

The week British lost the war

This week in 1781 was a busy one during the American Revolution. Some historians also believe it was the week during which the British lost the war.

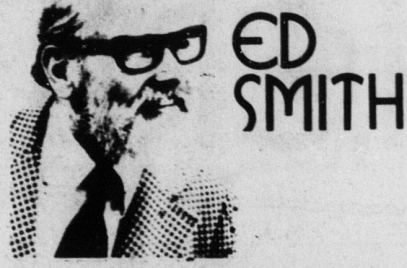
On Jan. 25, 1781, the British Army under Lord Charles Cornwallis halted at Ramsour's Mill (near Lincolnton) in their pursuit of General Nathaniel Greene's American troops. Discouraged by the slowness of his march, Lord Cornwallis decided upon the drastic step of burning most of his wagons and supplies. The Redcoats remained at Ramsour's for two days, while huge bonfires consumed enough food and clothing to have kept the entire area in comfort for months.

It was this decision, rather than a more spectacular loss upon the battlefield, which some experts feel may have cost Cornwallis the war. The loss of these supplies later caused His Lordship to abandon his attempt to conquer the Carolinas and fall back to the seacoast for support by the British Navy, falling back ultimately into a trap at Yorktown.

On Jan. 26, 1781, while the above was taking place, the state's General Assembly convened at Halifax. Due to the hazards and exigencies of war it had taken 26 days to assemble a quorum.

Two days later, on Jan. 28, British ships dropped anchor at Wilmington and troops under the command of Major James Craig seized the town of 200 houses and 1,000 population.

After years of relative peace, North Carolina was wending itself a major theater of war, invaded simultaneously in east and west.



ED SMITH

On Jan. 23, 1857, Miles Darden died in Tennessee. Born and raised in North Carolina, Darden was then believed to be the "World's Largest Man." At the time of his death, Darden was seven feet nine inches tall and weighed slightly over 1,000 pounds. His coffin was eight feet long, 35 inches deep and 32 inches wide. Over 24 Yards of black velvet were required to line it.

Darden's claim to fame has since been eclipsed (oddly by two men born during this century in Illinois). Robert F. Wadlaw was over a foot taller, but weighed less than half as much at 450 pounds. Robert E. Hughes at 1,065 pounds, outweighed Darden by 60 pounds but was over a foot shorter. So

while it's no longer in the record book, as a composite "biggest man" Darden may yet reign supreme!

Joseph Hewes, one of this state's three signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born on Jan. 23, 1730, in New Jersey. Hewes moved to Edenton around 1760, ultimately becoming a wealthy merchant and shipper.

As a delegate to the Continental Congress, Hewes served as chairman of the important Committee of the Marine (in essence serving as this nation's first Secretary of the Navy) and died, probably of overwork, in 1779 in Philadelphia.

Dix Hill Hospital for the Insane in Raleigh was authorized by the General Assembly in January, 1849, in an emotion packed session.

It was named for Dorothea Dix, the mid-19th century crusader which efforts resulted in the establishment of improved mental institutions in several states.

Until then the mentally ill had been generally ignored or shamefully mistreated. It required an emotional appeal by one of the greatest orators in the state's history, James C. Dobbin, to secure funds for such reforms, however, from a penny-pinching General Assembly. Dobbin, acting on a promise he had made his dying wife, succeeded in swaying enough votes to win in what is still regarded as one of the legislature's most dramatic moments.



Wanted: one used piano for Kiwanians

Anyone have an old piano they would like to get rid of?

Jerry Ledford, a member of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, called the other day to say the club could use one if the owner is willing to donate the instrument.

"The one we have now in the basement of the Kings Mountain Woman's Club is about shot,"

Jerry said, "We could use another. If some philanthropic person is willing to donate a piano to the club, I'm sure the item would be tax deductible at the fair market price."

Well, Jerry, there's nothing like coming right out and asking for what you need.

If anyone has a piano and is willing to donate it to the Kiwanians, contact Jerry Ledford at 739-

8015.

A former Kings Mountain resident, who served as pastor of Bynum Chapel Methodist Church for 13-years, recently passed away.

A former Kings Mountain resident, who served as pastor of Bynum Chapel Methodist Church for 13-years, recently passed away.

The Rev. W. J. Campbell was living in Salisbury when he died. KMer Verilee Mask called in the skimpy info with the explanation that she had only heard a little about the situation.

Services were reportedly held last Thursday at Soldier Memorial Church in Salisbury.

Ila Morrow (Mrs. Frank) McIntyre sent us a clipping from the Stanly News and Press, Stanly County, concerning her son-in-law, Wayne Love.

Love, president and general manager of Love Lumber Co. of Stanfield, is seeking one of the Stanly County Board of Commissioner seats as a candidate in the May 2 Democratic Primary.

Love is married to Katherine Morrow, daughter of Ila and the late George Morrow of Gastonia.

"A lot of Kings Mountain still remember my daughter although she has not lived here for some time," Ila said. "I've lived here for 28 years. When I moved here Katherine was in college and when she was out of school this was home."

Mrs. McIntyre owns and operates Ila's Beauty Shop on E. King St. and added, "One of these days



TOM MCINTYRE

I might write a book about this business. You hear some strange things in a beauty shop. Course, if I ever do write a book I'd better be ready to move out of town."

Roy Hammett of the Kings Mountain Rescue Squad called up about what I said in last week's column — about me getting him for ~~rescuing the~~ human interest story about rescuing the beagle from the ice on Moss Lake to the Shelby Star.

"I didn't give the Star that story," Roy said. "So please don't get me."

I told him I was only kidding about that. It's a running joke amongst us newspaper-types about letting great stories like that get away.

So Roy called again and said Wayne Nicholas of The Charlotte Observer had called and wanted a picture and more info on the beagle and the runaway car. "Is it alright if I let him take my picture and give him the stories?" Roy asked.

Seems as if the running newspaper gag has now spread over to the rescue squad.

It's okay, Wayne. Come on over. Just make sure you have your papers in order when you're stopped by the border patrol. Otherwise you may be subjected to some terrific questioning by the secret agents.

By the way, Wayne, Do you have many relatives still living in the old country?

-00-

George Ware, a Kings Mountain native residing in Charlotte, recently retired after 25 years with the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

When George was a KM High student he delved into journalism as sports reporter for the school paper. The late Martin Harmon, who was several years behind George, once told him that his writings "inspired him" to pursue journalism.

George graduated in 1929 and in his class was another KMer who has gone on to become something of a name in another section of the state. That fellow is Myron Rhyne, who is beginning his 21st year as mayor of Graham, the county seat of Alamance County.

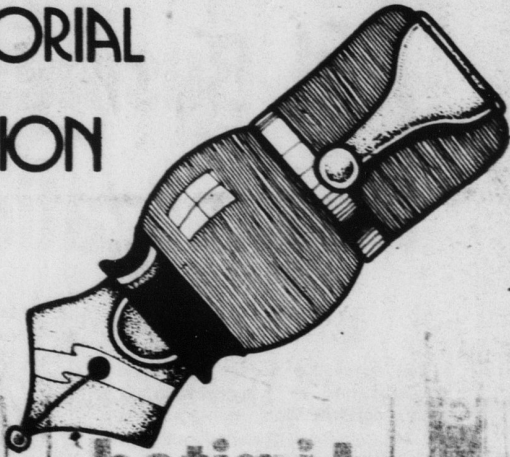
Rhyne's father, Clyde Q. Rhyne, died in 1942 and until then he was superintendent of the Mauney Mills here. Myron Rhyne's mother, Cora Rhyne, taught school and served as principal of West School until her retirement. She taught both George and Myron in the fifth grade. Mrs. Rhyne died in 1972.

Before Myron went on to a political career, he was a graduate of N. C. State with a degree in textile engineering. He worked for Neisler Mills at KM until about 1939 when he went to Graham to work for Cannon Mills. Oddly enough, the current mayor of Graham was boss of the current mayor of Kings Mountain back in the 30's at Pauline Mill John H. Moss was a mere lad then.

While at N. C. State Rhyne also completed an ROTC course and when World War Two broke out he took a commission as Lieutenant in the U. S. Army. He served in Europe and after the war was discharged as a lieutenant colonel. After his years in the reserves Rhyne retired with the rank of full colonel.

Rhyne did have the good sense to marry a KM girl before embarking on his career. Sara Hambricht Rhyne, daughter of the late Gill D. Hambricht, has made a name for herself, too. She has an outstanding record of civic work and a wall full of plaques to prove it.

EDITORIAL OPINION



Applaud Junior Achievers

This is National Junior Achievement Week.

Sometime during this week everyone should let the Kings Mountain Junior Achievement program members know they appreciate the young people's efforts and determination to learn more about the free enterprise system.

There are three JA companies involving more than 60 high school sophomores, juniors and seniors. These students have formed their own companies, sold stock, keep books, manufacture products and sell them. And at the end of their business year they will hold a stockholders meeting, just like any firm actually practicing free enterprise business.

Last night the Kings Mountain JA chapter held an Open House for the public at the community center to give viewers a first hand look at what they have been doing within the program guidelines.

Many citizens toured the display areas for that first hand look. Now it's time for the rest of us to add our congratulations and plaudits to the JAs.

City should fight back

City Attorney George Thomasson and the city officials haven't decided as yet whether or not to seek satisfaction in Superior Court over a \$1,200 civil penalty assessed by the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources, Environmental Management Division.

The penalty came from a \$500 fine plus \$50 per day for 14 days assessed by the state's environmental division over Kings Mountain's failure to construct and operate a wastewater treatment facility at Moss Lake. The city had obtained a permit from the state's EPA agency for the facility, using state guidelines on the type of equipment to be used in the treatment facility.

The deadline for construction and operation was June 1, 1977. The facility was never built although bids were received on the project. The problem lay in the fact the bids were far in excess of what the city was capable of paying, so an alternate method was sought.

The problem multiplied when the environmental division director charged that the city was dumping raw untreated wastewater in Buffalo Creek.

The mayor wrote the department in Raleigh requesting an administrative hearing on the matter, but W. E. Knight, director of the division, denied an administrative hearing and changed the city's plea to one of remission or mitigation.

When the mayor, city attorney and three engineers went to Raleigh for the hearing on the matter they were given little courtesy from the division commission panel. It was Attorney Thomasson's first experience in such a hearing and, needless to say, he was flabbergated by the proceedings. The city was given no opportunity to present its side of the issue. The motion to assess the city was taken with only one panel member suggesting the \$700 total of per day fines be waived and another member expressing regret that the fine was not stiffer.

Since that time the city officials have discussed taking the matter into open court in order for the city to be present it's side.

Perhaps the matter should be taken into court.

It doesn't strike us as justice prevailing when a commission of appointed people can ride roughshod over a body of elected officials, in essence pre-judging the issue without even so much as hearing the other viewpoint expressed.

The city has been accused and found guilty of environmental abuses before the fact without the city having so much as a chance to even open its mouth in its own defense.

But, it may be too late. In our opinion Attorney Thomasson handled himself with dignity in the proceedings at the hearing in Raleigh. Perhaps he should have let dignity fall away and laced that appointed commission with a few legalistic barbs concerning truths, justice and the American way. It may not have helped matters any, but it just might have let that group know Kings Mountain isn't going to take this lying down.

READER DIALOGUE

Questions hospital policy

To the editor,

On Wed., Jan. 12 my 12-year-old daughter was injured in an accident and carried to the emergency room at Kings Mountain Hospital. I was working at another hospital in Shelby and had to notify my husband and he went to the emergency room to see about our daughter only to be told by a Dr. Keene that he could not be present when the doctor saw her. When my husband insisted he was told by the same doctor that if he did so insist he would refuse to treat our daughter.

Not knowing the extent of our daughter's injuries my husband honored this so-called policy (against his better judgment). My daughter was returned home after x-rays and with our family doctor's advice to see a specialist the next day.

On Thursday morning I called Mr. Grady Howard, administrator of the hospital, and inquired if the policy was common practice and he stated he knew nothing of this incident, but would check it out and get back to me. I told him it wasn't necessary, but to please see that parents of the next minor child be allowed to attend their child. I thought the matter would come to an end there.

I went by the hospital that afternoon at 1:30 to pick up a set of X rays that had been released to me by our family doctor. They weren't there. After several minutes when no one seemed to know anything, it was decided that the X-rays had been sent to Gastonia to be read. I needed the X-rays by 2:30 p. m. and didn't have time to go to Gastonia to collect them, so Mr. Howard said he would have someone in Gastonia call the doctor in Shelby. The Shelby doctor said he wanted to see the xrays of his patients and would we please agree to having another set made. As a result my daughter's leg, although not broken, is in a cast and she is in considerable pain.

I talked to Mr. Howard once more because he had called my home and he was very concerned and nice until he found out the specialist had requested more x-rays. Then he called the doctor "bull-headed" and stated the arrangements made by Kings Mountain Hospital should have satisfied "Jesus Christ."

None of the incidents recorded made by daughter's injury worse nor did they do anything to make it easier, but I ask you: Are these professional people? Are these people to whom we intrust our sick children and have them refuse treatment if we wish to be with our children? Do professional people make remarks to doctor's patients about the doctor and do they use such a poor choice of words to express themselves? Are these well-educated, always composed professionals?

I have worked in hospitals of varying size for almost 20 years and I have had cause to use emergency room for my children and never in my working capacity or as a private citizen have I had such an unpleasant experience. I assure you that while I will continue to call this lovely city home, I will never again, if its in my control, use the Kings Mountain Hospital nor will I advise anyone else to do so.

Parents are hardest hit when their child is involved. I do what doctors advise, but I also think they should respect our wishes to see our children. One person allowed with a patient is almost always the policy, but no one ever with a child is ridiculous.

We received very good and pleasant care in the emergency room of Cleveland Memorial Hospital on Thursday for the same injury and we will continue to use the Shelby hospital even though it means traveling 12 miles. We hope other concerned people will voice their likes and dislikes. I'm sure there will be many who do not agree with me, but until I am convinced there is very good reason for me to change my mind, then I consider any child and their parents who are subjected to Kings Mountain Hospital is in need of very good nerves and more good-will than I can find in my heart to extend to the local hospital.

LINDA N. ELLISON

Kings Mountain

Congratulations

To the editor,

Congratulations on the excellent column, "Check out this program," by Tom McIntyre in the Jan. 10, 1978 Mirror-Herald.

It is indeed, gratifying that your paper has seen fit to inform the public the program of the Rotary Foundation designed to promote international good will and understanding through the awarding of fellowships, scholarships, training awards, and group study exchange.

The good of the program is bound to be enhanced by greater public awareness, such as your column will create.

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