

# The Watauga Democrat.

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## The Boyhood of Andrew Johnson.

J. L. Harbour in American Boy.

Few of our presidents knew more of poverty and friendlessness in the days of their boyhood than Andrew Johnson. He came from parents who belonged to the class we call "poor whites" in the South. The mere suggestion that he might one day become President of the United States would no doubt have met with ridicule had any one made such a suggestion when he was a boy in his poverty-stricken Southern home. He first saw the light of day on the 29th of December in the year 1808. There lay before him a future of great stress and strain. He was but five years old when his father lost his own life while trying to save a friend from drowning. This left the mother of Andrew Johnson entirely dependent upon her own efforts for a living.

The boy Andrew could neither read nor write when he was ten years old. At this age he was apprenticed to a tailor instead of being sent to school. The tailor lived in Raleigh and had a number of boys in his shop. There was a peculiarly kind and benevolent old gentleman in the town who thought it a pity that these young boys should be growing up without any education, and he went to the tailor shop every day and read to them while they worked. In this way they acquired a good deal of general information. The little chap, Andrew Johnson, acquiring a thirst for more information, and some of the things the benevolent old gentleman read fired the boy with a desire to be something more than a tailor. He was seized with an ambition to learn to read and write, and he began to learn the alphabet. Some of the workmen in the shop helped him and in time he was able to read. He had a bright mind and learned about as rapidly as one could expect a boy to learn when he worked 12 hours a day in a shop, and had to do his studying when his long day's work was done.

After he had learned to read, young Johnson asked the benevolent old gentleman if he could loan him some books. This was done gladly, and the more the boy read the more eager he became for an education.

When he was eighteen, young Johnson went to Greeneville in Tennessee to live and took his mother with him. Here he worked as a tailor, and while in Greeneville he was married to a young woman who had a fair education and she became not only his wife but also his teacher. We are told that she read to him while he stitched away at his work, and in the evening she helped him with his studies and encouraged him to improve his mind to the utmost. He became very ambitious and so enthusiastic over his studies that he learned rapidly.

He soon acquired the reputation of being "mighty smart," and when he was twenty years old he was elected to his first public office, which was that of alderman of the town in which he lived. During the two years he held this office he made such a good reputation for ability that he was elected mayor of the town, and he also became one of the trustees of an academy in the town.

He was greatly interested in the welfare of the working class—because it was the class to which he belonged, and he felt that a good deal could be done to improve the condition of the working people. He espoused their cause with such vigor that he had the support of this class as well as that of the well-to-do

when he ran for a seat in the Tennessee House of Representatives at the age of twenty-seven. He won his seat and became a most active member of this body. He was a young man of pronounced views who was never "on the fence" in his opinions.

Johnson was a pronounced Democrat and when he entered the political arena as the champion of Martin Van Buren in Van Buren's race for the presidency he made a wide reputation as a speaker. He became a member of the State Senate of Tennessee, and when he was thirty-five years old he was a member of Congress. He was re-elected until he held this position ten years. Then he became Governor of Tennessee and steadily grew in popular esteem.

Of all the many interesting stories told of this remarkable man, none are more characteristic of him than the fact that after he had become Governor of Tennessee, he bought cloth and with his own hands made a very fine suit of clothes for Governor M'Goffin of Kentucky, who had been one of the true friends and helpers of Andrew Johnson when they were but boys together in humble positions of life, for Gov. M'Goffin had been a blacksmith. In return for the suit of clothes Gov. M'Goffin went to the forge and with his own hands made a shovel and a pair of tongs which he sent to Governor Johnson with the wish that they would help to keep alive "the flame" of their friendship.

It is to the credit of Andrew Johnson that he was never ashamed of his humble origin. On one occasion he said on the floor of the Senate of the United States:

"I do not forget that I am a mechanic. Neither do I forget that Adam was a taylor and sewed fig leaves, and that our Saviour was the Son of a carpenter."

The career of Andrew Johnson before he became Vice-President of the United States in 1865, forms a most interesting chapter in our American History. He became President on the 15th of April in the year 1865 after the assassination of Lincoln.

Are You rheumatic? Try Sloan's.

If you want quick and real relief from Rheumatism, do what so many thousand other people are doing—whenever an attack comes on, bathe the sore muscle or joint with Sloan's Liniment. No need to rub it in—just apply the liniment to the surface. It is wonderfully penetrating. It goes right to the seat of trouble and draws the pain almost immediately. Get a bottle of Sloan's Liniment for 25c of any druggist and have it in the house—against colds, sore and swollen joints, lumbago, neuralgia and like ailments. Your money back if not satisfied, but it does give almost instant relief.

Jesse Walker, who shot the Sheriff of Brunswick county about six years ago, and escaped from prison, was arrested near his old home a few days since, and is now in jail in Wilmington. Since the commission of the fearful murder in 1908, the negro has wandered over many states, but love for his wife brought him back.

Health Promotes Happiness.

Without health, genuine joy is impossible; without good digestion and regular bowel movement you cannot have health. Why neglect keeping bowels open and risk being sick and ailing? You don't have to. Take one small Dr. King's New Life Pillar night, in the morning you will have a full, free bowel movement and feel much better. Helps your appetite and digestion. Try one tonight.

## "Two Years of Wilson."

Asheville Citizen.

It is a glowing tribute which The New York Word pays to President Wilson in an extensive review of two years of his administration. While the president and his friends must have experienced a feeling of deep disappointment that the ship purchase and child labor bills failed to reach enactment, there is still before the country a splendid record of achievement. For the public prints bear evidence that no four years of preceding congressional sessions reached greater accomplishment along national lines than did the Sixty-third congress, which has passed into history. It is not too much to say that President Wilson, rather than congress itself, was responsible for legislation which brought about reforms of far-reaching character. He did not use a club, yet his strong personal influence undoubtedly brought into being the Underwood-Simmons tariff law and the banking and currency law. Above these, perhaps, may be ranked President Wilson's signal victory over the warlike interests in saving this country from war with Mexico. This, of course, was not legislation of any character; it was, however, a diplomatic triumph which throughout the future history of this country must reflect the greatest credit on the present chief executive. These achievements were reached in the face of the most bitter opposition, and despite the fact that the president was not always sure of his own household.

The New York World says that President Wilson "has given his office a new and unaccustomed dignity." "The old fashioned lobby at Washington, it declares, "has become as extinct as the dodo." This was accomplished without the use of fireworks and political claptrap. Always it was the quiet, but firm insistence of the president forging to the front, demanding that respectful hearing which is never given to the demagogue in high places. President Wilson, confronted on his entrance into office with problems of the most momentous character, addressed himself to their solution with the highest patriotism and courage. Tact and wisdom marked his progress as he took up and brought to successful issue. Now that the curtain has fallen on the first half of his administration, it is fitting and proper that press and people stamp his record with a clear seal of approval.

No Use to Try and Wear Out Your Cold; It Will Wear You Out Instead.

Thousands keep on suffering coughs and colds through neglect and delay. Why make yourself an easy prey to serious ailments and epidemics as the result of a neglected cold? Coughs and colds sap your strength and vitality unless checked in their early stages. Dr. King's New Discovery is what you need—the first dose helps. Your head clears up, you breathe freely and you feel much better. Buy a bottle today and start taping at once.

Winston-Salem is to have a handsome new Union passenger depot.

NOTICE.

This is to notify all persons that I have sold my interest in the Sands Mercantile Company to Thomas Moretz, Manager of the said company. All debts due me to be paid to said company, and all debts owed by said company to be paid by them. This 16th day of February, 1915.

ALFRED BROWN

## FIGHTING AMID GRAVES.

English Officer Writes of Scenes on the Battle Front.

London Dispatch.

"All the ground near the front line is plowed up with shells and furrowed with the remains of old trenches and graves. The whole place is a vast cemetery in which our trenches and those of the enemy wind in every direction." The statement is made by the British official "eye witness" at the front in a description, of the recent battles southeast of Ypres and of the country in which the armies are fighting.

"In a sheltered spot," he continues, "there is a little graveyard where some of our own dead have been buried. Their graves have been carefully marked and a rough square of bricks has been placed around them. In front of the trenches German bodies still lie thick.

"At one point of the brick field recently some 300 men tried to rush our line. At their head was a young German officer who came on gallantly waving his sword. He almost reached the barbed wire and then fell dead, and he lies there yet with his 300 men about him.

"It is the same all along the front in this quarter. Everywhere still, gray figures can be seen lying, some times several rows together and some times singly or in twos and threes.

"This description might serve with a few minor alterations for many of the localities along our front, where the fighting has centered around some wood: a village or line of trenches. It is as if each had been swept by a withering blast before which every object, whether a work of nature or of man, has crumbled into ruins or become twisted and deformed, and even the very ground itself looks as if it had been shaken by a violent convulsion of nature."

To the south of the Ypres-Comines Canal, says the "eye-witness" the ground, although there are some inclosures, is comparatively open. To the north, however, there are many woods, and these have become a tangle of fallen trees interspersed with shell craters. To add to the hardships of such fighting, the troops have been attacking on ground on ground in which the men sink up to their knees in mud.

"Despite of all these drawbacks," continues the observer, "counter-attacks" have been carried on with such resolution that in nearly all cases the original line original line has been gained. One night as our troops were advancing to drive the enemy out of one of these trenches, his guns suddenly opened a tremendous fire. Our men were in the open at some distance from the Germans at the time, and being thus taken at a disadvantage, their chances of success looked small. Without a moment's hesitation, however, the attacking line broke into a double quick and pounding through the mud, burst into the German trench.

"A counter-attack later was also a most dashing piece of work. Trenches occupied by the enemy had been subjected to such a heavy fire that they would not await our onset. As our men charged forward cheering, the Germans were observed to be leaving the trenches and hurrying to the rear.

"In one trench, which became in the course of the fighting more or less isolated, 40 of our men continued to hold firm until every one of them had either been either killed or wounded. Eventually there were only three left who were capable of firing, and

these three continued to hold the enemy at bay. In the mean time word was brought to the rear that their ammunition was nearly exhausted and seven men, the strongest available were selected to bring up as much ammunition as they could carry. These latter found the three wounded survivors still standing amid the bodies of their dead and disabled comrades, and still firing steadily. The support, slender as it was, came in the nick of time, for at that moment the Germans launched another assault, which like the previous ones were beaten off and the position was saved.

"Our howitzers did especially good work on the trenches captured by the Germans at one point. Observers could see one lyddite shell after another bursting in the trenches and hurling the defenders into the air."

Quoting from letters which he says were found on the bodies of German soldiers in support of his statement the "eye-witness" says:

"There is no doubt that the feeling of Germany toward the war is changing. They probably are as determined as ever to fight to the last, but the early optimism and confidence are vanishing. It would appear also that the drain upon the enemy's manhood is having a depressing effect.

"It is reported that even the Ersatz reservists, who are suffering from ailments which would render them unfit for military service are being called up and that the supply of sound Ersatz reservists has been exhausted in some districts. Some letters speak of the calling up of the untrained Landstrum, which represents a large reserve still available, to make the wastage of war."

George McCorkle, of Newton, has been appointed special attorney to the Trade Commission at a salary of \$4,000 per year.

The Court of Last Resort.

Around the stove of a cross-road grocery is the real court of last resort, for it finally overrules all others. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been brought before this court in almost every cross roads grocery in this country, and has always received a favorable verdict. It is in the country where man expects to receive full value for his money that this remedy is most appreciated. Obtainable everywhere.

Lumber for Sale!

We now have our steam saw mill located about one mile above Winkler's mill, and can fill bills on short notice. Lumber delivered if wanted.

W. L. HAYNES & BRO.

Notice!

North Carolina, Watauga County. By virtue of a power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust, executed on the 29th day of June, 1908, by E. F. Potter and wife to W. E. Johnson trustee for W. H. Jones, to secure the payment of the sum of \$340.00, which deed of trust being duly recorded in Book O, page 44, of the Register of Deeds of Watauga county, I will on the 23rd day of March, 1915, at 1 o'clock p. m., sell for cash to the highest bidder at the court house in Boone N. C. to satisfy a balance of \$340.00 due on said debt, the following described real estate, to wit: Lying and being in the county of Watauga, North Carolina, adjoining the lands of J. O. J. Potter, Abe Potter and others, and bounded as follows: On the waters of Springers Fork of the North Fork of New River, beginning on a stake about 8 feet west of a buckeye stump, corner of J. O. J. Potter, then S 88° 58' poles to a stake, then N 20° 17' poles to a stake at a fence, then N 81° 34' poles to a stake, then N 45° E to a stake by the road side, then N 59° W with said road 28 poles to a poplar tree, then W with said road 28 poles to a poplar tree, then N 40° W 16 poles to the beginning 12 7/8 acres, more or less. This being the tract of land deeded by J. M. Barker and wife and J. F. Hicks and wife to Zinna Bach Mining Co. This 18th day of February, 1915.

W. E. JOHNSON, Trustee. Council & Bauguess, Atty's.

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