

# THE FORT MILL TIMES.

Established 1891.

FORT MILL, S. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1922.

\$1.50 Per Year.

## HISTORIC BELVOIR.

### Colonial Mansion Where Washington Enjoyed Life.

Belvoir, Va., where George Washington danced, where Martha Washington was entertained at week-end parties, and where Lord Fairfax rested after his fox hunting, now is popularly known among Washington city people as a 'destination' of interest for the motorist and a luncheon place for the motor boat enthusiast," says a bulletin of the National Geographic Society.

"Though today there is just a small pile of bricks made in England and a foundation which is almost imaginary to tell where the historic mansion stood, the very spot itself speaks of the romance of which early Virginia history is redolent. Not a painting nor authentic plan remains to tell what the old house looked like, but its location on a high green bank where the Potomac bends gently southward just below Mount Vernon and within sight of Gunston Hall, the home of George Mason, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, was enough to inspire its preservation by transferring it to the United States army. It is now posted as an animal reservation and picnic ground.

"The estate stretched in the old days for ten miles along the river, and the house site is a high point which juts out into one of the deepest places in the river channel.

"From Washington it is easily accessible by boat down the Potomac or by an excellent military road to Camp Humphreys, built during the World war as a station for engineers.

"The stately gentlemen of Virginia had a magnificent view of the curving banks of the river and the soft blue hills on the Maryland shore from their front windows or front yard. Though the 200 or 300 yards of land that stretched off on the right toward the intake from the river are now overgrown with trees and brush, they must have been cleared out then so the planters might have a good view of the vessels from England that put in at their wharves.

"Evidently the house was put up early in the 18th century by William Fairfax, the cousin and colonial agent of the owner of the land, Lord Fairfax, who at that time having graduated at Oxford was basking in the sunshine of courtly favor and ladies' smiles in England, contributing, as fancy pleased him, to Addison's 'Spectator,' and moving in the inspiring and intellectual atmosphere of London.

"When his lordship was jilted at the altar for a suitor with a higher title, he decided to seek succor from his chagrin by visiting his cousin William, who seemed to be enjoying life on his vast holdings in the colonies. So pleased was he with what one early writer terms 'beautiful prospects and sylvan scenes, transparent streams, and majestic woods,' that he afterward took up his residence on part of his estate in the Shenandoah valley.

"It was at Belvoir that Washington came under the influence of the polish of an elegant English household. Most of his sterling virtues and simple morality he had learned under his mother's care, but in the Fairfax home and on his long hunting trips with Lord Fairfax and in his fireside talks with this veteran of experience who could tell him the opinions of the learned men at Oxford and of the gaiety of English society he gleaned much that stood him in good stead in later years.

"Lawrence Washington, older brother of George, had married Anne Fairfax, the oldest daughter of William Fairfax, and it was for her that Mount Vernon was originally built. Later when the house was being remodeled for the coming of the bride of George it was William Fairfax who went over every day or two to be sure that the carpenters were getting everything in apple-pie order.

"Stagnant as Belvoir was, so was Mount Vernon and to

## Executive Committee Meets.

Three new voting precincts for York county were created by the York County Democratic committee at a meeting of the committee held in Yorkville in the court house Monday morning pursuant to the call of the county chairman, J. A. Marion, Esq., says the Yorkville Enquirer of Tuesday. The new voting precincts created were: Santiago, with the election booth to be at A. M. McGill's store; Mitchell's store, with the precinct to be at Mitchell Bros' store, in the Mount Holly section, and Cannon mill of Yorkville, the precinct to be at the school house.

The committee would have gladly created a second precinct for Fort Mill, but S. H. Epps, executive committeeman from Fort Mill township, objected to the creation of a second precinct there when it was made plain to him that he and others living in the Gold Hill section of Fort Mill would have to vote at the precinct to be established. Mr. Epps said that W. R. Bradford and others had gotten up a petition asking that a second precinct be established in Fort Mill, the precinct to be known as Fort Mill No. 2 and to include the mill village north of Fort Mill. Under the rules of the party which are the law of the State if such a precinct were created all those citizens living nearest thereto would have to vote at this precinct.

## Married Yesterday.

Miss Kathleen Hall, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Hall of the Providence section of Mecklenburg county, and Clarence E. Patterson of the Barberville community, Lancaster county, were married yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Lavinia Davidson in Pleasant Valley. The home had been attractively decorated for the ceremony which was performed by the Rev. T. J. Houck, pastor of the bride. Mrs. Patterson is an attractive young woman whose many friends will learn of her marriage with genuine interest. Mr. Patterson is a graduate of Clemson college. During the last session he taught the school at Marvin, N. C. Shortly after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson left for a trip to the mountains of North Carolina.

## Bees Settle in Home.

J. W. Dorman, whose home is two miles north of Fort Mill, recently had an odd experience with bees, two swarms of which settled between the ceiling and weatherboarding of his home. He found it necessary to tear a strip or two of weatherboarding from the front side of his house to remove the first swarm he discovered and in doing so located another swarm a few feet away. The swarms were separated by studding.

## Talk of Night Police Officer.

There is considerable difference of opinion among business men of Fort Mill with respect to the advisability of employing a night police officer whose beat would be confined to Main street under a proposition advanced a day or two ago as the result of the robbery of one of the stores of the town Monday night. An effort was made to secure subscriptions from Main street merchants to be applied to the payment of the salary of such an officer, the balance to be appropriated by the town council. Pledges for less than \$20 per month were secured.

The primrose path never leads to Easy street.

Gunston Hall, it was the center of great social activity. Often whole parties would move from one colonial mansion to another in a continual round of festivities. One amusing and delightful indication of the affection existing between the Fairfax family at Belvoir and George Washington is a note written by William Fairfax to Washington after the campaign against the French at Fort Duquesne begging him to come over on the next Sunday, 'or else the Lady's will try to get horses to equip our Chair or attempt their strength on Foot to Salute you.'

## NAME SENT TO SENATE.

### Capt. S. W. Parks Appointed Postmaster of Fort Mill.

The vacancy which had existed in the postmastership of Fort Mill since the late B. Henry Massey resigned two years ago was filled by a permanent appointment last Friday when President Harding sent to the senate the nomination of Capt. S. W. Parks, who had been acting postmaster for the last ten months. It is presumed in Fort Mill that there will be no opposition to the confirmation of Capt. Parks and that in the course of a few days his nomination will be reported favorably by the postoffice committee of the senate and then given the approval of that body.

Capt. Parks first assumed the duties of postmaster of Fort Mill as successor to J. C. McElhaney, who resigned after holding the office as a temporary appointee only a few weeks. Two months ago Capt. Parks stood the civil service examination for the permanent appointment. He was the only applicant for the office who appeared before the board of examiners. During the time he has held the postmastership of Fort Mill, Capt. Parks has given close attention to the duties of the office and has made office and has made a number of improvements in the service.

Prior to the resignation of Mr. Massey two years ago, changes in the postmastership of Fort Mill since the Civil war have been few and far between. Shortly after the close of the Civil war, the late Seth Hotchkiss was appointed postmaster and held the office until Grover Cleveland became president in 1885. Mrs. Laura Drakeford was then made postmaster and continued in the office until she was succeeded by Mr. Massey during the second Cleveland administration. Mr. Massey was postmaster for 26 years. When he resigned, two years ago, W. B. Ardrey became acting postmaster and held the office for one year. He was in turn succeeded by J. C. McElhaney, who resigned after staying in office one month. Mr. McElhaney was succeeded by Capt. Parks.

## Big Amount Unpaid Taxes.

Unpaid taxes in York county that will go into execution this year approximate \$60,000, by far the largest amount on record. This, too, despite the extension of the tax paying time two and a half months by the General Assembly at its last session. The total tax claims for 1921 amounted to \$632,750 and approximately one-tenth of this sum will have to be collected by the sheriff.

The amount of taxes that went into execution last year, which was for taxes due in 1920, was \$12,930, the high water mark up to that time. The unusual situation is brought about by the fact that this year the unpaid taxes are about five times greater than they were for the record breaking amount of last year. In preceding years the taxes that have gone into execution have averaged from \$5,000 to \$7,000, according to H. E. Neil, county treasurer. The amount two years ago was \$5,125.



GLADNESS IS SERVICE—Serve the Lord with gladness. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good.—Psalm 100:2-4.

A NEEDFUL PRAYER—Shew me thy ways, O Lord: teach me thy paths. Let integrity and uprightness preserve me: for I wait on thee.—Psalm 25:1, 2.

THE LOVE THAT SAVES—For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16.

REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS—Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace.—Psalm 37:37.

PEACE AND SAFETY—Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.—Isaiah 26:3.

LOVE MASTERS FEAR—There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.—1 John 4:18.

## PUSHING BRIDGE WORK.

### Contractors Busy on York-Mecklenburg Structure.

Word from the site of the \$100,000 bridge being built jointly across Catawba river by York and Mecklenburg counties at "Buster" Boyd ferry, 12 miles northwest of Fort Mill, is that the construction work is well under way and that the bridge will be completed and ready for use within a few months if unforeseen difficulties do not confront the contractors. The approaches and foundations are being constructed by the Hardaway Construction company and the steel superstructure is being built by an Atlanta bridge concern, to which the contract was sublet by the Hardaway company. Most of the steel to be used in the bridge is on the ground and the contractors are said to be ready to rush their work to completion as soon as the foundations have been completed.

The bridge will open a new highway between York and Mecklenburg counties and will shorten by several miles the distance between the town of York and Charlotte. It also will make more accessible to Fort Mill the Bethel section of York county. Considerable work will have to be done on the York county end of the highway leading to the bridge, however, before it can be of much service to the public. Most of the highway which will have to be worked over is in Bethel township.

Mecklenburg county is to pay two-thirds the cost of the bridge and the other third is to be paid by York county.

## Cooperation Needed.

"If citizens of Fort Mill who indulge in harsh criticism of the town authorities for their efforts to enforce the town ordinances would show instead a spirit of cooperation, we would have a much better community," yesterday said Dr. A. L. Ott, recorder. "Every time an arrest is made and the defendant pleads guilty or his guilt is proved, there are those to say that a mistake was made and to talk of 'persecution.' Another class of citizens think the town authorities entirely too lenient on persons they say are guilty of infractions of the law. It is a fact, however, that these citizens never swear out warrants for the arrest of persons they say should be punished."

## Many Attend Revival Services.

Large congregations are attending the ten day revival services which began Sunday at the Fort Mill Baptist church. The services are being conducted by the Rev. Dr. R. G. Lee, pastor of the First Baptist church of Chester. The singing is under the direction of Carlyle Brooks of Atlanta. Services are being held each evening at 7:45 o'clock and will continue through the middle of next week. Dr. J. W. H. Dyches, pastor of the church, extends the public a cordial invitation to attend the services. Dr. Lee is a Fort Mill man and many of his old friends are taking advantage of the first opportunity they have had to hear him preach since he entered the ministry.



How did God express his infinite love?—John 3:16.

What is said in the verses of scripture that are carved on the tomb of George Washington?—John 11:25, 26.

Which is the First Commandment?—Exodus 20:3.

What did David say to Solomon his son?—1 Chron. 28:3.

What does Solomon say is the beginning of wisdom?—Proverbs 1:7.

Which is the Second Commandment?—Exodus 20:4-5.

Why should we revere the Creator?—Rev. 4:11.

What does God require of man?—Deuteronomy 10:12-13.

It seems to be generally agreed that Warren G. Harding is the best dressed president we have had since Woodrow Wilson.

## Plan Big Celebration.

Plans of the American Legion post of Fort Mill for the celebration of July Fourth which was decided upon at a meeting of the post some weeks ago are being worked out by the several committees selected for the purpose and these committees are confident that the program they are arranging will prove of great interest not only to the people of Fort Mill but to the people of York county generally and that it will also draw to Fort Mill for the day many visitors from other nearby counties.

In response to an invitation extended him to be present and make an address as one of the features of the celebration, Congressman W. F. Stevenson a few days ago wrote Arthur C. Lytle that if it were possible for him to be away from Washington at the time, it would give him pleasure to accept the invitation. Another proposed feature of the celebration which the committees hope to work out is for a competitive drill and a sham battle to be participated in by the two Fort Mill National Guard companies and the Rock Hill company. There will be numerous athletic contests for which prizes for individual excellence will be given and in the afternoon a baseball game will be played between the Fort Mill team and a team from one of the nearby towns.

Tuesday evening the town council of Fort Mill appropriated \$100 for the general expense fund of the celebration, which will include a barbecue or picnic dinner in the Spratt spring grove, near town.

## GREATER THAN PYRAMIDS.

Stone mountain, a mass of solid granite, 900 to 1,000 feet high and 1,600 feet long, in De Kalb county, Ga., is to be made the biggest and most enduring memorial of all time, for on its surface is to be carved "The Spirit of the Confederacy," representing the Confederate army on the march, with Lee and Jackson at its head. There will be more than 1,000 figures, each 50 feet high and when completed the great memorial will be distinctly visible five miles away, it is said.

Gutzon Borglum, the famous sculptor, is to supervise the work and will himself carve the head of Gen. Lee. Many other sculptors will be engaged in the gigantic undertaking, which is not expected to be completed for 13 years and will cost millions of dollars. But when completed it will stand for all time as a tribute of the Southern people to the gallant defenders of the cause of the Confederacy. It will be something for all America to be proud of, for it will be greater even than the sphinx or the pyramids of Egypt.

A description of the memorial says: "The seven leading figures will be mounted. Jefferson Davis president of the Confederacy, will be the third main figure and will be followed by a troop of cavalry, supported by a vanguard of the army marching in close formation—infantry, artillery and combat trains. The effect will be such as to make it appear as if the soldiers came out of the mountain." At the base of the mountain a memorial hall will be carved out of the solid rock. This hall will contain a chamber for each State of the Confederacy for the preservation of records and also a museum for relics of the great struggle from 1861 to 1865.

Stone mountain is one the line of railway and trolley between Atlanta and Augusta, 16 miles from the former city. Throughout its entire length it has no crevice or fissure of any size, not even a crack worth mentioning, thus making it a solid mass of granite, admirably adapted for the carving of the greatest memorial ever undertaken by man.

In an exciting municipal election yesterday, E. A. Hall was re-elected mayor of York over J. C. Wilborn, 253 to 180. Women cast more than a third of the votes polled in the election.

## DECLINES TO ENTER RACE.

### Col. T. B. Spratt Not to Run for Lieutenant Governor.

Col. T. B. Spratt of Fort Mill Monday afternoon said that he had finally decided not to be a candidate for lieutenant governor in the Democratic primary next August. Since the suggestion was first made some time ago that Col. Spratt become a candidate for the office, he has received many letters and telegrams from citizens in various sections of the State urging him to enter the race, but Monday he said he could not afford to leave his business for the two months it would be necessary to devote to the campaign, nor would it be convenient for him to be in Columbia during the months of January and February, while the Legislature is in session, to preside over the senate. Among the letters and wire messages received by Col. Spratt were a score or more from men prominent in the political life of the State as well as others from men of whom he had never before heard.

To the Times Col. Spratt said that while the temptation was great to waive consideration of his private affairs and announce his candidacy for lieutenant governor, he had finally concluded that the sacrifice involved in accepting the office, assuming that he would be elected, was such that he could not afford to make it. He added that he was deeply grateful to those who had urged him to enter the race, and out of consideration for their friendship, if for no other reason, he had given the matter careful consideration.

Col. Spratt is president of the First National bank of Fort Mill and has large farming interests in the community. During the World war he was lieutenant colonel of the 118th infantry (old First South Carolina regiment), 30th division, and was with his command during the strenuous days it spent in Belgium and France opposing the advance of the German army. He was in personal command of the regiment when, in cooperation with other regiments of the 30th division, it attacked and broke the Hindenburg line, at which the French and British armies had battered in vain for four years. Col. Spratt was popular with his regiment and his Trenches were confident that practically every member of the command would have supported him wholeheartedly had he sought the lieutenant governorship.

## World's Most Deceptive Lake.

What appears to be a lake covered with a thin coating of ice on which show has fallen is found in the midst of a barren and waterless waste in British East Africa. So complete is the illusion that the stranger for a moment fails to realize the impossibility of there being any snow and ice in that locality. It is in reality an inexhaustible deposit of soda, but bears such a striking resemblance to a sheet of frozen water that it has received the name of Lake Magadi.

To traverse this district in the dry season is to have one's feet burned through one's shoes and the sharp soda spikes will pierce any but the thickest soles. After rains there is a layer of water over the greater part of the surface, which turns a beautiful shade of pink, and by moonlight the scene is wondrously attractive.

The "lake" contains millions of tons of soda deposit and both surface and underground streams of saturated liquid feed it. Natives have collected soda from the same spot year after year without noticeably diminishing the supply found in the "lake."

## Explosion Kills White Convict.

Floyd Craven, white convict, 30 years old, on the York county chancery, was killed yesterday by the explosion of a charge of dynamite he was attempting to light. The body was taken to his old home at Concord, N. C. Craven was serving two and a half years for grand larceny. He was convicted last July.