

MUCH PROPERTY IS CONSUMED BY FIRE AT WILSON PLACE

Col. Thomas W. Wilson Heavy Loser in Conflagration at His Plantation Thursday—New Pastor for Methodists in Summerton—Other News from the Hustling City.

(Special Correspondent to The Manning Times.)

Disastrous Conflagration.

About 2 o'clock Thursday afternoon smoke was discovered issuing from one of the cotton houses on the plantation of Col. Thomas W. Wilson, just outside the city limits of Summerton. Vigorous efforts were made by those on the plantation to subdue the flames, but they had gained such an impetus that it soon became evident that not only the cotton house but other buildings on the place were doomed. The cotton house where the fire originated contained 16 bales of excellent cotton and between 1,500 and 2,000 bushels of corn in the corn houses, all of which were consumed. All the corn houses, cotton houses and stable were destroyed, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of those on the plantation to resist the flames. Unfortunately Col. Wilson carried no insurance and there will be a total loss which will run up into the thousands as not only the cotton in one of the houses was consumed but practically all the contents of the stable and other buildings so rapidly did the flames spread that it was impossible to save much of the articles in the other structures. Fortunately no live-stock was in the stable and it was saved. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Col. Wilson has a large amount of fine cotton which is yet unpicked and by reason of which condition he is fortunate in that this amount did not meet the same fate as the portion which was picked.

The smoke was plainly visible from the business portion of Summerton and, being so far remote from town the fire department of the city could render no assistance.

The Colonel had just built a new, and beautiful house on his plantation which is nearly completed and which was to be his home. Mrs. Wilson was in Summerton where the Wilsons had been making their home until the new residence was completed.

New M. E. Minister.

At the Methodist conference held in Bishopville last week Rev. C. C. Derrick, who has held the pastorate in this city for the past four years was transferred to Clio, South Carolina. He is to be succeeded by Rev. Wiggins. It is with keen regret that the people are to part with the ministerial duties of Rev. Derrick, who has made such a pleasing impression on all the citizens during his residence here. Were it not an inviolable rule of the M. E. Conference that, at the expiration of a minister's four years' pastorate in one place he shall be transferred the people would make strenuous efforts to retain him in Summerton. He will carry the best wishes of this community wherever he goes.

Mrs. Scarborough Convalescing.

Mrs. O. C. Scarborough, president of the Red Cross, who has been quite ill for some time is convalescing. The people of Summerton are very thankful and pleased to learn that this estimable woman is on the road to recovery.

Commendable Work of Red Cross.

The delegates of the Red Cross are busy in collecting and working up garments for the soldiers and in every way contributing to the commendable work in this critical period of the country.

Miss Aline Richbourg, secretary of the Red Cross, is being ably supported by the majority of the patriotic women of Summerton who are devoting great patriotic spirit for the welfare of the boys in the trenches.

Holiday at Schools.

Pupils and teachers of the schools of the city will be given a holiday vacation Thursday and Friday of this week and they will be with their friends at the festal board, when the roast turkey, all kinds of sauces, puddings and the other trimmings are dished up for their delectation.

The majority of the teachers will return to their homes or visit friends in other parts during the vacation. Principal E. Wade Cranford will take in Columbia and other places while the Misses Mobley, instructor in music, Riggs and Garvin will likely go to their homes. Miss Cora Canty contemplates passing Thanksgiving at her pleasant home in Summerton. Miss Francis Loftin goes to Columbia and Miss Dora Hartzell to her home in Cheraw. With Thanksgiving the season of holidays is just opening and from now until Spring these occasions will be in order quite frequently.

Cotton Still Coming In.

The two ginneries, which are well equipped for handling the large business that comes their way, are still crowded with cotton. Many who had been holding their cotton, and the late pickings, are swelling the business late in the season.

School Examinations.

Last week the examinations for the first term of the year closed. It is predicted that the pupil's papers will disclose a large amount of erudition absorbed during the past few weeks. Examining and marking the percentages of the examination papers is now in progress by the teachers.

Beginning of Manual Training.

What may ultimately result in the introduction in the schools of Summerton of that important branch of education, Manual Training, now a part of the curriculum of many of the schools of the country, is the proposition to organize a chapter of Junior Red Cross for the purpose of enlisting the services of the children in Red Cross work and which, with the other duties, will include their efforts at utilizing their skill in making different articles which will be useful to the soldiers. From this initial movement it is but a step to the introduction of the Manual Training system which has proven of such value in other places in giving the pupils a preliminary training in the arts and trades and which has been of great service in later years when the scholars left school and, not being disposed to take up a profession and, in many cases not in a position to enter college, have directed their attention to learning some trade.

Calhoun Literary Society.

One of the interesting side lines of instruction and entertainment in the Summerton High Schools and which makes for valuable training the pupils in becoming proficient in speaking, writing and extemporaneous deliberations are, the regular sessions of the Calhoun Literary Society. Meetings are held regularly every two weeks, but owing to the recent examinations in the schools the last meeting was deferred until Monday of this week. At these gatherings of the members debates, themes, essays, readings, recitations and in instrumental and vocal music become important features.

People Coming and Going.

Ex-Representative John R. Dingle and wife drove over from their large plantation near town and passed a few hours Monday in shopping and meeting their many friends in this section who are always glad to extend the hand of hospitality to these prominent members of this community. Mr. Dingle is a broad minded man, of excellent qualities and his judgment and counsel in the affairs of the community are entertained.

H. A. Richbourg, manager of the Summerton Live Stock company, is full to the rim of business these days and one must necessarily get a move on if he manages to keep a tab on him. On Monday he had business in Sumter.

Hustling business conditions still prevail in all lines of commercial activity in Summerton. Trade continues heavy and large sums of money are changing hands. The several mercantile establishments are replenishing their stocks rapidly to meet the demands.

INTERESTING LOCAL RED CROSS NEWS

At the Red Cross Convention in Columbia, Mr. Walling, of Washington, said "I was pleased to hear the big things done in the big towns and counties and the small things done in the small towns and small counties, but what pleased me most was the unselfish, patriotic spirit of the little town of Ridge Spring in Saluda county." Ridge Spring has a Chapter but the county seat, Saluda, has not organized, and Ridge Spring is waiting for Saluda to have a Chapter and then she will be an auxiliary to Saluda.

I am so glad that our Chapter is Clarendon County Red Cross, and we are all working together to make our Chapter as good as the best. Manning has no Red Cross Chapter but is working for the Clarendon County Red Cross. In the parade in Columbia a delegate from Summerton held one side of the banner, and a delegate held the other side, and the banner was the Clarendon County banner. The Headquarters located in Manning, belongs to the county, and all the Red Cross Members in the county must consider it theirs. Come in when you wish, the building is open from 10 to 1 in the morning and 3 to 5 in the afternoon. There is always a good fire, and plenty of comfortable rocking chairs, as well as several straight chairs to use at the sewing machines, and some one in charge to meet you and make you welcome. A lady from Pinewood was in Manning one day last week, and as the gentleman she wished to see on business was out of town, she spent the time in the Red Cross, sewing for the boys. Then, on another day, a lady just a few miles out, while waiting for her husband, spent the time sewing. Now wasn't that a nice way for these ladies to spend this waiting time, which would otherwise have been wasted.

The "Priscilla Club" instead of meeting in the home of one of the members and having a feast, as had been their custom, met at the Red Cross and sewed all the afternoon and did not have even a drink of water. Quite a number of finished garments for the soldiers was the result of this unique style of entertaining. Come again Priscilla, you are always welcome! Can't some other club follow suit?

The Red Cross wishes to acknowledge the following donations: \$90.00 as a result of the Halloween Carnival, gotten up by Miss Valley Appelt and Miss Ehrlich. We can almost touch bottom in the money drawer, so hope other communities will get up entertainments and turn the proceeds into the Red Cross treasury.

Mr. and Mrs. Judd White gave a stove.

As for Mr. White and Mr. Clarke, next door, the Red Cross simply could not run without them!

The ladies from all over the county have been sewing and knitting, and finished work is coming in steadily, if somewhat slowly, there has been an improvement both in the quantity and quality of the work done, but a great many more must get busy, and work faster, if our sick soldier boys are to be promptly supplied and Clarendon County is to rank as "good as the best."

Miss Jessie R. McLean, Secretary.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BOYS BANQUET

The Manning fire department had their annual feast last Friday night, and it was an occasion long to be remembered. Mr. C. R. Sprott gave the company \$150.00 for the good work they did at the Oil Mill fire, and Chief S. L. Huggins placed \$50.00 of this amount in the hands of Mack Rich to get up the supper. Mack is always on the job when it comes to eats, and this time he surpassed all other occasions. The supper was a swell affair and prepared to a Queen's taste. When all of the boys assembled around the well laden table of turkey, barbecue, chicken and everything that goes to make up a feast, Chief Huggins arose and in a few words of appreciation to the members of the company in which they worked for him during his five years as chief, he tendered his resignation. But as he gave no reason for quitting the boys, his resignation was not accepted until he was asked why he did so, and with a blush, though happiness sparkled in his eyes he said: "I am to be married next Monday." Of course, he was then excused from his position, and after wishing him great joys and much prosperity on the matrimonial sea, Mr. Bertram Weinberg was elected to succeed him as chief. Everybody enjoyed the occasion, and suffice it to say that Mack is some cook.

MRS. SPROTT'S FORMER SCHOLARS ENTERTAIN

A novel, but highly enjoyable occasion, was that of last Wednesday evening when a number of Mrs. Joseph Sprott's (Miss Josie McLean) former scholars met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Gerald, and, in a measure, re-enacted some of the school performances of nearly thirty years ago. It was in the nature of a surprise to Mrs. Sprott, the guest of honor, and for an hour or two, she and her old scholars vied with each other in recounting school-room happenings of those good days.

The guests began to assemble at 8 o'clock and by 8:30 the parlor of Mrs. Gerald's elegant home was well filled with strictly a Jordan bunch of folks.

The following program was rendered, it being some part of the performances held at the Jordan school house during "Miss Josie's administration":

1. Medley—By all the old pupils.
 2. Address of Welcome—Mrs. C. R. Sprott.
 3. Song, Robin Red Breast—Joe Wells.
 4. Song, The Wood-pecker—Joe Davis.
 5. Recitation, Charge of the Light Brigade—Connor Wells.
 6. I am Only Sixteen—Mrs. Felix Dingle.
 7. The Swallow and I—Mrs. C. N. Sprott and Mrs. J. W. Heriot.
 8. Tableau, Coming Through the Rye—Mrs. Jos. E. Davis and Joseph Sprott, Jr.
 9. Valedictory—Clarence Sprott.
- At the conclusion of these exercises Mrs. Joseph Sprott addressed her old pupils, much to their delight; the temper of the crowd seemed to be for speeches so we had short addresses from Mrs. S. M. Sprott, Mr. C. R. Sprott, Dr. T. J. Davis and Mr. Joseph Sprott.

The latter's speech was in defense of himself for having broken up the Jordan school and your correspondent thinks he vindicated himself. A good part of his speech was reminiscent. He told of the opening of the first store at what is now Jordan, his father being the proprietor. He and Mr. C. W. Wells, father of Mr. T. M. Wells, Mrs. T. F. Coffey and Mrs. A. J. White, our worthy townsmen, were the clerks and were sent to Charleston to do the buying; at this time the only name the cross roads bore was "Jordan Old Field."

When they placed an order for printing, he was asked for the address—he gave it as "Jordan Old Field." Mr. Wells replied "let's call it Jordan," which was agreed to, so the "Old Field" was dropped then and there, and "Jordan" it has been ever since.

At the conclusion of these exercises a delicious salad course was served, followed by ice-cream, cakes and coffee. The guests were served by Misses Fannie James Davis, Maude Sprott and Leila Margaret Dickson.

The following enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald's home: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sprott, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Sprott, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. E. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Sprott, Mrs. S. M. Sprott, Miss Jessie McLean, Mrs. J. W. Heriot, Mrs. Alma Bradley, Mrs. S. A. Hunter, Mrs. Felix Dingle, Mrs. G. L. Dickson, Miss May Lesene, Mr. Joseph Sprott, Jr., Mr. Jos. L. Wells, Dr. T. J. Davis, Mr. Jno. W. Lesene, Mr. R. C. Wells.

Gasoline Famine.

Several of the traveling men were held up in Manning Tuesday by reason of the scarcity of gasoline. Many were compelled to make the surrounding towns by rail. There is a shortage of gasoline at Summerton, Sumter, Florence, Bishopville and other places. Another argument for cutting out joy riding and assist in conserving one staple that has become an important factor in commercial activities.

Miss Wilson Entertains.

Miss Pauline Wilson gave a Rook Party in honor of her friends, the Misses Lachicotte, on Monday afternoon. Lovely Chrysanthemums were used for decorations, and delicious refreshments served after the game. Those present were: Mesdames W. C. Davis, J. A. Weinberg, English Plowden, E. C. Horton, I. I. Appelt, A. C. Bradham, G. W. Williams, Misses Valley Appelt, Edna Brockington and Jessie McLean.

PINEWOOD ONE OF CLARENDON'S BIG COTTON MARTS

Little Over One-Half Million Dollars Goes for the Product This Year—People Instrumental in Bringing This Progressive City to the Front—Pioneers of the Place.

(Special Correspondence The Times.)

"This was all a swamp and water," said a gentleman, when pointing to some of the principal portions of the present site of the large and prosperous city of Pinewood. "I have had many a good swim out there," said he pointing to a spot not far from the present station. Now all is changed and one can hardly realize the situation when the pioneers first settled here and began the transformation that has been wrought in the place. But Pinewood's experience is only that of history repeating itself in the case of many of the largest cities of the land today.

Pioneer of 1744.

In 1744 Demsey Griffin was born within the present precincts of Pinewood. When a young man he, not unlike many other young fellows who become imbued with the idea that there are more congenial places with better advantages for them to hit the goal, moved over into the state of Alabama. But after residing there about a year he decided that the old home site in South Carolina was good enough place for him to cast his lot in life's gamble, and moved back to Pinewood where he acquired about 700 acres of the virgin soil in this section and resided contentedly here until his demise in 1866.

First Mercantile Establishment.

In 1888 the Manchester and Augusta railroad was built into the place and with the advent of the steel rails and the locomotive with its cars this harbinger of progress for the place gave a business impulse to the locality which resulted in the business activities which have characterized the town from that time until the present. Dr. H. A. McClern established the first sawmill in 1889 and opened a commissary becoming in fact, Pinewood's first merchant. C. L. Griffin opened a mercantile house in the same year and was followed by Manning Welch, the Stack Brothers and others of the present day.

First School House.

Early attention was given the cause of education and the first school house was built in 1890 with Miss Rydia Keels, now Mrs. E. B. Felder, as the pioneer instructor for a class of pupils of an enrollment of 20 children of the community.

Modern \$10,000 Structure.

Such has been the interest taken by the intelligence of this community that today Pinewood has a large brick school house with all the modern attachments and accessories for successful instruction of the youth, built and designed for the special purposes to which it is to be devoted, with an enrollment of 130 pupils. In securing H. G. Gibson as principal to supervise the instruction and discipline to be dealt out the people are to be congratulated upon their choice of a person who, with his able assistants, the Misses Eubanks, Burkner, Mrs. A. P. Toomer and Miss Bessie Geddings, will intelligently dispense knowledge.

M. E. Log Church.

Prior to the advent of the railroad with its progressive features the people had displayed their interest in spiritual affairs by the erection of a log church by the Methodists where, in their primitive days they could assemble for worship. Lewis Henry DesChamps, one of the sturdy men of the pioneer days, who was instrumental in many ways in promoting the best interests of Pinewood and community, was chairman of the building committee of the Methodist congregation which built the first frame church in Pinewood. This structure was later moved to another lot and became the first school house in Pinewood. When the frame building was moved away the present beautiful structure of the Methodists was erected.

At the present time the Presbyterian and the Baptist congregations are represented by beautiful structures, the Presbyterians being succeeded by the Baptists.

Flourishing Knights of Pythias. In the fraternal orders the Knights of Pythias have a large membership, and are in a prosperous condition with new members being affiliated with the order.

City Government Management. With the present management of the affairs of the city the best interests of the citizens are in a way to be best conserved. Such men of good business acumen were selected at the last election from among those of the community as represented by the following personnel:

Mayor, B. D. Griffin; wardens, Dr. K. O. Rinehart, J. S. Richardson, W. D. Epperson; health officer, Dr. K. O. Rinehart. Suffice it to say that the orderly tenure of the community is, in a large degree, due to the vigilance of Chief of Police Rufus Thames. A. L. Burkett served first term of mayor in Pinewood's entrance into the field of municipalities of this state.

Many Ginneries Established.

Within the city of Pinewood are located two ginneries which will average about 1,500 bales of cotton each per year. They are owned and operated by J. M. Hicks and J. R. Griffin. In the small adjacent communities are five other ginneries which contribute to the large shipping business of Pinewood by making their shipments from this place which has such excellent shipping facilities.

Cotton Buyers.

Pinewood being the large cotton market many of the large buyers of this staple product are located here among them being Richardson & Epperson, R. Lide, P. B. Lawrence and R. A. Ridgill.

Over Half Million for Cotton.

Some conception of the prominent place that Pinewood holds in the cotton shipping market and its importance as a commercial center and the amount of money paid to producers for this one product of the plantations may be readily conceived when it is stated that the shipments will aggregate 4,000 bales of long staple and other varieties when this year's business will have closed. In round numbers the shipments of seed will aggregate 200,000 tons and at the prevailing price of \$75.00 per ton will amount to the large sum of \$50,000 saying nothing of the cotton which would probably reach an additional sum at the average of 28c per pound of about \$560,000. This would bring the colossal transactions in cotton and its by-products in Pinewood for the year up to a total of more than one-half million dollars. It will be readily seen that there is a reason and a good one for the great prosperity prevalent in all lines of trade within the precincts of this thriving community, and that such a large amount of commercial transactions in any one line of production would be an important factor in placing any city to the front and give it a prominent place on the map.

Weigher Lawrence Busy Man.

Some busy scene is presented at the railroad station and on the platforms where cotton is being received and weights checked out by Official Weigher, R. A. Lawrence, and his assistants who are on the job early and late during the hustling season of this year.

Clever Gentlemen.

Messrs. C. B. Koib and A. F. Ragin, station agents at Pinewood, are congenial gentlemen, obliging in their duties with the public and faithful employes for the company in the transactions of the large amount of business which is a feature of Pinewood.

City of Beautiful Homes.

Without some allusions to the tastefully arranged streets and homes of the city of Pinewood would be doing an injustice to the place. Most favorable impressions are formed as the stranger drives up Main street, a broad thoroughfare, with its line of beautiful oaks through the center of the business portion of the street. Good substantial business houses

(Continued on Page 5.)