

A DILLON VIEW OF NEW COUNTY.

Situation. A Brief Review of the History of the New County Movement. Forming a New County a Task that "Tries Men's Souls." The Difficulties Encountered and the Obstacles Overcome. How Dillon Men Have Given Freely of Their Time and Money in a Fight Against Odds. Victory in Sight.

In Sunday's News and Courier appeared the following review of the history of the New County movement:

Dillon, February 27.—Special: The question of dividing Marion County has become such an absorbing topic now days that everywhere in this, the upper end of the county, that old formal greeting of "What's the News?" has given away to the inquiry, "How's the New County?" The new county is a live wire, and it may be added there is nothing closer to the hearts of the people than this movement which has for its aim the division of old Marion and the formation of a new county with Dillon as the county seat. Now that the dream of ten years is about to be realized, enthusiasm runs high and every bit of information bearing on the subject is eagerly devoured by the opponents and proponents of the movement.

If the history of this movement from its incipency up to the present moment were told in detail, the outside world would be astonished at the obstacles that have been overcome and the sacrifices that have been made by a few loyal spirits that have fought the fight up to its present stage. There has never been made a stronger fight against greater odds than has been made here for freedom and independence in county government. Three times an election has been held, and three times have the new county people been defeated. In the last election the new county lost by only 43 votes, although there were five times that number of new county voters disqualified. The fight has been carried through the county board of canvassers, and then on to the State board of canvassers, thence through the Governor's office and into the Legislature, and thence into the Supreme Court. Each time the new county has lost, and along with it thousands of dollars cheerfully contributed by the advocates of the movement, but even these defeats did not daunt the men behind the movement and once again have they fought up to the eve of an election.

Time and again the aid of the General Assembly has been invoked to defeat the movement and divers schemes have been laid to thwart the will of the people, but none of these plans ever succeeded. Some four years ago a bill was introduced in the General Assembly by a Marion Senator to extend the lines around the Court House from eight to ten miles. Its passage would have meant the defeat of the new county forever. It cost the new county advocates a thousand dollars to defeat it.

At another time a petition was filed with the Governor asking for an election upon the question of annexing Woodbury Township to Horry County. Woodbury is sparsely populated, lies in the lower edge of the county and is cut off from Horry by three miles of swamp and a river. About this time

primary election came along, the Woodbury people got mad, the attempt at forced annexation to another county become an issue in the campaign, things looked bad for certain candidates for county offices and the petition disappeared from the Governor's office.

Next was the introduction of a bill in the General Assembly which required the Governor to appoint commissioners for the old and new county whenever a petition was filed with him asking for a new county election. These commissioners had the power to employ surveyors to determine the area in the county to be cut and to certify that the constitution had been complied with in both the new and old county in regard to area. The Constitution says that no old county can be cut to less than 500 square miles, and every new county must contain not less than 400 square miles. The bill became a law. The aim of the measure was to defeat the new county, but every member of the Marion delegation voted for it. The new county people said it was unnecessary; that Marion, according to the government survey, contained more than 900 square miles. It cost \$6,000 dollars to survey Marion County.

The commissioners were appointed—one to represent Marion County and one to represent the territory known as the new county. After some unnecessary delay, the commissioners selected the official surveyors and the work was started. When the first warrant for the survey was presented, the county treasurer refused to pay it on the ground that he had no fund for this purpose. The surveyors refused to go further. The business men of Dillon held a meeting, subscribed the \$6,000 themselves and paid the warrants as they fell due. The county owes them \$6,000, which they may never get. But this is a mere bagatelle of what they have subscribed to this movement. On Monday the surveyors made their report, and it is shown that Marion contains 917 square miles. The tax and registration books settle the question as to taxable property and population, and thus it is shown that the new county can comply with the constitutional requirements. The election no doubt will be ordered within the next 90 days.

But while the surveyors were making the survey it became whispered around that there was enough territory. Then the Woodbury Township proposition bobbed up again. Another petition was filed with the Governor (the primary being over) asking for the annexation of Woodbury to Horry. This would have reduced the area of Marion to less than 900 square miles. The Governor refused to order the election. Mandamus proceedings were instituted, but the Supreme Court sustained the Governor.

On Wednesday there was held at Latta an election to extend Latta's corporate limits from one-half to one mile each way from the centre of town. Latta is opposed to the new county, although only seven miles from Dillon, and is one of most progressive towns of this section. The Constitution says that a new county line cannot cut an incorporated city or town. The new county lines as originally run some months ago leave Latta out, but follow its half-mile western boundary line some distance in rounding the town. There must have been some motive in the election, and the sentiments expressed by the Latta News are here quoted:

"An election was held on Wednesday to extend the city limits of the town a half mile, and it was a case of 'won-in-a-walk.' It is reported that Dillon is 'terri-

bly wrought up,' as the extension will interfere with the new county line, but it is the same old story — 'you can't keep a good man (and town) down.'

"There were 60 votes cast for and 8 against the extension."

But the Dillon people are not 'terribly wrought up.' They seem to look upon this new plan to defeat the new county as something of a joke. Latta is a fine town and is populated with fine citizens and Dillon people would be very glad to have the entire city in their new county.

This is only a brief review of the history of a fight for a new county. The Dillon people have suffered and borne more than did the patriots of 1776. They have given their time freely and have spent with hands wide open and purse responding to every call made upon it. They have borne their defeats bravely and have labored on toward the attainment of their hopes patiently, and if the new county prevails in the approaching election they will enjoy their triumph quietly.

There is a reason for the stubborn, patient fight that has been made for this new county. Marion is seventy five miles from one end to the other. The lands in the section known as the new county are the most fertile in the State, and they return in taxes about one-half of the entire revenue of the county. Dillon is located in the centre of the proposed new county, but it is twenty miles distant from the Court House. Commercially speaking, the county is already divided, the trade in the lower end of the county naturally going to Marion and that of the upper end coming to Dillon. That a division of the county will benefit both sections cannot be doubted. With a smaller county the lands in the lower end will be brought up to a higher state of cultivation; in other words, Marion will develop the natural resources right at its doors and in a few years here will be side by side two of the richest counties in the State, each enjoying its full measure of prosperity.

This in brief is the history of the ten years' fight for the division of Marion, which seems now about to end.

CAPTAIN J. A. PETERKIN DEAD.

The Originator of the Famous "Peterkin Cotton Seed" Dies at Fort Motte. Well-Known in This Section.

Capt. J. A. Peterkin, famous over the cotton belt as the originator of the famous "Peterkin" cotton seed, died at his home at Fort Motte on the 26th. ult., at an advanced age. Capt. Peterkin was well-known in this section and many times had visited his daughter-in-law, Mrs. S. Peterkin, of Dillon. Up until 1880 he resided in Marlboro County and while there married a Miss Angora Drake, daughter of Zachariah Drake. To this union were born nine children of whom the following survive: J. D. Peterkin, Jno. A. Peterkin, Preston J. Peterkin, W. G. Peterkin, Mesdames Robert Adams and A. R. Taber, Jr.

From the cotton seed that made his name famous, Capt. Peterkin accumulated a comfortable fortune which he invested in lands. His latter years were devoted to agricultural pursuits and at the time of his death he was one of the largest planters in the state.

Mrs. S. Peterkin and Misses Lula and Lillian Peterkin were at his bedside when the final end came.

WENT THROUGH MILL WHEEL.

Remarkable Escape of Two-Year-Old Child Near Conway.

Conway, Feb. 23. — Special: Through a water mill turbine wheel and still alive! Such is the tale that reached Conway today of what happened to a two-and-a-half-year-old child, living fifteen miles east of this place.

It seems that Mr. Jabel Hughes has nearly completed a water power grist mill near Red Bluff, which delivers the power by the means of a turbine wheel. The entrance to the mill is not finished, and is effected by the means of a plank from the dam to the front door. Mr. Ayery Todd went to the mill one day this week on business, carrying with him his young child. Leaving the child, as he thought safely on the dam, he started up the plank for a few minutes' stay inside the mill. But the child had started up the plank after its father, and as Mr. Todd stepped from the plank to the door sills the plank tilted, and the child was thrown out into the mill pond above the dam.

Mr. Hughes was testing the mill at the time with the sluice-gate wide open, and the water pouring through at a terrific rate. As the child disappeared its father cried out, and Mr. Hughes, taking in the situation at a glance and realizing that Mr. Todd could not swim sprang in after the child and made two or three ineffectual grabs for it. Failing to thus secure it, and seeing that unless something was done at once it would quickly be drawn through the sluice-gate to be ground to pieces by the fast revolving turbine wheel, he immediately closed the sluice-gate and stopped the wheel. He then descended to examine the turbine, and after two or three trials succeeded in securing one of the child's arms; but had so little hope of its being alive that he said to Mr. Todd: "I have it but it's dead." Just as he had spoken they were both amazed to hear the child cry out: "Help me, quick, papa."

With considerable difficulty the child was extricated, and when examined by a physician was found considerably bruised, but with no permanent injuries.

The story is certainly almost incredible, but is fully vouched for.

Hunting on a Locomotive.

Engineer Cain Lynn, who pulls one of the freight trains on the C. and N. W. Railroad, caught a big 'possum recently. While running along at a leisurely pace he saw ahead of him what looked a like shoit.

He blew his whistle while his fireman rang the bell, but the supposed shoit did not move, and not caring to put his road to the expense of paying for a fine stock pig from the Biltmore estate, he brought his engine to a stop, after which he and his fireman set out to drive the porker off the track. They caught it with little difficulty. It turned out to be a 'possum that weighed twenty-six pounds. — Yorkville Inquirer.

Fourth of March.

At K. of P. Hall impressive service. Work on first and second rank. A full attendance requested, at 8 o'clock p. m.

A. J. Evans, C. C. 3-4-1t A. K. Parham, K. R. & S.

The Dillon Herald \$1.50 a year.

MARION CONTAINS 926 SQUARE MILES.

The Official Report of the New and Old County Surveyors Shows that Marion Contains 926 Square Miles. Sets at Rest all Controversy as to Marion's Area. New County will Find no Difficulty in Complying with the Constitution in Regard to Area.

Marion county contains 926 square miles. This statement is made in the official report of the surveyors to Commissioners Dillon and Mace. The report of the surveyors ends a controversy over the area of Marion as old as the movement for the formation of the New County. From the beginning of the New County movement up to the present moment the opponents of the movement have claimed that Marion did not contain 900 square miles and therefore could not, under the constitution, be divided. The proponents of the movement claimed that Marion contained more than 900 square miles and could be divided without any violation of the constitution. And there the matter hung, each side contending that it was right. But now the controversy is ended forever. The New County people were right.

In addition to the area qualification the constitution provides that a New County must not contain less than one and one hundred and twenty-fourth part of the whole number of the inhabitants of the state, nor must it have less assessed taxable property than one and one-half millions of dollars as shown by the last tax returns. It further provides that the area of the old county must not be reduced to less than 500 square miles nor to less assessed taxable property than two million dollars, nor to a smaller population than 15,000 inhabitants. The tax and registration books show that these requirements can be complied with. All these requirements having been met the governor will very likely order an election upon the question within the next 90 days.

Following is a copy of the report of the surveyors:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In Re Proposed New County:— To the Honorable, a Commission in the above entitled New County:

Having been appointed by you as the surveyors to ascertain and settle all necessary questions as to area, both of the proposed New County and of the Old County of Marion after being diminished by the New, and also to ascertain the distance of the lines of the proposed New County front the existing court house of Marion, we beg to make the following full and complete return and report of our findings, together with plat of our work, said plat being hereto annexed and made a part of this return and report.

First.—We have made a survey of the lines of the proposed New County and have plainly marked the same, so as to clearly define the population and wealth taken and left; and also to guide as to who can vote by reason of residence, if the election be finally ordered.

Second.—We find that the County of Marion contains Nine Hundred and seventeen and four tenths (917.40) square miles of area. The line between Marion and Marlboro Counties, according to the statute law of this state is fixed at twenty-

four and three-fourths miles in length.

By our survey we find this line to be twenty-four and forty six one hundredths miles in length. The area just given is based upon the line as surveyed by us. If we take the length of the line as fixed by the statute, the area for Marion will be Nine Hundred, twenty six and three tenths square miles of area.

Third.—We find that the proposed New County contains Three Hundred eighty eight and thirty seven one hundredths square miles of area. This is based upon our survey. If we take the line between Marion and Marlboro Counties as fixed by statute the area of the New County will be three hundred, ninety seven and twenty seven one hundredths square miles of area.

Fourth.—We find that there will be left in the Old County of Marion Five hundred, twenty nine and no hundredths square miles of area. This is based upon our survey. If we take the line between Marion and Marlboro Counties fixed by statute, this area will not be affected.

Fifth.—We find that the lines of the proposed New County do not cut the old county of Marion within eight miles of its existing court house building.

Sixth.—We find that the lines of the proposed New County do not pass through any incorporated city or town of this state.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgnd, T. C. Hamby } Surveyor
E. N. Beatty }

Feb. 22, 1909.

KILLED BY WADE HAMPTON.

Body of Federal Trooper Unearthed at Fayetteville.

Our esteemed townsman, Miers Walter Watson, who is always keenly alive to anything connected with Fayetteville's history tells us that the remains of a soldier found near the Holt Morg Mill, recently by workmen in making excavations, were those of a Federal soldier, who was shot by General Wade Hampton.

The Confederate cavalry, headed by General Hampton, was descending Haymount, and when the head of the column reached Winslow street, a division of Sherman's army was approaching Hill Street from Winslow. One of the Federal soldiers took a long distance shot at the conspicuous ure-leading the Confederate cavalry, but missed. General Hampton at once brought his horse to a standstill, and returned the fire and with such true aim that the man with his musket still smoking in his hands, fell dead in the gateway of Mr. Bash Avery's front yard. Hampton's marksmanship, on this occasion was the admiration of those who witnessed it.

The only thing they found of the dead man was a letter from his brother in Rhode Island, signed, "Tyler." — Fayetteville Observer.

L. C. Braddy Company making a polite bow to the ladies of Dillon and surrounding counties begs to announce that their number is at the northern marking making one of the most exquisite selections in millinery goods ever shown in Dillon. This is your opportunity to have an up-to-date costume for Easter.

L. C. BRADDY COMPANY

FOR SALE—100 Bu. Peas, 50 lbs. Fodder, 15,000 lbs. Hay, 50 lbs. Sheaf Oats, 5 Tons Nitrate da.