

# The News and Herald.

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ESTABLISHED 1844.

## Memoirs, Traditions and History of Rocky Mount and Vicinity.

(Written for The News and Herald by L. M. Ford.)

### HISTORIC GRAVES.

Col. Senf's grave is somewhere on what is now known as the "Sweet Place." The exact spot is known to few if any white persons in this community.

In the early part of the century Beckhamville was a place of some note and the neighboring men would congregate there in considerable crowds at times. On some of these occasions an officer from the "Establishment" would attend, and while his life and drum rendered some martial music, he would solicit recruits in the crowd. In addition to the other uses Mount Dearborn was a recruiting station also.

Hardby the old ruins is the cemetery where repose the remains of several privates and one officer. Nothing marks the graves of the privates except a common stone at the head and foot. That of the officer is walled over with common stone, but is without inscription. Not even his name is cut on it.

Tradition says the last squad left in 1817. It is thought that they joined Gen. Jackson's forces, who were fighting the Indians in Southern Georgia about that time. David Reynolds went off in this squad. Some time afterwards he returned and reported that he was discharged in Florida. He spent the remainder of his life among the people on Rocky Creek, and died quite an old man.

### BOATING.

After the completion of the Santee canal in 1800, boating from Rocky Mount to Charleston grew to be of considerable importance. The farmers' produce was carried and their supplies were brought back on flat boats. Nattie and Dickie Barnett were the noted boatmen of that day. William Nichols was the boat builder and one Farrar kept a warehouse near Rocky Mount ferry. This was before the day of steamboats and railroads.

### ROCKY MOUNT CANAL.

This canal begins above the head of the falls and extends some distance below Rocky Mount ferry. Several locks were built on it to lower and raise the boats at the declivities. They are splendid specimens of stone masonry, and are well preserved and seemingly as firm and tight as when they were first built.

I am indebted to Thomas Caine for the date of the digging of this canal. He left Liverpool, England, in 1816 and landed in Charleston in the same year. Briggs and Thomas were the contractors of the Fishing Creek canal, which they began to dig in 1817, and Thomas Caine came up to do their smiting. A picnic was given at Beckhamville July the 4th, 1823, to celebrate its completion.

Shortly after this picnic, John McCullough, contractor, began to dig the Rocky Mount canal, and completed it in the early thirties. Thomas Caine did his smiting also. After this canal was finished, Thomas Caine did the smiting for the farmers around Beckhamville, as long as he was able to perform the labor. He died in 1883, nearly ninety years of age.

About a mile below the road, entering the picnic ground at the falls, a rock house was built for the lock-keeper. The stone walls are in good condition still; the wood part has decayed and disappeared. John McCullough, contractor, was the first occupant of this house. Green Roberts the second, and Huldah Arledge and her family were the last who lived in it. Jonas Backstrom, the first and only lock-keeper, never occupied it. He resided on his own farm nearby.

It is said this canal cost the State three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) William Wall, Beckhamville section, used the entire length, and William Nichols and Jerry Gaither below the ferry, but very few boats ever passed through it. Shortly after its completion, the South Carolina railroad reached Columbia and the trade of this section was diverted to that city, and transportation was carried on in wagons.

While digging the canal, John McCullough, contractor, was married to Miss Sallie Kingsbury at the residence now occupied by

the family of the late William Nichols, then by James Westbrook. John Guntharpe, Esq., officiated. From this union sprang Miss Sallie McCullough, of Columbia, who produced a sensation as a vocalist in the sixties and seventies. She married Brignoli, an Italian tenor singer. A few years afterwards a divorce was obtained. His last song in her presence on the stage was "Goodbye, Sweetheart, Goodbye." This was in New York. The last heard of Miss Sallie she was singing in a choir in New York and receiving a handsome salary therefor. This was many years ago.

### KINGSBURY'S FERRY.

In the early years of the last century our ferry was known as the Kingsbury ferry from the owner and operator, John Kingsbury. He was the father of Mrs. John McCullough and the grandfather of Sallie McCullough, the vocalist. His residence was the old rock house at the eastern end of the ferry. It is told of him that he kept his coffin under his bed for some years before his death. He died in 1820, and a costly monument marks his grave on the brow of the hill above his house.

### WIRE GRASS.

Bermuda grass, or wire grass as we call it, was first sown on the banks of the old canal to protect them against the washing rains and high river waters. From there it has been scattered by birds, animals and farmers until this whole section is badly infested with it.

(To be continued.)

### The Colonel's Waterloo.

Colonel John M. Fuller, of Honey Grove, Texas, nearly met his Waterloo, from Liver and Kidney trouble. In a recent letter, he says: "I was nearly dead, of these complaints, and, although I tried my family doctor, he did me no good, so I got a 50c. bottle of your great Electric Bitters, which cured me. I consider them the best medicine on earth, and thank God who gave you the knowledge to make them." Sold, and guaranteed to cure. Dyspepsia, Bilioisness and Kidney Disease, by McMaster Co., Obeart Drug Co. and John H. McMaster & Co., druggists, at 50c. a bottle.

### Columbia Female College.

The work on the new buildings of the Columbia Female College, at Hyatt's is getting along surprisingly well. One of the large dormitories is half finished and by the first of April it will be under roof. The expectation is that by the 1st of April dormitories to accommodate 175 pupils will be under cover and the work can then be pushed. The contractors have from 100 to 125 workmen on the building and are ahead of their agreement in the progress of the work.—Columbia Cor. News and Courier.

### Startling Mortality.

Statistics show startling mortality, from appendicitis and peritonitis. To prevent and cure these awful diseases, there is just one reliable remedy, Dr. King's New Life Pills. M. Flannery, of 14 Custom House Place, Chicago, says: "They have no equal for Constipation and Bilioisness." 25c. at McMaster Co., Obeart Drug Co. and John H. McMaster & Co., druggists.

### News and Courier Enterprise.

It is understood that the News and Courier company has closed a contract for a new Hoe press, which will print, when occasion demands, 24 pages at once, folding and copying each paper at the same time. This necessitates the purchase of far more extensive stereotyping outfit, and in addition to this the company is tearing down the old and building a new two-story building to give more room in the composition and make-up room.

Work on the new building began this week, and a contract with the Hoe Co., was completed Saturday. The press will be shipped at once and it is hoped to get it in operation within about 60 days.—The Florence Times.

### Pneumonia Follows a Cold

but never follows the use of Foley's Honey and Tar. It stops the cough, heals and strengthens the lungs and affords perfect security from an attack of pneumonia. Refuse substitutes. Sold by McMaster Co.

### THE COUNTY'S INDEBTEDNESS.

A Statement from Mr. Hood, the Former Supervisor, in regard to Some of the Expenses of the County During the Four Years He Was in Office.

Mr. Editor: In justice to the people, the county board and myself also, I will ask space in your paper to give a brief review of the work done by the board during my four years as county supervisor, in order that the people may see just how and why the county is so badly in debt. A great many don't seem to understand why it is that the county has gotten behind at all. Well, I can tell.

In the first place, the present levy is not sufficient to meet the current expenses any year with no accidents or calamities. Up to 1900 the county had an extra levy of 1 mill to pay back indebtedness. That one mill amounted to \$3,600 per year; and \$3,600 for five years amounts to \$18,000. So you see if I had had that \$18,000 to place on the county's debts it would have almost wiped it out. The levy had only been off one year when I went into office, and in that short time the county had drifted badly in debt, notwithstanding the county had one of the best financiers in Fairfield for supervisor at that time. I speak of Mr. Tennant.

I will say without fear of contradiction that the last four years have been four of the most disastrous years that the county has ever experienced, and especially on roads and bridges. The first year I went in office (1901) the county lost 24 bridges that spring by the big rains. It cost from \$100 to \$400 each to place these back, including lumber and labor. This amount was an extra expense, not including the regular current expenses. The second year (1902) we had something like a cloudburst in the upper part of the county, that tore 3 or 4 big bridges to pieces on Little River. It cost us about \$1,000 to replace these; and so it has been every year since. Last year the big rains in the lower part of the county washed away 3 or 4 bridges. Besides I have built quite a number of new bridges. I felt this way about the matter: it was the public money, and they ought to have what they really needed and asked for. The board always tried to grant any just demand made by the people.

Another thing has been against us, and that is the road tax being put down to \$1.00, which has caused a great many to take advantage and pay off. Last year over 800 paid their road tax. The money paid in would only put back half the amount of work. Counting it at the lowest number of days allowed by law, which is four, the dollar will only put back two days. So you see we were short 1600 days in the one year. Owing to the heavy rains, the roads needed more work than usual, so the money had to come from other funds.

Then, too, the chaingang expenses have steadily increased each year. We had a good gang all last year, ranging from 20 to 27 prisoners all the year. They have 20 on at present. We equipped the gang with six good big young mules and all the big machinery necessary to do the work. The county also has 3 good mules at the poor house.

Now, a few words in regard to the court expenses. They have also been heavy. We have \$2,000 set aside for that debt each year, but the expenses far exceed that amount every year. In 1901 the expenses were something over \$3,300, over \$1,300 more than the amount appropriated for that purpose. Then, in November, 1903, there was an extra term that cost the county about \$800.

There is only \$1,200 set aside to pay the salary of magistrates and constables. It takes \$1,075 to pay them off, so it can be seen there is a shortage here of \$475 each year. The fines collected by them are very small now, nothing like enough to make up the deficiency.

I wish to call the attention of the people to another matter. 1901 and 1902 were the first years that smallpox made its appearance in our county. The people were greatly wrought up over the matter and appealed to me to take steps to stop the spread of this fearful disease. I referred the matter to Dr. Jas. Evans, secretary of state board of health, and he acted so slowly, until I took the matter in my own hands

and went to work to put an end to that so dreaded disease. In doing this I had to spend four or five hundred dollars of the county's money in the two years, but I thought it better to do so than to have the county polluted with smallpox.

The outside poor fund has more than doubled in three years. It will be recalled in 1901 the farmers made almost a complete failure on their farms, and that fall and the next spring the country was in almost a destitute condition. There was a move put on foot to issue bonds to improve the roads, just to give the people employment to keep them from starvation. The move, however, fell through, and we pulled through somehow. But during that winter and spring nearly every old person in the county, especially among the colored people, was unloaded on the county for aid. And right here I want to say that the board has never put on a person that did not come with a petition, signed by good white people. Of course, when they are once put on, they stay on until they die off.

Now, in conclusion, I wish to say that there is no one who regrets the county's indebtedness any more than I do. But I could not help it. I had one of two things to do: Either to leave the work undone and let the county go to the dogs, so to speak, or to go ahead and do the work and bring old Fairfield up in line with the other progressive counties by putting her in debt. I deemed it the best business to keep her on foot, and that I have tried to do. I care not who you put in the supervisor's office or on the county board; unless the levy is raised, the county will sink deeper and deeper in debt each year. A. D. Hood.

### Strikes Hidden Rocks.

When your ship of health strikes the hidden rocks of Consumption, Pneumonia, etc., you are lost, if you don't get help from Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. J. W. McKinnon, of Tallapoosa Springs, Ala., writes: "I had been very ill with Pneumonia, under the care of two doctors, but was getting no better when I began to take Dr. King's New Discovery. The first dose gave relief, and one bottle cured me." Sure cure for sore throat, bronchitis, coughs and colds. Guaranteed at McMaster Co.'s, Obeart Drug Co.'s and John H. McMaster & Co.'s drug stores; price 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

### Low Excursion Rates to Havana, Cuba.

On March 29th the Southern Railway company will operate personally conducted excursion from points in North and South Carolina to Havana, Cuba, and return at the very low rate of one fare plus \$2.00 for the round trip, which includes meals and berth on steamer.

Tickets will be sold on March 29th to connect with steamer on the night of March 30th (about 11.40 p. m.) Tickets will be limited for return passage on any steamer leaving Havana, Cuba, until April 13th, final limit of tickets to be April 16th.

Stop-over on return journey will be allowed at points in the State of Florida south of Jacksonville within final limit of ticket.

For further information as to reservations on steamer, schedules, etc., address any agent, Southern Railway, or R. W. Hunt, division passenger agent, Southern Railway, Charleston S. C.

### Dangers of Pneumonia.

A cold at this time if neglected is liable to cause pneumonia which is so often fatal, and even when the patient has recovered the lungs are weakened, making them peculiarly susceptible to the development of consumption. Foley's Honey and Tar will stop the cough, heal and strengthen the lungs and prevent pneumonia. La grippe coughs yield quickly to the wonderful curative qualities of Foley's Honey and Tar. There is nothing else just as good. Sold by McMaster Co.

When you begin to tell your troubles to a man he nearly always interrupts you for the purpose of telling you his.

### A Severe Cold for Three Months.

The following letter from A. J. Nusbbaum, of Batesville, Ind., tells its own story: "I suffered for three months with a severe cold. A druggist prepared the same medicine, and a physician prescribed for me, yet I did not improve. I then tried Foley's Honey and Tar, and eight doses cured me." Refuse substitutes. Sold by McMaster Co.

### Spring.

Spring with that nameless pathos in the air Which dwells with all things fair, Spring, with her golden suns and silver rain, Its with us once again.

Out in the lonely woods the jasmine burns Its fragrant lamps, and turns Into a royal court with green festoons The banks of dark lagoons.

In the deep heart of every forest tree The blood is all a-glee, And there's a look about the leafless bowers As if they dreamed of flowers.

Yet still on every side we trace the hand Of Winter in the land, Save where the maple reddens on the lawn, Flushed by season's down;

Or where, like those strange semblances we find That age to childhood bind, The elm puts on, as if in Nature's scorn, The brown of Autumn corn.

As yet the turf is dark, although you know That, not a span below, A thousand germs are groping through the gloom, And soon will burst their tomb.

Already, here and there, on frailest stems Appear some azure gems, Small as might deck, upon a gala day, The forehead of a fay.

In gardens you may note, amid the death, The crocus breaking earth; And near the snowdrop's tender white and green, The violet in its screen.

But many gleams and shadows need must pass Along the budding grass, And weeks go by, before the enamored South Shall kiss the rose's mouth.

Still, there's a sense of blossoms yet unborn In the sweet airs of morn; One almost looks to see the very street Grow purple at his feet.

At times a fragrant breeze comes floating by, And brings, you know not why, A feeling as when eager crowds await Before a palace gate

Some wondrous pageant; and you scarce would start. If, from a beech's heart, A blue-eyed Dryad, stepping forth, should say, "Behold me! 'I am May!'"

Ah! who would couple thoughts of war and crime With such a blessed time! Who in the west wind's aromatic breath Could hear the call of Death!

Yet not more surely shall the Spring awake The voice of wood and brake, Than she shall rouse, from all her tranquil charms, A million men to arms.

There shall be deeper hues upon her planes Than all her sunlit rains, And every gladdening influence around, Can summon from the ground.

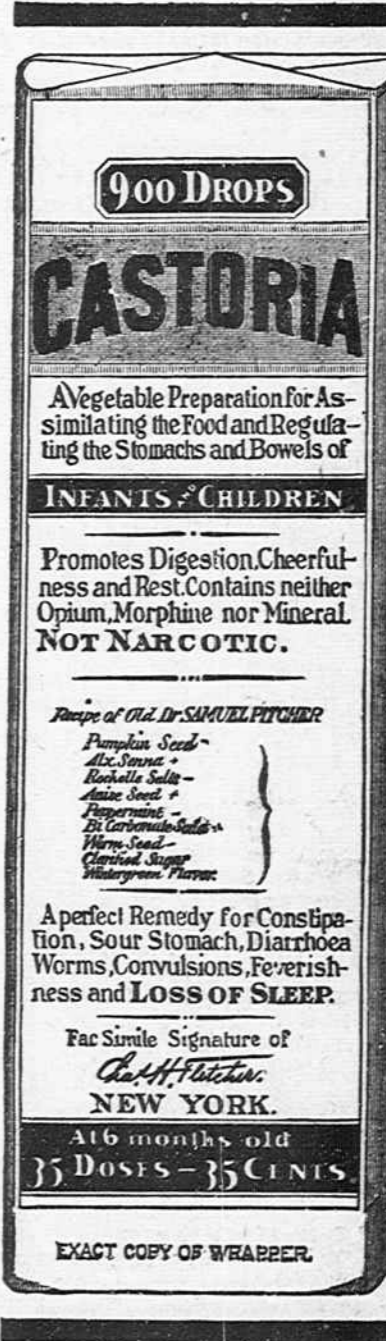
Oh! standing on this desecrated mould, Methinks that I behold, Lifting her bloody daisies up to God, Spring kneeling on the sod,

And calling, with the voice of all, her rills, Upon the ancient hills To fall and crush the tyrants and the slaves Who turn her heads to gaze. —Henry Timrod.

If it is a bilious attack take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets and a quick cure is certain. For sale by Obeart Drug Co.

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Make your druggist give you Murray's Horehound, Mullein and Tar. Cures your cough. 25c. a bottle.



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