

\$2.00
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ONCE UPON A TIME

HUMOR

FACTS

NONSENSE



MACON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 822, FRANKLIN, NC 28734

These selections are taken from the files of **The Franklin Press** during the period 1890-1900 which was edited by W. A. Curtis, a man of unusual wit and possessed of a unique style of writing.

Mr. Curtis' membership in the Methodist Church, the Democratic Party and the Masonic Lodge gave him insight into the affairs of the community.

Bob Sloan
Editor, The Franklin Press

As editor of **The Franklin Press**, Mr. W. A. Curtis had a ringside seat at the great and small local events enlivening that period known as the Gay Nineties. His prolific and witty pen was always equal to the stories that came his way, and he has left us a lively, readable and amusing - if sometimes opinionated - record of that decade.

We are thankful to **The Franklin Press** for permission to print this collection, which brings the Macon County Historical Society closer to two of its major goals: the publication of the county's history and the establishment of a historical museum. The material, which is here made available to the public for the first time in a single volume, is an important part of our written history. The proceeds will go to the museum fund.

We hope all who pick up this volume will discover as we have, that history can be fun.

Barbara McRae
President
Macon County Historical Society

*Have fun
with history!*

*Barbara
McRae*

MACON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Franklin, N. C. 28734

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Woodene Reap, Bob Sloan, Bill Crawford, Helen Patton.

Acknowledgments:

We are deeply grateful to Evelyn Carpenter for typing the selections for publication, to Chandra Eicher for the delightful and imaginative sketches, and to Margaret D'Onofrio for encouragement and enthusiasm that this project be undertaken for the benefit of the museum fund.

May you derive as much pleasure from these selections as I have had in collecting them.

Woodene Reap



Dr. C. D. Smith returned last week from Atlanta very hopeful for a railroad in our town very soon.

Communication by telephone was opened up between Franklin and Highlands and Walhalla last Saturday.

The new iron bridge across the Little Tennessee River is finished and ready for travel.

Thousands of acres of land may be bought in this section at from \$1 to \$3 per acre.

Mr. John Corbin of Millshoal, who is 85 years this year cultivated 8 acres of corn and 8 of oats and a few days ago walked 17 miles in four hours. Mr. Corbin raised 14 children and has 74 grandchildren, 125 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Miss Emma Curtis is at home on a two weeks fodder vacation (closing of school to pull fodder) from her school in Rabun County, Georgia.

*There are no more
more to be done
in this section*

People afflicted with cancer or cancer warts can be relieved by calling upon Mr. Shade Stallcup of Burningtown, who has successfully treated many such cases.

I would respectfully invite the city fathers to take a promenade down the plank sidewalk in front of the two parsonages some of these dark nights and if they return with whole limbs it will be a wonder.

-Taxpayer

Dr. W.H. Higgins bought from Eli Myers last week a building site 22 x 18 feet fronting on the public square for which he paid \$115. How is this for real estate in Franklin?

Fifteen years ago an attempt was made in Congress to pass a Federal Election Law. Now it is being tried again. Then, as now, the argument was that such a law was needed for the protection of the Republican voters, white and colored, in the Southern states. The Atlanta Constitution has suggested the boycotting of the North, should this Force Bill become law.

-From an Editorial.

A letter passed through the Franklin Post Office Tuesday with the following address: "O, carry me in haste to Napoleon Post Office, Union County, Ga. and there let me be till Dora L. Owenby calls for me.

(Editor's Note: The following is a collection notice, similar to many which appeared in the Press at that time.)

"Christmas is coming and you will have a nice turkey and chicken pie to eat. That's nice and we hope you will enjoy it, but don't forget that we can't have any, because you do not pay us that little you owe.

-Smith and Baird."

The young gentlemen of the school's Literary Society very manfully wrestled with the Protection or Free Trade question at the debate last Friday night.

The assessed value of property for taxation in Macon County for this year totals \$1,282,517. This is an increase of \$186,654 over last year.

Lee Crawford and Jim Siler encased themselves in Prince Alberts Christmas morning and left for Atlanta to enjoy the New Year's holidays. We hope they will not be mistaken for mountain dudes.

Our town authorities ought to cut down the weeds on the streets.

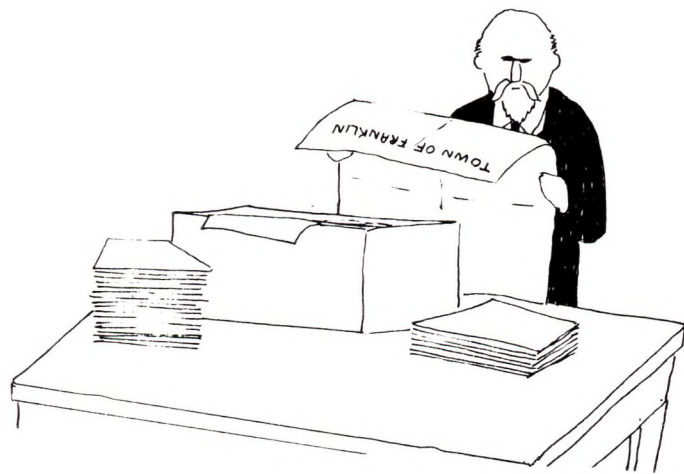
The enrollment in the Franklin High School is pretty well up to 100 pupils.

Johnson Welch and wife, of Swain County, have been visiting friends and relatives on Cowee and Burningtown during the past week. Mrs. Welch is the mother of 22 children, and can move about like a girl. Mr. Welch is quite feeble.

Mr. L. H. Enloe last week bought from Mr. J. N. Hood two acres of land on the Georgia road, near town. The price was \$75 an acre.

B. F. Felder has opened a barber shop in the Love Building- Shaving 10¢, hair cutting 15¢.

-Adv.



1891

The Asheville papers still keep up a lively warfare on the street car fare business. We hope they will succeed in keeping the fare at 5 cents, especially at such times as we may visit Asheville, for we like to ride uptown on the electric cars, and as we never have more than two nickles, we do not want to walk back to the depot.

Read the revised church directory in this week's Press and go to preaching at the right time.

Where are our street lamps?

George A. Jacobs informs us that the cabinets for Macon County's exhibit at the Southern Inter-State Exposition will be finished next Friday. Jacobs expects to have them in Franklin on Saturday and all specimens should be brought to him on that day.

Franklin needs a good town clock in the belfry on the courthouse.

We learn that the mail carrier between Hayesville and Murphy took the mail into the woods, ripped open the pouch and robbed it of \$300 or \$400, left his horse tied up and took leg bail. He was later captured.

We want 10,000 pounds of good goose and duck feathers. Smith & Baird.
-Adv.

It would be no discredit to Franklin to have the streets cleaned up a little and some of the "puddles" drained.

The Southern Inter-States Bureau has appointed October 18th as Macon County Day at the Exposition.

Mr. J. S. Sloan, register of deeds, dived into the musty depths of an old dry-goods box filled with old papers in his office last Thursday and resurrected the original plat of the town of Franklin, which has been lost for many years.

An ox team ran away on West Main Street Saturday.

Franklin ought to have a bank, and would have one if the businessmen would only will to have it.

One dollar's worth of paint from the Racket Store will paint a buggy handsomely.

-Adv.

There are 43 families within the corporate limits of Franklin.

I have opened a Newsstand and the following publications are available: Scribner's, Century, North American Review. Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly, Puck's Illustrated Paper, and Puck's Library.

F. T. Smith. -Adv.

The town council has bought a new road grading machine, and put it to work on the streets, drawn by four stout mules.

The mud-holes about Asheville are so deep that people have to watch them to keep mules from drowning.

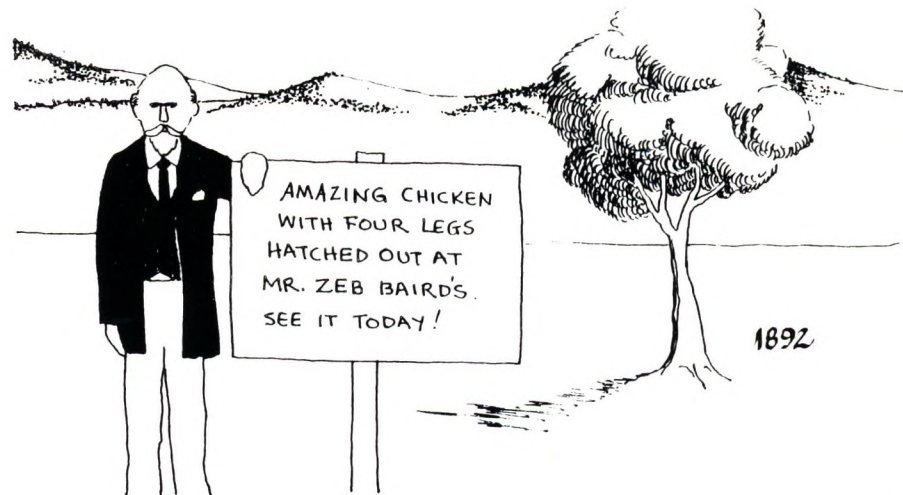
Mr. T. B. Higdon has been appointed General Storekeeper in the revenue department of this district.

A special tax of 15¢ on the \$100 and 45¢ on the poll for the bridge debt; for pauper purposes, 8½¢ on the \$100 and 25¢ on the poll; for ordinary expenses, 15-⅓¢ on the \$100; for schools, 46¢ on the poll; for roads, 5¢ on the \$100 and 15¢ on the poll.

A novel sight could be seen in a field near town last week of a man 68 years old plowing a mare 21 years old, and a man 86 years old keeping up the plow hoeing corn.

The county commissioners are considering putting a fire-proof vault in the courthouse to protect the public records.

The new fence around the cemetery at the Methodist Church has been finished and neatly painted.



We have been informed that if Macon County will guarantee a reasonable subscription for the purpose, Dr. Lucas will take the matter in hand and aid liberally himself and see that a narrow gauge railroad be put through from Franklin to Tallulah Falls as early as practicable. Now what has Macon to say about it?

A new "Devil" was installed in The Press office yesterday morning. He has passed the degree of "Type Lice" and is now "Slinging Type". His name is Oscar Ash.

Hon. J. Frank Ray left Sunday for Raleigh to be present for the convening of the General Assembly today.

Pork, flour, wheat, corn, rye, oats, wood, dried fruit, and timber will pay subscriptions to The Press. Gold, silver and paper currency will not be refused when offered.

On last Saturday in Franklin Township there were over four hundred legal voters, the people's party turned out in full force and polled eight votes by a mighty effort.

Our new sidewalks will soon be done. The curbing and sand are all done, the bricks burnt, and are being hauled in and put in place. People will soon be able to keep out of the mud.

Franklin has nine stores.

The young ladies were planning last week to have a leap-year party on Friday evening and go after the boys in real genteel style, but the severity of the weather on Friday caused the young ladies, who are always considerate, to postpone the party.

Hendersonville, Oct. 29. - Hon. Kope Elias, of Macon County, spoke here last night under the auspices of the Cleveland and Stevenson Democratic Club, and for three hours and twenty minutes the audience was held spellbound.

Would it not be a good idea for the businessmen of Franklin to meet and organize a board of trade or a chamber of commerce, for the purpose of considering advertising the resources of the county?

Maj. N. P. Rankin's house caught on fire on the roof last Friday, but the ringing of the Baptist church bell brought some young men to the rescue in time to extinguish the flames before any damage was done.

Franklin had no mails from any direction on Wednesday and Thursday of last week, and no eastern mail till Saturday night. (Editor's Note: the explanation presumably was high water.)

Following is a list of the number of businesses in Franklin at the start of 1892:

11 general stores, one hardware, one drug store, two harness and saddlery shops, three blacksmiths, one furniture store, one shoe shop, one tin shop, one livery stable, one furniture shop, one jeweler, one real estate agency, one photograph gallery, two hotels, one tannery, one planing and grist mill, three law firms, one dentist, three doctors, one high school, one newspaper and job office and one fire insurance agent.

If Confederate pensioners will call at the office of the register of deeds they can get their pensions.

We would like to see some of our subscribers who promised to bring us some wood one and two years ago coming in with it as we need it NOW.

Two Italians with bagpipe and hautboy enlivened the street yesterday, to the delight of the little boys and some larger ones, too.

Wm. Thomas and his two sons, Pink and Henry, have been a terror to the citizens on Coweeta in the Smith's Bridge township during the past year, and frequent attempts to arrest them have been made, but to no avail. About two weeks ago they moved away to Georgia but Pink and Henry came back a few days ago to take Christmas and on Christmas Day raised Cain in general. Sheriff Roane heard of them Sunday night and made a raid for them. He waited until daylight and drove the woods for them. Their hiding place was discovered in an ivy thicket and they were surrounded and captured.

FAIR WARNING: All persons indebted to me by note or account must come up and settle at once. Some of you have been owing me from two to six years.

R. L. Porter.

With this number of The Press we have been at the helm during half its life. Messers J. R. and T. J. Christy and Messers Johnston and Christy had charge of the paper for three years and thirteen weeks, which brought it up to July 1, 1889. At that time we took charge, and have now run it three years and thirteen weeks. (Editor's Note: This makes the founding date of The Franklin Press May 1, 1886.)

The contract has been let for a new academy for the Episcopal people on the lot near St. Agnes Church.

The stockholders of the Southern Building and Loan Association will please settle their monthly dues promptly on next Saturday so that returns can be made in time for the Association to close its books on the 31st inst.

From an advertisement in The Franklin Press:
Money to loan at two and three per cent for first mortgages on real estate, five or ten years time.

R. F. Jarrett, agent.

Mr. John C. Wright is having Sam Sawyer touch up the front of his store with new paint and otherwise improving it, greatly enhancing its beauty. Everything within is cleaned up giving a bright and inviting appearance to the place. No merchant in town smiles so enticing on his customers as Mr. Wright.

An editorial from The Press: Pork, flour, wheat, corn, rye, oats, wood, wool, dried fruit, and lumber will pay your subscription to The Press, and every citizen of Macon County who has grit, ambition, enterprise, intelligence, patriotism, get up, self respect, county pride, and a family should take it. Gold, silver, and paper currency will not be refused when offered.

School will begin in the Allman Building on the first Monday in November next. For terms, apply to J. A. Deal. The present school will be mixed-include both sexes, but as soon as possible, it will be made exclusively a school for girls and young ladies.

Two more schools opened their doors in Franklin last Monday morning, the St. Agnes school near the Episcopal church and the public free school near the Baptist church. Franklin now has three schools.

Franklin needs a good town clock in the belfry on the courthouse. We presume this was the intention of the commissioners, judging by the place prepared for the faces. Would it not be a good time to go to work at once and have it built?

James Beal, who has been boarding at the county hotel since court, concluded to take the shortest plan to gain his freedom and Lydia Butler, his darling, having appeared on the scene Saturday evening and Esq. John L. Corbin being handy, a license was obtained and Beal and Butler were made one, or a little more so, and their pathway through life may not be so rugged, provided they do not so erring hereafter.

Mr. R. L. Porter has sent off his bond as brandy gauger and will get his commission in a few days.

Franklin has no board of health. Don't need one.

If a certain "widder" don't quit flirting with a gentleman who wears striped trousers and red leather shoes, she'll get her name in the paper.

-Aquone item.

A chicken with four legs on the lower part of the body, two of them set right and the other two reversed suitable for walking backward, was hatched out at Mr. Zeb Baird's last Wednesday.

A neat and substantial foot-bridge across the branch on Rabun Street is an improvement in the right direction.

The citizens of Franklin would do well to look after cleaning up their premises. If they find their hog pens, backyards, or alleyways condemned by the health department, they need not be surprised. A walk along some of the streets about dark of an evening will convince anyone that cologne factories do not abound.

By request, we publish the following remedy for rattlesnake bite: Gum camphor and lard, mixed together.

The stockholders of the Southern Building and Loan Association will please take notice that next Saturday is the time to settle monthly dues, and they are requested to call at the Press office and attend to that business.

W. A. Curtis, Sect. Treas.

Our Townsman, Hon. Kope Elias, seconded the nomination of Adlai E. Stevenson for the Vice-Presidency in a neat little speech, at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago.

You don't know who will be elected President this fall, but you do know that you can get a square meal at the Allman House.

General R. B. Vance and the Rev. C. D. Smith, the latter of Macon County, have been appointed delegates to the National Nicaragua Canal Convention.

Some new and respectable looking stove-pipes in the Methodist Church would at least look more symmetrical and might prevent a destructive fire.

Peach trees are in full bloom, and "Tice" Setser says when peaches bloom at the time of a new moon they are never killed.

The question of establishing a poor-house for Macon County was discussed by the joint Board of Commissioners and Magistrates last week by J. A. Deal and others, and the result was the adoption of a resolution to allow the Commissioners to levy a tax of fifteen cents on the \$100 worth of property and forty-five cents on the poll for the purpose of establishing a poor-house in Macon County.

D. C. Cunningham and son will continue their daily hack service from Franklin to Dillsboro. Fare only \$1.00. They have come to stay and can accommodate the traveling public better now as they are not encumbered with the mail. Good teams, comfortable hacks, and buggies, and safe and polite drivers will ensure prompt connections with trains at Dillsboro.

A Macon County Republican, writing to a friend last week about the election stated that everything had gone Democratic except Hell and Sugarfork.

A lady who is blessed with good eyesight informed us that Will Sloan has turned out his mustache.

The People's party doesn't seem to BRAGG much on their candidate for sheriff.

The town council might at least say, "Clean up".



1893

Mr. J. S. Sloan reached his office at 12 o'clock last Friday with a smile on his countenance as broad as the Tennessee Valley. He said an event happened the night before- an important event- and that there is one more Cleveland Democrat on that side of the river.

Mr. Geo. A. Jones had an ice house built last week and a company went to work cutting ice on Siler's pond Saturday and storing it for summer use. The ice was nine inches thick.

The work of grading the streets and laying curbing for the new sidewalks is in full blast. John Wright has been appointed to superintend the work and see that it is done right.

We regret to note that Mr. Wm. Guess has been very sick for several days. He joined the Episcopal Church last week. We hope he may soon recover.

Mr. J. A. Deal's hack overturned with his daughters one evening last week and deposited them in the corner of the fence. But slight injury resulted to the young ladies.

Sixteen hands, all white men, left with Col. Stoner Monday to work in the gold mines at Georgetown, near Cashiers.

H. R. Jarrett and Sons purchased, last week, of "Snipe" McCloud, the old "Labyrinthian Entangleorium" on the south side of the public square and are engaged in unwinding its giddy mazes, preparatory to converting it into a livery stable.

The editor is off on a trip to the World's Fair. Lee Crawford and F. S. Johnston are holding down The Press in his absence. All persons having business with the fighting editor are requested to see Lee Crawford.

1894



One of our statistically inclined citizens reported that there are 150 head of horses, 150 head of cattle and 80 head of hogs inside of Franklin's corporate limits.

Following are current market prices for farm products: Per bushel: Wheat, 75¢; oats, 40¢; corn, 60¢, corn meal, 60 ¢. Per pound: Butter, 15¢; bacon, 12½¢, tallow, 5¢; feathers, 40¢; hides (dry) 6¢; beeswax, 17¢. Eggs per dozen, 10¢. Molasses (sorghum) per gallon, 40¢.

Grover Cleveland is not expected to do his shopping in Franklin, but there are many people in Macon County and elsewhere who can make dollars buying their clothing, dry goods, boots, shoes, hats, groceries, hardware, etc. of Mr. John C. Wright.

-Adv.

The Board of Town Commissioners held a little meeting Wednesday evening. The property tax was laid at 30 cents on the hundred dollars' worth of property. It was ordered that a number of hitching racks be put up with guards to prevent the horses getting on the sidewalks. Shooting was forbidden on the streets.

Since the sidewalks have been paved, why let sand and heaps remain on them? Is it for the purpose of concealing bad brick?

There are numerous indications of a "blind tiger" on East Main Street, and anyone must be blind indeed to not be aware of the fact.

I have fully decided to not sell goods on credit next year, and if you do not want to be refused credit, don't ask me for it.

-W. T. Potts.

The Editor has gone to Clay court, and we, the typos, usually called the "devils", have to get out The Press this week, which accounts for its superiority.

The telephone line from Franklin to Corundum Hill has been restored and we can now talk to Walhalla as well as to Dillsboro.

Wanted: A good reliable woman, white or colored, to do general house work. Wages \$1 per week.

-Adv.

Ladies' trimmed hats at Trotter's, 50¢ each.

-Adv.

Major W. H. Higdon, of Ellijay, pressed our pavements with his brogans Saturday.

I have asked for money until I am tired of it, and I do hope those indebted to me will come in and settle at once.

-R. L. Porter.

"Coon" Cochran, of Flats, killed a mad dog at the washing place, where his wife was washing one day last week.

The eyes of the town council and town police should be pried open.

Franklin High School: The fall session will open Monday, August 20, with M. C. Allen as Principal and Miss Hattie Sloan, Assistant. The latter has had a thorough Normal training and is especially qualified for teaching primary and intermediate branches. Pupils from the country can secure board in private families at a very low rate. Tuition from \$1.50 to \$3 per month.

There seemed to be plenty of corn juice about town Saturday evening.

It is an easy task to size up the principle of a man who owns a good farm and is too stingy to subscribe for The Press, but persists in reading it regularly at the expense of a Negro tenant on his farm.

The sidewalk crossings are admirably arranged for wagons to pile up mud on the sidewalks. Would it be amiss for the town authorities to have mud shovelled off occasionally?

The sum of \$68,000 is being dispensed this week among the settlers on the Cherokee lands in Jackson and Macon Counties, this state, under provision of a recent act of Congress.

Last year our County Commissioners made arrangements to group all the county paupers on one farm as an experiment preliminary to the purchase of a poor house. The experiment has had the effect to reduce the number of paupers from fifty to eight.

John Henson says he will go ahead of anyone in making syrup. John's a case. (Smith's Bridge item.)

Franklin suffered a great calamity last Friday night. About 12 o'clock flames were discovered by a young man, Tom Porter, issuing from the roof of the old store building belonging to Mr. E. H. Franks on East Main Street. Soon the whole town was aroused and ladders and buckets brought into service, and by almost super-human efforts a more extensive conflagration was prevented. As it was, these buildings were burned: J. M. Williams' store-room, the Franks-Lyle block of three store-rooms and offices above, the old Franks store-room, D. C. Cunningham's livery stables, and R. H. Jarrett and Son's hotel and store. Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Garland and brother, asleep on the second floor of the old Franks building, were awakened by Porter barely in time to escape in their night clothes.



The wire fence men left last Thursday, after selling rights for all the townships in Macon. They carried away perhaps \$500. Our people will soon be ready for the next patent fake that comes along. But we are a progressive people, you know, and bound to keep up with the procession.

We learn that the ladies of Smith's Bridge township are in favor of J. Frank Ray for Congress or President next year.

Two bag-pipe tramps in all their glory and noise struck town Saturday.

A young man down East hung himself because some people found fault with him. Should this practice become general, the trees would be full of preachers, school teachers, doctors and editors.

The last Legislature taxed doctors, dentists and lawyers \$10 each, but let the precious dogs go free.

The new road from Highlands to the Georgia line toward Walhalla will be completed in about four weeks. Then attention will be turned to the road between Franklin and Highlands.

The whole Press gang, consisting of editor, pressman, devil, and typo, took an outing last week on upper Nantahala, trout fishing. Over two hundred of the speckled tribe got into trouble by not keeping their mouths shut.

The News & Observer has added Frank Ray to the small list of handsome members of the General Assembly. Gee Whiz!

Our roads are now in the usual winter condition, mud to the bottom, but all this will be forgotten when spring comes, and Providence puts them in better condition. Our people rely a great deal upon Providence in road matters.

Frank Ray forgot his certificate of election, and it required a special motion of the House to allow him to be sworn in (as representative from Macon County).

We are creditably informed that one day last week Bud Allman actually went home from town before sundown and his wife was so alarmed she wanted to send for the doctor thinking he might be sick.

The horse of Dr. W. A. Sprinkle, being sold at Addie Tuesday, fell dead from fright; it is believed at an approaching train. He made every effort to get loose and, falling, died from sheer alarm.

Last Wednesday morning Rev. G. A. Bartlett called to see the pencil pusher of this printshop on a little business matter. A conversation ensued, expressions of anti-admiration were indulged interspersed with exclamation points and impressive complaints exchanged and Mr. Bartlett went on to Church and the pencil pusher resumed his regular work. None of the machinery of the universe was broken and the sun rises and sets in the usual order.

Messers Will Enloe and Fred Angel left Monday for the Indian Territory. We wish the boys good luck and hope they may soon make a fortune and return to Macon County to enjoy it.

Mr. Jean Bryson went to leap the fence near the academy but by a sad mischance he landed on top of it and the consequences were not very pleasant.

Constructor W. B. McGuire is having a well dug in the jail yard for the purpose of erecting the water works and the lumber for the jail is coming in.

Our mail failed to come Saturday evening. It is said the mail agent was drunk and took it on to Murphy.

Blar-eyed blockade of the meanest type still works its way into town and those who work at it blame us for mentioning the fact.

The Free Silver Club will meet in the Courthouse next Monday night. All persons favoring free coinage are requested to attend.

(From an Editorial) "The gold dollar is the dollar of the bond holders, the barkers, the wealthy corporations; the silver dollar is the dollar of the laboring man and the poor man. Gold and silver dollars on a parity is the money of all people alike.

Nothing would do more to give us a Merry Christmas than for about 100 of our subscribers to drop in from one to four dollars on their subscriptions on the evening of December 25. Try it.

1896



An antiquated code of ethics shackles some of our doctors so as to prevent their cards being published in their local papers.

The Franklin Division of the Sons of Rest held their first spring meeting last Friday under the shade of the maple in front of the post office.

Just salt this one fact down, young man. A good reputation is about the only piece of property you can get hold of that is always worth one hundred cents on the dollar.

We learn that a great deal of excitement prevails in Horse Cove over the discovery of a very rich gold mine on the lands of Bishop H. M. Thompson. The ore is said to be very rich, and that there are indications of considerable quantity.

The public school committee for this district are figuring on building a public school house. They have the ground and the district needs the building, and it ought to be put up.

Republicans' and Populists' dollars are as good as Democrats' for political announcements in the Press.

A portion of the steel joists for the jail came in Saturday, and work has been resumed.

Dr. S. H. Lyle's horse, while standing hitched to a post in front of The Press office took fright at Porter's reaper passing on the street, broke loose, and upset and smashed the buggy attached to him.

Jones and Johnson added a \$100 typewriter to their office last week.

We had the pleasure Friday of calling at the shops of Rev. J. T. Kennedy, colored, at St. Cyprian's, and examining the fine suit of furniture of black walnut, made by Kennedy for the new Episcopal Church in Highlands.

Harry Swartzberg wants to buy all your bees wax.

Dr. F. L. Siler and Clerk Lee Crawford came together in a sort of semi-collision on their bicycles and both went to the grass. The Doctor had to perambulate on three legs for a few days.

Hon. J. M. Moody, of Waynesville, addressed a handful of Republican faithfuls in the Courthouse yesterday. The crowd was very small and Hon. Jim's speech quite funny. No damage was done anyway.

If you owe the editor a whipping, come right along and settle it. We need all that is due us.

Leap Year is nearly gone - Franklin's old bachelors that remain on hand should be sold to the highest bidders.

A Negro boy, Will Moore, was the first person to find a lodging place in the new jail. He was put in Wednesday for appropriating some of E. K. Cunningham's free silver to his own use.

All the star mail routes from Franklin except one have been taken by speculators at starvation prices. the speculators get some of our home people to do the service at still lower prices.

If you have fur skins or beef hides to sell, bring them to Harry Swartzburg at the Allman House.

When people talk about there being a better state than North Carolina, every potato slightly winks its eye, every cabbage shakes its head, every beet gets red in the face, every onion feels stronger, every oat field is shocked, rye stroked its beard, corn sticks up its ears, and every foot of land kicks. The horses even denounce the sentiment with a neigh.

At half past 12 o'clock yesterday, the alarm of fire was raised and smoke was seen issuing from the roof of the Rogers store building on Main Street. The dry shingles were just catching in a brisk blaze when the application of a few buckets of water stopped it. The building, an old one, is occupied by the post office and Smith and Baird's store. It caught from the stove flue.

The primary election last Saturday was a very quiet one, not much pulling of votes anyway.

John Trotter and Otto Love, a few evenings ago, racing with their bicycles on the sidewalks, ran over an old lady and knocked her down. The city "dads" met and promptly passed an ordinance forbidding the riding of bicycles on the sidewalks. Thus we take on city airs.

Ladies' shoes reduced from \$1.75 to \$1.30 at Wrights.

The new ballot boxes are being labeled as the law requires, and are being delivered to the different townships.

There are four pigs in the town pound that the owner is requested to come and get.

Postmaster Frank T. Smith wears a smile as long as the Blue Ridge and as wide as the Tennessee Valley these days. What does it mean, anyway?

The current number of the Youth's Companion has a North Carolina bear story, of which "Big Tom" Wilson is the hero.

There were a great many people in town Saturday and our merchants seemed to be doing a good business. We counted 219 people on the sidewalks on Main St., between Smith's corner and R.L. Porter's residence, not counting those in the stores and other buildings.

A lot of town kids went into Mr. R. L. Porter's melon patch last week and made general havoc of his young melons and cataloupes. It is needless to say that "Bob's dander was raised".

The capacity of the pin factory has been doubled by putting in another lathe and double saws for cutting off. A shed has been added to the mill to give more room. The number of pins delivered last week was 92,500, for which \$277.50 cash was paid.

Work on the jail has gone as far as it can go until an expert arrives to put in the cells.

We have been requested to announce that George E. Boggs, esq., chairman of the Populist executive committee of the ninth Congressional District, will speak in Franklin September 14.

Mr. John Trotter has just received a new bicycle. It's the first doggon'd thing to get the editor down and get on top.

The most persistently regular irregularity we have to contend with of late is the manner in which our mail reaches us.



1897

Now for 1897: A Happy New Year. Leave off your meanness. The Millenium has not commenced.

Dr. Lyle has introduced a bill in the Legislature to protect the iron bridges of this county.

The locust pin factory started up again Monday after three weeks shut down.

A petition is being largely signed asked the Legislature to pass an act to prohibit manufacture or sale of spirituous liquors in three miles of any church or school in Macon County.

State Geologist Holmes says there is Mica enough to supply the United States for an indefinite period.

Dr. Lyle has introduced a bill for the relief of the Sheriff of Macon County. Also to require the attendance of all children between the ages of 8 and 14 at school.

W. A. Jacobs has opened up a saddle and harness shop near the Higgins Building and has on hand a fine stock of harnesses—. first class workmanship at the lowest prices.

We have been handed a very fine specimen of ruby corundum found on Mr. E. H. West's land in Cowee township.

All who subscribed money to lift the debt from the Franklin High School building are urgently requested to pay over to the undersigned at once. There will be no partial payments unless the whole debt is lifted. Please do not kill the enterprise by indifference and cause a loss of more than two thousand dollars.

P. F. Carver

Printers are like women in one respect. It takes them a long time to make up their forms and they require plenty of quoins for the purpose.

The chigger will soon be sitting cross-legged on the old log in the wood awaiting the fair maiden at the picnic, then the little "booger" will revel in dainty glory.

John W. Queen was in town Saturday as blithe and gay as an ox-eyed daisy.

It just took 11 hours to travel by train from Asheville to Murphy - a distance of 124 miles.

The Public School Committee has purchased a site of nearly one-half an acre from Dr. S. H. Lyle on which they propose to build a school house. It is on the corner adjoining the corporation lien on Harrison Avenue at the large oak tree near J. O. Harrison's residence.

Murphy is following in the wake of Franklin in putting on City airs. The Town Council has forbidden bicycle riding on the sidewalks and stock running at large on the streets.

The woman lawyer is a fee-male.

The Board of Education had more than a dozen candidates for County Supervisor Monday, but Rev. J. R. Pendergrass was the lucky man being elected on the seventh ballot.

We learn that J. L. Gibson's son, age eight years, was bitten by a snake supposed to be a rattler snake. He was given a pint of whiskey and is in a fair way to recover.

It is against the law to drive or ride over the iron bridges of Macon County faster than walk.

We learn that Mr. J. W. Jones of Atlanta, Ga., an expert in mining, has discovered gold on the land belonging to Col. John Ingram three miles from Highlands. the prospect is very good.

A change of teachers has been made in the public school. A. W. Horn retired Monday as Rev. J. R. Pendergrass entered Tuesday. Horn changed from the occupation of a pedagogue to a petty fogger.

Lawyer J. J. Hooper completed the telephone to Franklin from Sylva last Friday evening and new and improved telephones have been put in. It is only necessary to talk in a low tone to be understood.

What a horrible racket there would be in this world if the commandments made as much noise as china dishes when they were broken.

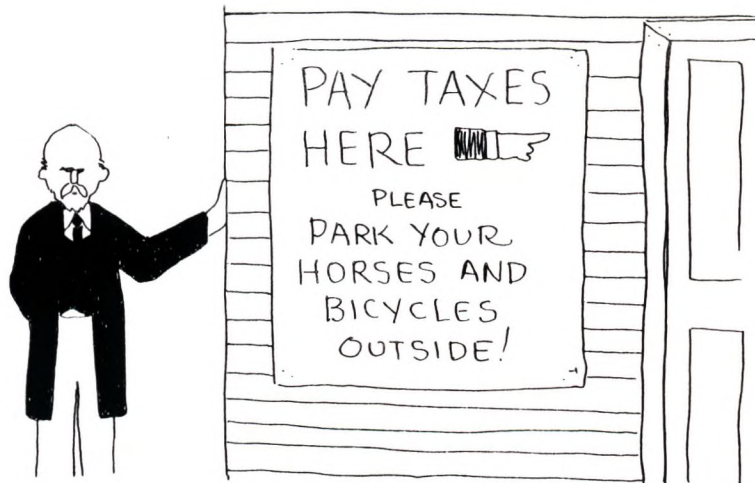
Mr. Lee Davis took a pan full of gravel from Main Street near Cabe and Potts Shop a few days ago and washed it and from the pan found 21 particles of fine corundum of different hues, clear and beautiful specimens.

Ellijay was struck by a churning machine agent the other day. He only fooled two or three mortals and went on his way.

We had a letter from Highlands last week giving an account of the Hon. (?) Ralph Randolph, who lectures on "Funny People", trying his funny tricks out on the Highlanders but he found them to be "funny people" too and they crammed him into a funny place kept for pinning such cattle. He tried jumping his bills but did not succeed as well as in Franklin.

We still take wheat and corn on subscription and right now we would like to have some fodder on subscription accounts.

Dr. Brabson's old horse, Alec, is 28 years old and now on the superannuated list. Dr. Brabson has ridden him for 25 years.



Miss Laura Bryson has been employed as assistant teacher in the public school, the school having grown to such proportions that the principal could not handle it alone.

There are a great many widows in and around Franklin. We merely arise to enquire if within the memory of the oldest inhabitant they ever heard of a Macon widow marrying.

The high school suspended yesterday in honor of Washington's birthday. The average boy was glad the old man was born at least one day in school session.

We learn that Holly Springs schoolhouse was destroyed by fire one night last week. It is supposed that the wind blew the door open in the night and blew fire from the fireplace that set the building on fire.

E. N. Renshaw, Brooklyn, N. Y., is stopping at the Hotel Jarrett. He is an inspector of pins at the factory here.

Martin F. Jones, who lives three miles out on the Georgia road, has a cow that eats all the young chickens she can get.

One of the "oldest inhabitants" has fixed the "cold Saturday" as February 7, 1835.

There are numbers of families in Macon County who are entirely too poor to take The Press and pay for it, yet support four to six worthless dogs.

On last Friday night about 8 o'clock, Mrs. J. R. Pendergrass heard a noise as if some person was trying to open the window blinds of her bedroom. The person failing went around the upper side of the house and tried the blinds there. In the meantime, Mrs. Pendergrass awakened her son, Vivian, who obtained a gun, opened the blinds and fired three shots at a person he saw running in the direction of Charlie Webb's crib.

Postmaster H. H. Jarrett is laid up for repairs. The grip has him in charge.

Uncle Bill Cochran, the big Radical (Republican) of Briartown, came over to see how court is being run this week.

The maples along Main Street afford pleasant shade.

E. K. Cunningham has the nicest lot of lawns in town; organadies of all kinds at 10 cents.

In Company F, 5th Infantry, which left Atlanta for Tampa, Florida (presumably en route to Cuba-Editor), Franklin was represented by Claude Calloway.

Complaint is being made about stock running at large in the graveyard at the Methodist Church.

Franklin High School - T. J. Johnson, principal, Miss Bertha Gaston, assistant principal. Tuition \$1 to \$3 monthly. Inexpensive board can be easily secured in private families. Thorough and firm but mild discipline may be expected.

Combination subscription offer: The Franklin Press and Atlanta Constitution, \$2.25 for a year.

-Adv.

Thirteen bicycles have been given in for taxes in this county valued at a total of \$227.

Uncle Tom Cunningham had a counterfeit pewter dime passed on him Thursday.

"Bony" Ridley was in town Saturday and became hilarious, as usual, when he comes to town.

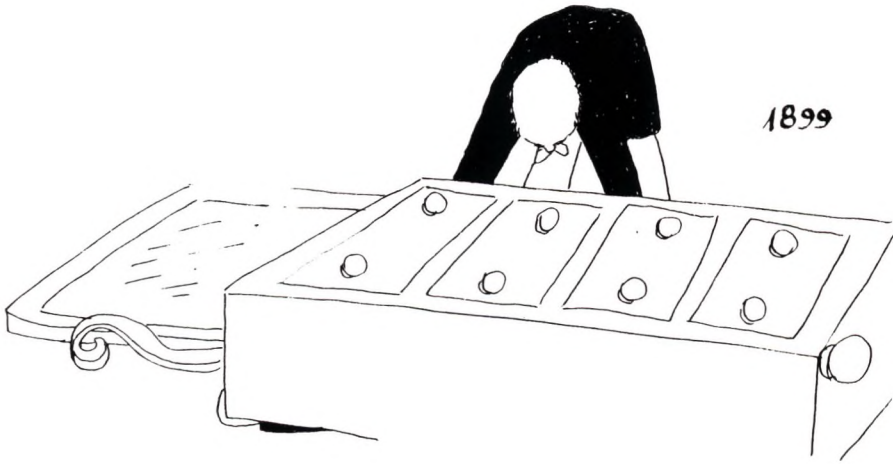
Toy gunboats, suggestive of the war with Spain now in progress, are among the Christmas goods offered by our merchants this season.

We learn that one of the newly elected Macon County Justices of the Peace went home and informed his wife of his good fortune. He told her he had enough to do the family until he was sworn in, "and then, Mag, we'll set back and enjoy life".

Capt. J. C. Harris' new roller mill turned on the water Monday morning and is now ready for business. It is the first roller mill for Macon County and adds a new industry to our community.

Resolve that you will read The Press through 1899 and pay for it yourself.

1899



Nobody here seems to know for what purpose a bill has passed the Legislature to authorize the Legislature to authorize the town of Franklin to issue bonds and levy a special tax, nor at whose request it was done. Some more sly, underhand Legislature. . .when some people can't get what they want openly and honestly, they steal it.

Hon. James H. Cathey, of Bryson City, has favored us with a copy of his new book entitled, "Truth is Stranger Than Fiction; or "The True Genesis of a Wonderful Man." We have given this book a careful reading, and find that the author has certainly made a plain case of showing that Abraham Lincoln was of North Carolina origin, and that Abraham Enloe was his father.

The little bridge on the walk leading to the Methodist Church needs repairing.

We hear a good deal of complaints about the streets not being lighted on dark nights.

There was a runaway to town Wednesday evening. Sol Jacobs bought a new bureau with a large looking glass on top, and put it in his wagon and started home. He was working a horse and a mule to his wagon. The mule glanced back at the looking glass and took fright, and the team took down Main Street to the sidewalk crossing near Trotter's Store, where Jacobs was thrown out and the bureau tumbled out on top of him. Strange to say, the glass was not broken.

The old soldiers had possession of the town Friday and Saturday. Friday morning the procession formed on Main Street under the command of Major N. P. Rankin. The Cavalry Division was under command of Capt. W. P. Moore, of Clay County, and the Infantry under command of Lt. L. H. Enloe. There were over 100 ex-confederates in line and several more present did not march in line.

Dr. Lyle has put the roof on his barn. It covers a good portion of Macon County.

A gospel-feast, faith-care outfit struck Franklin last Wednesday. The combination consisted of a pike-nosed little man, a lusty-lunged homely woman, a flea-bitten, poverty stricken horse and a rickety, wobbling old buggy. The woman was the preacher and healer.

Adv.-St. Agnes School For Girls, Franklin, N. C. Spring Term, Jan. 1 to May 30, 1900. Tuition: \$1.00 per month admits to highest classes. Music and art included. this school represents an all round education, together with the development of all the graces of mind and body, blending the practical with the aesthetic.

We learn that a party of young people are going on a picnic to Burningtown Falls Thursday. Let the young folks enjoy the springtime of youth; for verily the day will come when they find no pleasure in such things.

W. A. Curtis has been selected as one of the staff of Brig. Gen. James M. Ray, commanding the 4th Brigade N. C. Division United Confederate Veterans, for the Charleston Reunion.

A citizen from the county was in town Saturday and suggested that the next session of the Legislature be asked to pass laws allowing only one merchant, one miller, one carpenter, etc., be allowed to do business in the county, and that all other citizens be compelled to patronize them under penalty of law. Then other kinds of business would be on an equal footing with the dispensary.

It is a singular, if not significant, coincidence that the same Legislature that gives Macon County a dispensary gives her an additional court week.

Franklin can boast one of the best barbers to be found anywhere. Col. A. A. Howe is a tonsorial artist of the first order. We have had our physiognomy scraped by shavers in several towns and cities, but Howe out-barbers them all. He is wedded to his profession by ties of love for the business. It is a pleasure to take a seat in his chair and let him glide his keen blades over the face.

A petition from over 300 citizens was laid before the county commissioners Monday asking them to call an election to vote on the "stock law" or "no stock law". A county petition of less than 200 was filed.

Bring your pork and pay your Press subscription if you haven't any money.

Town Marshall W. J. West landed one pilgrim for irregular conduct during the past week.

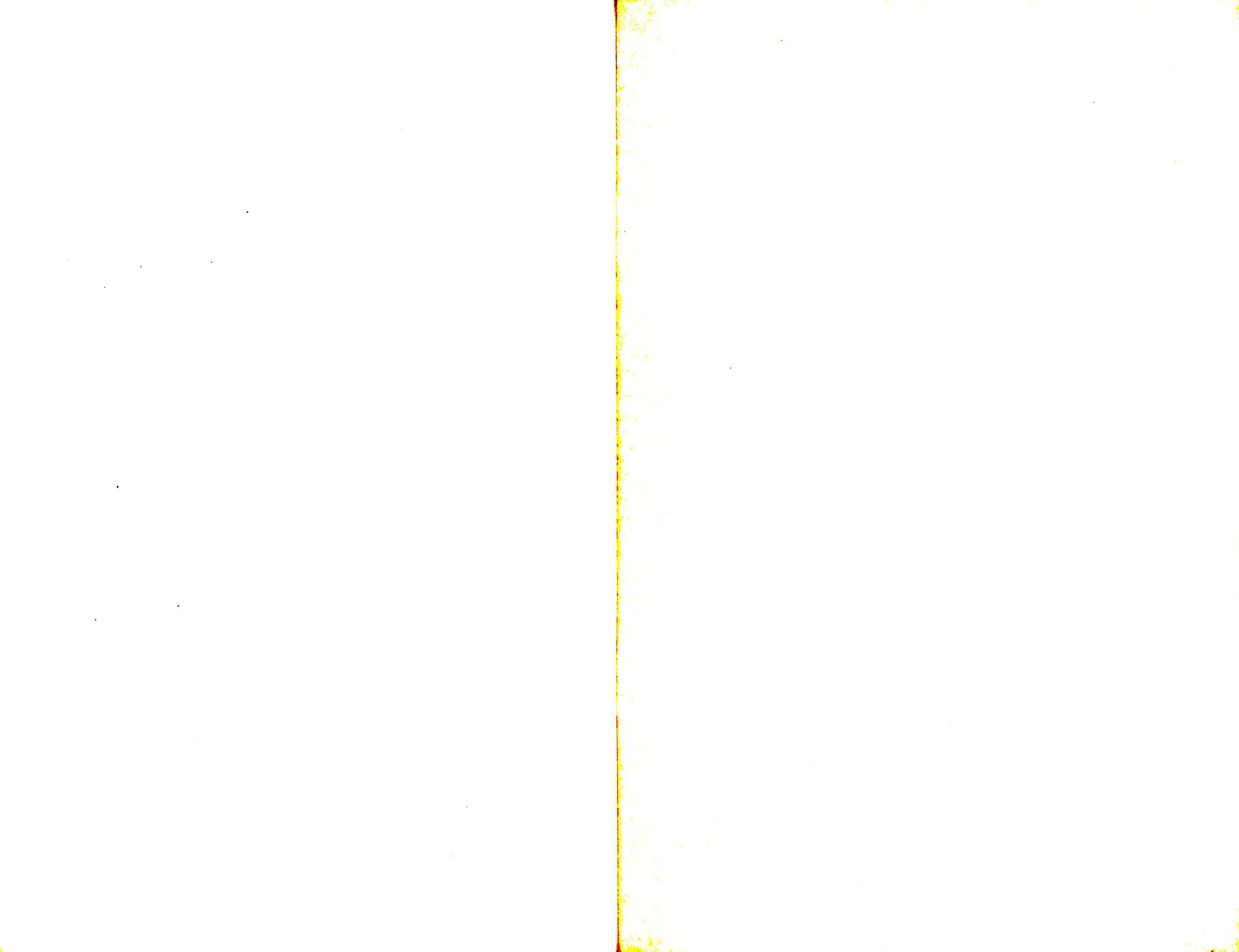
Dr. J. H. Fouts was driving in his buggy with an umbrella over him a few days ago when the lightning paid its respects to the umbrella and the Doctor's arm, not much injury resulted, but the doctor folded his umbrella and quietly took the rain.

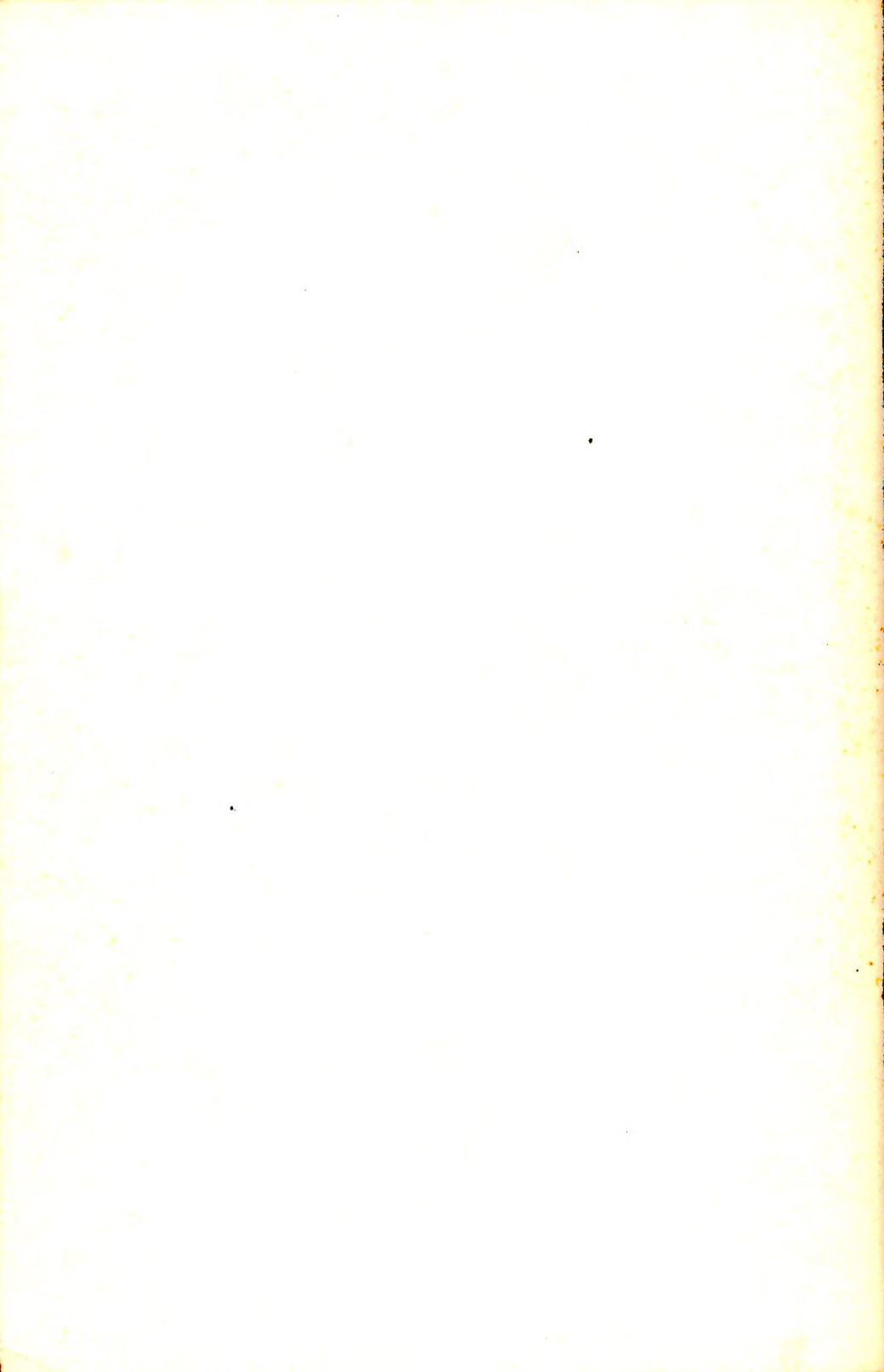
Mrs. George Hogshed and George Slagle are putting a neat picket fence around the Presbyterian Church.

I. J. Ashe was called upon last Wednesday to go to Millshoal, to arrest a man supposed to be "Si" Smith, who murdered Capt. W. B. Bell in Georgia. He found his man and arrested him but it turned out to be some other man, and he was released.

Dr. F. L. Siler had a collision with Lyle Jones on the Fourth while playing baseball, which resulted in a badly bruised physiognomy. His face appeared as though it had come in contact with a kissing bug.

Santa Claus deposited a little girl in H. L. Anderson's stocking Christmas night for variety in making his gifts. The young lady is the loveliest doll of the season.





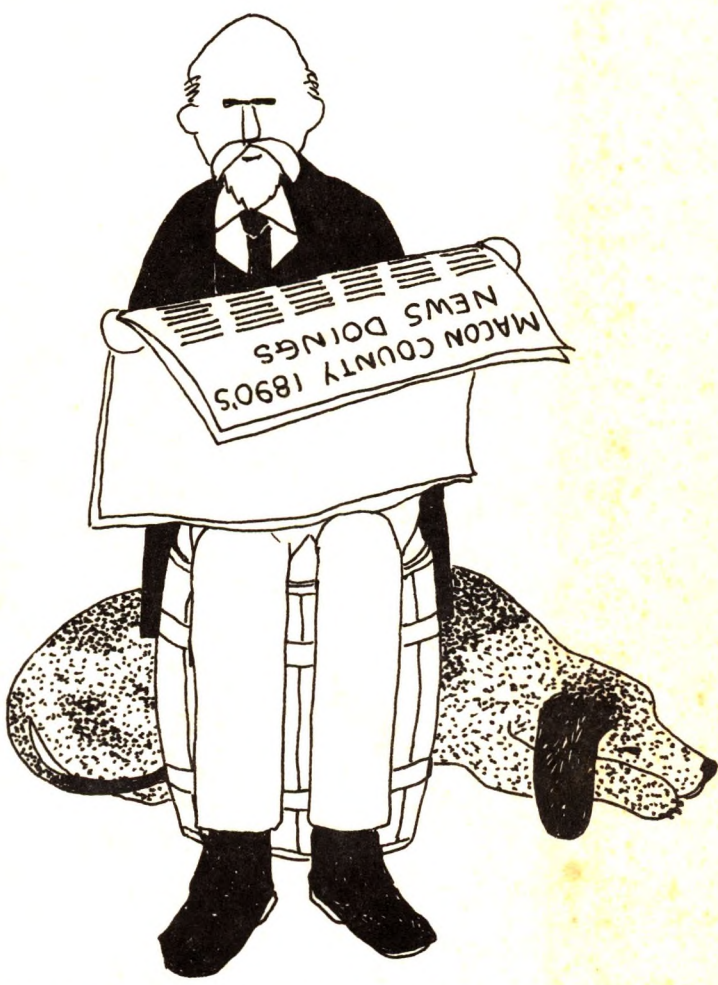
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ONCE UPON A TIME

HUMOR

FACTS

NONSENSE



MACON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 822, FRANKLIN, NC 28734