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JOHNSTON LETTER.

First Meeting of Mary Ann Buie Chapter. Miss Dessie Stewart to be Married. Y. W. A. Meeting.

Cards announcing the marriage of Miss Dessie Stewart to Mr. Robert Kenneth Laney have been received here by friends. Miss Stewart taught in the High School here for three years and has many friends who rejoice with her in her happiness. After October 1st, Mr. and Mrs. Laney will be at home, Cheraw, S. C.

The first meeting for the fall months of the Mary Ann Buie chapter, will be held on Thursday afternoon, October 2nd, at 3:30 o'clock and at this time all arrangements will be made for the annual flower show. This show is open to the county, there being no entrance fee, and any one wishing to exhibit flowers will send in their names to the registrar, Miss Zena Payne. The show promises to be a fine one and in all probability, Mr. P. J. Berokman of Augusta, will be judge.

A very enjoyable meeting of the W. C. T. U. was held on Friday afternoon in the home of the president Mrs. T. R. Denny, at which time a full account of the state convention was given by Mesdames Fannie P. Hoyt and P. B. Waters, Sr., and others that attended also gave interesting points. This was the time for the election of officers, which resulted in a re-election of this able body: President, Mrs. T. R. Denny; vice-president, Mesdames M. A. Huiet, J. W. Marsh, H. C. Bailey and J. L. Smith; recording secretary, Mrs. Olin Eidson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. P. Lewis; treasurer, Mrs. Fannie P. Hoyt. The superintendents of the departments were also re-elected, and superintendents were elected to the departments being taken up.

The members of the W. C. T. U. enjoyed two most happy hours in the home of Mrs. J. L. Walker on last Monday afternoon and had the pleasure of meeting and conversing with two state W. C. T. U. officers, Mesdames Joseph Sprott of Manning, and Mrs. C. P. Robinson of Chapin. Dr. A. T. King and the teachers of the High School were also honor guests. The hostess with Mrs. A. P. Lewis welcomed the guests, and pinned the emblem of the organization, a white ribbon bow, upon them, and Mrs. T. R. Denny served each with a glass of sparkling water, the temperance beverage. Mrs. Sprott made a very interesting short talk, and those who had not already met her were charmed with her. Refreshments were served in the dining room which was artistically decorated. The centerpiece of the table was of pure white roses and dahlias, and streamers of white satin ribbon came from a huge bow on the chandelabra to the corners of the table. Banana and tutti frutti cream with cake was served by several young maidens.

Dr. A. T. King left on Monday for Richmond and will return in about 10 days with his family. There will be no preaching on Sunday at the Baptist church but he will fill the pulpit the first Sunday in October.

Mrs. W. P. Dean of Greenwood spent a few days of the past week here with friends and relatives.

Mr. Charley Nickerson spent last week here with his mother, Mrs. A. M. Nickerson and on Thursday went to New York to complete his stock for the fall. He will enter business for himself in Augusta, and will open up a shoe store.

Miss Helen Perry, of Columbia, is the guest of Mrs. Beckham.

Miss Bertha Woodward spent last week in Batesburg with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lott of Columbia, have been visiting the former's sister, Mrs. Chas. Lumb.

Mesdames E. G. and A. A. Rodgers, of Augusta, were guests of Mrs. Goodyear last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot Ouzts, Misses Nina Ouzts and Orlena Cartledge were visitors to Augusta recently.

Miss Luella Norris was the charming hostess for a party of friends on Wednesday afternoon, and the hours were bright and happy ones, progressive games, music

and pleasant conversations filling the time. A salad course, with ices, were served and were prettily arranged.

Miss Ola Smith has gone to McCormick, to teach in the high school.

Mrs. McIntire, of Bennettsville, is the guest of Mrs. B. T. Boatwright. She is pleasantly remembered as Miss Alice Owens.

The following have gone to the various colleges: Messrs. Stanton Lott, Earl Crouch and Joe Scott, to South Carolina University; W. Wallace Turner and Fletcher Horne to Clemson College; Robert Kenny and Auburn Moyer, to Wofford College; Miss Virgie Courtney to Elizabeth college, N. C., Miss Antoinette Denny, Converse college; Misses Kate and Fannie Pruiet and Mary Lucia Mobley to Coker college, Hartsville; Misses Ella Jacobs, Helen Lewis and Fannie Pratt Andrews, Winthrop college; Miss Martha Watson, Hollins Institute, Va.; Mr. John Fleming Marsh, Charleston college; Mr. William Watson, Citadel, and Mr. Sales Andrews, Atlanta.

Mr. H. W. Crouch has fitted up an opera house on Main street, and an excellent lyceum course is being arranged for the winter.

James U. Jackson's Electric Railway to Reach Connection With Duke Roads.

Interesting facts have recently developed concerning the construction of two electric interurban railways in South Carolina. It appears that the Greenville, Spartanburg & Anderson railway, which is already operating between Greenville and Greenwood, and is rapidly completing an extension from Greenville to Spartanburg, with a prospect of soon starting construction on another link from the latter point to Gastonia, N. C., thus connecting up the two sections of the Piedmont Northern lines, will be connected from Greenwood via Edgefield, S. C., with the Carolina & Georgia railway, which James U. Jackson and others are about to build from Augusta, Ga., to Columbia, S. C., via Johnston and Batesburg. The connection will be constructed by the Carolina & Georgia railway, and it will supply the demand for an interurban line from Greenwood via Edgefield to Augusta. J. B. Duke and others are back of the Piedmont northern lines, the South Carolina end of which has just decided upon an increase of \$2,500,000 in its capital stock, presumably for financing the Gastonia-Spartanburg line of about 50 miles, which is all that is needed to make up a through high-speed electric railway from Charlotte, N. C., to Augusta, Ga., about 205 miles.

Contract has been let to Michael P. McGrath of 17 Battery Place, New York, for the construction of the Carolina & Georgia railway, and he is expected to begin work within 30 days. Gadsden E. Shand of Columbia is chief engineer, and he is finishing up the surveys.

There does not appear to be any plan for concert of action between the two railway companies, but the fact the Carolina & Georgia railway has definitely decided to construct a branch to Greenwood and has awarded contract, leads to a conclusion that the lines will operate together for through service sooner or later. It may be observed that the Duke lines have not intimated that they might extend to Augusta, although some consideration has been given to a suggestion that they be extended to Atlanta. This latter, however, seems just now to be at a standstill.—Manufacturers Record.

A minister in a small town, an eloquent speaker, became afflicted with throat trouble and was treated for some time by a local M. D. After a while he requested the physician to present his bill, but as it did not appear, the minister called one day and asked the doctor for his account. Whereupon the doctor hesitated, stepped around and at last said: "Well, look here, brother; you are a minister, aren't you? and I am a doctor. Now, I'll tell you what we'll do. You do all you can to keep me out of hell, and I will do all I can to keep you out of heaven, and we will call it square."

With the coming of two trolley lines to Johnston, is not this the time to buy land? Y. May, sells it.—Adv.

HOT SPRING BATHS.

Mr. Whatley Sends Another Interesting Letter From the Health-Giving Springs of Arkansas.

Dear Editor: On my arrival in Hot Springs I domiciled at Ann's hotel on Central avenue, which leads through the heart and lung of the city. The last census gave Hot Springs about 15,000 population, when really she has from 40 to 125 thousand. The 15 thousand are permanent residents and the big remainder are guests, bathers, cripples, gentlemen, sharpers, million-bucks and doctors. Thirteen doctors are located in the hotel where I am staying.

This is a city of hotels, rooming houses, eating houses, restaurants, curiosity shops, souvenir shops, large beautiful jewelry stores, etc. At home we think Hampton Terrace some hotel but compared to some of these hotels its but a shanty. These large hotels, and there are an endless number of them, are built of stone or brick. The wooden hotels are usually called rooming houses. As one walks the city, the sign "furnished rooms to rent" meets his eyes at every nook and turn. There are numerous places of amusement, theatres, moving picture shows, shooting galleries, dance halls, etc.

Hedged in by the mountains I think this the most beautiful of cities. At places the valley is only wide enough for a street and a row of houses on each side. Back of the houses are the steep high mountains, so thickly wooded the bare ground can not be seen from the streets and so steep a catwalk is required. Further along the mountains are not so steep and far up the side are houses. One side of the house may be three stories and the other one story. Some two and three stories high in front and one story in the rear.

Boiling hot springs are many and are surrounded by people drinking the beverage. One soon learns to drink it so hot he cannot hold the cup unless it has a handle. Everybody goes equipped with a cup, usually a collapsible one. This water is not allowed to run off on the surface of the ground and heat up the city, but is piped away. Then there are the cold water springs if you want a drink of ice water. Uncle Sam has a large hospital and a reservation here where he sends many sick soldiers.

His shower hot water bathing house alone, will accommodate five hundred soldiers at a time. The reservation contains many acres of most beautiful grounds and buildings on the mountain side, with steps of stone, cement and marble. Beautifully fashioned balustrades, lion and tiger heads are everywhere.

On the 5th inst. a great fire broke out in the city of Hot Springs. When it became evident that the local fire fighting force could not control the flames, a telegram was shot to Little Rock 50 miles away for help. A special train soon brought the great engines and redoubled efforts were made to save the city. Everybody, thousands, turned out to fight, using garden hose, buckets, etc., and great was the fight from 1 o'clock that day until 3 o'clock that night.

To the southwest the fire moved, as a tide moves, not stopping until it burned itself out in that direction, hundreds of people fleeing with part of their household effects on their heads and back, wagons, buggies, automobiles, all loaded and fleeing to the open.

Water seemed of little effect. Wind carried the burning debris for blocks and falling on other houses took fire and raced on through lawns and parks, enveloping beautiful residences, hotels, schools and churches. Most magnificent groves of large oaks now stand charred, limbless and black. The very ground seemed to burn, so intense was the heat. Great flames, wrapping themselves together from adjoining buildings broke off and ascended skyward lighting up the town and elements.

The dynamiting of buildings was heard in all directions in a fruitless effort to stop the fire, but it licked across the streets and bare blocks and relentlessly ate its own way.

The power plant was completely destroyed and the town has been without electric lights and street cars, except the cars that are pulled by mules. The gas plant was destroyed and the city is without gas except that which is piped from Louisiana.

About 1-3 of the city lies in ruins. One hundred and twenty acres lie blackened and desolate. No one was without shelter, however, that night as the city consists of more hotels and rooming houses than any city of its size in the world. Almost a hundred thousand more people could be taken care of yet.

There had been no rain in about two months but the next morning it began to rain and has been raining nearly ever since.

Uncle Sam's reservation with its large buildings and hospitals was not damaged. Neither were any of the bath houses except two or three that were not connected with hotels. The hot springs are 46 in number and in addition to the hot springs there are many cold springs extensively used both in the treatment of disease and as table waters.

According to tradition the curative properties of the springs were known to the Indians before the advent of the Spaniards. There is a tale that the various tribes battled from time to time for control of these waters, in which they believed the "Great Spirit" to be ever present.

It is believed that the earliest white settlement was made in 1800. Dunbar and Hunter, who visited the place in 1804 found signs that white men had been there. The springs were probably visited by De Soto in 1541. The hot springs reservation contains 911 acres. The springs are all grouped about the reservation. The springs are 46 in number and in addition to the hot springs there are many cold springs extensively used both in the treatment of disease and as table waters.

The reservation is a beautiful one, and the scenery is all expended under the direction of the secretary of the interior in improving the service and in beautifying the reservation. No one is allowed to set his price for giving the baths. The scale of charges are regulated by big Sam and range in price from \$9 to \$17 per course of 21 baths, including attendants. Uncle Sam will give you this service himself if you will take an oath that you are not able to pay for the baths. Hundreds of poor people avail themselves of Uncle Sam's generosity.

On entering a bath house, you purchase your ticket for a course of baths and a box is handed you in which you deposit your diamonds, money and other valuables. The box is shoved into a recess and locked. The key is made fast to your wrist by a rubber band. Armed with your robe, slippers, cup, soap and mit you repair to undressing room, where you leave your clothes, and go into an individual bath room where boils a big tub of water, fresh from the bowels of the earth but a little cooled down, ranging in degree from 98 to 106. The attendant soouses you in and holds you down till the skin slips, then he takes your corn cob mit and rubs all the hide off. After this 20-minute treatment, he takes you and puts you into Hades vapor bath, 130 degrees, for five minutes. When you cease to kick he takes you out, lays you on a cot in a room of 96 degrees and covers you with a sheet. There you sweat and blow for half an hour. Then he takes you to the shower bath, where the water is turned on blazing hot and gradually cooled down to about 80 degrees. You are then rubbed and carried till you feel like a four-year-old colt. Into a cooling room you go where you spend another half hour and wonder how you survive it all. Then into another cooler room and into your clothes. You surrender your key, which has not melted, bedeck yourself with your diamonds, put your money into your pocket, get out on the streets, look up at the mountains and at the one hundred and sixty-five feet tower which stands on the mountain top and wonder if you could not leap to its skyround.

By the time your readers are perusing this I shall be making big tracks in North Augusta, the flower of the great state of South Carolina.

J. C. Whatley.

Hot Springs, Ark.

Facts and Figures Concerning the Schools of Edgefield County.

A full review of school conditions in Edgefield county, as shown by the annual report of county superintendent, W. W. Fuller, for the scholastic year July 1, 1912, to June 30, 1913, cannot be given in short space. Some of the most significant facts, however, should prove of interest to trustees, teachers and taxpayers.

The enrollment shows 1,038 boys and 1,611 girls, making a total of 2,649 white pupils attending 7 town and 46 country schools, and taught by 9 men and 72 women. Of the boys 779 were in regular attendance while 797 of the girls were in school every day. These figures indicate that 1,576 of the 2,049 pupils, or nearly 77 per cent made good use of their educational opportunities.

The term of 14 schools was less than 100 days, or five months. While the average session in town was 157 days, the average in the country was 110 days, making the average for the entire county only 116 days. This is a marked improvement, but it is considerably below the seven months' term that might be maintained in every school district.

The trustees of the county have exercised good judgment in locating most of their schools, because only seven communities report an enrollment of 12 pupils or less, and only five additional communities report an average attendance of like numbers. Thus only 12 schools seem to fall below the minimum standard in these two important particulars.

Country schools taught by two or three teachers are rare. The patrons of every district containing as many as five children of school age would be establishing a rural graded school. The four-mill special tax required by the Nicholson Act entitles such a community to \$200 state aid, and the policy of schools like White Town in making prompt use of this appropriation should be promptly adopted in other districts.

The value of all public school buildings is placed at \$20,750, and their equipment at \$3,010. Many counties have already adopted the consolidated rural school and the transportation of pupils. It is interesting to note that the trustees of Pickens District now prefer to convey their children to Edgefield in order to secure the advantages of a well-organized school.

During the year the white enrollment increased by 33 while the negro enrollment increased by 703, over the corresponding figures for last year. In this connection it is interesting to note the following facts concerning negro education in the county: Enrollment—boys, 2477; girls, 2815; total for both sexes, 5292; average attendance, boys, 2020; girls, 2270; total, 4290. These figures show that the negro enrollment was 2½ times that of the whites. Nearly 81 per cent of the negro enrollment was regularly in school, although this high percentage is probably accounted for in part by the average negro term of 54 days, barely three months.

School finances show great improvement over last year. The report shows that the poll tax increased by \$383, and the special taxes voted by resident electors likewise increased by \$2167 41. The total of receipts was \$32,186-26; and the total of expenditures \$30,867-10. These figures show that the per capita expenditure on the basis of white enrollment was \$12.57 for each white child, and 96c for each negro child.

These figures show an increase of 32c per white pupil, and 2c per negro pupil over last year. But the average for both races fell from \$4.42 in 1911-12 to \$4.21 in 1912-13, because of the heavy gain of more than 12 per cent in enrollment. These items are still below the average for the State, and might be liberally increased with advantage. Corresponding figures for the Nation show a per capita school expenditure of more than \$25.

The high schools at Johnston, Trenton and Plum Branch are doing excellent work. The addition of Edgefield High School and the levying of an increased school tax at the courthouse should strengthen every educational force in the county. This step places Edgefield

alongside of other towns in the State, and invites every ambitious boy and girl to accept eighth, ninth and tenth grade instruction without money and without price.

J. E. Swearingen,
State Supt. of Education.

The Methodist Meeting.

Rev. J. R. Walker was very fortunate in being able to secure Dr. S. A. Steel to conduct the revival services in the Methodist church. It has been a long time since the people of Edgefield heard so versatile, so forceful and so effective a speaker as Dr. Steel. From the outset he won the hearts of the people, consequently the interest and attendance have steadily increased. His plain, logical and convincing presentation of gospel truth has touched many hearts, and even after he goes from among us there will be an increasing manifestation of the fruits of his labor. Dr. Steel will be here but a few days longer. Do not fail to hear him every afternoon and evening in the Methodist church.

Judges For The Corn Contest.

As the season for harvesting corn has arrived, the judges for The Advertiser's 5th corn contest have been selected. Those who have entered the contest and desire that their corn be officially measured will please notify the committee of judges appointed for their respective communities when they are ready to gather their corn. If we have overlooked any community in appointing judges, the contestants in those communities will please notify us at once and we will promptly select some one to act as judges. The following are the judges for the contest of 1913, the first named being president of the contest.

Morgan and James DeLoach,
Harmony; F. M. Warren, J. M. Wright and M. DeLoach,
Trenton; P. B. Day, J. M. Swearingen and James Smith,
Clark's Hill; John G. McKie, Henry Adams and J. W. Johnson,
Coiliers; E. B. Mathis, T. E. Miller and H. W. McKie,
Morgana; Philip Markert, J. W. Boyd and J. O. Scott,
Meriwether; John Briggs, Walter Cheatham and Henry Cooper,
Ropers; D. E. Lanahm, J. B. Timmerman and W. T. Lundy.

Opening of the High School.

The graded school and High School had a very auspicious opening Monday morning. Public exercises were held in the auditorium. Maj. T. J. Lyon, the superintendent of the High School, extended a cordial welcome to the parents present and urged them to give him their co-operation in his efforts to build up a strong school in Edgefield. Short addresses were also made by the following gentlemen: Rev. J. R. Walker, Dr. M. D. Jeffries, Mr. A. S. Tompkins, Mr. J. T. McManus and Dr. R. A. Marsh.

Mr. P. N. Lott, the county demonstration agent who is working under the Department of Agriculture in Washington, was present by invitation, and in a most effective manner explained the plan of demonstration work that is to be conducted by five schools in the county. He will visit these schools at regular intervals, instructing the boys and encouraging them in this new feature. It is hoped that Mr. Lott will meet with the hearty co-operation of the teachers in the special work in which he is engaged. The pity is that agriculture, both theoretically and practically, was not taught in the public schools of the state 25 years ago.

There are four teachers in the High School, Maj. T. J. Lyon, Prof. S. A. Genes, Miss Gladys Campbell and Miss Marcie Gwaltney. The following compose the corps of teachers for the graded school: Mrs. W. C. Tompkins, 1st grade; Miss Grace Tompkins, 2nd and 3rd grades; Mrs. H. N. Grenoker and Miss Mattie Johnson, 4th, 5th and 6th grades and Miss Hortense Padgett, 7th grade.

Monday morning there were 40 enrolled in the High School and 140 in the graded school. Others will yet enroll, making the total enrollment over 200.

Fresh pigs' feet.

L. T. May.