

# History Of Kings Mountain Schools

(By Mrs. F. R. Summers)

The building of the Southern Railway from Charlotte to Atlanta in 1870-1872, passing through this particular locality, was the impetus for the founding of the town of Kings Mountain.

Farmers who had been living in this section of Cleveland County, prior to this time, had no vision of seeing their land turned into town lots or industrial sites, but men from other parts of this county and of North Carolina saw the possibilities for development and came with their families to found a town and establish a permanent home.

Children in the community created the necessity for a school and so about 1874 the first attempt to provide this necessity was made.

Two families secured a tutor for their children and kindly permitted some neighbor children to share the instruction in their homes — and probably, about the same time, a two-room building on the corner of Piedmont Avenue and King Street was fitted up for a community school. Mr. Alex Aderholdt was the first teacher.

Two years later, Capt. W. T. R. Bell selected Kings Mountain as the location of his military and High School.

When a school was first started, pride and boast till 1886 Capt. Bell was a native of Virginia — a handsome man with a very winning personality. His school attracted many young men from this section of North and South Carolina, and who in later years became prime movers in their respective fields of endeavor — and also afforded splendid educational advantages for the local youth — both girls and boys.

The citizens of the little town erected for him on this site, a two-

story frame building which was enlarged by the addition of wings on either side. Perhaps some of you remember the old building — in the form of a cross with a high tower in front — painted white and trimmed in brown. This building served as the town school after the Bell school was discontinued and until 1910, when after repeated unsuccessful attempts, it finally did succeed in burning to the ground.

Until 1905 the Kings Mountain school was financed on the tuition basis — since that year it has been a graded school supported by public funds.

A long list of men and women have labored faithfully at the head of our educational system to bring it where it is today. Conditions were sometimes very unfavorable for making a success. The insufficiency of funds was usually a handicap — in the failing to provide equipment, teachers and many other necessities and requirements for a good school.

It was the usual situation to be without chalk and erasers; to be short on desks, with pupils sitting in straight chairs. Rarely was there a janitor, so pupils and teachers swept the floors, dusted and washed windows after school. If there were

no funds, the pupils took a collection to pay for them. On very cold days, school was dismissed, because the furnace would not work or the fire hadn't been started early enough to warm the building.

In the very early days of the graded school the pupils were graduated from the 7th and 8th grades — but as the town and school grew, the 9th, 10th and finally the 11th grades were added. In spite of all its hardships, and short comings many of the stu-

dents of the Kings Mountain Graded School were able to make good and creditable records in college.

In 1910, the first brick building was erected on this site. It contained 12 class rooms, several smaller rooms and an auditorium which was later turned into 4 additional class rooms.

Destroyed by fire in 1932, it gave place to the present three-story building completed in 1933. The auditorium and primary school were built in 1924 as an annex to the former brick building. The other units of our city school system (East and West) are familiar to all.

In these later years, with the changed systems of maintenance, Kings Mountain can truthfully and proudly claim a school system, comparable to any in the state and superior to many in towns of equal size.

As a pupil, a teacher and a parent, it has been my privilege to grow up with the Kings Mountain school system since it became a public graded school. Remembering so distinctly the privations of the early days, makes me the more deeply appreciative of the splendid facilities and advantages offered to the children who attend school in Kings Mountain today.

## Overhead Cost Compared With Other Industrial Sections

\$1.24 Or \$1.85, Which?

Compare the costs. They represent equal amount of finished work. The larger cost \$1.85 is a composite for a large group of factories in a part of the country that has a long unbroken industrial development. The lower cost \$1.24 represents identical quality produced in North Carolina.

Which would you rather pay? Which would enable you to sell your output more readily. And why this difference?

It is not so difficult to answer these questions. Costs are lower in North Carolina not only because production is high but because the section is not congested industrially, housing costs are less, lands cost less, building material cost less, combined with fair taxes, good corporation laws, better health for employees that make for higher degree of production by a class of workmen that are 99 percent native, no city-bred unrest element, no large labor turnover and many minor factors. All taken together make for lower cost. If you are a thinking manufacturer and investor you know that many of the minor — as well as major things — is really what makes the business steady, reliable all of which enters into low cost.

Many plants that have come to this section have learned these facts and they are evidence within themselves.

Call on or write J. E. Herndon, Mayor of Kings Mountain, who will give you more full and complete information.

## The Home-Town Newspaper

(The Emporia (Kas.) Gazette, William Allen, editor)

The other day we picked up The Alma Enterprise, published in a living county seat 40 odd miles north of this town. Alma is enjoying its winter hibernation and is not exactly a throbbing pulse of either commerce or crime. So as press day comes along for the Weekly Enterprise, Ol' Little rimmbates and writes this paragraph:

"Had it not been for the marriages and deaths, we might just as well get out no paper this week and thereby save a few dollars. But one does but once and few people can afford to get married more than once, and we don't like to disappoint them by not giving the news about these important events."

And herein lies the secret of a great American industry, the American country newspaper. Invention may draw the world together so closely that we will be thicker than three in a bed. Airplanes may bring The New York Times to Emporia for breakfast and The Kansas City Star in the middle of the afternoon. The Gazette will not flicker or languish. It is based upon something more substantial than the growth of invention of distance smashing machinery.

The Gazette and The Alma Enterprise and thousands of little American newspapers in little country towns of from one thousand to fifty thousand, make their living only incidentally by publishing the news of the great mad world. They make their living by dignifying the human spirit, by exalting and for a brief proud hour preserving the little affairs of country people.



## COMPLIMENTS

J. E. HERNDON  
Cotton Waste

Kings Mountain, North Carolina

## Greetings On This Your Golden Anniversary

GEORGE H. EMERY  
Certified Public Accountant  
Federal and State Tax Service

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Phone 780  
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# 1889 -- 1939

## Successful Pioneers

### The Kings Mountain Herald

And

# 1888 1939

# BELK BROS.

Celebrate Their

## 50th And 51st Anniversary

May 28, 1888, W. H. and J. M. Belk opened the doors of the MONROE STORE, and soon thereafter, their brother, Dr. Belk became their associate. From that historic day until this very day, fifty years hence, it has been the policy of this institution to follow the principals of the Golden Rule, "DO UNTO OTHERS as you would have them do unto you."

BUY AND SELL QUALITY MERCHANDISE

at

FAIR PRICES

You will find this to be the practice in our Stores

We invite Industry To Our Community

# Safety . . . .

YOU WOULDN'T Allow your child to drink infected milk or eat food that was not fresh and wholesome, BUT—ARE YOU AS CONCERNED ABOUT THE MEDICINE YOU OR YOUR CHILD TAKES? Are you sure that each prescription is carefully compounded, are you sure that the drugs are fresh and mixed under the strictest sanitary conditions?

ACCURACY AND PURITY ARE THE WATCHWORDS, not only in OUR PRESCRIPTION DEPARTMENT BUT IN EVERY DEPARTMENT OF OUR COMPLETE DRUG STORE AND SODA FOUNTAIN. We take this opportunity to congratulate The Herald and Kings Mountain on fifty year of progress and growth.

The Rexall Store

Kings Mountain Drug Store