

# THE CAMDEN CHRONICLE

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## ONE HUNDRED YEARS

In Life of Mrs. Abigail DuRant, of Bishopville.

Special to The State. Bishopville, October 21.—This city has the distinction of being the home of a remarkable centenarian, Mrs. Abigail DuRant, who has lived in this community all her life, celebrated the 100th anniversary of her birth July 3, 1922. The 101st year of her life found her in good health, self-reliant, vigorous for her years and with the fine intellect and keen interest in affairs that has always marked her.

Mrs. DuRant is the daughter of James Rembert, who was of French Huguenot stock. She was born on her father's plantation near this place. A large part of this beautiful plantation, which contained more than 5,000 acres, was inherited by her and has been in her possession for over 67 years. Mrs. DuRant was married 84 years ago. Her husband was John O. DuRant, grandson of Henry DuRant of the American Revolution.

Mrs. DuRant has lived through the anxieties and sorrows of five wars. She had relatives constantly in peril during the Indian war in Florida in 1832. When the Palmetto regiment marched to the Mexican war, Caleb Rembert, her only brother, was one of its brave volunteers. She never saw him again, as he died from disease and was buried in the City of Mexico during the siege of that stronghold. To the Confederate war went her husband and two sons, David and James. This great war took its deadly toll, too, as James died from disease in the Confederate hospital at Charlottesville, Va. Then came the Spanish-American war and the anxieties connected with the peril to her grandsons engaged in it. And finally the World war, in which were engaged many grandsons and great-grandsons, one great-grandson, Hugh Merritt, having made the supreme sacrifice.

Naturally the Confederate war made the greatest impression upon her, and she talks most interestingly of her experiences. Like so many other brave Southern women, during that period she worked unceasingly to keep the plantation going, to care for the young children at home and to cheer and aid loved ones in the field.

She must have realized that the end of the Confederacy was near, when one Saturday night in March, 1865, while she and her five young daughters were seated at the supper table, there rushed into the room, entirely unexpectedly, more than a dozen Union soldiers. They ransacked the house and made merry with brandy which they found. They formed part of Sherman's army, camped a few miles away.

On the Sunday following hundreds of Federal soldiers pillaged her place. They took horses, cured meats, chickens and everything to eat that they could find. They burned the barns and outbuildings and the gin, with hundreds of bales of cotton, but they left her home standing. For a week, she says, nothing was cooked in the "big house," for the soldiers would stand around the stove while the food was being prepared and would eat it as fast as it was cooked, so she had to stop trying to prepare anything. The only food which she and her young children had during that time was brought to them secretly by faithful Negro slaves. She did not go to bed for a week, but just slept for a few minutes at a time, day or night, in chairs.

During this week officers interviewed her constantly, trying to get information as to the whereabouts of the men of her family and threatening to burn her home if this information was not given. Sometimes they would make preparations to carry out their threats by pulling brands from the fireplace and would boast of having burned Columbia. With brave calmness, which she still evidences, she told them that she did not know where her men folk were and that if she did she would not tell.

Probably no one else in South Carolina has lived through as much history as Mrs. DuRant. She was born the year after the death of the great Napoleon, when the world had been recently torn with wars, and she lived to see, nearly 100 years later, practically the entire world in arms again. As a girl and young woman, she heard constantly of the great political questions that were beginning to divide the North and South. She recalls vividly when nullification was a vital issue and South Carolina prepared to resist forcibly the tariff laws of the Nation, and she, with other

## ORDER OF WORK CHANGED

To Leave Main Street Open Until After Christmas Holidays.

Owing to some little delay in the arrival of a concrete mixer to be used on the paving work by the Southern Paving Co. forces here, the plan of work has been somewhat changed from the original program.

It was the intention of the city to pave Main street first and later take up the work on DeKalb street, and it was thought that the work on Main street could be completed before the rush of the Christmas trade. It has now been decided to finish the curbing of all of Main street and remove all unnecessary material in order that the main business street will not be blocked to traffic.

As soon as the curbing has been completed they will begin work on the western end of DeKalb street and finish that section before returning to the work on the other streets.

The work will begin near the railway crossing at the foot of west DeKalb and this will necessitate a detour off that street while it is closed. The detour will be to the left upon entering the town and pass around the grove of the Jackson colored school and lead on by the residence of Joe Reed and then follow east into Lafayette avenue on into Broad street.

It is a wise decision on the part of the mayor and council and they are doing everything possible to cause the least inconvenience to traffic as well as business.

The curbing of lower Main street is progressing nicely and has reached the opera house corner.

## Commandery to Meet.

Camden Commandery No. 12, Knights Templar, will hold a special convocation Friday evening, October 27th, at 8 o'clock, to confer the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta.

W. Robin Zemp, Commander, M. Billings, Recorder.

## Catholic Church Services.

Services at the Catholic Church next Sunday will be as follows: Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost. Mass and sermon 11 a. m., Sunday school 10 a. m. All are cordially invited.

## Mr. Johnson Named President.

At a called meeting of the board of directors of the Peoples Bank held Tuesday, October 24th, Mr. W. E. Johnson was elected President to fill the unexpired term of Capt. J. J. Bell, who died October 12th, and Mr. J. S. Clarkson was elected Vice President to fill the unexpired term of Mr. A. D. Kennedy, who died July 16th.

Mr. W. F. Nettles was elected a member of the board of directors.

## Will Meet at Lancaster.

The Fifth District Medical Association will hold its semi-annual meeting in Lancaster on November 8. Dr. Hamilton of Winstonsboro is president of the association. An interesting program is being arranged, including addresses by physicians and surgeons of national prominence. The association comprises the counties of Lancaster, York, Chester, Fairfield, Kershaw, Chesterfield and Cherokee.

South Carolinians took pride in the debates of the great Calhoun and Webster. She remembers, too, the intense interest of that day in the question of free and slave states, and how this finally brought on the Confederate war, with the great changes that it wrought in the South.

Mrs. DuRant has seven children now living: Mrs. Jane Reames, Bishopville; Mrs. Ellen Dixon, Norfolk; Mrs. Matilda Flowers, Sumter; Mrs. Amanda Merritt, Carlisle; Mrs. Blandina Dixon, Camden; Mrs. Olivia Shaw, Bishopville; Oliver DuRant, Bishopville.

She has outlived the following children: Mrs. Elizabeth McLeod, Charles Rembert DuRant, James A. DuRant, 1st, James A. DuRant, 2nd, A. C. DuRant and David E. DuRant.

Mrs. DuRant has 228 living descendants, including 42 grandchildren, 139 great-grandchildren and 38 great-great-grandchildren. The Henry DuRant chapter of the D. A. R. of this city, which includes in its membership 19 of her descendants, recently presented to her a book containing the names of all of her descendants. On her 100th birthday great numbers of her descendants and her friends and acquaintances gathered at her home to congratulate her and she also received many letters and telegrams from points throughout the United States. Mrs. DuRant has spent the last 28 years of her life at the home of her youngest daughter, Mrs. W. R. Shaw, of this city.

## IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

Men Tried for Robbing Lugoff Bank Now Wanted for Boozie Runners.

The following from Sunday's State will be read with interest in this county. Brawley and Wallace were members of the party who were tried in Kershaw county, being charged with blowing and robbing the Bank of Lugoff. They were acquitted by a Kershaw county jury.

The sound of pistol shots on west Gervais street near the river bridge late yesterday afternoon and the fast running of two motor cars created considerable excitement. It developed that Lexington county officers were chasing a machine supposed to be loaded with liquor. The leading machine turned to the right when it reached Putaski street and city detectives joined in the chase. Bottles of booze were thrown from the foremost machine and officers picked up eight quarts on the run. Officers say Bill Brawley and Barney Wallace were in the runaway machine.

Chief Merchant of the Brookland police force and Rural Officer Freshley of Lexington county started the chase on the Lexington side of the river. They said they had information that the machine they "flushed" carried a supply of liquor. The officers said the touring car loaded with booze rolled across the bridge at a high rate of speed and raised a mountain of dust when it reached the dirt roadway on West Gervais street. Chief Merchant said he fired several shots in the air when his car reached the Columbia side of the bridge to attract the attention of officers. Several Columbia detectives happened to be on the 1200 block of Putaski street when they heard the firing and saw a fast moving car turn the corner on two wheels. They joined in the chase and fell out of line when the leading car outdistanced them.

Quart bottles of liquor were thrown from the runaway car on the run down Putaski street and eight were picked up intact. A number of flasks broke when they hit the earth. Lexington county and Columbia officers said Bill Brawley was driving the runaway machine and that Barney Wallace occupied a seat in the car. Officers were looking for the two men last night. It was said they will be brought to court in both counties for a hearing if apprehended.

Liquor brought to the police station was labeled, "Old Lewis Hunter's Rye." The booze will be used as evidence against the offending parties.

## Place of Meeting Changed.

Attention of the public is called to the fact that the place of meeting for the Mass Meeting of citizens of Kershaw County to discuss the building of a new road to Richland County and other matters called to be held at the Court House has been changed to the opera house in this city. The meeting is called for Monday, November 6th, at eleven a. m., and it is hoped there will be a representative attendance from all parts of the county.

## "Mr. and Mrs. Polly Tiek" Coming.

Under the auspices of the Civic League the above much talked of and highly recommended play will be presented at the Opera House on the evening of November 3rd.

The Hettie Jane Democracy Company has agreed to send Miss Wilma Ridgill, a most winsome, gracious and accomplished lady as coach and the best local talent has consented to take part. The play has been well received and had wonderful success everywhere and the League does not hesitate to boogie the program, feeling sure that it will bring bouquets and not brickbats.

Mrs. H. G. Garrison, Jr., is chairman of the committee and we bespeak for her the hearty co-operation of those who take part and in fact of the entire public for the benefit is for one of the most important organizations of the town.

Let us give it our liberal patronage, we are sure to get our money's worth. Buy tickets when offered for sale, do not turn them down. And right here let us beg the cast to attend regularly and promptly and above all do not drop out at the last moment. All interested in the League must "bend to the oars" to make this entertainment a big success.

## Freedom After Fifty Years.

Waupon, Wis., October 24.—Bill Maxwell, aged 83, will be released from the State penitentiary here tomorrow upon completing a 50-year sentence for murder. Convicts here will be guests at a farewell party for him.

## FORMER CAMDEN MAN DEAD.

George H. Clarke Passed Away Suddenly in Columbia.

Friends in Camden will regret to learn of the death of George H. Clarke, which occurred suddenly in Columbia on October 14th after a brief illness. Mr. Clarke will be remembered in Camden where he attended school and resided for many years with his father and his step-mother, Mrs. Virginia Clarke. In speaking of Mr. Clarke the Columbia, State of October 16th, has the following to say of the young man: "The funeral of the late George H. Clarke will be held this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at Main Street Methodist church. The services will be conducted by the pastor, the Rev. R. S. Truesdale, assisted by the Rev. Wade H. Boggs, pastor of the Arsenal Hill Presbyterian church. Interment will be at Elmwood cemetery and Mr. Clarke will be buried with Masonic honors. The pallbearers will be W. S. Tomlinson, Frank Lee, George Nafay, W. C. Hennies, R. E. Lee and G. Flavie Cooper.

Mr. Clark died Saturday afternoon after an illness of several hours' duration and the announcement of his death yesterday was a profound shock to his numerous friends and admirers. George Clark had been employed in the city engineer's office for 12 years. He began as a rodman and won promotion by close attention to duties and efficiency in his work. At the time of his death Mr. Clark was paying inspector and his experience and firmness in the performance of his important duties made him a valuable city employee. He served under Fred C. Wyse, T. K. Legare and W. S. Tomlinson, and the engineers recognized in Mr. Clark a man of more than ordinary ability. Each one spoke words of commendation for the young man and mourn his loss.

George Clark worked in the city engineer's office at the city hall until the moment he was stricken Saturday morning. He complained of dizziness while working on a map and left the room at about 11 a. m. His condition gradually grew worse and he passed away at a local hospital later in the afternoon. Loyalty and faithfulness marked the business life of Mr. Clark and in social life he was known as a gentleman. When his country called for him he dropped his engineering implements and shouldered a gun. Associates in business and the every day affairs of life express deep regret over his departure. He was cheerful, friendly and chivalrous and won the admiration of every one with whom he came in contact.

## Road to Bishopville to Be Closed.

Material has been placed at the small narrow bridge over the old spillway at the Hermitage Mill pond on the Camden-Bishopville road and work has already begun on replacing the dangerous bridge at that place with a twenty foot bridge. Instead of following the route of the road the old bridge sets diagonally across the stream making it a dangerous crossing. The new bridge is to be of creosoted timber, twenty feet wide and about forty feet long, making a great improvement at this point, and in keeping with the excellent roadway all the way to Bishopville. The old narrow bridge will be salvaged and placed across some stream where traffic is not so great.

The road authorities ask us to notify the public that this road will be closed to traffic on Monday, October 30th, and that vehicles of all kinds will have to detour by way of the old Charleston road. Persons going to Bishopville by the Charleston road will turn to left near the Hermitage plantation of Mr. H. G. Garrison and follow the road to the top of the precipice near the home of Mrs. Mickle where they will again enter the Camden-Bishopville road. Signs will be placed marking the detours.

## Services at Grace Church.

The services at Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 29th, will be the Holy Communion at 8 a. m., and Morning Service with sermon at 11 a. m. The Sunday School meets at 10 o'clock. All are cordially invited to attend these services.

F. H. Harding, Rector.

## Enjoy Fish Fry.

About twenty-five local citizens went to the mill pond of Mr. E. E. Holland Wednesday night where they had an abundance of fish and enjoyed a fish fry. The fish were caught at the pond by Mr. Robert D. Williams.

## Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank our friends for their kindness in our recent bereavement, also for the lovely floral offerings.

Mrs. J. J. Bell and Family.

**Halloween Party at D. A. R. Hall.** On Saturday afternoon, October 28th, at 4 o'clock, the Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church will give a Halloween Party at the D. A. R. Hall (old court house) the guests of honor being the children of Camden. There will be a grand march, music and games of all kinds. A prize will be given for the best costume, so as many children as possible must come in Halloween attire. Admission 10 cents. Ice cream cones will be sold at 5 cents.

## NOTABLE GATHERING HERE.

Southern Yale Clubs to Be Guests of Kirkwood Hotel December 7 to 9.

A meeting of the Southern Yale Clubs will be held at Hotel Kirkwood in Camden, December 7 to 9 inclusive. It was announced through invitations by Mr. T. Edmund Krumboltz, the manager of the Kirkwood last week. Edwin W. Robertson, of Columbia, is president of the association and the association includes Yale alumni from Maryland to Texas.

This will be the sixth gathering of the Southern Yale alumni. The first being held in Savannah in 1913 and the last in 1921 in Washington, D. C. A large attendance is expected and hundreds of invitations have been sent out to many Yale notables and dignitaries, including Chief Justice William Howard Taft and Dr. Arthur T. Hadley, former president of Yale University.

The Associated Southern Yale Clubs has for its object the cementing of old college friendships and the supporting by several scholarships of young men of the South who are ambitious to get their degree at Yale.

The entertainment will be patterned after an old-fashioned English Hunt Meet, featuring a fox hunt and a barbecue.

## Adjutant General Nash Killed.

Macon, Ga., Oct. 20.—Adj. Gen. J. Van Holt Nash, of Atlanta, and Lieut. H. M. Butler, of Atlanta, were instantly killed tonight when an automobile in which they were riding overturned near Griffin, Ga.

Lieut. H. A. Hines and Major Charles Cox, of Atlanta, were other occupants of the car. Lieut. Hines was unhurt, but Major Cox sustained a broken rib and a broken collar bone.

## Carr Found Guilty.

St. George, S. C., Oct. 20.—William Carr, Jr., late today was found guilty of murder by a jury in the court of general sessions here for the killing last February of John A. Patrick. The jury recommended Carr to the mercy of the court, the recommendations meaning that his punishment will be fixed at life imprisonment. Sentence will be pronounced tomorrow. It was charged that Carr shot Patrick because the latter accused him of burning a boat. Carr claimed self defense.

## Attended New Orleans Reunion.

South Carolina's four congressional medal men—John G. Villepique, of Camden; R. H. Hilton, of Westville; James C. Dozier, of Rock Hill and Gary Evans Foster and his bride, from Inman, S. C., were guests of the city of New Orleans during the American Legion reunion held there last week. They and other wearers of the congressional medal, were honored guests at a number of functions during the week.

## Masons to Meet.

A regular convocation of LaFayette Council, No. 25, will be held in the Masonic Hall Tuesday evening, October 31, at 8 o'clock. All Royal Arch Masons who belong to Rising Star Chapter No. 4 who have not received their Council degrees will please be on hand the above date to receive them.

By order of

R. T. Goodale, I. M.

M. Billings, Recorder.

## Tuesdays and Fridays for Ladies.

In order that those ladies attending the American Legion's Radio concerts may feel no hesitancy in coming to the Legion Hall to hear the concerts the Post has designated Tuesday and Friday nights as special Ladies' Nights. This, however, is not meant to exclude them on any other night that they may choose to come.

J. W. Sanders,

Post Adjutant.

## Lower Main Street Filling Station.

About half a dozen of the merchants and business men will soon begin the erection of an up-to-date filling station on the vacant Dibble lot on lower Main street in the next few weeks. A lease on the lot has been secured for a number of years, and it will be a stock company. Since the removal of the gas and oil tanks from Main street there is no filling station in that part of the city and this will be a great convenience for motor car owners in that section of town. When completed the filling station will be in charge of Mr. U. N. Myers, formerly a member of the Camden police force.

Mrs. N. R. Goodale, Mrs. John Goodale, Jr., and Mrs. S. W. van Landingham attended the State Fair Wednesday.

## ANNUAL DINNER

Given by Chamber of Commerce Last Thursday Evening.

The dinner given in the Masonic dining hall by the Camden and Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce last Thursday evening was a representative gathering, socially delightful and successful in results, as it showed the spirit of the people, their loyalty to Camden and its institutions and their abiding faith in its future. The hall was almost capacity filled and the long tables with snowy linen, exquisite china, cut glass and silver and profusion of flowers were most attractive and inviting. This part of the entertainment was in charge of Hobkirk Hill Chapter, D. A. R., and the regent, Miss Mimi Clyburn, with her competent committee sustained their deservedly popular reputation, in fact excelled on this occasion.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. W. H. Hodges, of the Methodist church, and was presided over by the popular president of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rev. E. H. Harding. Mr. L. T. Mills in his usual graceful and gracious manner introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. E. W. Sikes, of Coker College, whose address was interesting, instructive and entertaining. It was teming with wit and humor and prepared the assemblage for what was to follow—the pledges in cash for the maintenance of the Chamber for the next twelve months.

Mr. Harding read a telegram from the former president, Mr. H. K. Hallett, who regretted his inability to be present, but made a handsome pledge from Wateree Mills as long as Camden had an active Chamber of Commerce. Mr. C. P. DuBose then took pledges from business firms and individuals that were liberally responded to. These will no doubt be given in another column, and we will only mention the City Council, through the Mayor, Mr. H. G. Garrison, Jr., gave \$500.

Mr. Harding and Mr. DuBose both told of the work in the past two years, what the people had asked for and what had been given them through the efforts of this organization, that is still trying to give Camden its rightful place on the map, the prettiest town in Dixie, and the best people on earth. It deserves to be progressive and it will if its people will stand by its institutions and spend their money at home. The meeting Thursday night seemed prophetic of good. A rosy dawn looms up on the near horizon, let us all help to usher it in. Let us not be content to sit in your beautiful tree embowered city and dream of a glorious past, for that will never turn the wheels of progress. Let us look up and not down; look forward and not back; look out and not in, and lend a helping hand.

We cannot close this without throwing a bouquet to the Camden orchestra, for the delightful music enjoyed before and during the dinner. And we also pay a tribute to our faithful and efficient secretary, who has shown his faith in Camden by investing his money here, and who gives the Chamber of Commerce his untiring efforts.

## Appointed Counsel for Southern.

The following is taken from the Southern News Bulletin, of October, 1922, a publication issued monthly in the interest of the Southern railway and its employees:

Law Department—Local Counsel have been appointed as follows: Frank Baldwin, Birmingham, Ala., for Jefferson County; Mendel L. Smith, Camden, S. C., for Kershaw County.

## Shivier Springs Plant Sold.

Chester, S. C., Oct. 21.—Of considerable interest throughout this entire section was the sale this week of Shivier Springs plant, by the trustees to J. D. Jacobs, of Atlanta, for \$29,100.

## To Meet at Majestic Tuesday.

Under the reorganization of the Camden and Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce, only persons who have paid their dues for the past year, or new members who have paid for 1923 are entitled to a vote in matters affecting work of this organization. A very important meeting of all such members entitled to these privileges is called for Tuesday, morning, October 31st, at the Majestic Theatre, at 10:30 o'clock. Every business man interested in the organization is earnestly requested to meet promptly at this hour, as important matters affecting the work of the organization and the future of Camden are to be considered.

Respectfully,

F. H. Harding, President.  
Camden and Kershaw County  
Chamber of Commerce.