

# Kings Mountain Herald

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## THE STORY OF CHRISTIAN MAUNEY AND TRYON COUNTY AS TOLD AUGUST 19TH, 1916

BY HON. ALFRED NIXON OF LINCOLNTON

In his speech at the Mauney Reunion and Picnic held on the site of the old Tryon Court House on the macadam road between Bessemer City and Cherryville, now in Gaston county, North Carolina.

(Continued from last week)

The Tryon Courts were styled the "County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions." In this court deeds and wills were probated, estates settled, land entries recorded, guardians appointed, orphans apprenticed, highways opened, overseers appointed and many other matters attended to. There was a sheriff and clerk, a civil and a criminal docket, grand and petit juries, and an "attorney for the Crown." These courts convened quarterly and continued without material change until the adoption of the constitution of 1868.

One of the first orders: "On motion of William Kennon, Esq., it was ordered by the court that Christian Mauney have a license to keep an Ordinary at his now dwelling house in Tryon county, he complying with the act of the Assembly in that case made and provided. He proposes for security, Jacob Mooney, Jun'r., and Peter Plonk, bond in thirty pounds—accepted." Licenses were likewise granted Thomas Epsy, Alexander Moore, William Wray, James Patterson, John Dellinger, Henry Dellinger.

What is an Ordinary? Let this order answer:

"Present His Majesty's Justices. Then were the Ordinary keepers prices rated: Lodging in good feather beds and clean sheets per night, 4d. Breakfast and supper each 8d. Every dinner not less than 2 dishes of good meat is. Pasturage for every horse or mare per 24 hours, 4d. Stabling every night to hay or fodder for every horse or mare, 1s. Madeira and Port wine per quart, 3s. Claret wine per quart, 4s. Punch and loaf sugar and West India rum per quart, 1s. 6d. Toddy and loaf sugar and West India rum per quart, 1s. 4d. Toddy with New England rum per quart, 8d. Brandy and whiskey toddy per quart, 8d. Beer per quart, 4d. Cider per quart, 6d. West India rum per 1-2 pint 10d. New England rum per 1-2 pint 6d. Brandy or whiskey per 1-2 pint, 6d."

Roads were laid out to various points to this court house. Note some of the orders:

"Ordered by the Court that Christian Carpenter, Lawrence Kyzer, Jacob Ramsour, Adolph Reep and John Aker be appointed commissioners to lay out and mark a road from Burke county line to Ramsour's Mill, from that the nearest and best way to Tryon Court House."

"Ordered that Wm. Moore, Abraham Scott, Ebenezer Newton, John Moore, Zack Spencer, Fred Hambricht, Michael Hoyle, Thos. Costner, Jacob Manney, Peter Laboon, Michael Hufstatter and John Hoyle be a jury to lay out and mark a road the nearest and best way from Tryon Court House to Tuccasego Ford."

"Ordered by the Court that Christy Mauney be appointed overseer of the road from the Tuccasego road to Tryon Court House, in that part between the court house and opposite to Peter Laboon; and Peter Laboon in that part between his house and the South Fork river, and Samuel Martin from the Forks to the Tuccasego Ford."

"Ordered that Henry Dellinger be appointed overseer of the road leading from Tryon Court House to Beatty's Ford in that part between his house and Forney's creek and Jacob Forney, Jr., from thence to Beatty's Ford."

The pioneers found this section a wild, luxuriating in native grasses and other flora, the habitat of the red man the wild animal and fowl. There were herds of fleet footed deer; there were clumsy brown bears and fierce wild cats and panthers; there were droves of buffalo, and countless beavers building their dams on the creeks. The early settlers waged a relentless war on these animals and set a bounty on many of their scalps. The bounties on which a price was set were the wolf, the panther, the wild cat, and such other as preyed on domestic animals. Forty-nine wolf-scalps were paid for in 1774. But before this time the Red Man had left Indian creek, the buffaloes that browsed on Buffalo Mountain and along the savannahs of Buffalo creek had receded towards the setting sun, and the beavers had quit building their dams on the creek.

Tryon county was 45 miles wide from north to south, and extended from the Catawba river 80 miles to the Cherokee Indian Reservation on the west. It was blotted out in 1779 and its territory divided into Lincoln and Rutherford. It embraced the territory now included in Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford and Polk counties. The business of this large territory was conducted here until the division, and it remained the court house of Lincoln until the end of the January Sessions, 1783, and the Tryon court records are still in Lincoln. They contain many quaint things, mingled with matters of grave public concern. THE TRYON DECLARATION. The courts were held here during

the troublous period of the American Revolution. From the beginning there was strong sentiment in the old county of Tryon for freedom and the rights of the people. As early as August, 1775, at this place they adopted a bold declaration. This occasion marks its 141st anniversary. Let the instrument speak for itself.

"The unprecedented, barbarous and bloody actions committed by British troops on our American brethren near Boston, on 19th April and 20th of May last, together with the hostile operations and treacherous designs now carrying on, by the tools of ministerial vengeance, for the subjugation of all British America, suggests to us the painful necessity of having recourse to arms in defense of our national freedom and constitutional rights, against all invasions; and at the same time do solemnly engage to take up arms and risk our lives and fortunes in maintaining the freedom of our country whenever the wisdom and counsel of the Continental Congress or our Provincial Convention shall declare it necessary; and this engagement we will continue in for the preservation of these rights and liberties which the principles of our constitution and the laws of God, nature and nations have made it our duty to defend. We, therefore, the subscribers, freeholders and inhabitants of Tryon county, do hereby faithfully unite ourselves under the most solemn ties of religion, honor and love to our country, firmly to resist force by force, and hold sacred until a reconciliation shall take place between Great Britain and America on Constitutional principles, which we most ardently desire, and do firmly agree to hold all such persons as inimical to the liberties of America who shall refuse to sign this association. John Walker, Charles McLean, Andrew Neel, Thomas Beatty, James Coburn, Frederick Hambricht, Andrew Hampton, Benjamin Hardin, George Paris, William Graham, Robert Alexander, David Jenkins, Thomas Epsy, Perry Green Mackness, James McAfee, William Thompson, Jacob Forney, Davis Whitesides, John Beeman, John Morris, Joseph Harden, John Robison, James McIntyre, Valentine Mauney, George Black, Jas. Logan, Jas. Baird, Christian Carpenter, Abel Beatty, Joab Turner, Jonathan Price, James Miller, John Dellinger, Peter Sides, Robert Hulclip, James Buchanan, Moses Moore, Joseph Kuykendall, Adam Simms, Richard Waifer, Samuel Smith, Joseph Neel, Samuel Loftin.

BRITISH ENCAMPMENT. This spot marks an event in the closing scenes of the revolution. When the war had been raging for long years the cause of liberty and note the result: The advance seemed prostrate and hopeless in the South. The victorious British considered Georgia and South Carolina restored to English rule and were planning the invasion of North Carolina. The borderland of the Carolinas soon became the battleground, William Whiteside, George Dellinger, Samuel Carpenter, Jacob Mooney, Jan, John Wells, Jacob Costner, lieutenants of Lord Cornwallis assembled the Tories at Ramsour's Mill, where June 20th, 1780, they met a crushing defeat, and the light began to dawn. At Kings Mountain, October 7th, 1780, Ferguson and his legion were wiped out of existence and Cornwallis had lost his right arm. This marked the enemies first serious disaster, and turned the tide of war. In a most signal victory General Morgan defeated Colonel Tarleton at the Cowpens, Jan. 17, 1781. In less than an hour 500 of Tarleton's legion were prisoners, the remainder slain and scattered and he scampering in mad haste to Cornwallis, then 25 miles distant, and thus his mighty left arm was weakened and limp. General Morgan, anxious to hold every one of his prisoners to exchange for the Continental Line of North Carolina, captured at Charleston and languishing in the British prison ships, immediately began his famous retreat towards Virginia, while Cornwallis the very next day began a vigorous pursuit. He was yet in command of an army of 4,000 seasoned, well-equipped veterans, who by direction of Cornwallis, marched in the following order: 1. Yagers; 2. Corps of Pioneers; 3. two three pounders; 4. Brigade Guards; 5. Regiment of Bose; 6. North Carolina Volunteers; 7. two six pounders; 8. Lieutenant Colonel Webster's Brigade; 9. wagons of the General; 10. field officer's wagons; 11. ammunition wagons; 12. hospital wagons; 13. regimental wagons; 14. provision train; 15. Bat. horses, a captain, two subalterns and one hundred men from Col. Webster's brigade, to form a rear guard. On the 19th the army camped at Smith's house near the Cherokee Iron Works, on Broad river. On the 24th the army camped at Saunders

## VICE-PRESIDENT MARSHALL FROM LATEST PHOTOGRAPH



plantation on Buffalo creek. On the 23rd, the army crossed the North Carolina line and camped at Tryon Court House.

Ramsour's Mill, Kings Mountain, the Cowpens, and numerous other engagements along the borderland made the defeat of Cornwallis possible; and he was now marching to his Yorktown. It was no exciting army, with victorious banners that encamped here on that January day, in the vain endeavor to overtake and rescue their comrades then being hurried across the upper fords of the Great Catawba.

This is a spot rich in historical fact and legend. I have briefly touched some of the high places and have endeavored to impress four important points:

1. This was the colonial home of Christian Mauney, pioneer and patriot.
2. This was the site of the old Tryon Court House from 1774 until the abolition of Tryon county in 1779 and then of Lincoln county until 1783.
3. Here was formulated and signed the Tryon Declaration for freedom.
4. This was one of the camps of Lord Cornwallis and the English army in their march through Lincoln county. Permit me in conclusion to make

A SUGGESTION. The erection of monuments to commemorate important events has the sanction of divine, of ancient and of modern usage. This is a historical spot, sacred ground. Let there arise here a granite shaft, four square to all the winds that blow, inscribed on one side to the memory of the Mauney family; on another, marking the site of the Colonial Court House of Tryon County; the third, perpetuating the declaration for freedom; and, the fourth, preserving the place of encampment of Lord Cornwallis and the English Army.

Note—Anticipating the desire of a great many persons for a well-connected copy of the above address for their files, we have printed the full address on a sheet 12x18 inches and have them for sale at ten cents per copy, \$1.00 per dozen; by mail, 12c per copy, \$1.10 per dozen. The quantity is limited to 200 copies.

HERALD PUBLISHING HOUSE Kings Mountain, N. C.

A clean town never needs to advertise the fact. It spreads. And vice versa.

## RUDISILL REUNION ON INDIAN CREEK

Lincolnton, Aug. 24.—The annual reunion of the John Rudisill family was held at the old home place near Indian Creek in Lincoln county today. More than 100 persons were present, including 7 children, 48 grand children and 35 great grandchildren. The children are Mrs. J. S. Mauney of Kings Mountain; Judge W. A. Rudisill of Lincoln; Erastus Rudisill of Henry River; A. T. Rudisill of Dallas; M. S. Rudisill of Crouse Station; M. R. Rudisill of Henry River; and Mrs. Gus McLean of Lincolnton. Mrs. M. R. Roberts of Vineland N. J., was absent.

One of the features of the day was a big dinner. Everybody was well fed and had a good time.

## PASTIME MOVES IN

The Long Brothers' buildings which have been under way of remodeling for the past two months are nearing completion. The two-story building formerly occupied by the Pastime Theatre was turned over to Captain Moss and Miss Marie Moss, operators of the Pastime, Friday. They went to work immediately installing new seats throughout. They have put in two hundred and sixty up-to-date opera chairs that are well in keeping with the splendid finish on the interior of the building. The show starts up today modern in every respect. The folks in Kings Mountain who attend picture shows have as nice a place now as they can find anywhere and we trust that they will contribute their part toward keeping it nice. When the old front was removed and the light turned on the walls were besmeared with snuff and tobacco spit until they were perfectly scandalous. This was not the fault of the management, either. They tried to keep it clean. It had recently been gone over with paint. Now, folks, for the sake of decency keep the new place nice and clean and tidy, and don't let it present the appearance of the chins of some snuff users we have seen.

The corner building will be finished within the next few weeks. This has been rented by Mr. H. T. Fulton and will be used for his undertaking and music business. When Mr. Fulton sold his furniture business to Mr. E. Price Rankin he retained the undertaking and music business. He will carry a full line of coffins and caskets and will sell pianos and organs.

The sidewalk has been graded down to correspond with the new buildings and the surrounding grades. The other buildings on this row are left well above sea-level by the grading. It is hoped that the owners will adjust their property to the new grades as best they can and as soon as they can.

The following invitation has been received by the editor:

The DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE cordially invites you to attend the formal notification to PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON of his renomination AT SHADOW LAWN, WEST END, LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY Saturday afternoon September second nineteen hundred and sixteen at four o'clock.

## HON. R. B. MILLER OF SHELBY DEAD

WAS A MAN OF ABILITY—INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL—RELIGIOUS WORKER—LEGISLATOR.

Hon. R. B. Miller of Shelby died at his home Thursday, August 24 after remaining at the point of death for several days following a second stroke of apoplexy. Major Miller was one of the most prominent men of the county and having taken an active interest in religious work, the prohibition cause, education and the promotion of agriculture during his entire life, his death brings sorrow to thousands in Cleveland and the State who had learned to love and admire him.

The funeral was held from the Central Methodist Church of Shelby, Rev. W. E. Abernathy, assisted by Rev. T. D. Batten, pastor of Mrs. Miller conducting the funeral service. The Masons had charge of the ceremonies and the interment was in Sunset Cemetery.

Major Miller was born in Cleveland County January 29, 1852, the son of Dr. W. J. T. and Elizabeth (Fullenwider) Miller. He was educated in the Shelby High School, 1870-71, and then became a farmer and real estate man. He was president of the Belmont Cotton Mill, which he and his three associates, Blanton, Oates and A. C. Miller built in 1888; the first cotton mill to be in or near Shelby. Later when he severed his connection with mill disposing of his interest to his brother, A. C. Miller, he built the Laurelglen Mill on the river and was very actively associated with the Cotton Manufacturers' Association, being a member of the committee that secured the adoption of a resolution for the establishing of the Textile Department of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Raleigh. Previous to his mill experience he was in the mercantile business in Georgia, then when he returned to Shelby he and his brother, A. C. Miller, ran a store as Miller Bros., for 20 years. As a manufacturer he advocated and framed resolutions pertaining to the "open door" policy for promoting the sale of cotton mill products in China. The cause of prohibition was near and dear to his heart back in the early days of the campaign when the friends of the cause were few and he was chairman of the prohibition campaign committee of Cleveland County in 1881. He canvassed the county for local school tax in 1898, delivered the memorial address at Shelby and a speech at Kings Mountain in the interest of the celebration of the Battle of Kings Mountain in 1880 which is now an annual affair. He was commissioned as major in the state militia under General Taylor of Wilmington, 1878, was a member of the Masonic lodge, the Farmers' Union and Regent of the Royal Archanaum.

Mr. Miller was a many sided man, a forceful speaker, writer, and champion of all things that for the betterment of our people and our country. He delivered many Masonic speeches and speeches in interest of farming and Sunday School work. He was a member of the Methodist church and its steward for over 30 years, trustee, teacher for 25 years, member of the Quarter-

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