

# The Watauga Democrat.

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## "Lest We Forget" Some One.

[BY REV. W. R. SAVAGE.]

This writer realizes that were he to attempt a sketch of every citizen of this county attaining a good old age, it would require 52 numbers of The Democrat a year in which to print the sketches, so he feels it necessary to confine these hietriettes to those citizens who helped make our county history and of those only the ones he has known during his thirteen years residence within the borders.

Hugh Alexander Dobbin, Sr., was born of noble parents in Rowan county, N. C., August 23 1815, and was an intelligent and energetic young man whose engaging personality won for him many friends and admirers and through his ardent search for knowledge became an accomplished scholar, his exemplary thrift and close attention to business and winning manners gaining for him a good livelihood in his chosen mode of making a living—the mercantile business—which he pursued in Charleston and Cheraw S. C., Fayetteville, Concord and Salisbury, N. C., respectively.

In 1849 Mr. Dobbin married Miss Margaret M. Lippard of Rowan, and in a few months thereafter moved to Watauga, then Ashe county, where he purchased a large tract of land situated on Pine Orchard and Bald Mountain near Elk Cross Roads, afterwards Todd, now Elkland, where he took up his former business of selling general merchandise, succeeding in his venture, considering the disadvantages of primitive modes of transportation and the sparsely settled country thereabout, the homesteads ten miles apart and Fayetteville the nearest town where goods could be bought at wholesale! During the Civil War Mr. Dobbin's store was robbed and burned by the bushwhackers—"men who did not fight on either side but lay out and plundered and robbed the community for their living," to quote from a letter from Mr. Dobbin's son, A. H., so that between the "varmint" in the woods and the "whackers" in the roads, the early settlers had a hard time making a crop and keeping it.

When Mr. Dobbin moved to Watauga there were few roads across the Blue Ridge, mere trails and they almost impassable, the common way up a branch to its source on the mountain side, across the ridge to another branch and up or down as the case might be.

To quote again from Mr. Dobbin: "At that time the friends and relatives from Rowan considered it a wonderful trip to cross the Blue Ridge and, each summer, would come up by the wagon load, parts of or whole families spending the summer there to recuperate from the malaria, which in that day, was prevalent in and around Salisbury in late summer and early autumn."

Mr. Dobbin's torte was merchandising but Mrs. Dobbin came of a noble race of land owners who farmed on a large scale and the brave little woman delighted in superintending the clearing of the land, putting in and tending a crop and seeing it harvested and stored safely for their support during the long and severe winters. But what a brave young woman she was, reared in refinement and, even with the man she loved to venture into the "howling wilderness," for years live in a small log cabin until it could be enlarged as it was from time to time, this writer seeing it a couple of years before it was pulled down to make way for a more modern but not as homelike mansion,

this not done until after the "passing away" of the brave old pioneer on the 13th of July, 1903, Mrs. Dobbin surviving him but ten years; born on the 11th day of December, 1827 and "passed to her reward" on the 28th Dec. 1913, a noble and good woman whose children "rise and call her blessed."

To this honored couple were born nine children, but four living to adult age. Laura M. who married Charles Hulcher, three children born of this union; Nimrod M. who married Miss Mary Hardin, four children born of this union; Hugh A. Jr., who married Miss Emma Miller, six children born of this union, and Annie who married Willett S. Miller, five children born of this union.

Mr. and Mrs. Dobbin's home was known far and wide for its open hospitality and every one who came, rich and poor, high and low, fared alike and received a hearty welcome. Mr. Dobbin ever the genial host intelligent adviser and true friend, Mrs. Dobbin always concerned about the welfare of her guests whom she made to feel at home, while in the community she was everybody's friend, medical adviser and trained nurse of unusual skill and ability, an oracle, consulted on all topics of country life, whether on the subject of farming or schooling or the care of children and the best herbs and nature remedies, and when she passed away the community lost not only a true friend but an example of what a Christian woman can do in a community for Christ and the church of her choice; this noble couple and all their children devoted and consistent members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Mr. H. A. Dobbin an honored minister thereof.

Again quoting from Rev. H. A. Dobbin, your correspondent closes this imperfect sketch of as noble a couple as ever crossed the Blue Ridge: "During and after the war, on account of remoteness and inaccessability and the havoc and depredations consequent during those stirring times this family and other pioneers had a hard struggle but with unwonted fortitude they bravely faced all obstacles and opened the way for a more enlightened civilization.

No one save these sturdy and honest pioneers will know the hardships and deprivations that have been endured in blazing the way for civilization!" All honor to all such, say I, and let us indelibly impress the fact upon our minds, we of a later and less interesting generation—let us record their self-sacrifice and heroic life, lest we forget how much we owe them for "blazing the trail" which to-day is our highway!

## THE Greensboro Daily News.

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## Vote on Four Amendments.

The fates of four new amendments proposed to the constitution of North Carolina will rest with the people of the State in the fall of the present year.

The amendments now in the balance, or soon to be, would provide (1) for judges by appointment of the governor in emergencies. That is the chief executive of the state could telegraph a local lawyer of good standing to go on the bench, with his own case eliminated from the calendar, in the event of the necessity for a special term of court when a regular judge was not readily available. The second amendment proposed would prevent the issuance of legislative charters to corporations. At the present time the bulk of the commercial charters are issued by the secretary of state, but persons with some special corporation planned often go before the general assembly and secure by special legislation a charter which allows certain privileges which the general laws would not provide.

It has pointed out that there have been times when charters were thus issued by the legislature for tax immune corporations or for corporations with condemnation powers to ward land and property which the general laws in equity would not endorse.

The third amendment proposed would provide for the incorporation of towns by the secretary of state and prevent their chartering in the legislature. This would compel the issuance of incorporation papers to towns and cities on a petition of a certain percentage of the qualified voters of the towns in question and the incorporation would be under the general law. The fourth amendment would prevent "local" legislation in the general assembly; namely, such legislation concerning hunting, throwing sawdust into creeks or handling the road building questions, which might be handled by the boards of county commissioners.

The amendments are framed in each instance to expedite matters and to provide system where chaos exists, according to the proposition. The provision for the emergency judge which is suggested is already operative in South Carolina and is declared to be economical, expedient and satisfactory. Proposed amendment number 2 is claimed to have as its reason for raising its head, the safeguarding of the state from predatory commerce or special privilege business, which might find its way through the channels of a busy or ill-informed legislature, and to save the time of the legislators from the burdens of the minutiae connected with the investigation of such cases.

Three and four of the amendments are alleged time savers, although it is argued for the amendment which which would reduce the amount of "local" legislation in the general assembly, that it is in keeping with the best in democratic government; to wit, the principle of the prevalence of vox populi. This is asserted on the base of the contention that a legislator might put through an uninterested or unawakened legislature a provision for his home county which would be detestible to his own constituency, whereas when those things are handled by the county commissioners, they are threshed out among friends and foes alike.—Lexington Dispatch.

## Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

## Germany's Move.

Charlotte Observer, April, 20.

The issue now rests with Germany. It is for the Imperial Government to say what shall be its future relations with the United States. Congress has not acted, nor has it need to act. All that has been done thus far lies wholly within the domain of the Executive. His was the duty to plumb the line of international law, his was the responsibility to outline the attitude of the Government of the United States. How faithfully he has faced that duty, how courageously he has measured up to that responsibility all the world knows. It is emphatically true that the people of the United States do not want war. It is undoubtedly true that many of them do not think a technical dispute is a sufficient cause for mortal combat. That, however, is not the question now. Amid the bedlam of voices, amid the confusion of divided counsels, it was the pre-eminent prerogative of one mind to grapple with this problem and to point the way to America's duty. When that pathway was once defined, it must be followed, however perilous it might be. So far as possible, the policy of this nation has been pacific. If armed conflict results from the present situation it will not be from any overt act committed by the Government. Had it deemed war the proper solution it would have begun it on May 8, 1915, on the day after the Lusitania was sent to the bottom with the loss of more than 100 American lives, including many women and many children. Had it deemed war the proper solution, the Executive would yesterday have urged Congress to fling down the gage of battle. That course was not pursued. Instead the president will resort to the only emphatic yet peaceable means by which he can manifest the disapproval of this Government at the German submarine campaign. If war results, it will be begun by Germany and hers will be the sole responsibility.

The note to Germany, released or publication late in the afternoon, was indeed a masterly and accurate summing up of the continued expansion of submarine atrocities, even after Germany had promised to abide by a more humane consideration of the rights of neutrals upon the high seas. The President has, in this crisis, clearly and forcibly manifested that the time has come when America can no longer maintain mere submissive patience in the face of a continuance of such horrors.

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Every delay that postpones our joys is long.—Ovid.

## Crime Does Not Pay.

The longer we live the more we learn. We realize that honesty is the best policy. Crime does not pay. The man who expects to get something for nothing loses in the end. We must earn our bread by the sweat of our brow. The get rich quick man usually knocks at the poorhouse before his life ends.

Crime in other respects does not pay. The man who commits a deliberate murder may escape the courts, but he cannot escape his conscience.

Small crimes always precede great ones. The boy who starts in a career of pilfering will end in being a crook unless his evil attributes are overcome.

In New York one of the most sensational murder trials is now in progress. A prominent physician is now on trial charged with having killed his wealthy father in law. The web about him is tightening. He has not been convicted, but even if he escapes the web of the law he will be professionally ruined.

He was pressed financially and there was an evident reason why he should have been actuated in the crime alleged. But even if he had escaped detection, even if his purpose had been accomplished, what would he have gained? The crime would remain a burden to bear silently. He never could escape the death scene. His conscience would be his hell.

The contagion of crime is like a plague. It spreads and the surprising fact is that there is not a case on record of a prosperous criminal.

The man who robs a bank may for the moment but he does not profit by his crime. The confidence man may adroitly rob the public, but he does not profit in the end. The man who expects by a wild speculation to rob the innocent usually dies in poverty. The crooked politician may profit in his day, but when the call of death comes he is usually found to be broken in spirit, in health and financially.

Honesty is the best policy. The man who lives according to God and the law may not achieve success, but he is at least blessed with a clear conscience and a substantial sense of content. When his end comes he can look into the future clear eyed.—Commercial Appeal.

## Watch Child's Cough.

Colds running of nose, continued irritation of the mucous membrane if neglected may mean catarrh. Don't take the chance—do something for your child! Children will not take every medicine, but they will take Dr. King's New Discovery and without bruising or teasing. It's a sweet, pleasant Tar Syrup and so effective. Just laxative enough to eliminate the waste poisons. Almost the first dose helps. Always prepared, no mixing or fussing. Just ask your druggist for Dr. King's New Discovery. It will safeguard your child against serious ailments resulting from colds.

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