

SHUFORD FAMILY REUNION MOST REMARKABLE IN STATE

Held on Farm Where Electricity Milks Cows, Separates Milk, and Freezes Ice Cream for Shufords and Others.

One of the most remarkable family reunions ever held in the State was celebrated at the farm of R. L. Shuford, nine miles west of Newton, Saturday, August 14, when the descendants of the pioneer, John Shuford, met in annual session.

For weeks the steering committee, headed by Mrs. E. L. Shuford, of Hickory, had been planning for a record-breaking crowd and when the morning dawned clear their anticipations began speedily to be realized. A splendid program had been arranged and the gathering was to be held at one of the most talked of places in rural North Carolina, or perhaps the South—Lakeview Farm—which facts together with the beautiful day and the natural instinct of the relatives to get together and talk over their common interests, were quite enough to make the occasion all that could be desired by its promoters. By 8:30 in the morning all the roads leading toward the appointed place were thronged with automobiles, carriages, horseback riders and people on foot. From Hickory, Lincolnton, Newton, Maiden, and dozens of smaller towns, as well as from the many prosperous farms of the South Fork, the multitude gathered, until by 10 o'clock—the hour appointed for the exercises to begin—there were more than a thousand of the family on the grounds.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. W. A. Self, of Hickory. Following his introductory remarks, Dr. Jos. L. Murphy, of Hickory, offered the invocation. The first number on the program was the national song, "America," which the Shufords sang with such a zest that even a stranger could not mistake their genuine patriotism. Rev. Julius Shuford, of Lenoir, the author of the family history which recently came from the press followed the song with an account of the emigration of the pioneer, John Shuford, and his location in North Carolina in the early eighteenth century. He showed that the motive back of the migration was to find a home of freedom in the new world where, removed from the restraints of the Old World, he might lay the foundations of a strong, free and liberty-loving people.

Family History Told.

Owing to the limited time at the society's disposal it was thought best to attempt but a partial review of the history of the family at one session. Accordingly two sons of John Shuford, David and George by name, furnished the topic for the morning hour. Hon. A. C. Shuford, formerly Congressman from his district, spoke of David, his grandfather, and Judge George Shuford, of Asheville, told of his grandfather, George. Both speeches showed careful preparation, and cast much credit upon descendants as well as ancestors. Mr. A. C. Shuford told of the work of David Shuford as a member of the State Senate from 1806 to 1820 and Judge Shuford spoke of his grandfather George as the kindly slave owner, the solicitous father and grandfather, the great peace-maker and peace-preserver among his neighbors in Buncombe county.

Mr. Joe Nixon, of Lincolnton, was here called upon to read the last will and testament of the pioneer, John Shuford, which bore the date of 1788, and at the conclusion Mr. Nixon presented to each of the descendants a certified copy of the will as prepared by his father, Hon. A. Nixon, of Lincoln county. Adjournment for dinner was then declared in order and the family repaired to the long table in the grove where a bounteous feast was served.

Felicitations of Friends.

After an hour of recreation the society reassembled for a series of short addresses, most of which were in the form of felicitations from friends who were not directly related to the family. Among those participating in this feature of the exercises were Col. G. M. Yoder, of Catawba county, Solicitor George Wilson, of Gastonia, C. E. McIntosh, of Raleigh, and B. B. Blackwelder, of Hickory. All of these speakers dwelled on the characteristics of the Shuford family for upright living. Solicitor Wilson declaring that in all his experience he had never had to prosecute a Shuford for breaking the laws of his State.

As a concluding number there were short toasts given by several of the younger members of the family, among them being E. L. J. H. and W. J. Shuford, all of Hickory. It is no disparagement of the other speeches to say that the "wireless message" which W. J. (Wat) claimed to have received from his cousin, Herr Heinrich Von Shuford, of Berlin, easily took the prize for wit, imagination, and down-right genius. Few more brilliant papers of its kind have ever been written in the State.

Electric Farm.

Following the completion of the program the guests roamed for an

hour over the estate which, as stated above, is the most unique in the South. Some visited the old homestead, some inspected the dairy, the barn, the ice cream plant, the silos, the alfalfa fields and the many other things of interest to be found on the farm. Then the seventy registered Jersey cows were milked by machinery run by the farm dynamo, the milk was separated by the electrically-driven separator, the cream was frozen at the new ice cream plant by home made ice, and lastly, the hundreds of relatives and friends were served a delicious course of "home-spun" ice cream in cones.

Late in the day the meeting broke up and the large assemblage of kinsmen separated until their next annual reunion day. There was not a single accident, and there was not a sign of misconduct throughout the day. Every one present had a delightfully good time, and there was not one among the number but that will gladly welcome the return of the Shuford Reunion Day.

CLOSING WEEK OF MONTREAT MEET

Two Important Features on the Program for Each Day During Last of Conference

(MAMIE BAYS.)

Montreat, Aug. 22.—The closing week of the conferences of the Southern Presbyterian Church at Montreat, for the present summer, will be characterized with two important features on the program each day. These will be an address during the Bible hour each morning by Rev. J. Layton Mauze, D.D., of St. Louis, and an address each evening by Rev. Dunbar H. Ogden, D.D., of Atlanta. Both of these speakers have a strong hold upon Montreat audiences and they will be heard with interest during these closing days of the present conferences.

Dr. Mauze has been speaking each day during the past week, his addresses being based upon the teaching of the book of Romans and while he had not been heard at Montreat before this summer, he is recognized already as one of the most popular speakers the program of this season has presented. He is a native of Virginia, but much of his life as a minister has been spent in the work of the church west of the Mississippi; the church of which he is pastor in St. Louis is making rapid progress under his leadership and his popularity is not confined to his own church and his own denomination, but it reaches to other churches and is recognized in the city at large. As a speaker he is thoughtful, instructive and convincing, the argument presented in his messages being clear and well founded.

Dr. Ogden has been heard a number of times at Montreat and he is easily included among the most popular speakers the program committees has presented. He is a careful student and possesses the power to convey easily the result of his study to the minds of those who hear him. His platform appearance and delivery are attractive and from his first utterance he commands the interested attention of his audience. During the closing days of the conferences Dr. Ogden will deliver four especially prepared addresses upon the following subjects: "Why I am a Christian," "Why I am a Protestant," "Why I am a Presbyterian," "The relation of Judaism to Christianity."

Talks on Hay Fever.

Hendersonville, Aug. 21.—Dr. W. Scheppegrell, president of the American Hay-Fever-Prevention Association, before leaving his summer home in Hendersonville this week for his winter residence in New Orleans, to attend a meeting of the association, gave some interesting and valuable pointers for the general public, physicians, and especially sufferers from hay fever, in relating the plans and purposes of the organization.

Dr. Scheppegrell advises sufferers from autumnal hay fever, to remain away as much as possible from fields containing rag weeds, the pollen of which, he says, is the irritating agent in practically every case of autumnal hay fever, although the pollen of golden rods and a few other weeds aggravate the symptoms and in some cases originate them.

British yeomanry forces were first instituted by Lord Chatham in 1761.

BEN SHELTON'S "POOREST FARM"

One of the greatest farmers' gatherings in the history of the State will commence at the A. and M. College tomorrow when the State Farmers' Convention meets in annual session.

Arrangements have been made to have some of the leading farmers of the State give their experiences in building up their farms. One of these addresses will be made by Mr. B. F. Shelton, of Speed, president of the convention, the subject assigned him being "How I Made My Farm Pay" in this connection an article which Mr. S. R. Winters wrote for a recent number of the Progressive Farmer is interesting. It is as follows:



B. F. Shelton.

Ben, what in the world did you buy that poor farm for? Why, it's the poorest in the county."

Up against this sickening judgment of a well-informed neighbor, Ben F. Shelton, of Speed, N. C., began the reclamation of a 600-acre farm on the boundary line of Edgecombe and Halifax counties, 15 years ago. The plantation had indeed been skinned and robbed by the one-crop system, and was noted chiefly for stunted pines and scrub oaks, knee-deep gullies, and stumpy, crop-sick soil.

Fifteen years later the owner of this plantation has fittingly chosen as the subject of his address, as president of the North Carolina Farmers' Convention, "How I Made My Farm Pay."

Cattle and Hogs Important Crops.

Based on a visit to Mr. Shelton's farm, and without any advance information as to the content of his speech before the Farmers' Convention, this article will inevitably touch upon the formal title of his practical address to be delivered in Raleigh during August. To write of Mr. Shelton and Mapleton Farm is to write about how he transformed a badly run-down plantation into a paying proposition. His letter heading—"Hereford Cattle and Berkshire Hogs"—betrays the plot of the story.

The initial move of Mr. Shelton in the restoration of the fertility of the soil came soon after he took possession. He invested \$300 in scrub cattle. The plantation was fenced in, and while the cattle enriched the soil, Mr. Shelton was busy dynamiting stumps, clearing off pine growth, and terracing the plantation.

Profits accumulated from the sales of the grade stock. The logical question then came, "If there's any money in scrub cattle, does it not follow that profits from pure-breds would be materially larger?" Thus in 1904 Mr. Shelton imported a pure-bred Hereford bull from West Virginia. Ten acres of bottom land, affording densely matted and luxuriant grass plots, was the pasture for the white-faces.

Mr. Shelton gradually made additions to his original purchase. Another year or two and he bought 14 pure-breds. By September of 1914 the number of the herd had increased to 103. From September to June, 1915, he marketed 53 of that number. His gross revenues from the sales were \$4,348. The shipment of a car of beef cattle to Richmond, local sales of breeding steers, and shipments of pure-breds to beginners in cattle-growing were the available markets. The left-overs of high grade stock were marketed as good measure. His pure-bred bulls averaged \$100 apiece, while profits from calves approximated \$75 apiece. An advertisement in the Progressive Farmer brought him answers from nearly every Southern State and completely sold him out.

Good Pastures for the Stock.

What are the practices of feed production on Mapleton Farm which make cattle-raising highly profitable? For six months in the year the Herefords live on grass—supplemented by a handful of salt once a week. One hundred acres in productive pasture land yields an abundant crop of grass. During the winter months they are fed silage, hay, cottonseed hulls and cottonseed meal. Two characteristics of the type recommended the Herefords as the breed for Mapleton Farm—their docile nature and their disposition to hustle around for their livelihood.

Shropshire sheep and Berkshire hogs occupy a well-balanced proportion on the livestock program of the Mapleton Farm; 125 head of sheep thrive on pasture of Bermuda and lespedeza. For nine months they are self-sustaining. Cottonseed meal and cottonseed hulls constitute their winter ration, inexpensive and easily cared for, profits accrue readily from the sale of lambs. He will sell 40 lambs this year at \$5 apiece. The sale of 500 pounds of wool for 20 cents a pound is a profitable bargain annually transacted. Forty Berkshire hogs are self-feeding for three months in the year.

The Mapleton Farm differs from the type common to the locality, inasmuch as everything needed for the plant is extracted from the soil. The crops on the 400 acres in cultivation this year consists of:

Peanuts	140 acres
Cotton	110 acres
Corn	50 acres
Oats	30 acres
Rye	30 acres
Soy beans	25 acres

Of the remaining fifteen acres five are in wheat and ten in grass and alfalfa. Last fall he seeded 70 acres to

cover crops, and during the winter 150 tons of stable manure materially aided in replenishing the fertility of the soil.

One thing that struck the writer forcibly about Mapleton Farm was the absolute neatness and order of everything. A big, fine home equipped with waterworks and modern in every detail, occupies the foreground of the plantation. Dotted here and there are many tenant houses, uniformly painted, which afford a pleasing environment to the owner. The buildings and out-houses are substantial and in good repair.

A Home With Modern Conveniences.

Any story of Mapleton Farm that failed to mention the accessible conveniences of folks and stock would be incomplete. The waterworks plant is an ideal one. The capacity of the tank, supported by a 30-foot framework, is 3,000 gallons. The plant is operated by a one and one-half horse power engine, the cost of operation being only two cents a day. From the plant there courses a pipe line, tapped by three water mains, to his barn 400 feet away. Here around a barn that cost \$1,250 and a silo of 120 tons capacity the white-faces and Shropshires seek comfort on hot summer days and a rich harvest during the winter months.

By way of summary: See in the immediate foreground a herd of sleek, well-groomed Hereford cattle; a flock of Shropshire sheep loitering around the water trough, surrounding the silo a 25-acre field of corn capable of producing 50 bushels to the acre; over in the background the many-crop system in practice, and still farther on a pasture of 100 acres of thickly matted grass in addition to the 400 acres already mentioned in cultivation—these things testify loudly how Ben F. Shelton has made his farm pay.

STORMS AND WAR NEWS FEATURE COTTON SALES

New Orleans, La., Aug. 22.—Storm news and politics were main factors in cotton last week. Price movements were nervous and erratic. The close was at a net loss of 16 to 17 points. At one time trading months were 10 to 15 points over last week's close, and at another, 16 to 20 points under.

Early in the week the general trend was upward on reports of storm damage in Texas. The buying wave, however, was not pronounced and late in the week bears insistently claimed benefits had resulted from the soaking rains.

Toward the end of the week the market was sensitive to news of the Arabic situation, which overshadowed the allies' declaration making cotton contraband.

The market can hardly escape being much unsettled the coming week. Renewal of the tension between this country and Germany is regarded as an unfavorable influence in the worst sort. In addition, there are the conflicting claims regarding the crop situation in the west. Bulls will probably be under a disadvantage from crop news, because recent rains have caused almost universal claims of new growth to the plant.

The spot situation will be given much attention because of the report that Texas shippers are short of spots and are in a bad position because of the damage done to early cotton.

Faces Bigamy Charge.

Elizabeth City, Aug. 21.—R. L. Garrett was placed in jail here yesterday by Sheriff Reid on the charge of bigamy.

Some time ago Garrett married Miss Edna Roberts, of this city, and shortly afterwards left her. Since that time Sheriff Reid has had letters from Texas claiming that Garrett has one wife or more in that State. At Sheriff's Reid dictation the Elizabeth City wife wrote Garrett a letter that brought his back. As soon as he arrived the sheriff took charge of him and he will be held here awaiting further word from Texas.