. Ligon and A. P. Weathers elected.

Col. J. T. Gardner won the race for mayor over Mr. W. H. Jennings last Monday by a majority of 94 votes. The campaign was warm from beginning to end and the friends of candidates on both sides claimed the victor until the count was taken after sundown Monday night. However, it looked favorable to Gardner throughout and when the tellers were counting the votes, there was a steady increase over the vote received by Mr. Jennings. There were 459 votes cast, which is probably the heaviest in any city election ever held here. Col. Gardner received 275 while Mr. Jennings received 181.

The new board of aldermen is Messrs. A. P. Weather, L. E. Ligon, Z. J. Thompson and Joe L. Suttle. They received the following vote: Weathers, 455; Ligon, 455; Thompson, 453; Suttle, 438. There were five scattering votes, L. A. Blanton receiving 2, R. M. Gidney 1, J. R. Dover 1 and W. H. Blanton 1. With the exception of Mr. Weathers who was a member of the former board, this is an entirely new set of men. Ligon and Thompson are new in the administration of city affairs while Suttle has been connected with the city as mayor.

Two years ago 444 were cast, Mr. Jennings receiving 222 and Mr. Joe L. Suttle 221. One vote was thrown out because it was in the wrong box. There were 15 more votes cast in this election than in the last.

Whether any changes in the city employes will be made or not remains to be seen. Several changes are rumored.

Dr. H. D. Wilson had no opposition as town treasurer so he continues to serve. Mr. Harvey Jetton will be re-elected chief of police by the board at their first meeting.

Col. Gardner and his new council were sworn in Thursday, within three days after the election as is prescribed by law and they are now in charge of municipal affairs.

## OFF TO GASTONIA

Members of Company G. go to Gastonia to Attend Rifle Shoot.

Ten members of Company G. Cleveland Guards of which Mr. O. M. Gardner is Captain left Wednesday morning for Gastonia to attend a rifle shoot at which representatives of several companies in North Carolina will practice and contest for marksmanship. Those who went from here are Capt. J. F. Roberts, Lieutenant J. F. Jenkins, Messrs. George Moore, Harry Woodson, Marion Aker, Gordon Beam, Tom Osborne, I. C. Green, Sam Thompson and Clarence Leonard.

## Old Time Singing.

There will be an old time singing at Sharon church Sunday afternoon May 7th.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

Mr. D. B. Green, a leading farmer and dairyman of Shelby Route 4 was here Tuesday on business.

## TAX LISTERS ON THEIR ROUNDS

ALL LISTING MUST BE DONE THIS MONTH

Mr. Rufus S. Plonk is Assessor For the County While he Has Assistants in Every Township and Two in No. 6—They Visit the Property Owner—Detail of How the Law Operates.

The new machinery act passed by the last Legislature for the purpose of raising more revenue by equalizing taxes went into effect May 1 and the assessors started on their rounds. The assessor is required to visit each taxpayer in the township, beginning May 1 and obtain a detailed statement of each and every piece of property, real, personal and mixed, which each taxpayer shall own on the first day of May, and its value. The Legislature did not intend for the lister to be inquisitorial into the private affairs of the taxpayer any further than has been the former custom, to obtain under oath the items of property which he is required to list as set out on the tax blank on which his property is listed. The requirement to visit the taxpayer is for the convenience of the taxpayer and in the interest of a more equitable assessment of its real estate by an actual view of it by the assessor and a comparison of it relatively with other real estate.

Mr. Rufus S. Plonk is the county assessor and he has assistants in each township who will make out the list. In No. 6 there are two. The township is so large one man could not get through in the time allowed so Mr. J. F. Ledford lists in the country and Mr. Robert A. Hoyle in the town. The other assessors are J. A. McCraw in No. 1; Marvin Blanton in No. 2; W. C. Surratt in No. 3; George W. Kendrick in No. 4; S. L. Dellinger in No. 5; J. G. Lattimore in No. 7; R. L. Weathers in No. 8; Capt. E. D. Dixon in No. 9; John P. Mull in No. 10; and J. A. Newton in No. 11.

For the convenience of assessors everybody is asked to have an inventory of what he has ready for the assessor when he visits the property he is not required to make a second trip but after June 1 the unlisted man is adjudged a delinquent and is required to come to the assessor. All delinquents must list by June 15.

## Miss Webb Entertains

Miss Madge Webb entertains this afternoon at 1 o'clock at a delightful luncheon at her home on South Washington street complimentary to Mrs. Norvall Spicknall and Mrs. Annie Harrison who are visiting here from Virginia. The invited guests are Mesdames R. L. Ryburn, James Thomas, W. F. Mitchell, Paul Webb, L. P. Holland, Harlan Shoemaker, O. M. Gardner, J. L. Webb, B. T. Falls, C. M. Lattimore, J. F. Jenkins and Misses Fan Barnett and Emma Frick.

## To Play Indians

The Shelby baseball team will play the Cherokee Indians on the local ground Saturday afternoon. The "injuns" is on independent aggregation, traveling over the country playing local teams and an interesting game is expected. The Shelby boys are in fine trim and are confident of victory. The game has been well advertised and will be well-attended.

## DAMRON BUILT COURT HOUSES

JOHN DAMRON BUILT OLD COURT HOUSE HERE

Also a Number of Others in North Carolina and the First and Second Ones in Knoxville, Tenn.—Three Children, W. L. Damron, Mrs. W. A. Wray and Mrs. Sara J. Lee—Died in Shelby.

The Knoxville (Tenn.) Sentinel had an interesting article April 29 regarding John Damron who built the first and second court houses in Knoxville. It is interesting to note too that he built the old Cleveland court house and the ones at Salisbury, Chester and Columbia.

When chided by his wife that he had bought a very poor farm, John Damron, the builder of the second court house in Knoxville, replied: "Well it might look like a poor farm but the day will come when it will be valuable."

He referred to the Damron addition which contained several hundred acres and now known as North Knoxville.

## DIED IN SHELBY

John Damron was born at Covington, Va., in 1798 and died at Shelby, N. C., in 1870 at the advanced age of 72 years. At the age of 16 he left his home and went to fight his own battles in the world, and was very successful. He was a contractor and his first wife was a Miss Bachman, relative of Rev. R. L. Bachman, D. D., in this city. He has two grandchildren now living in Knoxville, James Jennings and John Jennings, whose mother was his daughter by his first wife. After the death of his first wife he married Miss McAfee, a sister of Col. McAfee of North Carolina. To them three children were born. They are W. L. Damron who is now living on the old plantation in North Carolina; Mrs. Dr. W. A. Wray and Mrs. Sara J. Lee of this city.

John Damron's sister was the mother of the Rev. Thos. Dixon, the author of "The Clansman," and noted preacher and writer. It is said that Ben Cameron, a character in "The Clansman" was a brother of John Damron, who built the first court house in Knoxville.

Following the contracting business, John Damron owned a number of slaves and they were trained masons and did a large part of his work.

## HAD FAITH IN LAND

After completing the court house at Knoxville Mr. Damron took his profits and invested it in Knox county land. He purchased the farm lying north of town known now as Damron's addition. On this farm was old Gray cemetery and the national cemetery, and all that section of the city lying north of Broadway. This was said to be a poor farm and one day his wife, after going over the farm remarked to him that it was an awful poor farm. "Well," replied Mr. Damron, "the ground may be poor, but it will be rich some day. I may not live to see it, but my children or their children will live to see Knoxville extended and this will be one of the best parts of the city. While Mr. Damron did not live to see his prophecy fulfilled, his daughters, Mrs. W. A. Wray and Mrs. S. J. Lee have lived to see it.

BUILT SHELBY COURT HOUSE  
The grant to the Damron ad-

## CONFERENCE IS NEXT WEEK

METHODIST OF THREE COUNTIES COMING

Many Prominent Pastors and Laymen Will Attend Conference in Methodist Church Next Week—Rev. S. B. Turrentine Presiding Elder—Mr. J. S. Martin Leader of the Laymen's Movement.

The Shelby District Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will meet in Central Methodist Church, Wednesday morning, May 10, at 9 o'clock. There will be preaching Tuesday evening, May 9. The conference will probably suspend service at 11 a. m. Wednesday and attend the Memorial exercises.

The Shelby District embraces nearly all the territory within the three counties, Cleveland, Gaston and Lincoln; and includes 19 pastoral charges and 71 churches. The members of the district are all the preachers in the district, traveling, local and superannuated, the recording steward and four lay delegates from each pastoral charge.

Friday, May 12, special attention will be given to the interest of the Laymen's movement. Lay leaders of pastoral charges in addition to the official members of the conference are invited to attend the conference on Friday, May 12. Mr. J. S. Martin of Shelby is district day leader. Rev. Dr. S. B. Turrentine, Presiding Elder of Shelby district, is ex-officio president of the conference. The adjournment of Conference will probably be on Friday afternoon, May 12. It is expected that some of the conference visitors will remain after conference adjourns and preach in Shelby on Sunday, May 14.

## Unique Celebration

The Daughters of the Confederacy of Gastonia are planning quite a unique event for the celebration of Memorial Day, May 10th, in the form of a dinner which they will give on the afternoon of that day to all ex-slaves of the county, says the Gastonia Gazette. It is intended to have every colored man and woman in the county who was born a slave in attendance upon this dinner.

## Democratic At Rutherfordton

Rutherfordton, May 2.—The town election went very quietly today, there being only one ticket in the field, the Democrats having no opposition. This is the first time in the history of Rutherfordton that the Republicans made no effort. The Democratic ticket headed by Dr. A. C. Hook, for mayor; Dr. Henry Norris, Ed Beam, R. P. Scruggs and C. F. Geer for aldermen, is a good one and the town will be in safe and capable hands for the next two years.

dition is one of the oldest in this section and all deeds of 100 years back point to the Damron line. Later John Damron moved to Shelby, N. C., and constructed the court house in that place and other towns in North Carolina. He purchased a large plantation in North Carolina where he lived until he died in 1870.

Some of the older citizens of Knoxville remember John Damron in this city. He saw the natural resources around Knoxville. He had faith in the little hamlet that it would one day be a great city and invested his earnings.

## BIG MERGER OF COTTON MILLS

TEN MILLION DOLLAR COMBINE PLANNED

Cotton Spinners Met in Charlotte to Consider Big Proposition—Million Spindles Wanted Against Which \$35,000,000 in Stock and Bonds Will be Issued—Shelby Men Attend.

Charlotte Observer.  
Between 400,000 and 425,000 spindles were represented at the conference of cotton spinners held in this city yesterday for the purpose of considering the proposition of the promoters of the much-talked-of merger of Southern yarn mills, a preliminary meeting having been held in Washington several weeks ago.

Former Lieutenant Governor W. D. Turner of Statesville acted as chairman of the meeting and Mr. Robert S. Reinhardt of Lincolnton served as secretary.

## THE PROPOSITION.

The proposition considered has been indicated in the Observer on several occasions. In brief it contemplates a merger of 1,000,000 spindles on which bonds will be issued in the amount of \$10,000,000 of which \$5,000,000 will be devoted to the cash purchase of the properties and the balance for working capital. It is reported that a tentative proposition has been made of 82.50 for the bonds The mills entering the merger are to have their properties assessed by Lockwood, Green & Co. of Boston and Mr. J. E. Sirrine of Greenville, S. C., and of the assessed value 25 per cent is to be paid in cash, in addition to the value of the quick assets of the mill, and 37 1-12 per cent in preferred stock and 37 1-2 per cent in common stock in the corporation merger. Of the preferred and common stock, however, the promoters will keep 7 1-2 per cent of each, or 15 per cent in all, for their work in perfecting the merger.

## \$35 PER SPINDLE.

In addition to the issue of bonds there will be \$12,500,000 of preferred stock and \$12,500,000 of common stock issued, or \$35,000,000 in all. This will make the issue amount to \$35 per spingle, which is regarded as very high.

After the proposition had been presented in detail, it was decided to appoint committees to visit the various mills and lay the matter before the directors. Another conference will probably be held later.

Messrs. Joe Smith and J. J. McMurry of Shelby were in attendance.

## Shelby Exempted

Shelby is exempted by the corporation commission from having two ticket windows at the passenger stations, one for the exchange of mileage and the other for the purchase of straight tickets. The law passed by the last legislature stated that for the convenience of passengers who crowd at stations for tickets a few minutes before train time, these two windows should be maintained. It was to apply to all towns with over 2,000 population. The authority to exempt towns was vested in the corporation commission by the bill.

Mr. and Mrs. V. B. Lovelace who have been esteemed citizens of Shelby for some time have moved to Mooresboro. They have many friends here and Shelby hates to give them up.

## ALL NEWS OF THE CAROLINAS

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS IN BRIEF

Happenings in the Two States—Boiled Down in Brief Paragraphs For Busy Readers of The Star—The Most Important Things of the Week Summed Up.

J. W. Quark of Sanford is the State's youngest mayor. He is only 25 years of age and was elected without opposition.

The North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs met this week in Asheville. Prominent club ladies of the State as well as representatives from other States attended.

Dr. C. A. Bland has taken hold of the Charlotte government. Mayor Hawkins turned over to the new administration \$138,000, exclusive of present liabilities.

The third annual meeting of the North Carolina Letter Carriers' Association, composed of the mail carriers in all the cities in the State having free city delivery, will be held in Salisbury July 4.

A white boy, 17 years old, was lodged in Surry county jail last week, charged with criminally assaulting a 9-year-old white girl.

Miss Lala Barringer, daughter of a farmer living near New London, Stanley county committed suicide Friday morning by shooting herself with a 22-caliber rifle. Life ruined.

The baby of John Adams, colored, who lives near Ronda, Wilkes county, was left alone in the house, with the usual result. It was so badly burned that it died after some hours of suffering.

Representative Pou, of the Raleigh district, has introduced a bill in Congress for the erection of a statue to the memory of President Andrew Johnson. The bill provides for \$25,000 and that the monument be erected in Raleigh.

The Governor has revoked the pardon of Ed Caton of Mecklenburg. Caton, who was serving a term of 18 months on the roads, was granted a conditional pardon after he had served less than a year. He at once resumed his evil habits and the result is he is back on the gang.

The Mecklenburg grand jury, which was charged by Judge Biggs to investigate the rumors of liberty and corruption at the recent municipal primary in Charlotte, finds that the "rumors were exaggerated, some of them totally false and the city in some respects slandered."

While it is admitted that liquor was probably used corruptly, the grand jury was unable to fix the responsibility.

## Miss Miller's Party

Miss Laura Burton Miller gave a house party here this week to a number of her friends and college-mates of Converse College. Those here were Misses Willie and Carabel Cooley of Williamston, S. C., Alethea Alderson of Alderson, West Va., and Mr. Mack Douglas of Winnsboro, S. C. Miss Miller is a gracious hostess and made her guests enjoy every minute of their stay. The young ladies are very attractive and received close attention while here.

Miss Gizzie Turner one of Cleveland's accomplished young ladies, who has been teaching in South Carolina, returned home last week.