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JOHNSTON LETTER.

High School Opened Monday. Annual Report of Church. W. C. T. U. Met Friday Afternoon.

The High School opened on Monday morning with the brightest prospects. As the various grades marched in it was judged that there was quite a full attendance, there being many new ones.

In opening, Supt. W. F. Scott told some very encouraging things of the school, one being that it stood with the highest of the state, with 18 1/2 units.

Co. Supt. of Education, W. W. Fuller was present and made a splendid talk. Inspiring talks were also heard from Rev. W. S. Brooke and Rev. David Kellar. A letter was read from Rev. Kinard, expressing his good wishes for the school and regrets of his absence.

The teachers this year are: Supt. W. F. Scott, Miss Antoinette Denny, Miss Gertrude Strother, Prof. Stanton Lott, Miss Sallie Heyward, Miss Ella Jacobs, Miss Eunice Abrams, Miss Helen Lewis, Mrs. L. C. Latimer, Miss Thomas. Music director, Miss Campbell.

On Sunday morning at the Baptist church the annual report was heard and was one of the best in the history of the church. The gifts of 1918 were given in comparison with those of 1919, showing the great gain.

The organizations gave as follows: The W. M. U., 100 members, last year gave \$831.22, this year \$1401.05, over doubling its apportionment.

The Y. W. A., 10 members, last year \$52.25, this year \$70.50

The G. A., 27 members, last year \$70.30, this year \$100.

The R. A., 22 members, last year \$64.80, this year \$72.40.

Sunbeams, 52 members, last year, \$101.97, this year \$182.47.

Sunday School gave last year \$500, this year \$727

The church gave to state missions last year, \$561, this year \$500; to home missions last year \$473, this year, \$516.50; foreign missions last year, \$1,018.49, this year, \$1,162.48; to orphanage, \$502, Baptist Hospital, \$234, aged ministers, \$100, total given \$8,346.36, an increase over last year of \$2,072.09

The church gave to every object that was fostered by the association.

In the absence of Rev. W. S. Brooke, his pulpit was filled by Rev. Fuller, pastor of the Red Bank church, Saluda, the two having exchanged pulpits. Rev. Fuller is a most forceful speaker and held the thoughtful attention of every one in the audience as he spoke on our part, our duty in the great 75 Million Campaign.

As Mr. Fuller will leave in about three weeks for the seminary, it was decided to have the campaign of his church before he left, and on the great day of fasting and prayer, September 24, there will be a get-together-meeting and he hopes on this day to not only raise, but go over the apportionment. The meeting will be an all day one and he stated that he wanted a thousand present to pray and work that day.

Several of the young ladies of our town left this week to teach. Miss Jessie Rushton, to teach at Manning, Miss Eva Rushton to McRay College, Ga., Miss Annie Crouch, North Augusta High School, Miss Isabelle Bean, Williamston, Miss Bessie Bean to Bamberg.

Mr. F. L. Parker, Jr., left on Tuesday for South Carolina University. He has been organist at the Baptist church during the summer and his sweet music will be greatly missed.

At the meeting of the Baptist Missionary Society, a splendid and informing program on the 75 Million Campaign was had. This society has never failed in anything it has undertaken and in this campaign, the highest endeavor will be made.

During the business period it was voted to make a yearly contribution toward a fund presented by Mrs. W. C. Cathcart, of Columbia, who has charge of the placing of orphan children in childless homes.

Officers for the coming year were elected: President, Mrs. L. C. Latimer; Vice-president, Mrs. A. M.

Nickerson; Recording secretary, Mrs. J. A. Lott; Corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. J. Hatcher; Treasurer, Mrs. S. J. Watson; Assistant treasurer, Mrs. T. R. Denny; Pianist, Mrs. O. D. Black.

Arrangements were made for the week of prayer, beginning September 22.

Mrs. C. D. Kenney has been spending a few days here with friends upon her return from St. George where she went to see her daughter, Mrs. David Moore, and little grandson.

Mr. J. Howard Payne returned on Sunday from the University Hospital in Augusta, and is now improving steadily.

Miss Louise Coleman has returned to Aiken, S. C., after a visit to her sister, Mrs. W. E. LaGrone.

Mrs. Huiet Waters, Miss Mallie Waters and Mrs. M. R. Wright jointly entertained on last Wednesday afternoon, the occasion being had on the shady lawn of the former's home. Twelve flower laden tables were arranged here for rook, and the affair was bright, pleasant and the place ideal for a summer afternoon.

The highest score was made by Mrs. W. B. Ouzts, who was presented with the prize. Delicious block cream in pink and white, with pound cake was served.

Mrs. J. L. Walker entertained the We-are-Twelve club on Thursday morning in a very cordial and pleasant manner. The guests were well entertained and at one o'clock were seated at a course luncheon.

Mrs. Leora Wright Simmons went to Coker College Saturday, having accepted the position of matron there. She was joined in Columbia by her brother, Mr. Sumter Wright, who accompanied her.

Misses Carrie Bell Stevens, Janie Bruce and Alma Johnson went to Coker College on Monday, entering upon their second year there.

Miss Hallie White has returned to Leesville, S. C., where she has charge of the music department there in the college.

Miss Annie Stokes has returned to Columbia College and Miss Mary Waters to Converse College.

Mrs. William Toney, Messrs. Albert and William Toney, of Columbia, have been guests of relatives. Mr. Albert Toney graduated at Annapolis in June and is now with the navy.

All in the family of Mr. Will Collins have been sick but are now well.

Miss Ruth Harris of Dearing, Ga., is visiting in the home of her grandmother, Mrs. P. N. Lott.

Mr. Guy Horne left last week for Ohio.

Misses Marion and Stewart Boyd are at home from a month's stay at Chester with their grandmother, Mrs. Stewart.

Mr. F. L. Parker, Jr., spent a few days last week with relatives in Edgefield.

Mrs. L. C. Latimer has returned from a visit to her son, Dr. Edward Latimer, of Macon, Ga.

Misses Lillian and Ella Mobley were guests of their cousin, Mrs. Crawford, at Saluda, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Crouch and children of Elko, S. C., were guests of Mrs. Octavia Rushton, recently.

The W. C. T. U. met on Friday afternoon with Mrs. Herbert Eidson. The members were glad to know that all pledges had been met and that other contributions beside that specified had also been given. The union is proud to have now, six memorial members. Mrs. Mamie Huiet handed in a check for \$25 that made her husband, Mr. W. J. Huiet, who was a great temperance worker, a memorial member.

Pledge cards were given out and the members requested to bring a new member at the next meeting. Delegates to the State convention at Marion were elected, the union being entitled to a delegate for every ten paid up members. The delegates are: Mesdames T. R. Hoyt, A. P. Lewis, J. W. Stimen and Herbert Eidson, these to have the privilege of choosing an alternate.

Officers for the coming year were elected. Upon the resignation of Miss Zena Payne, President, Mrs. T. R. Denny was elected to succeed her. Miss Payne is working two State departments in the work and felt she could not carry on this also. The other officers elected were: vice-

A Tribute to L. H. Bledsoe.

It has been said that the living should deal tenderly with the dead. Be that as it may, I come with uncovered head to lay a bouquet of flowers on the new made grave of my friend, Lawrence Howard Bledsoe, who died at his home, September 9, 1919. May they be kept there by the mighty power of gravitation, may they be sprayed with the gentle dews of heaven, may the sun paint their tiny petals with all the beauty of nature, may the happy vision that so charmed the sweet singer of Israel rest as a benediction upon the memory of L. H. Bledsoe forever.

In early life he united with the Methodist church and lived a consistent Christian. In life he was patient, kind, generous, sincere, wearing the ornaments of a meek and gentle spirit. Like the beautiful clouds at sunset, he will reflect rays from Christ, fair and full of peace, and could say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith." For several years Mr. Bledsoe had been in very poor health, so much so that he had not been able to attend his church.

I have known him a half century. We have been warm friends that long. The power of forming firm friendship continues in true hearted people to age and feebleness. Our friendship began in boyhood and it lasted until that faithful heart ceased to beat. His devotion to his family was beautiful and his love for his friends sincere.

He will be missed in the home. Words are too common to express that. It is like tearing off an arm on which the family loved to lean. But these things go into the most secret place of the soul, to dwell, there while life and being continue. But we can shed tears with those who are loaded down with grief. There is a sadness in tears. They are messages of overwhelming grief, of unspeakable love. There is a pleasure in tears, an awful pleasure.

Mr. Bledsoe was a man of strong convictions, based upon the high standards of truth, honesty and virtue, he had an abiding faith in Christ and a sweet hope. He was rich in the currency of heaven, and dying, behind the sweet fragrance of a true, Christian character. His tranquil life was an inspiration to those who knew him best. As the gentle stream gives verdure and beauty to meadow and forest through which it flows, so his life, unselfish, tender in its sympathies, often sparkling with humor that had no sting of malice in it, was a benediction to all who came within its influence and was always ready to throw the mantle of charity over the faults of others. He could say with Plato,

"Teach me to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault I see;
The mercy I to others show,
That mercy show to me."

His children bear the impress of his character in the integrity of their manhood and womanhood.

As death kissed down his eyelids, his warfare ended, his armor was laid aside, the victory was won and his memory blessed. For a man to live well, die well and leave the wealth of an untarnished character to the loved ones who linger behind, is a grand consummation—this can be said of my friend.

"Bright summer sun, shine gently here,
Soft Southern winds, blow lightly here,
Green sod above, lie light, lie light,
Good-night, my friend, good-night,
good-night."

J. Russell Wright.

president, Mrs. J. A. Lott; recording secretary, Mrs. Olin Eidson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. P. Bean; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Marsh.

Plans were made for the reception by the union to the local teachers of the High School, this to be just previous to the State Temperance Day, 4th Friday in October.

Enthusiastic School Opening.

The Edgefield High and Groded School opened on Monday morning under very favorable auspices.

Mr. A. E. Padgett, chairman of the board of trustees, made a short address at the opening, commending the work of the past session and giving encouragement as to the competency of this year's faculty.

Mr. A. S. Tompkins, another trustee, made a very helpful and practical talk to the teachers and students and patrons. This was the best of all the good talks Mr. Tompkins has ever made. The children say when he comes into the school auditorium, he is always hailed with delight.

Mr. Tompkins, as master of ceremonies, introduced Mr. Brooks, the new superintendent of the High School, who addressed the audience in a short but interesting manner.

The pupils and patrons were delighted to have the opportunity to see and hear Major Lyon again after a year's absence from the school. His address was full of his splendid spirit and kindly counsel. The applause which Major Lyon received when he arose indicated the great love and esteem in which he was held by the student body.

Rev. A. L. Gunter spoke most acceptably as he has won a high place in the school family, having served so faithfully during a term fraught with difficulty.

Rev. E. C. Bailey gave some splendid admonitions to the young people, and had taken the pains to make a blackboard illustration which they enjoyed very much. He made a very effective appeal to the young boys against the use of the cigarette, the great nerve destroyer.

Dr. Lee gave some helpful suggestions to students and some of the children said, "Dr. Lee knows just exactly what to say to us."

D. W. C. Lynch made a few encouraging remarks and Mrs. A. A. Woodson told the students of the Winthrop scholarship which would be given the student in Edgefield County.

Miss Fannie Sheppard presided at the piano during the morning and it was an inspiring sight to see the endless procession of children march out as she played a beautiful march and go to their class rooms under the direction of the respective teachers of their classes. As far as we could judge without knowing the real facts, it is the largest enrollment the school has ever had.

The morning was very profitably spent by patrons and students and was an occasion of inspiration.

The following are the names of the faculty:

Superintendent, Mr. Brooks; History and Science, Miss Snow Jeffries; Mathematics and English, Miss Nan Huff; Piano, Miss Fannie Sheppard; Seventh Grade, Miss Kern; Sixth Grade, Miss Hortense Padgett; Fifth Grade, Miss Katherine Mims; Fourth Grade, Miss Mamie Dunovant; Third Grade, Miss Gladys Rives; Second Grade, Miss Ruth DeLoach, First Grade, Miss Catherine Earle.

The school opens each morning at 15 minutes to nine.

F. A. M.

Meeting of Farmers in Court House.

In response to the call published last week about 12 school districts were represented in the mass meeting of farmers that was held in the Court House Monday. In addition to the township committeemen there were other representative citizens who are interested in effecting an organization of the cotton growers. Mr. W. A. Strom presided over the meeting and Mr. J. L. Mims acted as secretary. Mr. J. F. Clafey of Orangeburg, president of the State Farmers' Union, was present by request of Mr. Strom and he spoke at some length explaining various features of the movement and answering questions that were asked by some farmers present. He stated that as soon as a sufficient number of counties effect temporary organizations, a meeting in Columbia will be called for the purpose of effecting a State organization. Mr. Clafey stated that the matter of providing a fund for purchasing distressed cotton, cotton offered for sale by per-

sons who are compelled to sell in order to meet some pressing obligation, will be taken up as soon as a permanent organization is formed in the cotton States. The money that has been collected, twenty-five cents per bale for all cotton grown in 1917, will be used solely to defray the expenses of the State organization. Not a cent of this fund will be used for any other purpose.

At the close of Mr. Clafey's address a temporary organization was effected by the election of Mr. W. A. Strom as temporary chairman and Mr. W. W. Fuller, temporary secretary. After some discussion it was decided that a mass meeting of all the people of the county should be held before a permanent organization was formed. A motion was unanimously adopted calling a mass meeting of all the people for Monday, September 22, in the Court House. Not only farmers, but merchants, lawyers, doctors, bankers and all others interested are invited and urged to attend the meeting next Monday.

A Trip to Beech Island.

Sunday morning, Miss Kellah Fair, Mr. Nick Brunson and Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Blalock came for me to go to Beech Island with them to spend the day with the family of Mr. Warren Fair, Miss Kellah's brother.

I dressed hurriedly and we were soon off. The ride was very pleasant until we were almost in sight of North Augusta, when we had a puncture. As we had no extra tire along, it took quite a while to get it fixed, but after an hour, we started off again.

We passed through North Augusta and saw many beautiful homes of which it boasted.

From there we passed through Augusta and then back into our own beloved state.

The roads from the bridge for about five miles were beautiful. The Savannah river flows by the road and lovely hay fields on the other side.

The swampy parts of the road were even more beautiful, with the gray moss hanging from all the trees.

The roads were excellent. I wish that Edgefield could boast of such good roads.

We passed Mr. W. R. Dobson's store and in sight of his home.

The weather was very cool and pleasant, but the best part of our day was when we reached the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fair.

I was so glad to see all of the family and especially my friend, Elizabeth Fair. We went especially to see her as she was going to Coker the next day.

While we were there, a Mr. Dunbar came in, and I was introduced to him as the daughter of The Edgefield Advertiser. He said that he had learned his letters from this paper.

Another good feature of the day was the dinner, especially the fried chicken, because we don't see many of them since they have risen to 90 cents and \$1.00.

After dinner we went to see the Beech Island school and "Red Cliff," which was the lovely home of Governor Hammond who was the great grandfather of the Fair children.

Another place we went was to see Mr. Walker, an uncle of Miss Kellah. He is the magistrate of Beech Island and he and Mr. Brunson, ("Uncle Nick") had a conversation. Mr. Brunson said he thought the people ought to have a little whiskey, (of course he was joking) that they were obliged to have it. Mr. Walker said he thought anybody that sold the "dad blame" stuff ought to be hung.

We were all very sorry when it was time to leave, for a half day seemed far too short to spend in Beech Island. So with reluctant spirits, we left our friends, and Beech Island will always be dear to our hearts since we had that experience.

ELEANOR MIMS.

Salesman Wanted.

Lubricating Oil, Grease, Specialties, Pain. Part or whole time. Commission basis. Man with car or rig preferred. RIVERSIDE REFINING CO., Cleveland, Ohio.

DAY AT REHOBOTH.

Ordinance of Baptist Administration. Ordinance of Baptism Administered in Forenoon and the Afternoon.

A large number of people gathered at Rehoboth Church Sunday to witness the ordinance of baptism in the forenoon which was administered to nearly a score of young people by the pastor, Rev. J. W. Kesterson, in the baptistry under the trees near the spring and also to attend the memorial service in honor of Preston Strom in the afternoon. Among those who were baptised were Mr. T. P. Morgan, Jr., and his young wife. It was beautiful to see these young people take this step together as they start out arm in arm upon the journey of life. Just preceding the baptism Mr. Kesterson read appropriate selections from the scripture, making brief comment suited to the occasion. When the service at the spring was concluded it was too near the dinner hour for holding further service in the church until the afternoon.

On the long table under the large oaks a bountiful feast was spread and everybody present was invited to partake. Nowhere in this section is old-time hospitality more lavishly dispensed than at Rehoboth. Those good people are living up to the reputation which that flock made in the years gone by.

Early in the afternoon the people assembled in the church for the memorial service. Mr. Kesterson read a selection from the Bible and then delivered a very earnest and eloquent address, paying a beautiful tribute to Preston Strom, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Strom, the only gold star upon the service flag displayed in Rehoboth church. Mr. Kesterson was followed by a reading, "In Flanders' Fields," by Miss Lucille Culbreath, she being followed by "America's Reply" by Miss Annie May Culbreath.

Mr. J. B. Hughey, who presided at the memorial service next present Mr. J. L. Mims, who likewise paid tribute to this widely beloved hero who gave his life for his country, Preston Strom. Two appropriate vocal duets were beautifully rendered by Misses Lucille and Annie May Culbreath.

Preston Strom volunteered at Greenwood in July, 1917, when Capt. Henry C. Tillman, commanding the Coast Artillery, called for volunteers in order to recruit his company to war strength. Instead of waiting for his turn to come in the draft, he went out of his own county in response to what he conceived to be his patriotic duty and entered an already organized company in order to get at once into active service.

Soon after Preston volunteered his company was ordered to Charleston where it remained in training for about 12 months then it was ordered overseas. He sailed sometime in September and was taken ill while aboard ship. Soon after arriving at Brest, France, October 4 last he was transferred to the hospital in Brest where he died of bronchial pneumonia October 3. His parents knew nothing of his illness, consequently the official announcement of his death by the war department was a great shock to them.

Acting upon the request of Mr. and Mrs. Strom, the war department will, as soon as practicable, bring Preston's body to the home land and it will be interred in the family square in Rehoboth cemetery. Believing that the government would have been able to bring his body home by this time, Mr. and Mrs. Strom have already caused a suitable monument to be made, which will be placed over his grave.

Civic League to Give Entertainment.

Early in October, the ladies of the Civic League will offer a home talent musical comedy, Miss Josephine Biddleman of Salisbury, N. C., will direct the production. The cemetery has been greatly improved by the Civic League and that organization asks your co-operation in defraying the expenses by coming and enjoying the play. Full particulars will be published later.