STATEMENT

IN November of last year *The Asheville Citizen* moved into its new and permanent home at No. 25 Haywood Street.

In celebration of that event *The Citizen* published a special edition, in which appeared two most interesting and highly instructive articles on the history of Western North Carolina and of Buncombe County, one prepared by Dr. F. A. Sondley, and the other by General Theodore F. Davidson.

These two articles attracted widespread attention as they both narrated incidents and facts, many of which had never before been printed, and many of *The Citizen's* readers urged that these two articles be reprinted in pamphlet form, so as to be more easily read and preserved for the future.

At our request Dr. Sondley and General Davidson have both revised those two articles and have brought them up to date, and, in response to this request, *The Citizen* has had them printed and bound in this little volume.

The Citizen believes that the public will be deeply interested in the facts set forth in this little volume, and is glad to have the opportunity of performing what it believes is a great public service in handing them down for future generations.

The expense of securing the illustrations and the printing of this volume is considerably more than the management anticipated, and, in order to help defray the cost of the same, we are making a nominal charge for each book to help defray this expense.

The Citizen is under deep obligations to Dr. Sondley and General Davidson for their arduous labors in compiling the facts set forth herein. They have striven earnestly and faithfully to get together, in an interesting and succinct manner, without remuneration, the facts compiled, and are entitled to the thanks and appreciation of a grateful public.

THE CITIZEN COMPANY.

February 27, 1922.

Mount Mitchell Above the Clouds

ASHEVILLE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY

By

F. A. Sondley, LL.D.

GENESIS OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY

By

Hon. Theodore F. Davidson

ASHEVILLE
THE CITIZEN COMPANY
1922

ASHEVILLE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY

THE INLAND PRESS
ASHEVILLE, N. C.

DEDICATION

This little work is dedicated to

HONORABLE THEODORE F. DAVIDSON

who has ever exerted himself for the preservation of Buncombe's history, and in so doing has made that county his lasting debtor.

—Author.

PREFACE

THIS is intended to be a sketch of the history of Asheville and Buncombe County. It is difficult to tell in writing a local history where to stop. There is always more to be said. All facts are material; but all facts are not equally interesting and all facts are not equally well known. Public records have been followed where available. When they have failed, recourse has been had to tradition; but no tradition has been followed unless, after careful scrutiny, it seems to be true and even then is well attested. Too great generality renders whatever is written worthless. On the other hand, too much detail is tedious. All history is incomplete. This sketch makes no claim to even approximate completeness. Its aim is to give the most important events in the story of Asheville and adjoining regions with enough explanation and illustration to enable a reader to understand, in some measure at least, the people who have made that story a reality.

F. A. SONDLEY.

Finis Viae,
December 31, 1921.

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ASHEVILLE AND BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Asheville and Buncombe County

Chapter I

DISCOVERIES OF AMERICA

THE early history of every country is wrapt in obscurity. Perhaps this was to be expected in ancient days. But modern lands form no exception to this observation.

It has been remarked that there are few nations in Europe or Asia which have not put forward claims to a discovery of America long prior to that made by Columbus. One of the earliest of these claims made by white men is that in which the Norwegian Sagas assert that in 986 A.D. some of the Norwegians found North America. But these same Sagas relate a discovery of still earlier date made by the Irish. They say that while the Norwegians were on the American shores at a place which they called Vinland, the natives told them of a country farther south and beyond what is now the Chesapeake Bay, where there lived "white men, who clothed themselves in long white garments, carried before them poles to which cloths were attached, and called with a loud voice." By this the Norwegian visitors understood that these unknown white men marched in processions and carried banners and sang songs. In the oldest of these Sagas the present Carolinas are called "Land of the White Men" and "Great Ireland" and "Huitramannaland." These Sagas further related that, before the Norwegians saw America, and probably in 982, Ari Marsson, of the Icelandic race of Ulf the Squint-eyed, in a voyage from Iceland, was driven to the Land of the White Men and was there recognized by men who had come from the Orkney Islands and Iceland, and it has even been said that Iceland was first settled by white men who had come from this colony of Irishmen in the Carolinas.

If this story of the Land of the White Men and its Irish inhabitants be true, this was North Carolina's first "Lost Colony."

Humboldt believed in this story of the discovery of North America by the Norwegians, but thought that their Vinland was "the central

and southern portions of the United States of America." If he was correct in this, North Carolina in the Norwegians had a second "Lost Colony."

According to a Welsh statement, Madoc, a prince of Wales, sailed westward from his country in 1170 and found an unknown land where, on a second voyage, he planted a colony of his people. This settlement has been supposed to be in the Carolinas; and it is said that among the Tuscaroras of Eastern North Carolina once lived Indians who spoke the Welsh language.

"In 1660, Rev. Morgan Jones, a Welsh clergyman, seeking to go by land from South Carolina to Roanoke, was captured by the Tuscarora Indians," then in North Carolina. "He declares that his life was spared because he spoke Welsh, which some of the Indians understood; that he was able to converse with them in Welsh, though with some difficulty; and that he remained with them for months, sometimes preaching to them in Welsh. John Williams, LL.D., who reproduced the statement of Mr. Jones in his work on the story of Prince Madog's Emigration, published in 1791, explaining it by assuming that Prince Madog settled in North Carolina, and that the Welsh colony, after being weakened, was incorporated with these Indians. If we may believe the story of Mr. Jones (and I cannot find that his veracity was questioned at the time), it will seem necessary to accept this explanation. It will be recollected that, in the early colony times, the Tuscaroras were sometimes called 'White Indians.'" (J. D. Baldwin's Pre-historic Nations, 1869, 402-403.) Was this North Carolina's third "Lost Colony"?

Whether these stories, or any of them, be accepted, the American Indians were the first discoverers of America. At last, then, all the controversies on the subject merely relate to the question, Who was the second or later discoverer of America?

When Columbus set out in 1492 on his first voyage, which resulted in the discovery of the West India Islands, he but acted in obedience to the impulses of a spirit that was then common among the maritime peoples of Europe. It was an age of adventure and discovery, the border line between the two great periods of modern development,

between the age of war and war-like adventure which had just passed its meridian and the age of commerce and commercial adventure which had just begun. Although by reason of his wonderful discovery and remarkable career, he was the most eminent, he was, by no means, the first of the venturesome and restless spirits of his century who risked the unknown perils of the sea in search of new lands and the wild pursuits of fabulous wealth; nor was he the last of these.

His success inflamed the more the spirit of reckless daring which already burned so brightly. Hundreds rushed forward to retrace his course and transcend the utmost limits which even he had reached. And when these had found new lands, others of kindred spirit stood ready to explore and settle them. Discovery and occupation went hand in hand. Probably at no other period in the world's history would new-found territory have been visited at so early a day after its discovery by such numbers of people seeking homes upon its shores.

In 1539 Hernando De Soto, one of the Spanish conquerors of Peru, undertook to explore the eastern part of the present United States in search of another Peru. Starting from Tampa Bay in Florida, he marched northward through Florida, Georgia and South Carolina and into North Carolina. Then he turned west into the mountains, probably through Hickorynut Gap to French Broad River, and pursued, in 1540, his journey toward the southwest until he came to the Mississippi River; and, after some further explorations, he died on that stream in 1542. The chief object of his search was gold. If he found little gold he probably found where there were gold mines. In 1566 Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the celebrated Spanish commander who drove the French from their settlement in Florida, built a fort in South Carolina at Port Royal, or as the Spaniards called the region Saint Helena, and named the fort San Felipe and garrisoned it with one hundred and ten soldiers under Stephen de las Alas. In November of that year Captain Juan Pardo was sent from that fort with a company to explore the interior. Marching northwestwardly and northeastwardly, Pardo came, at the end of about 300 or 350 miles, to the country of the Sara or Suala Indians. He built a fort there and placed in it a garrison of

thirty soldiers under a sergeant. This was at Xualla where twenty-six years before De Soto turned west into the mountains.

The chief of the Juada or Joara (Sara or Suala) Indians had renewed at San Felipe the acquaintance which he had formed at Xualla with the Spaniards under De Soto in 1540, and now accompanied Pardo from San Felipe. Pardo returned to San Felipe; and in 1567, under his order the sergeant entered the mountains and pursued the way which De Soto had taken from Xualla. Four hundred and twenty miles of this journey brought the sergeant to Coosa whither Pardo, by appointment, had marched to meet him. While the Spaniards were at San Felipe they obtained gold and silver from a country in latitude north 35½ degrees, 180 miles to the north, where were "the townes of Otapales and Olagatanos." These towns were in a country called by the Indians Yupaha, Aixacan, Chiquola, Chisca, Apalatci, and Onagatano; by the Spaniards La Grand Copal or Florida; by the French New France, Louisiane Apalche, or Apalache; by the English Virginia, and now known as Western North Carolina. It had mines of gold, copper and silver.

In 1564 some Huguenots, sent from France through the efforts of Admiral Coligni and commanded by René G. Laudonnière, formed a settlement and built a fort in Florida on Saint John's River near its mouth, and remained there a little more than a year, when the fort was taken and destroyed and their settlement broken up by the Spaniards under Pedro Menendez de Aviles. While in Florida Laudonnière collected much silver and some gold from the Indians who claimed to have brought these metals from "the mountaines of Apalatcy." These "mountaines" were in Western North Carolina. From the same Indians he learned that in those mountains was to be found also "redde copper."

In 1653 an expedition from Virginia into North Carolina under Francis Yardly's patronage learned from the Tuscarora Indians of a wealthy Spaniard living with his family of thirty members and eight negro slaves in the principal town of those Indians where he had

resided for seven years, and that the Haynokes or Eno Indians "valiantly resisted the Spaniard's further northern attempts" in North Carolina.

In 1670 a Virginia explorer into North Carolina, named John Lederer, ascertained from the Usheries (Catawbas) and some visiting Sara Indians "that two days' journey and a half from hence to the southwest, a powerful nation of bearded men were seated, which I suppose to be Spaniards, because the Indians never have any." In 1669 Sir William Berkeley, governor of Virginia, expected to find silver mines in North Carolina, "for certaine it is that the Spaniard in the same degrees of latitude has found many." In 1690 James Moore, secretary of the colony settled at Charlestown in South Carolina, made an exploring tour up the country to the mountains until he reached a place where his Indian guides said that twenty miles away Spaniards were mining and smelting with furnaces and bellows. Numerous traces of mining operations in Western North Carolina before the English came but in which iron implements (unknown to Indians) were used have been found, some in the country of the Sara Indians near Lincolnton, some at Kings Mountain, and some in Cherokee County which the Cherokees said had been made by Spaniards from Florida throughout three summers until the Cherokees killed them. Thus the Spaniards lived and mined in Western North Carolina more than 125 years from 1540 till 1690 and later.

The first gold mine opened in the United States by English-speaking people was the Reed mine near Charlotte. From 1793 North Carolina gold was minted by the United States and from 1804 to 1827 all the gold produced in the United States came from North Carolina.

In 1497, John Cabot discovered the continent of North America, and in 1498, his son, Sebastian Cabot, explored the coast of his father's discovery from Nova Scotia to Cape Hatteras. Almost immediately England began to claim this land and English adventurers began to plan its exploration and colonization. The most able, as well as the most enterprising and eminent, of these was the famous Sir Walter Raleigh. He early conceived the scheme of colonizing this new world, and at once entered upon the undertaking with that vigor and daring

which characterized all his enterprises. In 1584, he sent out an expedition under Philip Amidas and Arthur Barlow. These men conducted a most prosperous trade with the Indians of the North Carolina coast; and upon their return to England with numerous proofs of the wonderful land which they had visited and the wonderful people whom they had seen, Queen Elizabeth caught the enthusiasm of the voyagers and allowed the land to be named in honor of herself, Virginia. Strange it is, but true, that the original Virginia should, at a later date, have lost its name to its more Northern sister and taken from another British monarch the new name of Carolina. The next year another expedition, sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh under Ralph Lane, founded a colony on Roanoke Island on the coast of North Carolina. This attempt at an English settlement in a new world was a failure; but it was, by no means, fruitless in results, as we shall see hereafter.

Two years later another attempt was made by the indefatigable Raleigh to effect a settlement at Roanoke Island, an attempt which resulted in that historical mystery, "the lost colony." But again the unfortunate Raleigh was doomed to disappointment. This man opened a way, and his fellow countrymen soon found means to accomplish what he had endeavored, at such loss and sacrifice, to achieve. He was, beyond question, the greatest of the founders of the American States; and the honor which North Carolina has paid to his memory in bestowing his name upon her capital city is a well-deserved tribute to her greatest benefactor.

After several more efforts, a settlement was made in North Carolina which proved to be permanent. From such beginnings arose the Old North State. She has been charged with being always behind; yet few States can justly claim to have kept pace with her.

Of the voyage of Amidas and Barlow to her shores Wheeler declares that, "it was then and there 'the meteor flag' of England was first displayed in the United States and on the sandy banks of North Carolina rested the first Anglo-Saxon anchor."

Through Lane's expedition in 1585, she first introduced to the civilized world Indian corn, sassafras, Irish potatoes and tobacco; or it is so claimed.

Upon her borders was founded the first English settlement in America.

In the far-famed "lost colony" was born and disappeared Virginia Dare, the first child of English parentage born upon American soil.

The first gold mines worked by Americans were the Reed mines in Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

The first battle for American independence was fought by North Carolinians on North Carolina soil at Alamance, in resistance to the tyrannical British Governor, Tryon, on May 16, 1771, and here was spilled the first blood ever shed in the cause of American freedom.

In 1765, the British Parliament passed the famed Stamp Act taxing paper and certain other articles used by the American colonies. This was a distinct violation of a fundamental principle of the British Constitution, forbidding taxation without representation, submission to which on the part of these colonies would have been an unequivocal concession that they were not entitled to the rights of English freemen. Of the reception of the attempt to enforce this act in North Carolina her historian Wheeler says:

"This act produced a violent excitement throughout the whole country, and in none more than in North Carolina. The Legislature was then in session, and such was the excitement this odious measure of Parliament created among the members, that apprehending some violent expression of popular indignation, Governor Tryon on the 18th of May, prorogued that body after a session of fifteen days. The speaker of the House, John Ashe, Esq., informed Governor Tryon that this law would be resisted to blood and death. Governor Tryon knew that the storm raged; courageous as he was, he dreaded its fury. He did not allow the Legislature to meet during the existence of this act, but faithful to the government, he condescended to use the arts of the demagogue, to avoid the odium of its measures. He mingled freely with the people, displaying profuse hospitality, and prepared dinners and feasts. But unawed by power, the people were not to be seduced by blanishments. Early in the year 1765, the Dilligence, a sloop of war, arrived in the Cape Fear river with stamp paper for the use of the colony. Colonel John Ashe, of the County of New Hanover, and

Colonel Waddell of the County of Brunswick, marched at the head of the brave sons of these counties, to Brunswick, before which town the Dilligence was anchored, terrified the captain, so that no attempt was made to land the paper; seized the sloop-of-war's boat, hoisted it on a cart, fixed a mast in her, mounted a flag and marched in triumph to Wilmington. The whole town joined in a splendid illumination at night, and the next day these patriotic citizens went to the Governor's house, and 'bearded the Douglas in his castle.' They demanded of Governor Tryon to desist from all attempts to execute the stamp act, and produce to them James Houston, who was a member of the council, an inmate of the Governor's house, and who had been appointed by Tryon Stamp Master for North Carolina. The governor at first refused a demand so tumultuously made, but the haughty spirit of the representative of even kingly power, yielding before the power of a virtuous and incensed people; for the people prepared to burn up the palace, and with it the Governor, the Stamp Master, and the menials of royal power. The Governor then reluctantly produced Houston; who was seized by the people, carried to the public market house, and forced to take a solemn oath not to attempt to execute his office as Stamp Master. After this he was released. He returned to the palace, to comfort his dejected and discomfited master. The people gave three cheers and quietly dispersed. Here is an act of North Carolinians 'worthy of all Grecian or Roman fame.' The famous Tea Party of Boston, when a number of citizens, disguised as Indians, went on board of a ship in the harbor, and threw overboard the tea imported in her, has been celebrated by every writer of our National History and

'Pealed and chimed on every tongue of fame.'

"Our children are taught to read it in their early lessons; it adorns the picture books of our nurseries, and is known in the remotest borders of the republic. Here is an act of the sons of the 'Old North State,' not committed on the harmless carriers of the freight, or crew of a vessel; not done under any disguise or mask; but on the representative of royalty itself, occupying a palace, and in open day, by men of well known person and reputation; much more decided in its

character, more daring in its action, more important in its results; and yet not one-half of her own sons ever read of this exploit; it is not even recorded anywhere in the pages of Williamson, who is one of her historians and who was one of the delegates from North Carolina to the Convention which formed the Constitution of the United States; and its story is confined to the limits of 'our own pent up Utica.'" (Wheeler's History of North Carolina, page 50.)

On May 20, 1775, the people of Mecklenburg County, in North Carolina, made, at Charlotte, in that county, the first declaration of independence, as well established as the "Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America," at Philadelphia, on July 4, 1776.

The first open and public declaration for independence by any one colony was that made on April 12, 1776, by the Provincial Congress of North Carolina assembled at Halifax, when that memorable body, on motion of Cornelius Harnett, resolved:

> "That the delegates for this colony in the Continental Congress be impowered to concur with the Delegates of the other Colonies in declaring Independence and forming foreign alliances, reserving to this colony the sole and exclusive right of forming a constitution and laws for this colony."

In the late war for Southern rights North Carolina entered the struggle with great deliberation, but having espoused the cause of the South, she played a most important and honorable part in that tragic event. It was the North Carolinian Henry Wyatt who fell, the first soldier to die in defence of the Southern cause. To that cause North Carolina furnished more troops than any other State, and to her belongs the honor of having sent to its battle-fields fully one-fifth of the whole Confederate army. Her troops were the first to repel the invasion of Southern soil when, on June 10, 1861, they fought and won the initial battle, which has passed into history as the battle of Big Bethel.

A Virginia writer, the Rev. Wm. Henry Foote, enthusiastically declared that: "Men will not be fully able to understand Carolina till

they have opened the treasures of history and drawn forth some few particulars respecting the origin and religious habits of the Scotch-Irish, and become familiar with their doings previous to the Revolution—during that painful struggle—and the succeeding years of prosperity; and Carolina will be respected as she is known." (Foote's Sketches of North Carolina, page 83.)

The historian, George Bancroft, exclaims: "Are there any who doubt man's capacity for self-government? Let them study the history of North Carolina. Its inhabitants were restless and turbulent in their imperfect submission to a government imposed from abroad; the administration of the colony was firm, humane and tranquil when they were left to take care of themselves. Any government but one of their own institution was oppressive. North Carolina was settled by the freest of the free."

When the immortal contest for American freedom which North Carolina had first inaugurated in her public meetings, legislative assemblies and her battle-field of Alamance, had waged for years with varying fortune, it seemed at last that the cause of her choice was about to be crushed beneath the superior power and resources of her enemies. Cornwallis had defeated Gates at Camden on August 16, 1780, and well-nigh destroyed and thoroughly demoralized his army, and two days later Tarleton had routed Sumter at Fishing Creek, and Georgia and South Carolina were entirely overrun by the troops of the enemy, and the American cause seemed about to expire. The British general had begun his march northward to complete the subjugation of North Carolina and Virginia, and end the Revolution. This seemed, under the existing circumstances, an easy task.

At this dark crisis the Western North Carolinians conceived and organized and, with the aid which they sought and obtained from Virginia and the Watauga settlement, now in Tennessee, carried to glorious success at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780, an expedition which thwarted all the plans of the British commander, and restored the almost lost cause of the Americans and rendered possible its final triumph at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. This expedition was without reward or hope of reward, undertaken and executed by private

individuals, at their own instance, who furnished their own arms, conveyances and supplies, bore their own expenses, achieved the victory, and then quietly retired to their homes, leaving the benefit of their work to all Americans, and the United States their debtors for independence.

From the men who, while others wavered and sought reconciliation with the mother country, declared independence at Charlotte, and, when all others despaired, retrieved at Kings Mountain the waning fortune of the war, came the first settlers of Buncombe County. Some of her first inhabitants were men who had actually taken part in these famous acts of patriotic daring and sacrifice.

When the war of the Revolution began, the white occupation of North Carolina had extended up to the Blue Ridge. Here for a time it had stopped; and until the close of that great struggle no effort appears to have been made for a further extension. Elsewhere the war was raging and across the mountains much of the country was in the possession of the Cherokee Indians, who, always hostile, were now in alliance with the British.

"According to Adair, one of the earliest settlers of South Carolina, and who wrote of the four principal tribes (Cherokees, Shawnees, Chicasaws and Choctaws) in 1775," says Dr. Hunter in his Sketches of Western North Carolina, "the Cherokees derive their name from Cheera, or fire, which is their reputed lower heaven, and hence they call their magi, Cheera-tah-gee, men possessed of the divine fire."

CHEROKEES

These Cherokees, when they first became known to the whites, inhabited the western part of North Carolina, the eastern part of Tennessee, the northwestern part of South Carolina, and the northern part of Georgia. While none of their towns appear to have been in the valleys of the Swannanoa and the North Carolina part of the French Broad, or among the neighboring hills, parties of Cherokees constantly roamed over that country, and at times encamped there for no inconsiderable while. This is evident from the great number of stone arrow heads, many of them defective and unfinished, found at

certain spots in these valleys and among these hills. Among the places of encampment of which these relics bear evidence may be mentioned the hill on which stands the residence of the late Col. Stephen Lee in Chunn's Cove, and the little valley at the northeastern corner of the Riverside Cemetery grounds in Asheville. Nothing but a residence at such places for some time of a considerable number of Indians would seem sufficient to account for the great number of these arrow heads at one place, and the fact that many of these are unfinished and defective would tend to show that they were made here, since no conceivable reason could possibly exist for carrying unfinished or broken arrow heads in quantities about the country.

There have also been found great numbers of Indian relics, consisting of stone hatchets and other articles of stone, in the bottoms near the mouth of the Swannanoa. Here, too, on the southern bank of the river, just below the last branch above its mouth, once stood an Indian mound built apparently to correspond with a natural mound at the base of the hill to the south about two hundred yards distant. This artificial mound was opened years ago but contained nothing except some Indian relics of the common type.

There is an old tradition that Asheville stands upon the site where, years before the white man came, was fought a great battle between two tribes of the aborigines, probably the Cherokees on one side and the Shawnees or the Catawbas who were inveterate enemies and often at war with the Cherokees on the other side. There is also a tradition that these lands were for a long while neutral hunting grounds of these two tribes of Cherokees and Catawbas. Probably, in the absence of something to verify them, not much weight should be attached to such traditions. Conjecture is always busy in accounting for physical appearances of a country, and what to one age is surmise to the next age becomes tradition.

The most that we can know of Buncombe County before its settlement by the Caucasians is only what can be derived from an occasional glimpse here and there into the dark and mysterious past. Here for many years had roamed these Cherokees, a most savage and powerful body of Indians.

Chapter II

FRENCH BROAD RIVER AND OTHER STREAMS

THE Indian names for the French Broad probably differed among the different tribes and possibly even in a single tribe for different portions of the stream. Indians did not reside on that river after it became known to white men. One writer, H. E. Colton, says that it was called by the Indians, Tocheste, or Racer. Another writer, Dr. J. G. M. Ramsey, says that they called it Agiqua throughout its length. Another writer, C. Lanman, says they called it Pse-li-co. Two other writers, W. G. Zeigler and B. S. Grosscup, say that the Erati, or "Over-the-mountain" Cherokees, called it Agiqua, and the other Cherokees, known as Ottari, called it Tocheeostee below Asheville and Zillicoah above Asheville. The best authority on the subject, J. Mooney, says: "The Cherokees have no name for the river as a whole, but the district through which it flows about Asheville is called by them Un-takiyastiyi, 'Where they race.'"

It has been stated that its English name of French Broad is derived from a hunter named French. This is not true. To the white men who traded with the Cherokees and passed through the Holston Valley in what is now East Tennessee, the French Broad River was at first known as Broad River. There was, however, a river running from the Blue Ridge to the Atlantic Ocean which rose on the eastern side of that mountain range nearly opposite the head of the French Broad on the western side of that range, while the French Broad, through other streams, ultimately ran into the Mississippi River. The English owned the land on the eastern side of the Blue Ridge and the French claimed all the land to the west thereof lying on tributary waters of the Mississippi. Hence, in order to distinguish from the Broad River belonging to the English on the east this Broad River claimed by the French on the west, the latter came soon to be called, French Broad. In some of the early maps it is named Frank River, referring to the French. The name of French Broad was given to it before 1763, when the French formally relinquished all claim to the country through which it runs. Plainly this name was bestowed by hunters who came from the east of the mountains where they were acquainted with the

Broad River, up which they most probably travelled through the Hickorynut Gap; and it was about 1760 to 1762 when they made this addition to the geographical nomenclature of the mountain region.

The Indians had no name for the Swannanoa River. That by which it is known is due to white men. Numeorus origins have been given as those of the word, Swannanoa. Sometimes it is said to be a Cherokee word meaning "beautiful"; sometimes a Cherokee word meaning "nymph of beauty"; sometimes a Cherokee attempt to imitate the sound made by the wings of ravens or vultures flying down the valley; sometimes a Cherokee attempt to imitate the call of the owls seated upon trees on the banks of the stream; and one writer, J. Mooney, says that the word Swannanoa is derived, by contraction, from two Cherokee words, Suwali Nun-nahi, meaning "Suwali Trail," that, is trail to the country of the Suwali, Suala, or Sara Indians, who lived in North Carolina at the eastern foot of the Blue Ridge, and that this trail ran through the Swannanoa Gap. None of these is correct. "Swannanoa" does not mean "beautiful" or "nymph of beauty" and does not resemble the sound made by a raven or vulture in flying or any call of any North Carolina owl, and is not a Cherokee word and could not be produced by any contraction of "Suwali' Nun-nahi." It is merely a form of the word "Shawano," itself a common form of "Shawnee," the name of a well-known tribe of Indians. These Shawanoes were great wanderers and their villages were scattered from Florida to Pennsylvania and Ohio, each village usually standing alone in the country of some other Indian tribe. They had a village in Florida or Southern Georgia on the Swanee or Suanee River, which gets its name from them. Another of their towns was in South Carolina, a few miles below Augusta, on the Savannah River which separates South Carolina from Georgia. This was "Savannah Town," or, as it was afterwards called, "Savanna Old Town." The name of "Savannah," given to that river and town, is a form of the word "Shawano," and those Indians were known to the early white settlers of South Carolina as "Savannas." The Shawanoes had a settlement on Cumberland River near the site of the present city of Nashville, Tennessee, when the French first visited that region. From those

Indians these French, who were the first white men who went there, called the Cumberland River the "Chouanon," their form of Shawano. Sewanee in the same State has the same origin.

These Shawano Indians had a town on the Swannanoa River about one-half mile above its mouth and on its southern bank, when the white hunters began to make excursions into those mountain lands.

Between 1700 and 1750 all the Shawanoes in the South removed to new homes north of the Ohio River where they soon became very troublesome to the white people and were answerable for most of the massacres in that region perpetrated in that day by Indians, especially in Kentucky, it being their boast that they had killed more white men than had any other tribe of Indians. Their town at the mouth of the Swannanoa River had been abandoned before 1776, but its site was then well known as "Swannano." At that time the river seems not to have been named; but very soon afterwards it was called, for the town and its former inhabitants, Swannano, or later Swannanoa River. One of the earliest grants for land on its banks and covering both sides and including the site of the present Biltmore, calls the stream the "Savanna River."

Other tributaries of the French Broad or streams entering it through other water courses derived their names in different ways and at different times.

Davidson's River got its name from Benjamin Davidson, the first settler on its waters, and was originally called "Ben Davidson's Creek."

Mills River was so named for William Mills, whose residence was on Green River in Rutherford County, who was born on James River in Virginia, November 10, 1746, and died at his home in Rutherford County, North Carolina, November 10, 1834.

Little River, of course, was named for its size, as was Green River for the appearance of its waters in the gorges. Muddy Creek got its name because its current was sluggish and waters often in contrast to one of its tributaries, Clear Creek. Muddy Creek at one time was known as "Little River." Cane Creek was famous for the great quantity of reeds or canes growing on its borders, but became more famous because on its waters was discovered, at what is now "The

Meadows" or "Blake Place," then owned by William Murray, in 1802, the celebrated Catawba grape, the only native American wine grape, a variety of Fox grape (*Vitis labrusca*).

The very peculiar names of some of the streams which run into the French Broad from the west and southwest in part of its course must have caused many persons to inquire as to the origin of those names. For many years before the Revolutionary War and for some years thereafter the dividing line between the western parts of North Carolina and South Carolina had not been run or even settled, and the disputed territory extended from some miles south of Greenville, South Carolina, northward about to Swannanoa River. South Carolina people in the northern part of that State hunted much over this disputed country, in which no white men then lived. About 1885, William Camp, a very old and intelligent surveyor of northern Spartanburg County in South Carolina, told me the following story:

Before the Revolutionary War a party of hunters from northern South Carolina visited the French Broad on a hunting trip and crossed to the western side not far above the mouth of Swannanoa River. Proceeding on their hunt, they camped the first night on an unnamed stream that ran into the French Broad, and there they had hominy for supper. They called this stream "Hominy." Next night they camped on the banks of a stream of which none of them had ever heard and named it "Newfound." Next night they killed some wild turkeys and had them for supper at their camp on the banks of another stream, which, for that reason, they named "Turkey Creek." Still further on they encamped on another stream and cooked mush for supper, but in dipping water to use in making the mush they unknowingly dipped in the water some sand which thus got into the mush. They called this stream "Sandymush."

On the other side of French Broad River going from Swannanoa River in the direction of Asheville the first stream of considerable size is that now crossed three times by Southside Avenue and called sometimes "Cripple Creek." It was known as the Big Branch at the time when Asheville's site was chosen for that of the county town of Buncombe in 1792. Later a man named Gash owned land on that branch,

living on that land near the entrance of McDowell Street into South Main Street, where was for many years later the Gash burying-ground. For a long while the branch was called Gash's Creek. Later it acquired the name of "Town Branch" and finally the senseless appellation of "Cripple Creek."

Through the northern portion of Asheville runs a branch once known as "Nathan Smith's Creek." About 1902 Mr. H. A. Lindsey knocked off a piece from an outcropping rock of gneiss on this branch just below Magnolia Street, and found inside several small nuggets of coarse gold. I have one of these mounted as a stickpin. Before reaching the river this branch unites with another which runs through Grove Park and was then called "Glenn's Creek," and, under the latter name, enters the French Broad River just above the "Casket Plant."

Next is "Beaverdam Creek," although no one seems to know where was the beavers' dam from which it got its name. Then, after passing "Davis's Branch," named for John Davis who lived on it opposite Montrealla, is Reems's Creek, so called for a man named Reems whom the Indians killed on that stream just above the iron bridge across it south of Weaverville. Then comes "Flat Creek," whose name is no doubt derived from the character of the land on its upper waters. "Ivy River" enters French Broad River about a mile above Marshall and gets its name undoubtedly from the large quantity of ivy (*Kalmia*) which grew on it, as further on "Laurel River" is named for its laurel (*Rhododendron*).

Spring Creek was so named from the fact that it enters French Broad River from the southwest at the Warm Springs. Those celebrated springs were discovered in 1778 by Henry Reynolds and Thomas Morgan, sentries on the outposts of Tennessee settlements, who were in pursuit of stolen horses; and, for a long time after North Carolina had ceded to the United States the territory which now forms Tennessee, the people of the ceded lands claimed that these springs were included in the ceded country. In fact, the first grant for the land where these springs are was made by the State of Tennessee. Until 1886 they were known as the "Warm Springs"; but in that year the Southern Improvement Company bought them and changed the name to "Hot Springs."

Several streams flow into Swannanoa River on its northern side, eastward from Asheville. These are : first, Ross's Creek, named for a man called Ross who lived probably near the mouth of the creek, which was afterwards more generally known as "Chunn's Cove Creek," because a place on its upper waters, later the residence of Colonel Stephen Lee and now of Messrs. Armstrong, but then belonging to Colonel Samuel Chunn, had come prominently into public notice as the scene of a famous political debate in 1840 between John M. Morehead and Romulus M. Saunders, then candidates for Governor of North Carolina; second, "Haw Creek," called originally "Whitson's Creek" from William Whitson who settled the place at its mouth, now the home of Mr. Frank Reed, and next called T. T. Patton's Mill Creek when Mr. T. T. Patton occupied that farm and built a mill on the stream, and still later known as "Haw Creek," because of the large number of black haw (*Viburnum*) bushes which grew on its banks; third, "Grassy Branch," which enters Swannanoa River at Azalea; fourth, "Bull Creek," named from the fact that on that creek John Rice, its first settler, killed a buffalo bull, the last wild buffalo seen in Buncombe County; and last "Bee Tree Creek," at the mouth of which was made the first permanent settlement of white people in that part of North Carolina which was afterwards Buncombe County, although probably no one knows exactly on what spot those settlers found the bee-tree. The South Fork of Swannanoa River, on which are now the towns of Black Mountain, Montreat, and Ridgecrest, is often called Flat Creek.

MOUNTAINS

To one who approaches it from the east the *Blue Ridge* can be seen for a great distance and consequently looks blue. Hence its name must have been given by persons coming to it from that direction.

> " 'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,
> And robes the mountain in its azure hue."

The Asheville plateau lies in that range of mountains called the Appalachian Mountains or Alleghany Mountains, of which the Blue

Ridge is the eastern portion. This system extends from northern New York to parts of Alabama, and is sometimes sixty to seventy-five miles broad. It is a singular fact that in North Carolina, where the greater part of this table-land lies, the streams which find their ways into the Mississippi rise in the lower Blue Ridge on the eastern side, and, after traversing this plateau from east to west, break through the mountains on the western side, thus making their exit through a range higher than that in which they have their origin.

The name of Appalachian Mountains or Appalaches is said to have been given to them by the French in Florida under Laudonnière, "who first became acquainted with them at the southern extremity, from the Indian name of a river that flows into the Gulf of Mexico, in Appalache Bay; but the English, who visited them principally in their more northern parts, preserved the Indian name there given of Allaghanies, which is supposed to mean *Endless*." The Appalachian Indians lived in Florida, far south of these mountains, and, no doubt, it was from their account that the French first learned of this mountain range. The Alleghanies were a geographical group of Indians, composed of Delawares and Shawnees, living on Alleghany River in Pennsylvania and New York.

The name of Pisgah for the most prominent mountain in Western North Carolina seems to have been given about 1776, but by whom is not known. No doubt the name was taken from the mountain of that name east of the Dead Sea from which Moses is said to have viewed "the Promised Land," and was given to the North Carolina peak because of its extensive outlook. There was a celebrated South Carolina hunter of early days who lived in the northwestern part of that State whose name was Busby. Probably from him was called the mountain of that name south of Asheville.

The Bearwallow, Bald Top, Sugar Loaf, Pilot, and Point Lookout, mountains in the Hickorynut Gap region, are said to have been so named by William Mills.

Its rugged top may account for the name of Craggy and the dark colors of fir and spruce may account for the name of the Black Mountain; but who gave these names is unknown.

Asheville, 1856– Boarding House of Holston Conference Female College (later Asheville Female College). Later site of Oaks Hotel, then Cherokee Inn, now Y.W.C.A. Building

Right—School Building of H. C. F. College, site now of Asheville Public School Building

Upper right corner—Beaucatcher Summerhouse which gave peak its name

Lane's Pinnacle got its name from its owner, Charles Lane, who conducted "forges" on Hominy Creek near Luthers and on Reems Creek near Weaverville, digging much of his iron ore from Mine Hole Gap, which got its name from the excavation so made by him there. He was a near relative of General Joseph Lane, candidate for vice-president of the United States in 1860.

Mr. James W. Patton owned Beaucatcher Mountain, east of Asheville, and, about 1850, he erected on it a summer-house as a place of resort. Several young couples did their courting in visiting this summer-house; and that fact is said to have given rise to its name of Beaucatcher. During the war on the South it was fortified. After that war Mr. William Hazard built a residence there and changed the name to Beaumont. The late A. C. Avery, for many years a Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, once remarked to me that his engagement to his first wife had been made on a visit to this summer-house on Beaucatcher. This lady was a Miss Morrison, a sister of the wife of Stonewall Jackson and of the wife of the Confederate General D. H. Hill.

Before elks were driven from these mountains they had a wallow on a Beaverdam mountain, which, on that account, was known as the "Elk Wallow" and then as "Elk Mountain." A cheese factory on the mountain prospered for several years in the seventies of the nineteenth century, but ceased operations some time later than 1875. The last elk seen in North Carolina was killed in what is now Mitchell County by William Davenport, except one killed by William Mills at about the same time six miles south of Asheville on Six-mile Branch.

Panthers (Puma or Cougar) disappeared entirely about 1835; Virginia deer about 1855; buffalo about 1786; and black bears and bay-lynxes (wild cats), like wolves, have become so scarce that it is now uncertain whether or not any wolves are in the mountains and certain that a black bear or a bay-lynx cannot be found elsewhere.

Gooch's Peak, commonly called Gouge Mountain, another Beaverdam peak, was named for a man called Gooch.

In 1767 Colonel William Tryon, royal governor of North Carolina, caused to be run and marked a line between the lands of the

white settlers and the lands of the Cherokee Indians, extending from Reedy River at a point some miles south of the present City of Greenville in South Carolina, northward fifty-three miles to a Spanish oak on what is now Tryon Mountain. This line now, for most of its length, divides Greenville and Spartanburg counties, and passes less than a mile east of the modern City of Tryon. Colonel Tryon himself attended and directed the early portion of this survey and the mountain on which it terminated, in the "White Oak Mountains," was called for him "Tryon" and yet bears his name, and, after the lapse of more than a century, gave its name to the City of Tryon.

Several Indian names are said to have been used for French Broad River. Among these may be mentioned Pse-li-co, Tocheste, Agiqua, Tocheeostee, Zillicoah, Untakiyastiki, Zeehleeka (pronounced Tsay-lee-katy) and Esseewah; but an Indian name often applied to only part of a river and this was the case with French Broad River, its Asheville region being Untakiyastiki, "where they race." Other Indian names for western North Carolina localities were: Warwasseeta for Pisgah Ridge or Range, Elseetoss for Pisgah Mountain, Sokassa for Shaking Bald Mountain, Salola for Sugar-loaf Mountain, Esseedaw for Broad River, Sunnalee for Craggy Mountain, Seencyahs for Black Mountain, Osteenoah for Cold Mountain, Judykullas for Balsam Mountains, Chesseetoahs for Smoky Mountains, and Chewassee for Newfound Mountains.

On the headwaters of a branch which enters Haw Creek on the north in the farm of Mr. A. M. Dillingham is a cove known as "Cisco." When the country about Asheville was first settled a hunter named Cisco made frequent hunting tours into these mountains, a favorite hunting-ground with him being this part of the mountain which now bears the name of Piney Knob, east of Ross's Creek. On one occasion, after Cisco had been away from home on a hunting trip for more than a week, his friends became uneasy and went in search of him to the region of this cove where they found his body. He had died, apparently, from some natural cause. The cove received, in consequence of this, the name of "Cisco," which it yet bears.

Chapter III

WHETHER or not the valley of the French Broad near Asheville was ever, as has been supposed, the head of a mountain lake, whose lowest or deepest part was above Mountain Island and Hot Springs, is an unsettled question for the geologists. Certain it is that the French Broad has cut its way through the mountains at Mountain Island as is apparent to the most casual observer of the mountains at that place, not only in the obvious signs that still remain to indicate the exact spot where it cut through, but also in the unquestionable beds of that river in the days gone by now on the tops of the mountains which lie along its western banks probably 200 feet higher than its present bed, and only a short distance above the Mountain Island. These old beds cross the channel of the present stream below the Palisades at Stackhouse's and above the Mountain Island. They contain many stones worn smooth and rounded by the abrasions to which their position in the river bed subjected them. The stones so common and peculiar which lie near the surface on the Battery Park hill and appear to be of water formation are also worthy of notice in this connection.

Why may not this be the famous lake mentioned by Lederer in his account of his exploration into North Carolina westward in 1669-70 which historians have found it so hard to account for. It certainly fills the description and lies near the place which he describes when he says in regard to his visit to the Saras:

"This nation is subject to a neighbor king residing upon the bank of a great lake called Ushery, environed on all sides with mountains and Wisacky marsh.

"The sixth and twentieth of June, having crossed a fresh river which runs into the lake of Ushery, I came to the town, which was more populous than any I had seen before in my march. The king dwells some three miles from it, and therefore I had no opportunity of seeing him the two nights which I stayed there. This prince, though his dominions are large and populous, is in continual fear of the Oustack Indians, seated on the opposite side of the lake, a people so

addicted to arms that even their women come into the field and shoot arrows off their husbands' shoulders, who shield them with leathern targets.

"The water of Ushery Lake seemed to my taste a little brackish. which I rather impute to some mineral waters which flow into it, than to any saltness it can take from the sea, which we may reasonably suppose is a great way from it. Many pleasant rivulets fall into it, and it is stored with great plenty of excellent fish. I judged it to be about ten leagues broad, for were not the other shore very high it could not be discerned from Ushery. How far this lake tends westwardly, or where it ends, I could neither learn nor guess." (2 Hawks History of North Carolina, page 49.)

It is impossible to reconcile this description, as has been attempted to be done, with a flood in the Catawba River. Moreover, Lederer had already informed us that, "I have heard several Indians testify that the nation of Rickohockans, who dwelt not far to the westward of the Apalataean Mountains, are seated upon a land, as they term it, of great waves—by which I suppose they mean the seashore."

Now the Rickohockans were the Cherokees. (Mooney Siouan Tribes of the East, page 54.)

It is most probable that De Soto, on the great expedition in which he discovered the Mississippi River, passed through Western North Carolina in 1540. This famous general and discoverer after he had commanded a squadron of horse under Pizarro in the conquest of Peru with which he captured the Inca Atahualpa and put his army to flight, and after he had acquired large wealth in Peru, was made governor of Cuba. Having the permission of the great emperor Charles V., he set out from Havana on May 12 1539, with an army of nearly fifteen hundred men, on an expedition of conquest and discovery upon the continent of North America. In fifteen days he landed on the western coast of Florida at Espiritu Santo Bay. From this place he marched northward until he came to Cofachiqui, identified as Silver Bluff on the Savannah River in Barnwell County, South Carolina. From this place he resumed his march on May 3, 1540, and continuing northward for about one hundred and fifty miles, he reached the Indian

province of Xuala, or Choualla. This Xuala of the Spaniards is the Suala of Lederer, Suali of the Cherokees, and Suara and Cheraw of later writers. "From the narrative of Garcilaso the Sara must then have lived in the piedmont region about the present line between South Carolina and North Carolina, southeast of Asheville. On the De l'Isle map Chouala is marked west of the upper Santee (Catawba). * * * "Garcilaso in 1540 describes the village of Xuala as situated on the slope of a ridge in a pleasant hilly region, rich in corn and all the other vegetables of the country. In front of the village ran a stream which formed the boundary between the Xuala tribe and that of Cofachiqui. This may have been either the Broad River or the Pacolet." (Mooney's Siouan Tribes of the East, page 57.) Xuala was situated upon the skirts of a mountain and the stream which passed it was a small one. At this place De Soto turned westward, aiming for the province of Guaxule or Guachule. "The first day's journey was through a country covered with fields of maize of luxuriant growth. * * * During the next five days they traversed a chain of easy mountains, covered with oak and mulberry trees, with intervening valleys, rich in pasturage and irrigated by clear and rapid streams. These mountains were twenty leagues across and quite uninhabited." "The Portuguese Gentleman says the mountains were very bad. Herrera says that though they were not disagreeable, the mountains were twenty leagues across and the army was five days in passing over them." (Ramsey.) After passing these mountains De Soto entered the province of Guaxule or Guachule. He was received with much courtesy and show by the Cacique and conducted to his village of three hundred houses. This was on several small streams rising in the adjacent mountains that "soon mingled their waters and formed a grand and powerful river, along which the army resumed their journey" until they came to a village at the end of a long island where the Indians showed them "how they obtained pearls from the oysters taken in the river." This was unquestionably the Tennessee River, which is formed largely by streams taking their rise in these mountains west of the Board and Pacolet Rivers and the muscles taken from which still yield pearls of merchantable character in considerable quantities. The subsequent history of De Soto is well known; that he

proceeded on his journey, discovered the Mississippi River above its mouth, crossed it, found the Hot Springs in Arkansas, returned southward, reached again the Mississippi, died in 1542 on its banks and was buried in its bed.

Now it would be impossible for an army on the Broad or Pacolet River within one day's march of the mountains to march westward for six days, five of which was through mountains, and reach the sources of the Tennessee or any other river, without passing through Western North Carolina.

Chapter IV

EXPLORATIONS

IN 1670, John Lederer, a German, under the patronage of Sir William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia, made his famous journey into Carolina. He arrived among the Sara or Suala Indians, and from that place took a southwest course. This probably carried him into northern South Carolina, but might have carried him up the Hickorynut Gorge.

In 1673, James Needham and Gabriel Arthur were sent out with eight Indians and four horses by Colonel Abraham Wood from the place of the last-named gentleman, a little below the Falls of Appomattox River in Virginia, where now stands the City of Petersburg. The purpose of the expedition was to explore the country of the Tomahitan Indians, now identified with the Cherokees. Needham and his party proceeded west and southwest on a nine days' journey to an Indian town called Sitteree. From that place they entered the mountains, and, after passing five rivers running toward the west and travelling fifteen days from Sitteree, they reached the Tomahitan town, situated on the sixth river, which ran more to the west and was almost certainly the Little Tennessee. From this town it was eight days' journey to the Spanish settlement in Florida. The expedition started on May 17, 1673, and James Needham on his return reached Wood's place September 10, 1673, having left Gabriel Arthur among the Tomahitans until he could get back, in order to learn the Indian language. On September 20, 1673, James Needham set out on his return to the Tomahitan town, but was murdered on the way by an Occoneechee Indian named John. Gabriel Arthur did not get back to Wood's place until June 18, 1674.

This seems to have been the first trip of an Englishman to the Cherokee country. Its ultimate purpose was to establish a trade with the Indians of that land. Such was its result. It is very probable that in this expedition James Needham and Gabriel Arthur passed from the country at the foot of the Blue Ridge into the region of the mountains where the rivers ran to the west and crossed through the Hickory-

nut Gorge or the Swannanoa Gap; and, since no mention is made of passing westwardly down a stream as soon as they had passed the crest of the first high ridge, it is more likely than not that the road lay through the Hickorynut Gorge, and that Sitteree and Sara were the same place.

CHEROKEES

The mouth of the Swannanoa and the country surrounding it appears to have been a well-known spot even before its settlement by the Europeans.

The Cherokees, as has been stated, were always inimical to the whites, and during their occupation of this country frequently descended from their mountain homes upon the settlers in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and what is now the State of Tennessee. At the breaking out of the Revolutionary War, the British, through their agents, the principals of whom were John Stuart and Alexander Cammeron, succeeded in inducing these Indians to enter into an alliance with themselves. Emboldened by this alliance and the unsettled state of affairs among the colonists, the Cherokees became peculiarly troublesome to the white settlers and their raids were further and in greater number and more disastrous than ever before. It became necessary to strike a blow against them which would deter them from the repetition of these outrages.

In the execution of a plot formed between them and their foreign allies, the Cherokees, on the very day the British fleet attacked Charleston, made a daring incursion upon the frontier settlements of South Carolina. This gave rise to a concerted attempt, though not executed entirely in co-operation, on the part of the surrounding States to subjugate these troublesome savages. Georgia sent an expedition northward against them, which seems to have effected something but not much. The Virginia expedition under Col. William Christian, which passed through East Tennessee, was somewhat more successful; but the principal of these expeditions was led by General Griffith Rutherford, of North Carolina, who in September, 1776 (Colonial Records of North Carolina, vol. 10, p. 788), with an army of 2,400 men, marched across the Blue Ridge at Swannanoa Gap, leaving the head of the

Catawba on the first day of September, passed down the Swannanoa River to within a short distance of its mouth, and thence up the French Broad River which he crossed at a ford about two miles above the Swannanoa, still called in commemoration of that event, the War Ford; then passed up the valley of the Hominy, crossing that stream twice, and crossed Pigeon River a little below the mouth of East Fork. Thence passing through the mountains to Richland Creek a little above the present town of Waynesville, he ascended that creek and marched on to the Tuckaseigee River. Here he crossed at an Indian town. Still proceeding, he crossed the Cowee Mountain, where he had a slight skirmish with the Indians, and passed on to within thirty miles of the middle settlements of the Cherokees on the Tennessee River.

Thence he sent out a detachment of one thousand men to proceed by forced marches so as to surprise the enemy. On their way this detachment was attacked by about thirty Indians who fired and immediately fled, having wounded one man in the foot. This body then passed on to the Towns, which had been evacuated before their arrival, and destroyed them. From here General Rutherford went with nine hundred men, leaving the main body and taking ten days' provisions, against the Valley Settlements, or Middle Towns, or Valley Towns. He was, however, without an intelligent guide and was so much embarrassed by passing the mountains at an unaccustomed place that he failed to find five hundred Indians who had been lying in ambush at the common crossing place for several days. He destroyed the greater part of the Valley Towns, killed twelve Indians, took nine of them and made prisoners seven white men from whom he got four negroes, a considerable quantity of leather, one hundred pounds of gunpowder and two thousand pounds of lead, estimated to be worth two thousand five hundred pounds, which they were conveying to Mobile.

In the valley of the Little Tennessee River he burned the Indian towns of Watauga, Estotoa and Ellojay. Here in the 14th of September Colonel Williamson who, in command of the South Carolina expedition, aided by the Catawba Indians, had crossed the mountains near the sources of the Tennessee at the common crossing place two days after Rutherford and, falling into the ambuscade above mentioned,

had been attacked in a narrow pass near the present town of Franklin by the Indians in ambush who killed twelve of his men and wounded twenty more, but had put the Indians to flight, joined General Rutherford on September 14, 1776, after the latter had partly destroyed the Valley Towns.

Another expedition penetrated into the present State of Tennessee, burning Indian villages, destroying their crops and driving them from their homes, until so effectual a blow had been stricken, and so completely had the Indians been subdued that never afterwards did they in any considerable numbers or as an organized body venture to give trouble to the white settlers. This expedition destroyed thirty or forty Indian towns and in his skirmishes at Valleytown, Ellojay and near Franklin, General Rutherford lost only three men. (See Colonial Records of North Carolina, vol. 10, p. 860.)

He then returned by the same route, which for many years after bore the name of "Rutherford's Trace."

The chaplain of this expedition was Rev. James Hall, D.D., a Presbyterian preacher in charge of the churches of Statesville (then called Fourth Creek), Concord and Bethany, and whose work extended from the South Yadkin to the Catawba. Upon Rutherford's call for troops this gentleman volunteered his services, and acted throughout the campaign. Capt. Chas. Polk, who commanded a company in this expedition, says in his diary that:

"On Thursday the 12th September we marched down the river three miles to Cowee town and encamped. On this day there was a party of men sent down this river (Nuckessey) ten miles to cut down the corn; the Indians fired on them as they were cutting the corn, and killed Hancock Polk, of Col. Beekman's regiment"; and again on Saturday the 14th, "we marched to Nuckessey town, six miles higher up the river and encamped. On Sunday the 15th, one of Capt. Irwin's men was buried in Nuckessey Town. On Monday the 16th, we marched five miles, this day with a detachment of twelve hundred men, for the Valley Town, and encamped on the waters of Tennessee River. Mr. Hall preached a sermon last Sunday; in time of sermon the Express we sent to the South army returned home. On Tuesday

the 17th, we marched six miles, and arrived at a town called Nowee, about twelve o'clock; three guns were fired and Robert Harris, of Mecklenburg was killed by the Indians, said Harris being in the rear of the army. We marched one mile from Nowee, and encamped on side of a steep mountain without any fire."

Probably this funeral discourse of the Rev. Mr. Hall was the first sermon ever preached in the mountains of Western North Carolina. For an extended biographical notice of this gentleman see Foote's Sketches of North Carolina, page 315.

Of General Griffith Rutherford, the commander of this expedition, a few words would not be out of place here. But little is known of his early history. He was an Irishman by birth, brave and patriotic, but "uncultivated in mind or manners." At the beginning of the war he resided in the Locke settlement, west of Salisbury. In 1775 he represented Rowan County at Newbern, and in 1776 was a member from that county of the Provincial Congress which met at Halifax on the 4th of April, 1776. At this Congress on the 22d day of April, 1776, he was created Brigadier General for the Salisbury District. After this expedition he commanded a brigade of the American army in the ill-fated battle of Camden, fought in August, 1780, at which he was taken prisoner. After his capture his place was taken by General William Davidson, who soon after was killed at Cowan's Ford. When exchanged General Rutherford again took the field, and commanded at Wilmington when that town was evacuated by the British. In 1786 he represented Rowan County in the Senate of North Carolina, but soon afterwards removed to Tennessee. Here, on September 6, 1794, he was appointed president of the Legislative Council. He died in Tennessee near the beginning of the last century. Both that State and North Carolina have commemorated his services by each giving his name to one of their counties. The following letter from the distinguished general would seem to verify one of the statements just made in regard to him:

"North Carolina, Rowan County.

"Whereas, a certan John Auston, Late of Tryon County, is charged of being an Enomy To Ammerican Liberty & also

Refuses to take the oath Proscribed by the Counsel of Safety of this Provance,

"These are therefore to Command You to Take the sd. Auston Into youre Possession & him safely keep in youre Gole Till furder Orders.

"Given Under my hand this 13 Day of July, 1776.

"GRIFFITH RUTHERFORD.

"To the Golor of the Gole of Salisbury District."

Apparently the brave soldier must have been as great a terror to the school teachers as he was to the Indians, whom in another letter he characterizes as a "barbarious Nation of Savages," and was no mean rival of the late Josh Billings. So it was, however, with many of these heroes of American Independence. They were more skilled in doing great deeds than in telling of them, in execution than narration.

From a report of William Moore, one of the captains of this expedition, to General Rutherford, dated on November 17, 1776, we learn that his company, which seems to have acted independently and in a second expedition, started out on October 19, 1776, and marched over the mountains to Swannanoa, which they passed near the French Broad River, and then after crossing the latter marched up Hominy Creek and passed on to Richland Creek, thence to the Tuckaseigee River, "through a Very Mountainous bad way." This river they crossed, and coming to "a Very plain path, Very much used by Indians, Driving in from the Middle Settlement to the Aforesaid Town" (the Town of Too Cowee), they continued their march along this path about two miles, when they came to an Indian town which they attacked. This town is said to have occupied the site of the residence of the late Colonel William H. Thomas on the western bank of the Tuckaseigee. The Indians fled. After plundering the town Capt. Moore and his party set fire to its 25 houses, and marched on further down the river for a short distance.

On this expedition "between Swannanoa and French Broad River," they came upon signs of five or six Indians. Thirteen men set out by moonlight in pursuit of these, and followed them for eight miles, but were unable to overtake them that night, "Untill Day-light

appeared when they Discovered upon the frost that One Indian had gone Along the Road! they pursued Very Briskly about five miles further and came up with the sd. Indian, Killed and Scalped him."

At the Indian town which they burned it was discovered that all but two of the inhabitants had fled. These two endeavored to make their escape, but, according to Capt. Moore, "we pursued to the Bank & as they were Rising on the Bank on the Other Side we fired upon them and Shot one of them Down & the Other getting out of reach of our shot & making over to the Mountain. Some of our men Crossed the river on foot & pursued & some went to the ford & Crossed on horse & headed him, Killed & Scalped him with other."

At the end of their expedition they took three prisoners and recovered some horses belonging to the whites. These horses they returned to their owners. Here they were forced by lack of provisions to begin their return, and the captain informs us: "That night we lay upon a prodigious Mountain where we had a Severe Shock of an Earthquake which surprised our men very much. Then we steered our course about East & So. E. two days thru Prodigious Mountains which were almost Impassable, and struck the road in Richland Creek Mountain. From thence we marched to Pidgeon river, Where we Vandued off all Our Plunder. Then there arose a Dispute Between me & the whole Body, Officers & all, concerning selling off the Prisoners for Slaves. I allowed that it was our Duty to guard them to prison or some place of Safe Custody till we got the approbation of the Congress Whether they should be sold Slaves or not, and the Greater part swore Bloodily that if they were not sold for Slaves upon the spot they would Kill & Scalp them Immediately, upon which I was obliged to give way. Then the 3 prisoners was sold for 242 pounds. The Whole plunder we got including the Prisoners Amounted Above 1,100 pounds."

The captain concludes his somewhat remarkable report to his superiors in the following original manner:

> "Dear Sir, I have one thing to remark, which is this, that where there is separate Companys United into one Body without a head Commander of the whole I shall never Em-

bark in such an Expedition Hereafter; for where every Officer is a Commander there is no commander. No more at present, but Wishing you, sir, with all true friends too Liberty all Happiness, I am, sir, Yours, &c.

"WILLIAM MOORE.

"On the service of the United Colonies."

The prodigious mountain here mentioned was the Balsam Mountains.

It was while Captain William Moore's company was encamped on this expedition in a bend of Hominy Creek near the Sulphur Spring and not far from the southwestern corner of the present City of Asheville and there awaiting the arrival of Captain Harden's troops from Tryon County, who came through Hickorynut Gap, that, as is said, some of Moore's men, ignorant of the presence in the neighborhood of any human being not connected with the expedition, put some poison into a near-by rivulet tributary to Caney Branch in order to destroy wolves known to be prowling about the camp, and thus unintentionally killed a young Cherokee who was lurking there as a spy on the movements of the white men and who chanced to drink from the rivulet where the poison was and who thereafter, in the agonies of death, pronounced a curse upon the place. Many misfortunes have attended the owners of that land where the Indian was poisoned and buried in a grave yet to be seen; and it is a common belief in that vicinity that these misfortunes are to be attributed to this curse of the young Cherokee.

Ramsey in his Annals of Tennessee, in speaking of an expedition from the Watauga settlement under Col. John Sevier in 1781 against the Indians of the town of Tuckasejah on the headwaters of the Little Tennessee and the adjacent towns, tells us that in this expedition fifty warriors were slain, fifty women and children taken prisoners, and fifteen or twenty Indian towns with their granaries of corn were burned, with a loss to the whites of one man killed and one wounded. "The command," he says, "went up Cane Creek and Crossed Ivy and Swannanoa"; and that "This campaign lasted twenty-nine days and was

carried on over a mountainous section of country never before traveled by any of the settlers and scarcely ever passed through even by traders and hunters."

Of an expedition of a later date carried on by Tennesseeans against the Indians of Western North Carolina, this writer quotes the pilot of the expedition as saying that: "The next morning we started and in a few days were at Coosawatee, where an exchange of prisoners was made instead of at Swannanoa, as at first proposed. This was about the 20th of April, 1789."

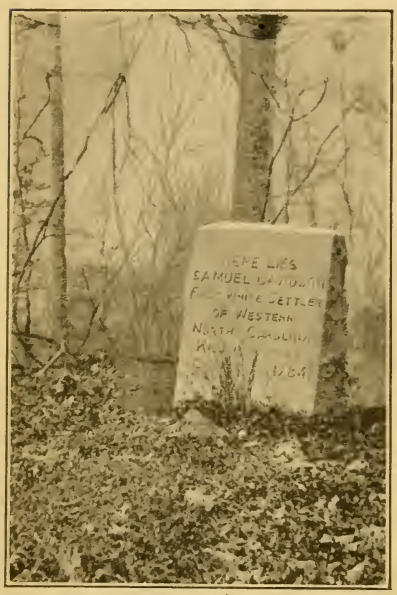
This same writer speaking of an expedition under the command of General Sevier which set out against the Indians under an order from Governor Blount of Tennessee (then a territory not so named), made on September 27, 1793, says: "Indians were seen at the Warm Springs and at the plantation of Charles Robertson on Meadow Creek, probably watching the motions of the guard who were stationed for the protection of the frontier on French Broad. These guards were stationed in four blockhouses—at Hough's, at the Burnt Canebrake, at the Painted Rock and at the Warm Springs, and scouted regularly between these blockhouses, and up to Big Laurel, where they met the Buncombe scout."

There is a tradition of yet another expedition under the conduct of Sevier which passed up the French Broad River to the mouth of New Found Creek, and thence up that creek and on west and returned down the valley of the Hominy. Probably it was one of the same.

SETTLEMENTS

Shortly after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War, in 1784, or 1785, settlers from the headwaters of the Catawba and the adjacent country, whose frontier establishment was the blockhouse at Old Fort, began to cross the mountains into the Swannanoa valley. Among the first of these was Samuel Davidson, who came in with his wife and infant child and one female negro slave and settled upon Christian Creek of the Swannanoa, a short distance east of Gudger's Ford near the present railroad station called Azalea. He had been here but a short while when one morning he went out to find his horse. Soon his

wife heard the report of guns, and, knowing too well what had happened, she took her child and the servant and made her way along the mountains to the Old Fort. An expedition from there at once set out to avenge the death of Davidson. They found him on the mountain near his cabin, killed and scalped, and buried his body on the spot where it was found and where his grave may still be seen. It is further said that they met and conquered the Indians in a battle fought near the Swannanoa River in that neighborhood or about Biltmore.



Grave of Samuel Davidson

Probably it is to this pursuing party that the tradition handed down by John S. Rice as received by him from John Rice, David Nelson and William Rhodes, three hunters and Revolutionary soldiers, relates. It is that, at a time prior to white settlement of the lower Swannanoa Valley, some Cherokees were returning from depredations on the whites and being pursued by the latter, were overtaken at about the Cheesborough Place, a mile above Biltmore, where a fight occurred between the two parties which continued at the canebrakes there at intervals for elevent days, in which many Indians were killed, principally near the ford of Swannanoa River in the neighborhood of the old John Patton House, later known as the Haunted House, where the old Buncombe Turnpike crossed that stream, until the Indians retreated across the French Broad and the fight ended. They crossed the last-named river at a shoal just below the mouth of Swannanoa. During most of this fight the whites encamped at a noted spring just north of Swannanoa River about one hundred yards above the Biltmore

Concrete Bridge where there is now a garage. It was an old Indian camping place. The early white hunters in this region went chiefly to the North Fork of Swannanoa.

Soon several white settlements were made on the Swannanoa, the earliest of them being the "Swannanoa Settlement," made in 1784-1785 by the Alexanders, Davidson and others about the mouth of Bee Tree Creek. A little above that place is the old Edmuns or Jordan Field, the first land cleared by a white man in Buncombe County. Soon another company passed over the Bull Mountain and settled upper Reems Creek, while yet another came in by way of what is now Yancey County, and settled on the lower Reems Creek and Flat Creek. At about the same time, or not long afterward, some of the Watauga people who had been with Sevier on some one of his expeditions against the Indians, settled on the French Broad above and below the mouth of the Swannanoa, and on Hominy Creek; while still other settlements appear to have been effected from upper South Carolina, yet higher up on the French Broad.

At the treaty of Long Island of Holston, the North Carolina commissioners entered into certain agreements with the Overhill Cherokees, but in their report recommended to the State a treaty with the Cherokees of the Middle Towns and Valley Towns by which might be secured the intervening territory now constituting the Asheville Plateau. For such a treaty the State began to make arrangements and, in anticipation of it, provided in 1783 for the granting of land as far west as Pigeon River. It was under this statute of 1783 that the settlements just mentioned were formed.

Chapter V

BUNCOMBE COUNTY

AT this time the Swannanoa River was recognized as the dividing line between Burke County on the north and Rutherford County on the south.

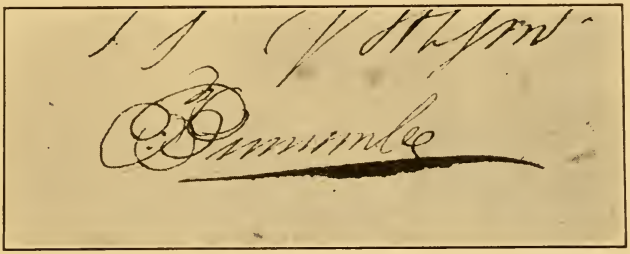
In 1785 Joseph McDowell, Jr., ran this dividing line, "Beginning at the west point of the line that formerly divided the above said counties, thence west to the Indian boundary as in the Act of Assembly of the seventeenth of May one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three," that is, to Pigeon River. It crossed Swannanoa River about half a mile above Biltmore. In 1788 this survey was adopted by the Legislature.

On October 5, 1784, Captain William Moore above mentioned caused to be surveyed a tract of land containing 450 acres on Hominy Creek three miles west of French Broad River, later known as the Captain Charles Moore Place, and recently owned by Dr. David M. Gudger. On August 7, 1787, he procured a grant for this land lying on both sides of Hominy Creek. This was probably the first grant for land now in Buncombe County. The original grant is now owned by Mr. Owen Gudger, formerly postmaster of Asheville. When Captain Moore got his grant, as I learn from Mr. Gudger, he put on the land a negro named Jim and Jim's wife Sue on the southern side of the creek in a cabin; and there these negroes for many years sold food to travellers until Captain Moore himself removed to this land, where he resided and died and was buried.

From portions of Burke and Rutherford counties was subsequently formed the County of Buncombe, named for Col. Edward Buncombe, a North Carolina soldier of the Revolution.

In 1729 this territory would have been embraced in the County of Clarendon. At this time the County of New Hanover, with indefinite western boundaries which seem to have extended to the Pacific Ocean, then called the South Seas, was formed, and the name of Clarendon as a county disappears. From New Hanover County in 1738 was cut

off and erected the County of Bladen, whose western limits were left undefined. Again from the County of Bladen was formed in 1749 the County of Anson, still with undefined western limits. Here Buncombe's genealogy divides into two branches, to be united again in her own creation.



Autograph signature of Colonel Edward Buncombe for whom Buncombe County was named

That portion of her territory which was taken from Burke may be traced from this point as follows: In 1758 Rowan County was formed from a part of Anson County, and up to the beginning of the Revolutionary War continued in its entirety. In 1777 was formed from its western portion a new county called Burke.

That portion of Buncombe County which was taken from Rutherford may be traced as follows: In 1762 was formed from the western part of the County of Anson a new county called in honor of the new queen of England, Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, by the name of Mecklenburg County. In 1768 the western part of Mecklenburg County was erected into a new county, and named in honor of North Carolina's notorious colonial governor, Tryon County, but during the struggle for independence the North Carolinians were but little disposed to honor the name of their former oppressor, and when in 1779 this county had become inconveniently large, it was formed into two new counties, and the name of Tryon dropped, and the eastern part called Lincoln, while the western portion received the name of Rutherford County, in honor of Gen. Griffith Rutherford.

In 1792, while David Vance from the upper Reems Creek settlement was a member of the Legislature from Burke County, and Col.

William Davidson, who lived on the south side of the Swannanoa, about two miles from Asheville, represented Rutherford County in the same body, the County of Buncombe was formed of the western portions of Burke and Rutherford counties, with its western borders fixed by the line of the territory which two or three years before North Carolina had ceded to the United States, and which was afterward created into the State of Tennessee.

In April, 1792, there was organized at the residence of Col. William Davidson, which stood on the south bank of the Swannanoa, about one-half mile above its mouth, at a place subsequently called the Gum Spring, the County of Buncombe, in accordance with the provisions of the act creating that county. At this place was transacted for one year the business of the County of Buncombe, until in April, 1793, the county seat was fixed where it has ever since remained.

Famous as Buncombe County deservedly is, she has acquired some notoriety that no place less merits. Her name has become synonymous with empty talk, a *lucus a non lucendo.* In the Sixteenth Congress of the United States the district of North Carolina which embraced Buncombe County was represented in the lower house by Felix Walker. The Missouri question was under discussion and the house, tired by speeches, wanted to come to a vote. At this time Mr. Walker secured the floor and was proceeding with his address, at best not very forceful or entertaining, when some impatient member whispered to him to sit down and let the vote be taken. This he refused to do, saying that he must "make a speech for Buncombe," that is, for his constituents; or, as others say, certain members rose and left the hall while he was speaking and when he saw them going, he turned to those who remained and told them that they might go too, if they wished, as he was "only speaking for Buncombe." The phrase was at once caught up and the vocabulary of the English language was enriched by the addition of a new term.

Felix Walker was born in Hampshire County, Virginia, on July 19, 1775, and began life as a merchant. His grandfather, John Walker, emigrated in 1720 from Derry, Ireland, to Delaware, where his father, also named John, was born. The younger Walker after

reaching manhood went to Virginia where he married and afterwards moved to North Carolina. In the last State he settled in Tryon, afterward Lincoln, County, on Seipe's Creek, but subsequently removed to Crowder's Creek, about four miles from Kings Mountain. He was a member of the first convention at Hillsboro in July, 1775, and also of the Provincial Congress which met there on August 21, 1775. After serving with the Americans throughout the Revolutionary War, he died in 1796. Felix Walker, his oldest son, went with Richard Henderson to Kentucky (then called Louisa), in 1775, on an expedition of which Daniel Boone was pilot. Here he was badly wounded by Indians, and owed his life to the attention of Colonel Boone. After his return he remained for a while at home and then went to the Watauga settlement, now in East Tennessee, where he became clerk of the first court in the new County of Washington. While holding this office he came to Mecklenburg County in North Carolina and joined the State troops and was made captain of a company placed at Nollichucky to guard the frontier against Indians. After this he returned to his duties as clerk. This office he filled for four years in all. Then he removed to Rutherford County, North Carolina, and was appointed clerk of the court in that county. He resided on Cane Creek. After this he was a member of the General Assembly of the State from that county in 1792, 1793, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1806. In 1817 he was elected a member of the Fifteenth Congress of the United States, and was thereafter re-elcted to the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Congresses. He was succeeded in Congress in 1823 by Dr. Robert B. Vance, an uncle of the late Governor Z. B. Vance. Again in 1827 he was a candidate for Congress, but withdrew in favor of Samuel P. Carson, who defeated Vance and James Graham. Soon after leaving Congress Mr. Walker removed to Mississippi where he died in 1828. For a more extended but somewhat incorrect sketch of him see Wheeler's Reminiscences, page 408. This was a period of important events. In 1827 Vance and Carson again opposed each other for Congress. While speaking at Asheville, Vance referred to Carson's father in disparaging terms. For this Carson challenged him. They fought on the South Carolina line at Saluda Gap. Vance fell and died in a

few hours. Among the friends who accompanied Carson on this occasion was the celebrated Colonel David Crockett, who married a Miss Patton on Swannanoa, and was killed at the Alamo, fighting for Texas and her independence. After four terms in Congress, Carson went to Texas in 1835 and there became Secretary of State. He died at Little Rock, Arkansas, in November, 1840.

The site of Asheville was once within the borders of a vast and mighty Indian empire. In 1736 a German Jesuit named Christian Priber who had been an officer in the French army came to the Cherokee country and took up his abode among the Cherokees on Big Tellico River, now in Tennessee but then in North Carolina and still not more than a dozen miles beyond the North Carolina border. He was a man of profound and extensive learning, highly polished manners, consummate address, and profound sagacity. Although "adorned with every qualification that constitutes the gentleman," he exchanged his clothes with the head warriors of Tellico River and ate, drank, slept, danced, and painted himself with them and took one of their women for a wife. Already he was master of the Greek, Latin, German, French, Spanish, and English languages, and he soon became thoroughly acquainted with the language of the Cherokees. He set to work to persuade the Indians to form an empire which would be sufficiently powerful to drive the white men from America. The old Indian archi-magus was crowned emperor with much ceremony and the other chief men of that neighborhood were elevated to offices with high-sounding titles in the new empire, while Priber himself became principal secretary of state to his majesty the new emperor. The plan was to engage all the Southern tribes of Indians to become subjects of the empire. He encouraged the aboriginal vanity of the Cherokees by pointing out their superior numbers in having about six thousand warriors and their bravery and fame in war, and represented the English as a people, fraudulent, avaricious, encroaching, and inferior in numbers as well as in warlike spirit to the mighty Cherokees. Soon the British authorities at Charlestown, South Carolina, heard of what was going on upon Tellico and sent Colonel Fox to arrest Priber and bring him to Charlestown. Fox seized his man and made a speech to the Indians in explantation of his action. Before he had concluded, one of the warriors

interrupted the speaker and told him that the man whom he wished to make prisoner was now a Cherokee and a great friend to their nation who had come a great way to benefit them and preserve their liberties and must not be interferred with, while Colonel Fox must leave the country. Fox departed under a passport of safe conduct from Priber himself, who also furnished to the British agent a bodyguard to conduct him in safety a considerable distance on the way to Charlestown. Meanwhile Priber proceeded in the execution of his plans of founding a vast red empire. He invited criminals of all classes to seek an asylum in his new government, and urged debtors, felons, servants, and negro slaves to escape and join him, promising them exemption from punishment for any crime or licentiousness, except murder and idleness, which they might commit. This went on for eight years until in 1744, when he started to Mobile and proceeded to within two days' journey of that place. Having passed by land to the navigable part of Tallapoosa River he was spending the night at Tookabatcha, when some traders recognized him and forcibly carried him a prisoner to Frederica in Georgia. General Oglethorpe, then governor of Georgia, was amazed to find that this man dressed in deer-skins and moccasins was a man of much erudition, polish, and accomplishment. With Priber had been seized a bunch of his manuscripts, including a Cherokee dictionary which he had prepared for publication in Paris and his plan of the government for the new empire. He explained his plans freely, exhibited evidence that he might expect aid from France and another unnamed European country, and took his imprisonment with great coolness. When the difficulties of his enterprise were mentioned, he answered that by "proceeding properly, many of these evils might be avoided; and as to length of time, we have a succession of agents to take up the work as fast as others leave it. We never lose sight of a favorite point, nor are we bound by the strict rules of morality in the means, when the end we pursue is laudable. If we err, our general is to blame; and we have a merciful God to pardon us. Before the century is passed the Europeans will have a very small footing on this continent." A magazine, containng powder and shells, took fire near his prison and he was warned to escape. Instead, he lay flat on the floor. When the sentinels returned after the explosion, expecting to

find that he was dead, they observed him quietly seated reading a Greek book. When they reproached him for his rashness, he said that his experience had shown him that his was the best method to avoid danger. While thus a prisoner he became sick and soon died. Thus ended the great empire of the Cherokees in North Carolina and lands adjoining on the south.

Chapter VI

ASHEVILLE

THE town of Asheville was founded by John Burton.

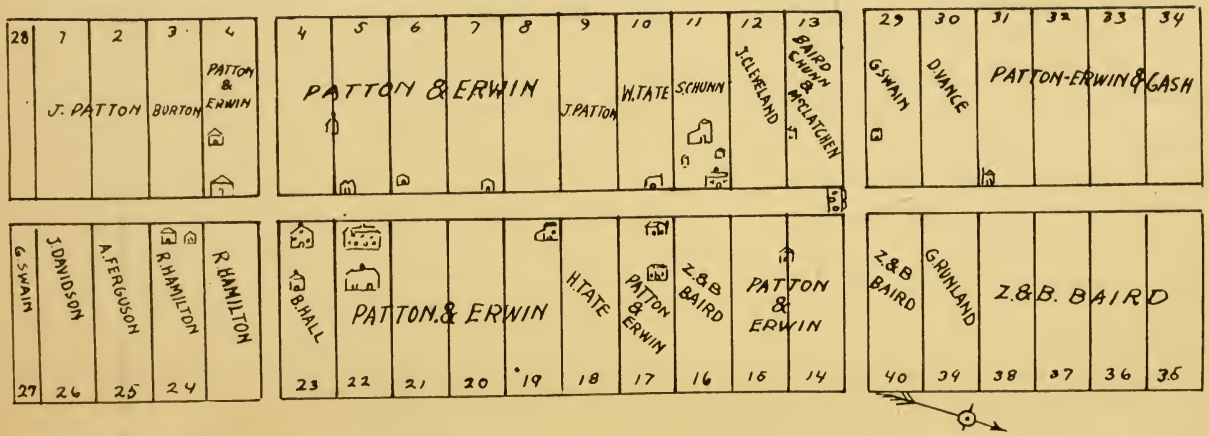
What street in Asheville bears his name? What has ever been done by the town to honor her founder? In fact, how many of Asheville's people ever heard of John Burton? Is it not high time that this shameful negligence should cease?

On the 7th day of July, 1794, John Burton obtained from the State of North Carolina a grant for 200 acres of land in Buncombe County, having its northern boundary formed by a line extending from a point in Charlotte Street near the mouth of Clayton Street, westwardly along Orange Street, and further on to a point in the late Captain M. J. Fagg's lot east of North Main Street; its southern boundary formed by a line running from the entrance of the Martin property at the eastern end of Atkin Street, westwardly along Atkin Street and further on to a point in the rear of the Ravenscroft property; while its eastern boundary extended northwardly along the northern part of Valley Street through the grounds of the College Street public school, formerly the Asheville College for Young Women, and along the southern part of Charlotte Street; and its western boundary extended through the lot now occupied by the Asheville postoffice building. This tract was thenceforth known as the Town Tract.

At about the same time John Burton obtained from the State of North Carolina a grant to another tract of land of the same size and dimensions, immediately north of the Town Tract. This other tract became known as the Gillihan Tract.

Before these grants were issued and while his only claim to them was that acquired by entry, John Burton had planned and marked out a town upon that part of the Town Tract which lies along Main Street southwardly from the present College Street to the bend in South Main Street where are now the Hilliard residence and the old car shed. This land was "by private contract laid out for a town called Morristown, the county town of Buncombe County," into 42 lots

"A PLAN OF THE TOWN OF ASHEVILLE"



Each lot contains one-half acre of ground except the two lots not numbered and Nos. 27 and 28. The half-acre lots are five poles in front and sixteen poles back. The streets are thirty-three feet wide; the alley is sixteen and one-half feet wide. The street leading from the Court House southwardly is south twenty degrees east and that from the Court House westwardly is south seventy degrees west.

containing, with the exception of the two at the southern end, one-half of an acre each, lying on both sides of a street thirty-three feet wide, which runs where the southern part of North Main Street and the northern part of South Main Street now are. Each lot had a frontage on this street of five poles, except the two small ones above mentioned, and they all extended back from the street sixteen poles.

The town was named by the County Court in April, 1793, Morristown, although sometimes it was called Morriston, Morris, and once even, the Town of Morris, and still more generally Buncombe Courthouse. It had but one other street, which was of the same width as Main Street and was planned to extend along the eastern end of Patton Avenue and straight on across the public square for an equal distance beyond the square. An alley of fifteen feet in width crossed the Main Street at the junction of Sycamore and South Main Streets. A reduced copy of this plan of the town as laid out is here given.

It will be observed that two of these lots were not numbered, and it is probable that they were intended to be reserved for public buildings. It will be further observed that the land now constituting the Public Square was then laid off into private lots except that part of it included in Main Street. Nobody seems to know why the name of Morristown was bestowed upon the place, and any conjecture as to the person or place in whose honor the name was given could amount to nothing more than a mere guess.

The county court, which, at its first session in April, 1792, and at all its subsequent sessions up to and including that of April, 1793, had met at the house of Colonel William Davidson on the southern side of Swannanoa River at the Gum Spring above mentioned, but which, according to tradition, was so numerously attended at its first session as to render it necessary, after organization, to adjourn to Davidson's barn and complete that meeting there, began its meeting on the third Monday of July, 1793, to sit "at the court house in Morristown." At their last preceding meeting on Tuesday of that session, which began "on third Monday in April, A Domini, 1793," the following entry appears upon their minutes:

"Ordered by the court that William Davidson be allowed 25 pounds for the use of house to hold court in.

"Scite for Court house settled and fixed upon.

"State of North Carolina, Buncombe County, s s.

"We the commissioners appointed by Act of 1792 to settle and place the court house, prison and stocks, do certify that WE have agreed and hereby do agree that the court house shall stand as near to the big branch between the Indian graves, and Swannanoa, not exceeding or extending more North than the Indian graves and nearest and best situation to the ford of said Branch, where the present wagon road crosses the same—the stocks and prison to be convenient to the court house.

"JOHN DILLARD,
"GEORGE BAKER,
"AUSTIN CHOTE,
"WILLIAM MORRISON.

"Witness,

"Philip Hoodenpile.

"Named, Morristown.

"Ordered by the court that the place fixed upon by the commissioners, for erecting the court house prison and Stocks be named Morristown."

"Court adjourned till the third Monday in July, to meet at Morristown."

The legislature which created the county appointed a committee to determine the location of the county town. There were two places thought of for the site. One of these was where until of late years stood the old brick residence of Dr. J. F. E. Hardy and later of Mr. R. P. Walker about two miles south of Swannanoa River on the road from Asheville to Hendersonville and for many years called the Steam Saw-mill Place, because the first saw mill operated by steam ever in Western North Carolina had been located on that place and there sawed the thick planks which were used to build the plank road between Asheville and Hendersonville. The other place at which it

had been suggested to put the county town was on or near the site of the present city of Asheville and about on its principal or Main Street. The people from the northern part of the new county favored the locality on which part of Asheville stands and half of the committee appointed to decide the matters was of their view. The people from the southern part of the new county favored the locality south of Swannanoa River and the other half of the committee was of these people. The committee could not agree on the site for the town. The next legislature appointed a new committee, composed equally of men from the southern end of the county and men from the northern end of the county. But this time it took the precaution to add to the new committee William Morrison from Burke County as an impartial odd member. Again the committee-men from the north end of the county and the committee-men from the south end of the county failed to agree. Then the matter was determined by vote of William Morrison, the man from Burke County. The three members of the new committee who were from the northern end of the county joined with William Morrison in the report, which the three members of the committee from the south end of the county did not sign.

It is probable that the name of Morristown was given to the town thus located in honor of William Morrison, whose vote on the committee decided the dispute, his name being abbreviated as too long for convenience when the word "town" was added and as it was not uncommon in those days when speaking of men with rather long names to abbreviate the names by exciding the latter parts. This suggestion gains weight from the fact that the town's name was soon changed to Asheville, probably because the giving of the name of the man who decided the controversy against the southern portion of the county to the county town was disagreeable to the losers. This suggestion as to the origin of the name of Morristown given to the new county town is offered as a conjecture in the total absence of any record or tradition or other reasonable theory which would tend to explain the name.

The Indian graves here spoken of appear to have been rather unfortunate as a place for the determination of a controverted matter, as this was. There was a place known at that time as "the Indian graves," about a half mile further south. It was on the hill on which

stands the residence of the late Dr. J. F. E. Hardy, lately owned by Mrs. S. E. Buchanan. This place is so called in more than one of the old deeds. (See Register's Book B, page 40.) There is, however, a well-supported tradition, handed down by the late E. H. Cunningham and the late Montraville Patton, that somewhere in the space between the Public Square and the Battery Park hill, called in the old deeds invariably by the name of the Stony Hill, were some Indian graves at the gap between these points where an old Indian trail ran across from south to north at the lowest spot, now in Patton Avenue (once much lower than at present) and marked on the south by the building once occupied in part by the Young Men's Christian Association and opposite Raysor's Drug Store and on the north by the Raysor's Drug Store; and that these graves were known as the "Indian Graves," and this gap as the "Indian Grave Gap." This tradition has been preserved by the late Mr. R. B. Justice, and was derived by him from the old men above mentioned, who had spent their lives in the vicinity of Asheville. The Big Branch mentioned in this report is that which a short while after became known as Gash's Creek, and in later years was called Town Branch, and is now commonly known by the meaningless name of Cripple Creek. It is the stream which runs by the passenger station at Asheville. Here it should be remarked that the place where the Public Square now is has been from time to time very much lowered by grading and that at one time there was here the very sharp top of a hill, so sharp, in fact, that old men have told me they remembered distinctly that, at one time, a man standing at the southwestern corner of the Public Square could not see the top of a high covered wagon standing on Main Street where College Street crosses it. This last mentioned site of Indian graves is certainly so situated as to make it most probable in view of the report of the commissioners locating the town that this tradition is correct. The Indian graves on the Hardy hill could not have been those referred to in the report since there is no big branch between that place and Swannanoa, and since the town was actually placed "exceeding or extending more north than" that place.

Charles II., King of Great Britain and Ireland, granted, in 1663, a large quantity of land stretching across the continent of North

America to eight men under the name of Carolina. On June 30, 1665, he confirmed this with boundaries enlarged on the northern and southern sides. This included North Carolina. The grantees were called Lords Proprietors. After sixty-four and sixty-six years the successors of these Lords Proprietors, except John, Lord Carteret afterwards Earl of Granville, who owned one-eighth, conveyed the land to George II., King of Great Britain and Ireland. Lord Carteret's share was laid off to him in severalty on September 7, 1744, in the northern part of North Carolina and its southern border was run part of the way from the Atlantic Ocean west, but the line was not surveyed across the mountains. If extended it would run through Buncombe County, passing near Buena Vista, and leaving Asheville and all the northern part of that county within the Granville Land. When the treaty at Paris of 1783 between the King of Great Britain and Ireland, of the one part, and the thirteen American States, of the other part, ended the Revolutionary War, North Carolina claimed this Granville Land as having passed to her from the heirs of the Earl of Granville, who were alien enemies, and granted it to various persons. These heirs claimed that under the provisions of that treaty their title was not divested, and brought suit in the United States Court at Raleigh to test the matter. This suit caused great anxiety in North Carolina. The Governor, in a message to the legislature, urged prompt and active attention to it. On a trial at Raleigh in 1806 the decision was against the Granville heirs who carried the case to the Supreme Court of the United States, where it was dismissed for want of proper prosecution. Had the Granville heirs won, every title to land in Asheville and in northern Buncombe County would have been invalid, except in cases where a title had matured by adverse holding.

John Carteret was the grandson of George Carteret, one of the eight original Lords Proprietors of Carolina. He was the son of George Carteret, first baron Carteret, and was born April 22, 1690. When, on September 22, 1695, his father died, John Carteret, as oldest surviving son, became, at five years of age, Baron Carteret. He was educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, and made D.C.L., July 12, 1756. Dean Swift said of him that "with a singularity scarce to be justified, he carried away more Greek, Latin, and

philosophy than properly became a person of his rank; indeed, much more of each than most of those who are forced to live by their learning will be at the unnecessary pains to load their heads with." On May 25, 1711, Lord John Carteret took his seat in the House of Lords. During the reign of George I., Lord Carteret held various public appointments, and was particularly successful in two or three diplomatic missions in which he brought about peace between Sweden, Prussia, Denmark and Hanover, and became Lord-lieutenant of Ireland in 1724. When George II. came to the throne in 1727 Lord Carteret received, from time to time, numerous appointments to important positions; and in 1743 he was present at the battle of Dettingen. He became president of the council in 1751, having by the death of his mother, Countess of Granville, on October 18, 1744, become Earl of Granville. After a life spent principally in the public service, he died at Bath on January 2, 1763, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. He was a man of great learning, being eminent as a classical scholar and "master of all the modern languages." "Lord Granville," said Lord Chesterfield, "had great parts, and a most uncommon share of learning for a man of quality. He was one of the best speakers in the House of Lords, both in the declamatory and the argumentative way. He had a wonderful quickness and precision in seizing the stress of a question, which no art, no sophistry, could disguise to him. In business he was bold, enterprising, and overbearing. * * * He was neither ill-natured nor vindictive, and had a great contempt for money; his ideas were all above it. In social life he was an agreeable, good-humored, and instructive companion, a great but entertaining talker. * * * His political knowledge of the interest of princes and of commerce was extensive, and his notions were just and great. His character may be summed up in nice precision, quick decision, and unbounded presumption." Horace Walpole said that of the five great men who had lived in his time, "Lord Granville was most a genius of the five; he conceived, knew, expressed what he pleased." William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, said of Lord Granville that "in the upper department of government he had not his equal, and I feel a pride in declaring that to his patronage, to his friendship, and instruction, I owe whatever I am."

This was the man who once owned the territory on which Asheville stands and of which, except a small strip on the south, Buncombe County is composed, John Carteret, Earl of Granville.

The act establishing the County of Buncombe was ratified on the 14th day of January, 1792, and, by the terms of that act, certain commissioners therein named were directed to determine the place where the county town and the county's public buildings should be.

This act creating Buncombe County reads, in its early portions, as follows:

"An act forming the western parts of Burke and Rutherford counties into a separate and distinct county.

"Whereas the western parts of Burke and Rutherford counties are very inconvenient to the court-houses in the said counties, which renders the attendance of jurors and witnesses very burthensome and expensive, and almost impossible in the winter season; and in order to remedy the same,

"1. *Be it enacted,* &c. That all that part of the counties of Burke and Rutherford, circumscribed by the following lines, viz.: Beginning on the extreme height of the Apalachian mountain, where the southern boundary of this state crosses the same, thence along the extreme height of said mountain to where the road from the head of Catawba river to Swannanoe crosses, then along the main ridge dividing the waters of South-Toe from those of Swannanoe unto the Great Black mountain, then along said mountain to the northeast end, then along the main ridge between South-Toe and Little-Crabtree to the mouth of said Crabtree Creek, then down Toe river aforesaid to where the same empties into Nollichucky river, then down the said river to the extreme height of the Iron mountain and cession line, then along said cession line to the southern boundary, then along the said boundary to the beginning, is hereby erected into a separate and distinct county by the name of Buncombe."

Although this act was passed at the session of the legislature for 1791, commencing in that year on December 5th, it was not ratified until January 14, 1792, the session for 1792 not beginning until November 15, 1792.

On December 1, 1792, another act amendatory of that above mentioned was passed, and in this it was recited that "the commissioners appointed to fix the center and agree where the public buildings in the County of Buncombe should be erected have failed to comply with the above recited Act, and the inhabitants of said county much injured thereby," and it was accordingly enacted "for remedy" thereof "that Joshua Inglish, Archibald Neill, James Wilson, Augustin Shote, George Baker and John Dillard in the county aforesaid and William Morrison of Burke County be appointed commissioners in the room and stead of Philip Hoodenpile, William Britain, William Whetson, James Brittain and Lemuel Clayton, and they are hereby vested with the same powers and authorities as the former commissioners were vested with, and they or a majority of them shall agree on some convenient spot as nearly central as may be for convenience to the inhabitants of said county, whereon the public buildings shall be erected, any Law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

Probably this change of commissioners, made because of the failure of those first appointed to agree on some spot for the county seat, should not be attributed to an unwillingness on the part of those first appointed to act, but rather to their inability to agree as to where this county seat should be. It is certain that much controversy arose at that time in regard to the site of the court house between the advocates of the place where it was at last fixed and certain persons who strenuously contended that its location should be at the old Steam Saw Mill Place, on the road afterwards known as the Buncombe Turnpike Road, about three miles south of Asheville, where Dr. J. F. E. Hardy above mentioned resided at the time of his death, and Mr. R. P. Walker later lived. The man from Burke was probably chosen as being disinterested and able to decide in case of a difference between the Buncombe men who, of course, were interested. It is a noteworthy fact that only half of the Buncombe commissioners signed the report and all of them were from the northern end of the county, as noted above.

This would seem to justify the precaution of adding to the commission a man from Burke County to decide in case of a disagreement among the others of the commissioners, all of whom were from Bun-

combe. One of these, Archibald Neill, had died since his appointment.

The second county officer elected on the first day of the first session of Buncombe County Court was "John Davidson (son of James)," register of deeds, or, as it was called in the minutes, "register." On the same day Thomas Davidson was elected entry-taker, or, as it was called in the minutes, "entry officer of claims for lands." Next day John Dillard was elected "Stray master or Ranger." It was on this last-mentioned day that Reuben Wood was elected county solicitor, or, as the minutes called it, "attorney for the State in Buncombe County."

At this time the Superior courts did not meet in Buncombe County, but were held for what was then called the District of Morgan at Morganton in Burke County, and were known as Morgan Superior Court. To constitute part of the jury at that court five Buncombe men were required by law to be chosen regularly by the County Court of Buncombe County. The first of these jurors from Buncombe so chosen were selected at the July term 1792, of the last mentioned court and ordered to "serve at Morgan Supr. Court, Septr. Term as the Venire from Buncombe." They consisted of Matthew Patton, William Davidson, David Vance, Lambert Clayton and James Brittain.

Immediately upon obtaining his grant John Burton began to sell off his town lots as they had been laid out. His first sale was of lot No. 4 to Thomas Burton for "twenty shillings" on July 28, 1794. This sale was made in the same month in which the grant was issued, and was for the land now occupied by the southern portion of the Swannanoa-Berkeley hotel building. Town lots do not appear to have been much in demand at this time, for it was not until the 15th day of October following that another sale was made. Then John Burton sold to Ann Gash for five pounds lot No. 2, describing it as the lot that "Joins John Patons, Nomber First on the west side of the street" and "the lot whereon Ann Gash's house now stands." This lot was very near what was then the most improved part of the town. The first court house, if we may credit tradition, was a log structure one story high, and containing a single room, and was covered with boards held to their places by the weight of large pieces of timber laid horizontally across them. It is said to have stood one hundred feet south of

Sycamore Street and on the eastern side of South Main Street, as this lot seems to have been left vacant for the purpose; but more probably it stood on the Public Square in the centre of Main Street. Apparently the lot opposite the vacant lot just mentioned was intended for "the Stocks and prison to be convenient to the court house." This court house appears to have been used as such for many years.

The next lot sold was lot No. 7. This was bought on October 21, 1794, by Thomas Foster for "twenty shillings" and is the land on which stands the old brick building on the western side of South Main Street long known as the old Rankin & Pulliam store. Five dollars was not a high price for a half-acre lot near the centre of the town and fronting 82½ feet on the main street, although we are so often assured that real estate has always been ridiculously high in Asheville.

John Burton continued to sell town lots until he had disposed of or contracted to dispose of thirty-one or thirty-two of them. Then, seemingly, he grew tired of the business of building a town, and on April 20, 1795, sold to Zebulon and Bedent Baird for two hundred pounds all his tracts of land "including the Town all except what lots is sold and maid over." Many of the deeds made by him for lots which he had theretofore contracted to sell were not, however, executed until after this conveyance to the Bairds.

A list of thse sales made by John Burton, interesting as showing the order in which the town grew and who were its first inhabitants, is here given:

Thomas Burton, lot 4, for 20 shillings, July 28, 1794, record book 2, page 53.

Ann Gash, half of lot 2, for 5 pounds, October 15, 1794, record book 2, page 82.

Thomas Foster, lot 7, for 20 shillings, October 21, 1794, record book 2, page 56.

Thomas Foster, lot 11, for 4 pounds, October 21, 1794, record book 2, page 107.

Sarah Hamilton, lot 5, for "10 silver dollars," October 22, 1794, record book 2, page 59.

William Wilson, lots 24 and 25, for 10 pounds, October 22, 1794, record book 2, page 58.

Thomas Foster, lot 3, for 25 pounds, October 24, 1794, record book 2, page 56.

Zebulon & Bendent Baird, lot —, for 4 pounds, October 24, 1794, record book 2, page 99.

John Hawkins, lot 20, for 4 pounds, January 19, 1795, record book 2, page 55.

Harris Hutchison, lot 9, for 4 pounds, January 21, 1795, record book 2, page 100.

John Street, lot 6, for 5 pounds, January 22, 1795, record book 2, page 51.

John Street, back lots, for 4 pounds, April 20, 1795, record book 2, page 230.

James Hughey, lot 18, for 4 pounds, April 22, 1795, record book 2, page 236.

John Craig, lot 20, for 4 pounds, April 22, 1795, record book 3, page 11.

Joseph Hughey, lot 5, two for 4 pounds, April 22, 1795, record book 4, page 176.

Joseph Hughey, lots 29 and 30, for 4 pounds, April 22, 1795, record book 3, page 17.

William Forster, lot 12, for 4 pounds, April 22, 1795, record book 3, page 45.

Ephriam D. Harris, lot 17, for 4 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 2, page 174.

Samuel Lusk, lot 13, for 2 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 2, page 231.

Edward McFarling, half of lot 27, for 2 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 2, page 237.

William Wilson, lot south of town for 10 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 3, page 27.

Robert Branks, lot 39, for 4 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 3, page 67.

William Lax, 8½ acres, for 40 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 3, page 92.

James Brittain, lot 14, for 100 pounds, April 23, 1795, record book 3, page 144.

Col. William Davidson, lot 21, for — pounds, April 24, 1795, record book 2, page 169.

Johhn Patton, lots 16, 2, and 10, for 20 pounds, October 15, 1795, record book 2, page 84.

James Davidson, lot 26, for 6 pounds, April 21, 1796, record book 2, page 381.

Benjamin Hall, lot 23, for 4 pounds, April 24, 1796, record book 3, page 142.

James Chambers, lot 19, for $100, July 20, 1797, record book 2, page 480.

Hugh Tate, half of lote 13, for $50, July 18, 1798, record book 4, page 160.

Patton & Erwin, lot 4, for $40, March 15, 1805, record book 10, page 239.

The lots are described as being, sometimes in Morriston, sometimes in Morristown, sometimes in Morris Town and once in the Town of Morris, except the last two, which are stated to be in the town of Asheville.

MEN OF THOSE DAYS

Many of these men whose names are given in this list as purchasers of lots were men of prominence in the affairs of the county, or afterwards became such.

Thomas Foster did not live in the town, but on the southern side of the Swannanoa River, and on the old Rutherfordton road, about 2½ miles south of Asheville, on the farm on which in later years was made the junction of the Western North Carolina Railroad with the Asheville & Spartanburg Railroad and where is Biltmore. He was born in Virginia, on October 14, 1774. In 1786 his father, William Forster, came with his family to North Carolina, and settled at the foot of the hill on the northern side of the Swannanoa River, about midway between the Hendersonville road and the road leading to the Swannanoa by way of Fernihurst at a place where a small branch comes through a hollow and crosses the valley into the Swannanoa River. Here Thomas lived

until he grew to manhood. Then he married Orra Sams, whose father, Edmund Sams, was one of the settlers from Watauga, and lived on the western side of the French Broad River, later the site of Smith's Bridge, until he removed higher up that river on the same side to a place about a mile above the mouth of the Swannanoa at the old Gaston place, near the place which has since been called the race track. After his marriage Thomas Foster settled upon the farm where he spent the remainder of his life on the banks of Sweeten's Creek, afterwards called Foster's Mill Creek, the first which enters Swannanoa from the southern side above the concrete bridge on the Hendersonville road. Here he built the first bridge across the Swannanoa. Its location was about one hundred yards above the present bridge. He was a member of the House of Commons in the General Assembly of North Carolina from Buncombe County in 1809, 1812, 1813 and 1814, and represented that county in the Senate of the State in 1817 and 1819. After a long and prosperous life he died on December 24 (incorrectly on tombstone Dec. 14), 1858, and is buried at the Newton Academy graveyard. He was a farmer, and accumulated a considerable property. A large family of children survived him. Two of these were living in 1898, but have died, Thomas Foster of Weakley County, Tennesse, and Mrs. Rachel R. Garner, of Winchester, Ky. Many of his descendants reside in Buncombe County. His wife died before him on August 27, 1853, and he was buried by her side. Frequent mention of him will be found in Wheeler's History of North Carolina, Bennett's Chronology of North Carolina, and Bishop Asbury's Journal. He was known as Captain Thomas Foster. But as his uncle of the same name was then living in Buncombe County it may be that the latter was the purchaser of that name to whom some of the lots mentioned above were conveyed. This Thomas Forster was usually designated as Thomas Foster, Sr., and, after a short while, removed to Abbeville, South Carolina, but later returned to Buncombe and died here in the early fall of 1839.

Zebulon and Bedent Baird were brothers who came from New Jersey to North Carolina in the latter part of the eighteenth century. They were Scotchmen by birth. After their removal to North Carolina they were the first merchants in Buncombe County. Both settled on

farms between Asheville and Reems Creek. Here they died, and numerous descendants of both yet live in this county. Zebulon Baird represented Buncombe County in the House of Commons in 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1803, and in the Senate of the State in 1806, 1809, 1818, 1821 and 1822. He was efficient in procuring the enactment of the law under which the Buncombe Turnpike was constructed, and is said to have found difficulty in reconciling his friends to his action in this matter; but declared that he hoped to live long enough to see the day when a stage coach and four horses would gallop through the country driven by a man armed with a whip and a tin bugle. This vision was destined to a gorgeous realization but he never lived to see it. Nor was such an argument to be despised. Such a sight would indicate a highway of commerce while it gratified the highest local pride then conceivable. No more exhilarating scene was ever witnessed than a handsome newly-painted stage coach drawn by four fine horses as it bursts upon us around some bend in the mountain dashing at full gallop along a road winding its way through the mountain defiles. No more inspiring sound ever greeted human ears than that of the horn of the stage coach rushing up to some mountain station while its reverberations penetrate the deep recesses and are tossed from hill to hill in wild and wierd musical cadences. The late Zebulon Baird Vance was Zebulon Baird's namesake and one of his grandsons. In 1793 Zebulon and Bedent Baird carried up the first four-wheel wagon ever seen in Buncombe County, all transportation theretofore having been by horseback or on sleds or trucks. This wagon they brought across the South Carolina or Saluda Gap. Zebulon Baird died in March, 1827. Before his death the Town and Gillihan tracts above mentioned, together with the Baird 400 acres, a tract adjoining these on the west and granted by the State to both in 1799, were sold under execution issued from Morganton on a judgment obtained against them by a third brother, Andrew Baird, and were bought at this sale by Zachariah Candler, who undoubtedly purchased in behalf of Zebulon Baird, to whom he conveyed the land by deed made eight days later than that to him from the sheriff. After the death of Zebulon Baird, his brother Bedent, or Beadon, or Beden, as it is sometimes spelled, conceived that in this transaction there had been something

unfair to himself, and sued the widow and children and administrator of his deceased brother for an equal share in the land. This famous suit, at first decided in favor of Bedent, was carried by his opponents to the Supreme Court of North Carolina, where at June term, 1837, nearly 10 years after its beginning, it was decided in favor of the heirs of Zebulon. A possession at the northwest corner of the Town Tract in a field on the premises of the late M. J. Fagg was an important element in turning the decision for Zebulon's children. The late Governor D. L. Swain was the administrator of Zebulon Baird and took great interest in this case. He is said to have openly announced to the judge who tried the case below that he would procure a reversal in the court above and to have added, "I will make Mr. Badger tear your opinion to pieces."

Zebulon Baird was attacked by his fatal sickness while riding along the road between Reems Creek and his home and fell from his horse. His residence was the old house (now gone) on the eastern side of the old Buncombe Turnpike road, about two and one-half miles north of Asheville and one-fourth of a mile south of the entrance of the Burnsville Road and later owned by Capt. J. E. Ray, and near the Casket Plant. This house was partly a log structure and is said to have been constructed with loop holes in order to be used as a block-house in case of need against Indians.

John Street was afterwards the sheriff of Buncombe County, but mysteriously disappeared after the expiration of his terms of office. He was believed to have gone to Tennessee. (Record book 11, page 521.)

Joseph Hughey was the first sheriff of Buncombe County, having been elected to that office on April 16, 1792. He was re-elected to it for several following terms successively, and was a large land owner in the vicinity of Asheville.

At a later date James Hughey, whose name is above mentioned, was also a sheriff of Buncombe County. He it was who as such sheriff made in 1798 the celebrated sale for taxes of the John Gray Blount lands, themselves embracing whole counties and amounting to one million seventy-four thousand acres. (Record book 4, page 230, and Love v. Wilbourn, 5 Ired. N. C., Rep. 344.)

John Craig was Buncombe County's first treasurer, an office then known as County Trustee. He was the grantee from the State in 1798 of a body of land in the northern part of the town of Asheville later traversed by Sunset Drive. In the latter part of his life he resided in the eastern part of the county, where he was shot from ambush and killed. Henry West was convicted of the murder but was pardoned, the pardon arriving while he stood on the scaffold with the sheriff ready to execute him. He was a most eccentric character of much intelligence and considerable property and was said to have been a sailor and served under Paul Jones in the Revolutionary War; but prided himself upon being discourteous in manner and brutal in disposition.

William Forster, the father of Captain Thomas Foster, above mentioned, was the son of William Forster and Mary Forster, his wife. He belonged to that large class of people called Scotch-Irish, who have played so prominent and honorable a part in the history of the United States. Born in Ireland on March 31, 1748, he emigrated to Virginia while yet a young man. After the close of the Revolutionary War he removed with his family to Western North Carolina, and settled on the Swannanoa, at the place described as his residence in the above sketch of Captain Thomas Foster. Here he lived for many years, and here he died on April 2, 1830. In early life he married a Scotch woman by the name of Elizabeth Heath. She died October 8, 1827.

Both William Forster and his wife were buried at the Newton Academy graveyard, the first persons buried there.

Ephraim Drake Harris was another of the early purchasers of lots in Morristown. He soon removed, however, and probably returned to Cabarrus County, North Carolina. To him was granted by the State, on February 19, 1794, a body of land which now constitutes the most eastern part of Asheville, extending eastward from Valley Street.

Samuel Lusk was for some while coroner of Buncombe County. In April, 1799, he resigned that office and was elected sheriff. To this last place he was annually re-elected until April, 1803.

James Brittain was the representative of Buncombe County in the State Senate in 1796, 1797, 1802, 1804, 1805 and 1807.

Colonel William Davidson was the man at whose house the county was organized as above stated. He was a relative of Gen. William Davidson, who succeeded Griffith Rutherford in the generalship when the latter was captured at Camden and who was killed on February 1, 1781, at Cowan's Ford of the Catawba River in attempting to prevent Lord Cornwallis from crossing with his army. Colonel William Davidson was also a relative of the Samuel Davidson who was killed by the Indians as above stated, and of Major William Davidson, a brother of Samuel and who with his brother-in-law, John Alexander, and his nephew, James Alexander, son of his sister Rachel, and with Daniel Smith, a son-in-law, became among the first settlers in Buncombe County. The portion of it where Major Davidson settled was then in Burke County at the mouth of Bee Tree.

Major William Davidson is sometimes confounded with Colonel William Davidson, who was the first representative of Buncombe County in the State Senate to which he was sent in 1792, and removed to Tennessee where he was prominent in public affairs and where he died. It was at the house of Colonel William Davidson that Buncombe County was organized. Colonel William Davidson was born in Virginia and served in the American cause through the Revolutionary War.

Major William Davidson took a prominent part in the preparations made by the North Carolinians for the battle of Kings Mountain. These thwarted Ferguson in his raid which ended in that battle. During the Revolutionary War Major William Davidson lived in what became Burke County on Catawba River near the town now called Greenlee. His place was named The Glades. Colonel Ferguson visited his home there on the raid into North Carolina by Ferguson, which resulted in the Battle of Kings Mountain and in the defeat and death of that distinguished British officer. After that war, Major William Davidson removed with some relatives and friends to the mouth of Bee Tree Creek of Swannanoa River, then in Burke County, but now in Buncombe County, where, in 1784-1785, they formed the famous "Swannanoa Settlement" and where he resided for the remainder of his life and died and is buried.

In 1792 Gabriel Ragsdale and Wm. Brittain were Buncombe's first representatives in the North Carolina House of Commons and they continued to hold those places in 1793, 1794, and 1795, by re-elections.

Colonel John Patton was born April 4, 1765, and was one of Buncombe's first settlers. He removed to that county while it was yet Burke and Rutherford and settled first where Fernihurst now stands. From here he removed to the Whitson place, on Swannanoa above the old water works. After residing here for some while he returned to the vicinity of his former home, and bought and fixed his residence upon the Colonel William Davidson place, where the first County Court was held. At this place he continued to reside until his death on March 17, 1831. He it was who formally opened on April 16, 1792, the first County Court. On the minutes of that court, immediately after the justices were sworn and took their seats, appears this entry:

"Silence being commanded and proclamation being made the court was opened in due and solemn form of law by John Patton specialy appointed for that purpose."

At that term, on the same day, he was duly elected to the then very important office of county surveyor. Near his new residence he built, many years ago, a bridge across the Swannanoa River, which remained until about the beginning of the war against the Southern States. His house was for many years famous as a stopping place, being upon the Buncombe Turnpike road, and he raised here a large family of children, many of whose descendants are yet living in Asheville. One of his sons, the late Montraville Patton, represented Buncombe County in the House of Commons in 1836, 1838 and 1840, and subsequently in 1874-1875, and after being for many years a citizen and prominent merchant of Asheville, and in later life the clerk of the Inferior Court of Buncombe County, died in 1896, highly respected by every one who knew him as a kind hearted but determined man of unswerving integrity and unpretentious usefulness. The late residence of Colonel John Patton stood on the southern side of the Swannanoa, at the ford about half a mile above its mouth, until within the last thirty years, when, after bearing for some time the name of the Haunted House, it was removed as being no longer tenantable. His wife, who was, before

her marriage, Miss Ann Mallory, a Virginian, was born February 12, 1768, and died on August 31, 1855. She, with her husband, are buried at Newton Academy graveyard.

Probably others of these first settlers of Morristown attained prominence in the affairs of that town and of the County of Buncombe, and some of them, as we know, soon removed to distant places.

Here begins a new chapter in the history of Asheville. In 1795, Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County, a brother of the John Ashe who played so important a part in resisting the Stamp Act, was elected governor of North Carolina. In his honor the name of Morristown was changed to Asheville. This new name became common some time before any legal action upon the subject was had. In fact, it had become so common by October, 1795, that the clerk of the County Court, forgetting for the moment that in law the town was still Morristown, began in the opening statement of his minutes of that term, when giving the place where that session was held, to write the word Asheville, but before completing it he recollected himself and finished it out as Morristown. Subsequently, in beginning his minutes of the April term, 1796, he wrote as the place of the court's session, the full name of Asheville, but then again recollecting his error, and before he had written another word, he passed his pen through the word Asheville, and wrote the word Morristown. Finally, in July, 1796, or October, 1796, or in January, April or July, 1797, the name of the town was duly changed from Morristown to Asheville. This latter name it has ever since borne.

Samuel Ashe, for whom Asheville was named, was born in North Carolina in 1725; educated at Harvard; became a lawyer; was one of thirteen members of the council which governed North Carolina after the commencement of the Revolution and prior to the adoption of her first Constitution, and part of that time president of that Council of Thirteen; was a member of the convention which adopted that Constitution; was speaker of the Senate in the first legislature which assembled under that Constitution; was by that legislature elected presiding judge of the Supreme Court of the State, which court was composed of three judges; and continued in that office until 1795 when he became and was, for three years, governor of the State. He

was a member of that court when it decided, in the celebrated case of Bayard v. Singleton, that an act of the legislature was void because contrary to the Constitution; and he was governor when the land frauds of John Glasgow, Secretary of State, were discovered and created such a great excitement in North Carolina. At his plantation on Rocky Point he died in 1813.

Colonel David Vance was born at or near Winchester, Virginia, about 1745. He was the oldest son of Samuel Vance and was descended on the paternal side from the DeVaux family of Normandy, the name DeVaux being corrupted into Vance. About 1774 David Vance came to North Carolina and settled in what was then Rowan County, on Catawba River, later Burke County, where he married Priscilla Brank. In the progress of the Revolutionary War, David Vance served in the American army in the north and rose to the rank of ensign and was at the battles of Brandywine and Germantown and at Valley Forge. Later, in the South, he saw service in the same cause at the battles of Musgrove Mill and Kings Mountain and became a captain. After that war ended he removed to what is now Buncombe County, but was then Burke County, and settled at what was later Vanceville on upper Reems Creek. In 1786 and 1791 he was a member of the North Carolina House of Commons from Burke County and in 1791 introduced in that body a bill to create the County of Buncombe. In 1792 he became and for years continued to be the clerk of the County Court of that new county, on whose records his most beautiful penmanship appears. He and General Joseph McDowell and Mussendine Matthews as commissioners for North Carolina, superintended in 1799 the running of the line between North Carolina and Tennessee from the southern border of Virginia southward across Pigeon River. It was in consequence of some conversations while engaged in that work that he wrote recollections of the Battle of Kings Mountain, published many years after his death. He became a colonel of militia. He died in 1813 and was buried on his farm in Reems Creek. Doctor Robert B. Vance, once a representative in Congress from Western North Carolina, who was killed in a duel with Hon. Samuel P. Carson, was a son of Colonel David Vance, and the late Zebulon B. Vance, governor of North Carolina and United States

senator, the late General Robert B. Vance, Congressman from Western North Carolina, and the late Colonel Allen T. Davidson, member from Western North Carolina in the Congress of the Confederate States, were grandsons of Colonel David Vance.

A small party of Cherokees set out from the more western parts of North Carolina, in the summer of 1793, to attack the white settlements on Swannanoa River. It seems that the settlers had received some warning of this and were on the lookout. At any rate, the attack was not made. Simultaneously, but without concert with the North Carolinians, Colonel Doherty and Colonel McFarland had led an invasion from East Tennessee of a part of the Cherokee country which had escaped incursions from the whites. With one hundred and eighty mounted riflemen they entered the mountains at Unaka Pass and turned eastwardly, destroying six Cherokee towns, and killing fifteen Indians and taking captive sixteen Indian women and children. They were gone four weeks; and, by returning in another way from that by which they had entered the country, escaped an ambuscade of three hundred Cherokees which was awaiting their return at Unaka Pass, expected to be by that same way of entrance into the mountains. The expedition had one man mortally wounded and three others less seriously hurt in the two or three night attacks made upon it by the Indians. It was contrary to the orders of the Tennessee territorial government, but probably prevented the contemplated attack on the Swannanoa settlements and saved from destruction the village of Morristown. now the City of Asheville.

Chapter VII

IN November, 1797, the village of Asheville was incorporated by the legislature of the State of North Carolina as "a town by the name of Ashville," in an act of which the following is a copy:

"Session of November, 1797, Ch. 54.

"An Act establishing a town at the court house in the county of Buncomb.

"Whereas, It is represented to this General Assembly that the establishing a town at the court house in Buncomb county would be of great utility and accord with the desire of the inhabitants of said county, and there being a number of lots already laid off at the said court house, and Zebulon Baird, Esq., the proprietor of lands adjoining the same, having signified his consent to lay off as much more land as will amount to sixty-three acres, including said lots for the purpose aforesaid.

"1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the aforesaid sixty-three acres of land be and the same is hereby constituted and established, a town by the name of Ashville, and that John Jarrett, Samuel Chunn, William Welch, George Swain and Zebulon Baird, Esq., be and they are hereby appointed, commissioners for the purpose of carrying into effect the plan of said town and disposing of the lots in such a manner as they or a majority of them shall think advisable; Provided, nevertheless, that nothing in this act shall be construed so as to prevent Zebulon Baird from having the power and right of executing titles of such lots as are yet not disposed of.

"2. And be it further enacted that, in all matters and things relative to said town a majority of the commissioners shall constitute a quorum, and in case of death, refusal to act, incapacity or removal of any of them, the remaining commissioners shall fill up such vacancies; and that their first meeting shall be held on the fourth Saturday in January, next, when they shall proceed to appoint a treasurer, who shall be of their own body, and when chosen shall be considered as

chairman, and into whose hands all monies collected for the use of said town shall be paid; and he shall give bond with sufficient security, payable to the remaining commissioners for the due application and accounting for all monies by him received; and it shall be considered his duty to cause all the laws, rules and regulations made for the order and government of the said town to be carried into effect.

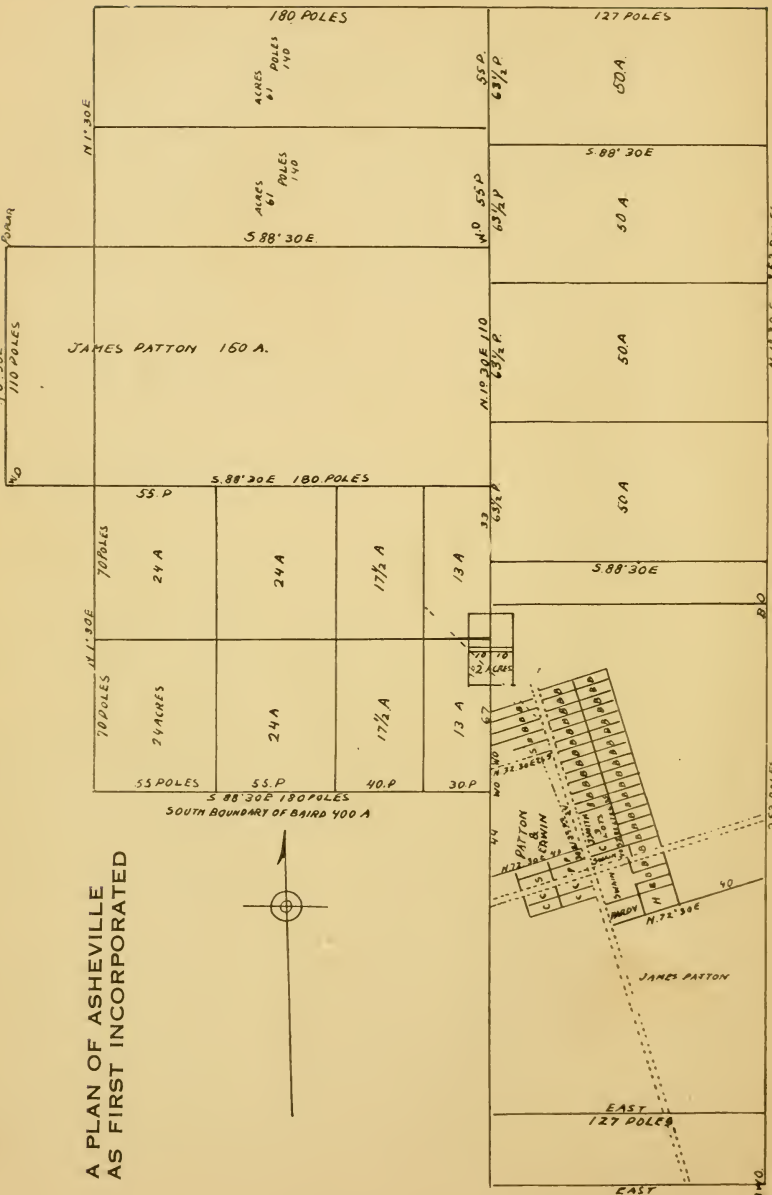
"3. And be it further enacted that the said commissioners or a majority of them shall have full power and authority to make such bye-laws and regulations as they may think necessary for the good government of said town and shall have and possess the same powers and authorities usually given to like commissioners, and such rules and regulations as they may make shall be carried into effect by such penalties as they may deem necessary.

"4. And be it further enacted that the commissioners aforesaid shall be empowered to lay a tax annually not exceeding the demands necessary for said town, either on the poll or the value of town property, or both if necessary, which tax shall be levied and collected in such manner as the said commissioners may direct."

The lots added by Zebulon Baird, and referred to in this statute, are represented by a plat then prepared, a copy of which, preserved by the late Nehemiah Blackstock of Buncombe County, and by him given to the late Capt. R. B. Johnston, is here shown.

Plainly, it was not the purpose of Zebulon Baird to give to the public that additional land mentioned in this act, which he "signified his consent to lay off," nor does it seem to have been so understood at the time. In fact, at that time, this land was not entirely his own. It belonged equally to him and his brother Bedent Baird. However, the lots were laid off as contemplated, and were subsequently sold by the heirs of Zebulon Baird as town lots.

Thus on January 27, 1798, the village of Asheville became the town of "Ashville," and as such began its existence as a municipal corporation. It was still, however, a mountain settlement, without roads, unless the rude trails constructed and maintained by the inhabitants of the adjacent territory under the public road law, could be termed such, and well-nigh inaccessible to the outside world. Of the character of these roads we shall say something further on.



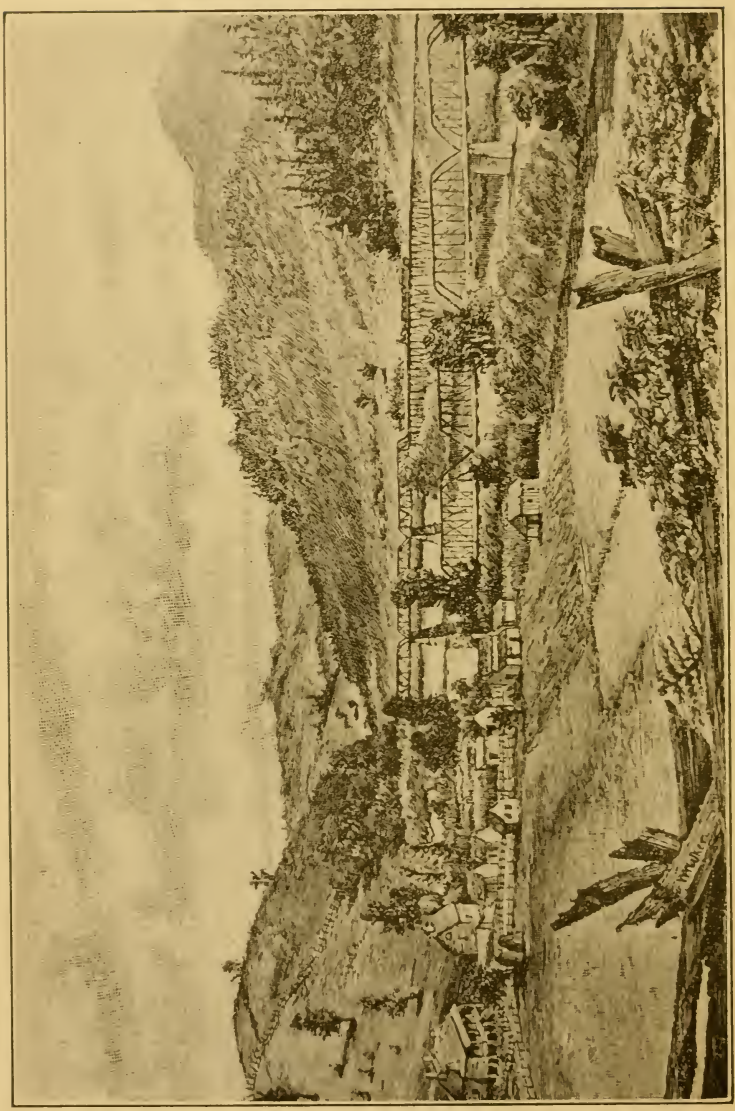
A PLAN OF ASHEVILLE
AS FIRST INCORPORATED

Before passing to the consideration of other matters a few words in relation to the commissioners appointed to launch this new municipality may be not inappropriate.

John Jarrett was for many years a resident of Buncombe County. In later life he lived on the western bank of the French Broad River, at the place where once the old Smith Bridge and now a concrete bridge at Asheville crosses. There had never been a bridge across that river near Asheville at that time, however. Many years before a ferry had been established at that point by Edmund Sams.

Edmund Sams was one of the settlers who came from Watauga. He lived first at the Smith Bridge place just mentioned and later, on the western side of the French Broad River, on that place later known as the Gaston place, about one mile, or maybe not so far, above the mouth of Swannanoa. He had been, in early life, an Indian fighter. On one occasion, when, in search of some Indian depredators, he was passing through the woods with a single companion, his friend and fellow soldier, he heard a gun fire very near, and turning saw that his friend had received a death wound. Supposing this to have been done by some Indian behind a tree, he quickly placed his gun to his shoulder and called out to his dying companion, "Where is he?" The friend replied, "Why, Edmund, it was your gun." This proved to be correct. His gun carried on his shoulder had been discharged by accident, and had killed his friend behind him. This event saddened the entire after life of Mr. Sams.

Later he was engaged as a soldier on the American side in the Revolutionary War and was a captain. When the County of Buncombe was organized he was elected its first coroner. Afterwards he served as a member of the County Court. He was for many years a trustee of Newton Academy. During the latter part of his life he resided upon the farm of his son-in-law, Thomas Foster, about a fourth of a mile above the latter's residence. He was an eccentric and highly excitable old man. Exceedingly fond of music, especially of a martial character, he used to explain to one of his little granddaughters the emotions which he betrayed when listening to some lively tune by saying, "I tell you what, my little daughter, it just puts me on top of Bun-



Asheville, 1883—Iron Bridge looking west—Railroad Bridge higher in picture—Site of Sams's Ferry over French Broad, later Jarrett's Ferry, later Smith's Bridge, now Concrete Bridge

combe." As he grew older he became very fond of feeding his son-in-law's cattle, and would indulge this propensity to such an extent that many times the cattle were in danger of being foundered. Captain Foster gently remonstrated with the old gentleman on this subject, but without effect. Some mornings when out a little earlier than usual in the vicinity of his father-in-law's house, the son-in-law would hear the old gentleman talking in reference to this to a pet cow while giving her an unreasonable quantity of food, and saying: "Hurry up, old lady, Tommie's coming." In 1824 his son Benoni Sams was one of Buncombe's representatives in the House of Commons, having for his colleague D. L. Swain.

Edmund Sams married Nancy Young near Wytheville, Virginia. Her sister, Martha Young, married William Gudger, Senior, who also removed to what became Buncombe County and settled on Swannanoa River just below the Old Water Works on land now belonging to Mr. M. L. Reed. These Gudgers became progenitors of the large family of Gudgers and their descendants now living in Western North Carolina. Although James M. Smith was the first white child born in what afterwards became Buncombe County, having been born June 14, 1787, yet James Gudger, son of William and Martha Gudger, was a little older than Mr. Smith, and was the first white citizen of that same territory who was born as such. On account of danger from marauding Cherokee Indians, Mrs. Martha Gudger at the time of the birth of her oldest son James Gudger, was on a visit to her parents in Virginia. This Mr. James Gudger married a daughter of Colonel Robert Love, of Haywood County, and lived in the northwestern part of the County of Buncombe, which he represented in the State Senate of North Carolina in 1830 and 1836.

As has been remarked above, Edmund Sams was remarkably fond of military music. He was also fond of church music, which, in his day, was usually sung in a drawling time "in linked sweetness long drawn out." Once a singing master visited his neighborhood and taught a singing school. The choir of young people trained at this school sang a "voluntary" at a church service which Captain Sams attended accompanied by a little great-granddaughter. The singing master led in singing this "voluntary" and sang in better time than

was common in the church gatherings, but not without consternation on the part of most of the congregation. Captain Sams listened in amazement. When the song had been finished he turned to his little girl companion and exclaimed: "Well, upon my soul, my little daughter, that was a merry little jig!"

When John Jarrett bought the Sams ferry he kept it for many years as a toll ferry, and it became known as Jarrett's Ferry. Subsequently he sold it with the adjoining land to the late James M. Smith, who built a bridge at the place, which was known for many years, and up till a very late period, as Smith's Bridge. This he continued to keep up as a toll bridge until the latter part of his life, when he sold the bridge to the county, by which it was made a public or county bridge. The eastern end of the bridge was somewhat higher up the river than the eastern end of the iron bridge which succeeded it, but the western ends of the two were at the same place. In 1881 this bridge was removed to make room for an iron structure, which was destroyed by a flood in 1916, but its old foundations were yet plainly to be seen for many years.

Samuel Chunn was for many years a resident of Asheville. Here he kept a hotel at the southwestern corner of the public square, where afterwards stood the building occupied for many years by Asheville's first bank, the Asheville Branch of the Bank of Cape Fear, and still later by the Bank of Asheville, and afterward by the Western Hotel, and yet more recently by the First National Bank of Asheville. This building was removed by its owner, Captain Thos. D. Johnston, in 1885, in order to give place to his corner brick store and office building now standing there. Samuel Chunn also engaged for many years at Asheville in the business of tanning leather. His tanyard was on Glenn's Creek at the place where Merrimon Avenue, for many years called Beaverdam Road and until lately Beaverdam Street, crosses it, about one hundred yards from the junction of that street with North Main Street. In October, 1806, he was made the chairman of Buncombe County Court, and in January, 1807, was appointed jailer at Asheville. He was the original grantee from the State of the greater part of what is now called Sunset or Town Mountain, and owned land on both side of that mountain. From him as the owner of the

upper part of the valley of Ross's Creek next beyond the mountain east of Asheville, Chunn's Cove took its name. In later life, Samuel Chunn lived on the bank of the French Broad River at the Chunn place in Madison County. His wife was Mrs. Hannah Chunn. He accumulated a large estate, which he left to his children at his death in November, 1855. His descendants now reside in Buncombe County, in the State of Georgia, and at other places in the United States. In 1846 one of his sons, the late A. B. Chunn, was a member of the House of Commons from Buncombe County.

William Welch, or William Welsh as he wrote it, was at one time a member of Buncombe County Court, and in January, 1805, was elected and qualified as coroner of that county. He was at one time interested in lands lying in Asheville, and on what are now known as Haywood and Depot Streets.

George Swain was born at Roxborough, Massachusetts, on June 17, 1763. He was a hatter. On September 1, 1784, he invested what property he had been able to accumulate in provisions and set out with his merchandise from Providence, Rhode Island, for Charleston, South Carolina. On the voyage a storm arose, and it became necessary to throw overboard most of the cargo. He landed at Charleston with nothing, and walked from there to Augusta, Georgia. Here he lived for a year. Then he moved to Wilkes, after Oglethorpe, County, in that State, where he engaged in his business of hat making. He served as a member of the Legislature of that State for five years, and was a member of the Constitutional Convention held at Louisville about 1795. In the latter year he removed to Buncombe County, and settled in or near Asheville. Soon afterwards he married Caroline Lowrie, a widow whose husband had been killed by the Indians, and who was a sister of Joel Lane, the founder of the city of Raleigh, and of Jesse Lane, the father of Gen. Joe Lane, late United States Senator from Oregon and governor thereof, and Democratic candidate for vice-president on the ticket with General John C. Breckenridge in 1860. General Joseph Lane himself was born in Buncombe County near Asheville, on December 14, 1801.

In the early part of his residence in Buncombe, George Swain lived at the head of Beaverdam, on the place where the late Thomas Stradley

resided and died. Here was born, on January 4, 1801, his second son, David Lowrie Swain, afterwards famous as judge, governor and University president in North Carolina. Here the future governor saw the first wagon which he had ever beheld, being the first ever in Buncombe County. It was brought to the house of his father, up the washed out channel of the creek, for there was then no road in Buncombe County large enough for a wagon to travel. Of this event the late Governor Vance says: "The future governor of North Carolina stood in the orchard waiting its approach with wonder and awe, and finally, as its thunder reverberated in his ears as it rolled over the rocky channel of the creek, he incontinently took to his heels, and only rallied when safely entrenched behind his father's house. He enjoyed the relation of this to me exquisitely."

The residence of George Swain at this place was a log double cabin. About 1805 a post route was established on the recently constructed road through Buncombe County, which soon became the thoroughfare for travel from the Carolinas and Georgia to the western States. In 1806, the postoffice at Asheville was made the distributing office for Georgia, Tennessee and the two Carolinas. George Swain became in 1806, the postmaster at Asheville, although his commission did not issue until January, 1807. This office he continued to hold for twenty years or more. In all that time he was never absent at the arrival of a mail, and always distributed the letters with his own hands. He was a large man with no claim to good looks, but possessed a most remarkable memory. It is said that, "he could repeat the entire book of Genesis, and was so familiar with the sacred volume that on the first verse of any chapter being read he was ordinarily able to repeat the second, and if he failed to do so would turn to it in a minute." For many years he was a ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church. Governor Swain said that his father was a Presbyterian and an Arminian and his mother was a Methodist and a Calvinist.

George Swain was a trustee of the Newton Academy. While postmaster he resided at Asheville. After his removal to that place he was engaged for a while in his old business of making hats, which he conducted at a place just beyond the corporate limits of the city, on the eastern side of Charlotte Street, known for many years by reason

of the business there carried on by him and afterwards by his son-in-law, the late William Coleman, as the Hatter-shop, and which was occupied for many years by the late Baccus J. Smith, and now in Grove Park. Mr. Swain owned much land adjoining this place, and also several town lots. During his residence in Asheville he lived on the eastern side of South Main Street, where now stand the business buildings from that once occupied as Grant's Pharmacy southward to the former Racket Store, inclusive. The old brick store house, years ago removed from the site of what was once Stoner's Racket Store, belonged to him, and is said to have been the oldest brick building in Asheville. In its construction were used, besides the bricks of ordinary size, many bricks twice as large. George Swain lived long enough to witness the beginning of his famous son's career, but died before it reached its zenith, on December 24, 1829, at Asheville, and is buried in the Newton Academy graveyard. For some time before his death he was insane.

Of Zebulon Baird we have already spoken.

ROADS

Most of the work done at the earlier sessions of the County Court of Buncombe related to laying out and working roads. These roads or trails, rude and rough, narrow and steep as they were, constituted the only means of communication between the scattered settlers of this new county, and were matters of first importance to its people. They were located by unlettered hunters and farmers, who knew nothing of civil engineering, and were opened by men who received no conpensation for their labor, and could ill afford to spare time from the support and protection of their families. Roving bands of Indians constantly gave annoyance to the white settlers, and frequently when they found the master of the house absent they would frighten the women and children into taking refuge in the woods, and then burn the furniture and destroy the bedding which they found in the house. Many were the privations incident to a life in a new country suffered by these early settlers, and many were the hardships which they underwent at the hands of these predatory savages. We can scarcely wonder that

they saw in the red man none of the romantic features of character which their descendants are so fond of attributing to him. This state of affairs continued even up into the last century.

On the second day of its first session the County Court ordered a jury to lay off a road from Colonel William Davidson's on Swannanoa to Benjamin Davidson's Creek (Davidson's River), which crossed French Broad a little below the mouth of Avery's Creek, passed Mills River, and went up Boydsteens (now incorrectly called Boilston) Creek; and another jury "to lay off a road from the wagon ford of Rims Creek to Join the road from the Turkey Cove, Catawba, to Robert Henton's on Lindsey's Creek Cane River," and appointed an "overseer of the road from the mouth of Swannanoa to Rims Creek." This last mentioned road passed through Asheville. It ran from the Gum Spring place across Swannanoa northwardly by way of William Forster's and in rear of the Middleton place, now St. Dunstan's Road and once owned by James M. Campbell, passed through the front yard of the Perry residence, and joined the present road at the top of the hill east of the Normal and Collegiate Institute. Thence it followed the line of South Main Street, with slight divergencies to the left at places, until it reached the Public Square. Here, turning in the direction of Battery Park, it passed down Patton Avenue until near the Temple Court building, then through the site of this building directly to the top of the hill at the southern end of Battery Park hotel. From this point it turned north again, and, crossing Montford Avenue at the public school building, ran west of it until it came to Pearson's Drive, which it followed with one divergence to the west, until it reached the place where now stands the residence of Mr. Theodore S. Morrison. Passing through his yard to the east of his house it went on down the ridge which lies to the west and across the ridge from the residence of Mr. J. E. Rumbough until it reached the present road at the northern end of Riverside Drive at Glenn's Creek. This road it followed for a short distance, when it turned to the east and joined the Burnsville Road about halfway up the Burnsville Hill. Thence it kept with the Burnsville Road, with some deviations to the east at the old Reynolds place, until near Reem's Creek it left this

road and crossed the creek at the ford spoken of above, about midway between the iron bridge and Coleman's Mill.

Thus from time to time roads were established in early days. In July, 1793, the Court directed a road to be laid off "from Buncombe Courthouse to the Bull Mountain Road near Robt. Love's." This road left the road which we have just described at the top of the hill near the Normal and Collegiate Institute, and followed for some distance the road which now turns off at that point to go to Kenilworth. It passed around the southern side of the mountain, and crossed the road through Beaucatcher Gap to the Swannanoa, near the entrance of the Haw Creek Road. Thence following this last road to the creek, it passed up the creek and partly in it and across "Bull's Gap." In April, 1795, a road was ordered by the Court "from the courthouse to Jonathan McPeter's on Hominy Creek." This road left the road first described on top of Battery Park hill, and passing southward through the Thomas property, now Grove Street lying immediately west of Bailey Street, now Ashland Avenue, it crossed Grove Street and French Broad Avenue to the old Judge Bailey place, now Aston Park, thence to the Melke house, above French Broad River, and down the hill to the present bridge.

At a later period the road from Asheville northward was changed so as to run down North Main Street nearly and through the property of the late Captain M. J. Fagg crossing Chestnut Street about 200 yards east of North Main Street, until it ran into East Street a little south of the crossing of Seney Street. Thence it went with East Street to Hillside Street, passed through the Witchwood house site, and down the ridge within a few feet west of Vivian Avenue, till it crossed Glenn's Creek, where its sign is still to be seen. Thence it passed up the hill beyond, and turning a little to the left ran down a hollow east of the fortified hill, where the battle was fought in the late war, until it joined the present road down the French Broad at the first hollow below the mouth of Glenn's Creek, now at the Casket Plant.

The Beaverdam Road ran along Charlotte Street, or very near it, until it reached the northern end of the Kimberly place, whence turning westward it passed north of the Kimberly Mountain and so on by Grace to Beaverdam Creek.

From a place near Grace a branch road from this Beaverdam Road passed down Beaverdam Creek to the old Wilson place on the northern side of the creek, just above the old Wilson, or more lately Howell, mill pond, and passed possibly across the hills to the old Warm Springs Road at or near the old Daniel Reynolds house, by which the last mentioned road then ran, although that road has been since changed so as to pass down Beaverdam Creek to the mouth of Park's Branch and thus leave this old house to the east. This road which so branches off from the Beaverdam Road was at one time called the Warm Springs Road, and may have been travelled in going to the Warm Springs before the older road over Battery Park hill was travelled in going to that place. This is, however, not probable. Both ways united near the present ford of Beaverdam Creek in the vicinity of the old house just mentioned, and passed by it and joined the present Weaverville Road about a half mile beyond. Then the old Warm Springs Road ran with this last road to the top of the hill at the residence of Zebulon Baird. At this place it passed to the west of his residence, crossed Reems Creek at the old Wagoner Ford, ran by the house of the late John Weaver and through the rear of the old Alexander Farm, crossed Flat Creek and ran to the farm of Bedent Smith near the Madison County line. Here it again turned to the west and ran to the mouth of Ivy. From this place it ran on to Marshall and about one-half mile below that town turned to the east and ran with the old Hopewell Turnpike built by Philip Hoodenpile, later known as the Jewel Hill Road, to Warm Springs, now Hot Springs. At the place where it left the Weaverville road at Zebulon Baird's was the residence of Bedent Baird before mentioned. At this old house, just behind the present or recent residence of Zebulon Baird, Bedent Baird lived and there his brother Zebulon Baird fell from his horse and died.

On July 8, 1795, Governor Blount of the Territory south of the River Ohio, now called Tennessee, submitted to the Council of that territory "several papers respecting the opening of a wagon road from Buncombe Courthouse in North Carolina to this Territory." The Council appointed Messrs. Sevier and Taylor, with whom the House associated Messrs. Wear, Cocke, Doherty and Taylor, to consider and

report upon this question. The committee reported recommending the appointment of three Commissioners "to meet three Commissioners from the State of South Carolina to deliberate and consult on measures for the purpose of cutting and opening a road through the eastern mountains, and report unto our next General Assembly the result of their conference; and also the practicability and probable expense of cutting and opening the said road the nearest and best route through the mountains." The Warm Springs on the French Broad had been discovered in 1778 by Henry Reynolds and Thomas Morgan, two men kept out in advance of the settlement to watch the movements of the Indians. They had followed some stolen horses to the point opposite, and leaving their own horses on the north bank, waded across the river. On the southern shore in passing through a little branch they were surprised to find the water warm. "The next year," says Ramsey, "the Warm Springs were resorted to by invalids."

James M. Edney, in his Sketches of Buncombe Men in Bennett's Chronology of North Carolina, written in 1855, says: "Col. J. Barnett settled on the French Broad seventy years ago and was the first man to pilot or navigate wagons through Buncombe by putting the two big wheels on the lower side, sometimes pulling, sometimes pushing, and sometimes carrying the wagon at a charge of five dollars for work and labor done."

The Bairds had carried up their four-wheel wagon across the Saluda Gap in 1793. This Saluda Gap Road was opened by Colonel Earle for the State of South Carolina, at the sum of four thousand dollars. This is in all probability the old road from Columbia, South Carolina, which passed through Newberry and Greenville districts, crossing the Air Line at Greer's Station, as the place is now called, and extending across the Saluda Gap by Asheville, down the French Broad River into the State of Tennessee, and is yet known in northern South Carolina as the old State Road or more commonly the old Buncombe Road. There was already a road or trail coming from the direction of South Carolina to Asheville, which passed the Swannanoa at the Gum Spring heretofore mentioned, and was known as the "road from Augusta in Georgia to Knoxville." (Record Book 62, page 361.)

Wheeler says that "the first wagon passed from North Carolina to Tennesse by the Warm Springs in 1795."

Chapter VIII

ASBURY'S VISITS

THIS was the situation of the town of Asheville when it became a municipality in its relation to the outside world, and such were its means of communication with other parts inhabited by civilized man. In the year 1800, Bishop Francis Asbury began to include the French Broad Valley in his annual visits throughout the eastern part of the United States, which extended as far west as Kentucky and Tennessee. The following extracts from his "Journal" will not be out of place just here:

On Thursday, November 6, 1800, and the following days, we find this entry: "Thursday 6. Crossed Nolachucky at Querton's Ferry, and came to Major Craggs, 18 miles. I next day pursued my journey and arrived at the Warm Springs, not however without an ugly accident. After we had crossed the Small and Great Paint mountain, and had passed about thirty yards beyond the Paint Rock, my roan horse, lead by Mr. O'Haven, reeled and fell over, taking the chaise with him; I was called back, when I beheld the poor beast and the carriage *bottom up,* lodged and wedged against a sapling, which alone prevented them both being precipitated into the river. After a pretty heavy lift all was righted again, and we were pleased to find there was little damage done. Our feelings were excited more for others than ourselves. Not far off we saw clothing spread out, part of the loading of household furniture of a wagon which had overset and was thrown into the stream, and bed clothes, bedding, &c., were so wet that the poor people found it necessary to dry them on the spot. We passed the side fords of French-Broad, and came to Mr. Nelson's; our mountain march of twelve miles calmed us down for this day. My company was not agreeable here—there were too many subjects of the two great potentates of this western world—whisky, brandy. My mind was greatly distressed.

"North Carolina.—Saturday 8, 1800. We started away. The cold was severe upon the fingers. We crossed the ferry, curiously

contrived with a rope and poles, for half a mile along the banks of the river, to guide the boat by. And O the rocks! the rocks! Coming to Laurel-River, we followed the wagon ahead of us—the wagon stuck fast. Brother O'H. mounted old grey—the horse fell about midway, but recovered, rose, and went safely through with his burden. We pursued our way rapidly to Ivey Creek, suffering much from heat and the roughness of the roads, and stopped at William Hunter's.

"Sabbath day, 9. We came to Thomas Foster's and held a small meeting at his house. We must bid farewell to the chaise; this mode of conveyance by no means suits the roads of this wilderness; we were obliged to keep one behind the carriage with a strap to hold by, and prevent accidents almost continually. I have health and hard labor, and a constant sense of the favor of God.

"Tobias Gibson had given notice to some of my being at Buncomb courthouse, and the society at Killyon's, in consequence of this, made an appointment for me on Tuesday, 11. We were strongly importuned to stay, which Brother Whatcoat felt inclined to do. In the meantime we had our horses shod by Philip Smith; this man, as is not infrequently the case in this country, makes wagons and works at carpentry, makes shoes for men and for horses; to which he adds, occasionally, the manufacture of saddles and hats.

"Monday, 10. Visited Squire Swains's agreeable family. On Tuesday we attended our appointment. My foundation for a sermon was Hebr. ii, 1. We had about eighty hearers; among them was Mr. Newton, a Presbyterian minister, who made the concluding prayer. We took up our journey and came to Foster's upon Swansico [Swannanoa]—company enough, and horses in a drove of thirty-three. Here we met Francis Poythress—sick of Carolina, and in the clouds. I, too, was sick. Next morning we rode to Fletcher's, on Mud Creek. The people being unexpectedly gathered together, we gave them a sermon and an exhortation. We lodged at Fletcher's.

"Thursday, 13. We crossed French Broad at Kim's Ferry, forded Mills River, and made upwards through the barrens of Broad to Davidson's, whose name names the stream. The aged mother and daughter insisted upon giving notice for a meeting; in consequence thereof Mr. Davis, the Presbyterian minister, and several others, came together.

Brother Whatcoat was taken with a bleeding at the nose, so that necessity was laid upon me to lecture: my subject was Luke xi, 13.

"Friday, 14. We took our leave of French Broad—the lands flat and good, but rather cold. I have had an opportunity of making a tolerably correct survey of this river. It rises in the southwest, and winds along in many meanders, fifty miles notheast, receiving a number of tributary streams in its course; it then inclines westward, passing through Buncomb in North Carolina, and Green and Dandridge counties in Tennessee, in which last it is augmented by the waters of Nolachucky. Four miles above Knoxville it forms a junction with the Holston, and their united waters flow along under the name of Tennessee, giving a name to the State. We had no small labor in getting down Saleuda mountain."

In October, 1801, we find this entry:

"Monday, October 5. We parted in great love; our company made twelve miles to Isaiah Harrison's, and next day reached the Warm Springs upon French Broad-River.

"Wednesday, 7. We made a push from Buncomb courthouse; man and beast felt the mighty hills. I shall calculate from Baker's to this place one hundred and twenty miles; from Philadelphia, eight hundred and twenty miles.

"Friday, 9. Yesterday and today we rest at George Swain's.

"Sabbath day, 11. Yesterday and today held quarterly meeting at Daniel Killions's, near Buncomb courthouse. I spoke from Isai. vii, 6, 7 and I Cor. vii, 1. We had some quickenings.

"Monday, 12. We came to Murroughs, upon Mud Creek; here we had a sermon from N. Snethen on Acts xiv, 15. Myself and James Douthat gave an exhortation. We had very warm weather and a long ride. At Major Britain's, near the mouth of Mills River, we found a lodging.

"Tuesday, 13. We came in haste up to elder Davidson's, refreshed man and beast, commended the family to God, and then struck into the mountain. The want of sleep, and other inconveniences, made me unwell. We came down Seleuda River, near Seleuda Mountain; it tried my lame feet and old feeble joints, French Broad, in its

meanderings, is nearly two hundred miles long; the line of its course is semi-circular; its waters are pure, rapid, and its bed generally rocky; except the Blue Ridge; it passes through all the western mountains."

Again in November, 1802, we find this entry:

"Wednesday, 3. We labored over the Ridge and the Paint Mountain; I held on awhile, but grew afraid and dismounted, and with the help of a pine sapling, worked my way down the steepest and roughest part. I could bless God for life and limbs. Eighteen miles this day contented us; and we stopped at William Nelson's, Warm Springs. About thirty travellers having dropped in I expounded the Scriptures to them, as found in the third chapter of Romans, as equally applicable to nominal Christians, Indians, Jews and Gentiles.

"Thursday, 4. We came off about the rising of the sun—cold enough. There were six or seven heights to pass over, at the rate of five, two or one mile an hour—as this ascent or descent would permit; four hours brought us to the end of twelve miles to dinner, at Barnett's station; whence we pushed on to John [Thomas] Foster's, and after making twenty miles more, came in about the going down of the sun. On Friday and Saturday we visited from house to house.

"Sunday, 7. We had preaching at Killon's. William and M'Kendree went forward upon 'As many as are lead by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God'; my subject was Hebr. iii, 12, 13. On Monday I parted from dear William M'Kendree. I made for Mr. Fletcher's, upon Mud Creek; he received me with great attention, and the kind offer of everything in the house necessary for the comfort of man and beast. We could not be prevailed on to tarry for the night, so we set off after dinner and he accompanied us several miles We housed for the night at the widow Johnson's. I was happy to find that in the space of two years, God had manifested his goodness and his power in the hearts of many upon the solitary banks and isolated glades of French Broad; some subjects of grace there were before, amongst Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists. On Tuesday I dined at Benjamin Davidson's, a house I had lodged and preached at two years ago. We labored along eighteen mountain miles; eight ascent, on the west side, and as many on the east side of the mountain. The

descent of Seleuda exceeds all I know, from the Province of Maine to Kentucky and Cumberland; I had dreaded it, fearing I should not be able to walk or ride such steeps; nevertheless, with time, patience, labor, two sticks and, above all, a good Providence, I came in about five o'clock to ancient father John Douthat's, Greenville County, South Carolina."

On October, 1803, we meet with this entry:

"North Carolina. On Monday, we came off in earnest; refreshed at Isaiah Harrison's, and continued on to the Paint mountain, passing the gap newly made, which makes the road down to Paint Creek much better. I lodged with Mr. Nelson, who treated me like a minister, a Christian, and a gentleman.

"Tuesday, 25. We reached Buncombe. The road is greatly mended by changing the direction, and throwing a bridge over Ivy.

"Wednesday, 26. We called a meeting at Killion's, and a gracious season it was: my subject was I Cor. xv, 38. Sister Killion and Sister Smith, sisters in the flesh, and kindred spirits in holiness and humble obedience, are both gone to their reward in glory. On Thursday we came away in haste, crossing Swamoat [Swannanoa] at T. Foster's, the French Broad at the High [Long] Shoals, and afterward again at Beard's Bridge, and put up for the night at Andrew Mitchell's; in our route we passed two large encamping places of the Methodists and Presbyterians: it made the country look like the Holy Land.

"Friday, 28. We came up Little River, a sister stream of French Broad: it offered some beautiful flats of land. We found a new road, lately cut, which brought us in at the head of Little River at the old fording place, and within hearing of the falls, a few miles off of the head of Matthews Creek, a branch of the Seleuda The waters foaming down the rocks with a descent of half a mile, make themselves heard at a great distance. I walked down the mountain after riding sixteen or eighteen miles, before breakfast, and came in about twelve o'clock to father John Douthat's; once more I have escaped from filth, fleas, rattlesnakes, hills, mountains, rocks, and rivers; farewell, western world—for a while!"

Again in October, 1805, we find the following entry:

"North Carolina. We came into North Carolina, and lodged with William Nelson, at the Hot Springs. Next day we stopped with Wilson in Buncombe. On Wednesday I breakfasted with Mr. Newton, Presbyterian minister, a man after my own mind: we took sweet counsel together. We lodged this evening at Mr. Fletcher's, Mud Creek. At Colonel Thomas's, on Thursday, we were kindly received and hospitably entertained."

Again in September, 1806, we find the following entry:

"Wednesday, 23 (24). We came to Buncombe; we were lost within a mile of M'Killon's [Killians], and were happy to get a school house to shelter us for the night. I had no fire, but a bed wherever I could find a bench; my aid, Moses Lawrence, had a bear skin, and a dirt floor to spread it on.

"Friday, 25 (26). My affliction returned:—considering the food, the labor, the lodging, the hardships I meet with and endure, it is not wonderful. Thanks be to God! we had a generous rain—may it be general through the continent!

"Saturday, 27. I rode twelve miles to Turkey Creek, to a kind of camp meeting. On the Sabbath I preached to about five hundred souls; it was an open season, and a few souls professed converting grace.

"Monday, 27 (29). Raining. We had dry weather during the meeting. There were eleven sermons, and many exhortations. At noon it cleared up, and gave us an opportunity of riding home: my mind enjoyed peace, but my body felt the effect of riding. On Tuesday I went to a school house to preach: I rode through Swanino River, and Cane and Hoppers [Hooper's] Creeks.

"North Carolina, Wednesday, Oct. 1. I preached at Samuel Edney's. Next day we had to cope with Little and Great Hunger mountain. Now I know what Mills Gap is, between Buncombe and Rutherford: one of the descents is like the roof of a house, for nearly a mile: I rode, I walked, I sweat, I trembled, and my old knees

failed; here are gullies and rocks, and precipices; nevertheless the way is as good as the path over the Table Mountain—bad is the best. We came upon Green River."

Again on October, 1807, we find the following entry:

"Friday, 15 (16). We reached Wampings [Warm Springs]. I suffered much today; but an hour's warm bath for my feet relieved me considerably. On Saturday we rode to Killon's.

"North Carolina—Sabbath, 18. At Buncombe courthouse I spoke from 2 Kings vii, 13, 14, 15. The people were all attention. I spent a night under the roof of my very dear brother in Christ, George Newton, a Presbyterian minister, an Israelite indeed. On Monday we made Fletcher's; next day dined at Terry's, and lodged at Edwards's. Saluda ferry brought us up on Wednesday evening."

Again on October, 1808, we find the following entry:

"On Tuesday we rode twenty miles to the Warm Springs; and next day reached Buncombe, thirty-two miles. The right way to improve a short day is to stop only to feed the horses, and let the riders meanwhile take a bite of what they have been provident enough to put into their pocket. It has been a serious October to me. I have labored and suffered; but I have lived near to God.

"North Carolina—Saturday, 29. We rested for three days past. We fell in with Jesse Richardson: he could not bear to see the fields of Buncombe deserted by militia men, who fire a shot and fly, and wheel and fire, and run again; he is a veteran who has learned to 'endure hardness like a good soldier of the Lord Jesus Christ.' On the Sunday I preached in Buncombe courthouse upon I Thess. i, 7-10, I lodged with a chief man, a Mr. Irwin. Henry Boehm went to Pigeon-Creek to preach to the Dutch."

In October, 1809, we find:

"We crossed the French Broad and fed our horses at the gate of Mr. Wootenpile [Hoodenpile]; he would accept no pay but prayer; as I had never called before he may have thought me too proud to stop. Our way now lay over dreadful roads. I found old Mr. Barnett sick: the case was a desperate one, and I gave him a grain of tartar

and a few composing drops, which procured him a sound sleep. The patient was very thankful, and would charge us nothing. Here are martyrs to whiskey. I delivered my own soul. Saturday brought us to Killion's. Eight times within nine years I have crossed these Alps. If my journal is transcribed it will be as well to give the subject as the chapter and verse of the text I preached from. Nothing like a sermon can I record. Here now am I, and have been for twenty nights, crowded by people; and the whole family striving to get round me.

"Sabbath, 20 (29). At Buncombe I spoke on Luke xiv, 10. It was a season of attention and feeling. We dined with Mr. Erwine and lodged with James Patton; how rich, how plain, how humble, and how kind! There was a sudden change in the weather on Monday; we went as far as D. Jay's. Tuesday, we moved in haste to Mud Creek, Green River Cove, on the other side of Saluda."

Again in December, 1810, we find the following entry:

"At Catahouche [Catalouche], I walked over a log. But O, the mountain—height after height, and five miles over! After crossing other streams, and losing ourselves in the woods, we came in, about nine o'clock at night, to Vater Shuck's. What an awful day! Saturday, December 1. Last night I was strongly afflicted with pain. We rode twenty-five miles to Buncombe.

"North Carolina—Sabbath, 2. Bishop M'Kendree and John M'Gee rose at five o'clock and left us to fill an appointment about twenty-five miles off. Myself and Henry Boehm went to Newton's Academy, where I preached. Brother Boehm spoke after me; and Mr. Newton, in exhortation confirmed what was said. Had I known and studied my congregation for a year, I could not have spoken more appropriately to their particular cases; this I learned from those who knew them well. We dined with Mr. Newton: he is almost a Methodist, and reminds me of dear Whatcoat—the same placidness and solemnity. We visited James Patton; this is, perhaps, the last visit to Buncombe.

"Monday. It was my province today to speak faithfully to a certain person. May she feel the force of, and profit by the truth."

Again in December, 1812, we meet with the following entry:

"Monday, December 1 (November 30). We stopped at Michael Bollen's on our route, where I gave them a discourse on Luke xi, 11, 12, 13. Why should we climb over the desperate Spring and Paint Mountains when there is such a fine new road? We came on Tuesday a straight course to Barret's [Barnett's], dining in the woods on our way.

"North Carolina—Wednesday, December 3 (2). We went over the mountain, 22 miles, to Killon's.

"Thursday, 4 (3). Came on through Buncombe to Samuel Edney's: I preached in the evening. We have had plenty of rain lately. Friday, I rest. Occupied in reading and writing. I have great communion with God. I preached at Father Mills's."

Again in October, 1813, we meet with this entry:

"Sabbath, 24. I preached in great weakness. I am at Killion's once more. Our ride of ninety miles to Staunton bridge on Saluda river was severely felt, and the necessity of lodging at taverns made it no better.

Friday, 29. On the peaceful banks of the Saluda I write my valedictory address to the presiding elders."

Killian's, so often mentioned with different spellings in the foregoing extracts, was the residence of late Capt. I. V. Baird on Beaverdam.

The side-fords of the river, talked of above, were places where in the construction of the road down the river bank the builders encountered places at which the stream washes the foot of large precipices, usually the ends of mountain spurs. In order to pass such places the road was made to pass in the bed of the river until the precipice no longer obstructed the way. Rarely were such places of the road running in the water longer than an eighth of a mile. They were called side-fords and the road was, of course, impassable when there was a flood in the stream. Afterwards, when the recourses of the road builders were greater, a stone wall was extended in the river distant the width of the road from the precipice and the space between the wall and the precipice filled with stone and covered with earth. Later still

a way was dug and blasted through the precipice. Side-fords were very poor expedients for passing bluffs, but better than none and in some regions have been used until within the last quarter of a century.

The Thomas Foster mentioned several times by Bishop Asbury was the Captain Thomas Foster spoken of above. He was not a Methodist but a Universalist.

Francis Asbury, just quoted, was the son of some of the earliest followers of John Wesley and was born in Handsworth, Staffordshire, England, August 20, 1745. He became a Methodist at thirteen, a local preacher at sixteen, and a regular preacher at twenty-two in 1767. In 1771 John Wesley sent him to America. On October 27, 1771, he landed at Philadelphia. Next year he was made "general assistant in America" and in 1784 bishop. He began then his annual journevs of about 6000 miles each from Maine to South Carolina. He died in Spottsylvania, Virginia, March 21, 1816. His Journals were published in 1821 and again in 1852.

At the close of the Revolutionary War some of the States owned large portions of unoccupied territory extending westward to the Mississippi River. Those States who owned no such territory were exceedingly insistent that this wild territory should be given to the general government and sold to defray unpaid expenses incurred by that government during the war. Most of the States owning such territory made such gifts. The gift of South Carolina was of the land to the westward of her present borders unto the Mississippi River and lying between Georgia and the thirty-fifth parallel of northern latitude which was, by common recognition, the southern boundary in that region of North Carolina; and the gift was made in 1787. Georgia refused to donate her western lands, which now constitute the States of Alabama and Mississippi. A controversy arose out of this, which was finally adjusted in 1802 when Georgia ceded these lands on certain terms, one of which was that the United States convey to her so much of this South Carolina cession as lay between her northern border and this thirty-fifth parallel of latitude. After this conveyance from the United States, Georgia established on this newly acquired territory a county called Walton and began a settlement there. She had sent an engineer to locate there the parallel of latitude mentioned and he had

reported that it would cross the French Broad River north of Mills's River somewhere. On much of this land North Carolina had issued grants to people who had settled there. As it was known that North Carolina claimed that the thirty-fifth parallel lay further south. Georgia, in her act creating Walton County, appointed three commissioners to meet a like number from North Carolina and determine the position of the parallel. North Carolina, having received official notice of Georgia's action, appointed a like number of commissioners. The two sets of commissioners, each accompanied by a mathematician, met at Asheville on or about June 20, 1807, and entered upon a preliminary agreement in writing. Then they proceeded up French Broad River on their task. Observations where the Georgia engineer had located the parallel showed him to have been too far north. Another observation fifteen miles further south, where South Carolina had supposed the line to cross, between the mouths of Little River and Davidson's River, proved to be still too far north. Then the commissioners went to Caesar's Head and made further observations. They were still too far north. Further work was unnecessary. South Carolina had never owned one inch of the territory which she had ceded to the United States and Georgia had no land for her County of Walton. The commissioners agreed in writng on their reports. North Carolina adopted the report and it was spread upon the minutes of Buncombe County Court. Georgia rejected the report and boldly demanded of North Carolina the appointment of a new set of commissioners. To this the answer of the latter was that the matter was settled and if Georgia violated her faith in regard to one commission she might do so equally in regard to another. Then Georgia carried the matter to the Congress of the United States where, after three years, it died. Finally Georgia, having ascertained that the report of the commissioners was correct, repealed her act creating the County of Walton, and amnesty was extended for all offences committed in this dispute by settlers, of which there had been riots and some bloodshed, especially on the French Broad River, a mile or two below the present Brevard, where a Georgia settlement had been made and the North Carolina militia had arrested the settlers and carried them to Morganton. The "Georgia War" was over.

Chapter IX

ROADS AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

IN 1824 Asheville received her greatest impetus. In that year the Legislature of North Carolina incorporated the now famous but abandoned Buncombe Turnpike road, directing James Patton, Samuel Chunn and George Swain to receive subscriptions "for the purpose of laying out and making a turnpike road from the Saluda Gap, in the County of Buncombe, by way of Smith's, Murrayville, Asheville and the Warm Springs, to the Tennessee line." (2 Rev. Stat. of N. C., page 418.) This great thoroughfare was completed in 1828, and brought a stream of travel through Western North Carolina. All the attacks upon the legality of the act establishing it were overruled by the Supreme Court of the State, and Western North Carolina entered through it upon a career of marvellous prosperity, which continued for many years.

In 1851, January 15th, the Legislature of the State of North Carolina incorporated the "Asheville & Greenville Plank Road Company" with authority to that company to occupy and use this turnpike road south of Asheville upon certain prescribed terms. A plank road was constructed over the southern portion of it, or the greater part of it south of Asheville, and contributed yet more to Asheville's prosperity. By the conclusion of the late war, however, this plank road had gone down, and in 1866 the charter of the plank road company was repealed, while the old Buncombe turnpike was suffered to fall into neglect.

When Thomas Foster built his bridge across the Swannanoa early in the last century, he constructed a road from a point on the hill about opposite to the Newton Academy near the entrance to the Perry place to his bridge, and thence by his house and up to the southwest so as to join the old road that ran from the Gum Spring at or near the Steam Saw Mill place above mentioned. By this time large numbers of hogs, cattle and horses had begun to be driven from Kentucky and Tennessee by way of Asheville into South Carolina and Georgia, and there was

great profit in buying up the large quantities of corn, then raised in this county, and feeding it to this stock. Col. John Patton soon after opened a road from the southern limits of Asheville through the grounds of the Normal and Collegiate Institute, to the west of that building, and immediately in front of the Oakland Heights building, and on by way of the entrance of Fernihurst to his place beyond the Swannanoa, and thence to the old road which ran by the Gum Spring, at a point about a mile further on. The rivalry between him and Thomas Foster in the business of feeding stock upon their two several roads now became fierce, though not unfriendly. When the Buncombe Turnpike road was built, the route adopted was the road by Col. John Patton's, but when afterward the Plank Road took its place it was constructed so as to pass Swannanoa between these two roads at the site of the present Biltmore concrete bridge two miles beyond Asheville. At this point a wooden bridge was built which was removed, in 1883, to give way to an iron structure, and later a concrete bridge was built there.

From the time of the building of the Buncombe Turnpike road, Asheville began to be a health resort and summering place for the South Carolinians, who have ever since patronized it as such.

THE COURT HOUSES

When the court ceased to meet at Colonel William Davidson's, it adjourned to meet at Morristown at its next session. Here, accordingly, on the third Monday of July, 1793, it met "at the court house." Where this court house stood cannot now be positively determined. It is almost certain, however, that it was in the centre of Main Street upon he Public Square, at the head of Patton Avenue. On the old plat first hereinbefore shown, which was also preserved by the late Nehemiah Blackstock and by him given to the late Capt. R. B. Johnston, and which shows upon its face that it was made before the sale of the additional lots by Zebulon Baird, contemplated in the first act of the incorporation of the town, the court house is so placed, and there is no record of it ever having been elsewhere, and we know it stood there in 1802. As the adjoining lots were then unimproved, the

position of this court house in the middle of the street was in no way inconvenient to travel, since one might ride or drive around it at pleasure.

In January, 1796, it was

"Ordered by the court that Lambert Clayton, John Hawkins and Richard Williamson be appointed commissioners to lay off the plan of the public buildings."

This, however, most probably had reference to the jail and buildings other than the court house.

In April, 1802, the following action was taken by the court:

"Ordered by Court that all the lot holders near or adjoining the Court house, be requested to meet the court on Wednesday of July session next, in pursuance of the following presentment of the grand jury, to-wit:

"The grand Jury for the County of Buncombe at April Session, 1802, present as a public grievance the situation of the public buildings, to-wit, the Court house and Jail, the former of which being 35 feet long, stands partly on the Town street, and partly on the lot of Samuel Chunn and Zebulon Baird, and the latter on the lots of James Brittain and Andrew Erwin, so that the County, after expending a very considerable sum of money in executing said Buildings, have not the slightest title to the ground on which they stand.

"The jury therefore recommend that the Court take measures to secure the aforesaid titles, and procure as (a) square of land around those buildings sufficient to preserve them from the fire of adjacent Buildings or remove them to some more eligible spot.

"(Signed) William Whitson, Foreman."

The land of Samuel Chunn and Zebulon Baird here referred to was that part of the Public Square immediately in front of the Thomas building on the western side of the Public Square and southern side of Patton Avenue at the corner, and the land of James Brittain and Andrew Erwin spoken of was that part of the Public Square in front of the First National Bank, now Asheville Library, building, and a little to the north.

In April, 1805, the county court took further action on this subject as follows:

"Ordered by court John Strother, John Stephenson, Samuel Murray, senr., Joseph Henry & Thomas Foster, senr. be appointed commissioners for the purpose of procuring a public square, from the lot, or land holders, in the town of Asheville, most convenient and interesting to the public, and least injurious to individuals, that the nature of the Case will admit of.

"Who are to meet the 2d Saturday of July."

On January 23, 1807, deeds were made to "the Commissioners Samuel Murray, senr., Thomas Foster, Jacob Byler, Thomas Love and James Brittain appointed by the General Assembly of the State aforesaid, to purchase or receive by donation lands sufficient for a Public Square in the Town of Asheville, in the County and State aforesaid," as follows:

By D. Vance, for $10, part of lot 30, Rec. Book A, page 231.

By John Patton, for $20, part of lot 13, Rec. Book A, page 233.

By Zebulon and Bedent Baird, for $60, parts of lots 13 & 40, Rec. Book A, page 234.

By Samuel Chunn, for $35, part of lots 13 & 39, Rec. Book A, page 237.

By Andrew Erwin (Assignee of Jeremiah Cleveland), for 1 cent, part of lot 12, Rec. Book A, page 239.

By J. Patton, Jr., for Patton and Erwin part of lot 14, 15 & 29, Rec. Book A, page 523.

This last deed is made "for the good will and respect we bear towards the county of Buncombe, the town of Asheville aforesaid and the public in general."

The situations of these lots can readily be determined by reference to the map of the town heretofore given.

In April, 1807, it was

"Ordered by Court that the County Trustee pay Robt. Love the sum of one pound for Registering five deeds made by individuals for the use of the public square in Asheville."

What is here said about the court house renders it exceedingly probable that it was not the original log structure but a more com-

Asheville, 1854—Drawn by C. H. G. F. Loehr, published as lithograph by James M. Edney and later as steel engraving in H. Colton's Mountain Scenery. Court House, 1850-1865. First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church and First Episcopal Church on Church Street

modious building. Later it was itself supplanted by a brick house built between 1825 and 1833 and situated a little further east on the Public Square. On the erection of this John Woodfin, once chairman of the County Court at a later day, had control, and his son, the late N. W. Woodfin, then a boy, carried bricks and mortar for it. This court house gave way to a handsome building which was erected in 1850 by E. Clayton and destroyed by fire on the 26th day of January, 1865. Some years later a small one-story brick structure was erected as a court house upon the rear portion of the site of the present Public Square. The contractor for this work was the late B. H. Merrimon. In 1876 this temporary structure gave way to another court house which stood for years on that Square. The architect of this building was J. A. Tennent and the contractor H. W. Scott, and the bricks were made at the eastern end of the present Clayton Street. Then Mr. George W. Pack gave the county upon certain conditions a site for a court house not on the Public Square but on the south side of College Street, and on this site the county, about 1903, placed the present brick court house.

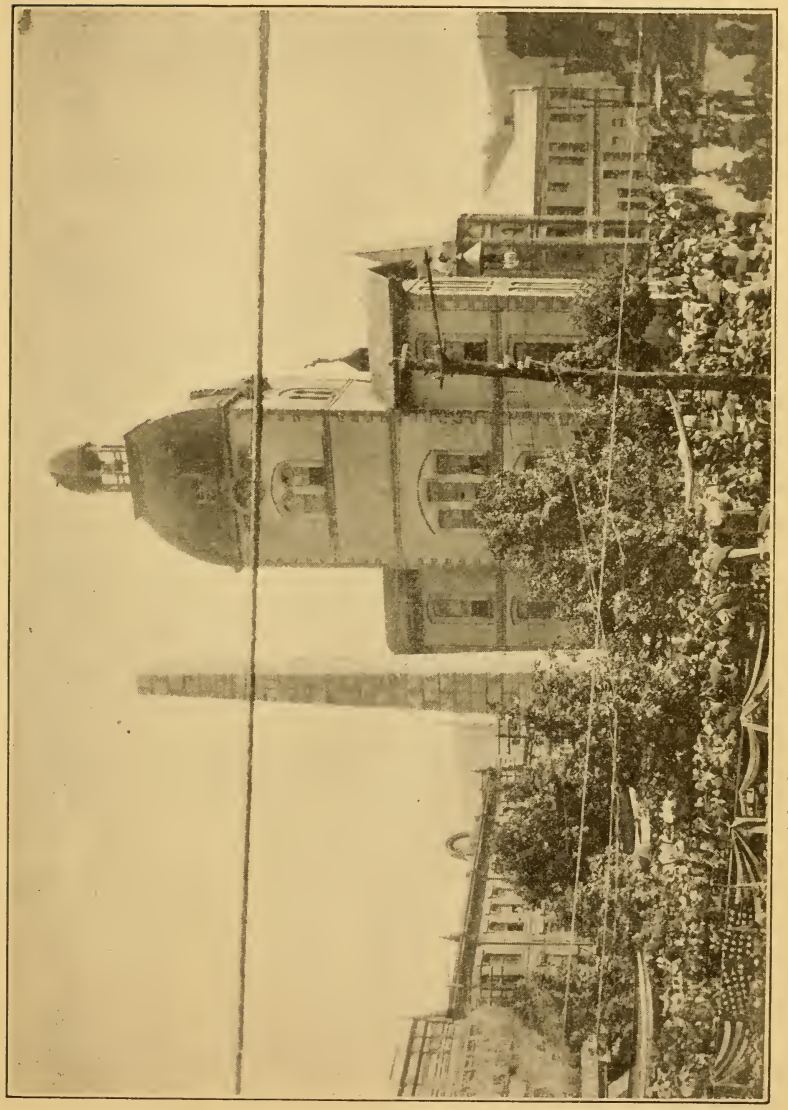
The jail mentioned above was succeeded by a brick building which now constitutes a part of the Asheville Library and the First National Bank building. Afterward a new jail was erected upon the site of the present City Hall, but when the present jail on Eagle Street was built, this old jail became the property of the city of Asheville.

The first jail was a very poor structure. From 1799 to 1811, inclusive, every sheriff of the county annually entered his protest to the court against its insufficiency.

In 1867 the county began to sell off portions of its Public Square on the north and south sides, and reduced the Public Square to its present dimensions.

LAWYERS

At its first session in April, 1792, the County Court elected Reuben Wood, Esq. "attorney for the State." He is the first lawyer whose name appears as practising in Buncombe County. Waighstill Avery, the first Attorney General of North Carolina, attended the next session of the court and made therein his first motion, which "was overruled



Asheville—Court-house, 1876-1903—Public Square—Vance Monument

by the court." At this term Wallace Alexander also became a member of the Buncombe bar. Joseph McDowell appeared at October term, 1793, presented his license, took "the oath of an attorney, and was admitted to the bar in said county." On the next day James Holland "came into court, made it appear (by) Mr. Avery and Mr. Wood, that he has a license to practise as an attorney—but had forgot them." He, too, was admitted as an attorney of the court. At January court, 1794, Joseph Spencer proved to the court that he had license to practise, and was likewise admitted as an attorney of the court, and at April, 1795, upon the resignation of Reuben Wood, he was elected solicitor of the county. The next attorney admitted was Bennett Smith. Upon motion of Wallace Alexander in April, 1802, Robert Williamson was admitted to the practice. Then in July, 1802, on motion of Joseph Spencer, and the production of his county court license, Robert Henry, Esq., became an attorney of the court. This singular, versatile and able man has left his impress upon Buncombe County and Western North Carolina. Born in Tryon (afterward Lincoln) County, North Carolina, on February 10, 1765, in a rail pen, he was the son of Thomas Henry, an emigrant from the north of Ireland. When Robert was a school boy he fought on the American side at Kings Mountain, and was badly wounded in the hand by a bayonet thrust. Later he was in the heat of the fight at Cowan's Ford, and was very near General William Davidson when the latter was killed. After the war he removed to Buncombe County and on the Swannanoa taught the first school ever held in that county. He then became a surveyor, and after a long and extensive experience, in which he surveyed many of the large grants in all the counties of Western North Carolina, and even in Middle Tennesse, and participated in 1799, as such, in locating and marking the line between the State of North Carolina and the State of Tennessee, he turned his attention to the study of law. In January, 1806, he was made solicitor of Buncombe County. He it was who opened up and for years conducted as a public resort the Sulphur Springs, near Asheville, later known as Deaver's Spring and still more recently as Carriers' Springs. On January 6, 1863, he died in Clay County, North Carolina, at the age of 98 years, and was "undoubtedly the last of the heroes of King's Mountain." To him we are indebted

for the preservation and, in part, authorship of the most graphic and detailed accounts of the fights at Kings Mountain and Cowan's Ford which now exist. He was the first resident lawyer of Buncombe County.

The late John P. Arthur, author of the History of Western North Carolina and the History of Watauga County, was a grandson of Robert Henry.

The next lawyers admitted in that county were, in the order in which their names are given, Thomas Barren, Israel Pickens, Joseph Wilson, Joseph Carson, Robert H. Burton, Henry Harrison, Saunders Donoho, John C. Elliott, Henry Y. Webb, Tench Cox, Jr., A. R. Ruffin and John Paxton. These were admitted between January, 1804, and October, 1812, from time to time. Probably the most distinguished of them were Israel Pickens, representative of the Buncombe District in the lower house of the Congress of the United States from 1811 to 1817, inclusive, and afterwards governor of Alabama and United States Senator from that State; Joseph Wilson, afterward famous as a solicitor in convicting Abe Collins, Sr., and other counterfeiters who carried on in Rutherford County in the first quarter of the last century extensive operations in the manufacture and circulation of counterfeit money; and Robert H. Burton and John Paxton, who became judges of the Superior Court of North Carolina in 1818.

The first lawyer of Buncombe County who was a native thereof was the late Governor D. L. Swain. Born, as has been already stated, at the head of Beaverdam, on January 4, 1801, he was educated under George Newton and Mr. Porter at Newton Academy, where he had for classmates B. F. Perry, afterward governor of South Carolina; Waddy Thompson, of South Carolina, distinguished as congressman and minister to Mexico; and M. Patton, R. B. Vance and James W. Patton of Buncombe County. In 1821 he was for a short while at the University of North Carolina. In December, 1823, he was licensed to practise law and was elected to the North Carolina House of Commons in 1824, 1825 and 1826, and in 1827 was made solicitor of the Edenton Circuit, but resigned this latter office after going around one circuit. In 1828 and 1829 he was again in the House of Commons

from Buncombe County; in 1830 he became a judge of the Superior Court of North Carolina; and resigned that office in 1832 on being elected governor of that State.

After the expiration of three successive terms as governor, he became president of the University of North Carolina in 1835, and continued in that place until August 27, 1868, the time of his death. He was largely instrumental in securing the passage of the act incorporating the Buncombe Turnpike company, and to him more than any other man North Carolina is indebted for the preservation of parts of her history and the defence of her fame. His early practice as a lawyer was begun in Asheville. For further details than are given here in regard to the life of this truly great man, the reader is referred to Wheeler's History of North Carolina, and his Reminiscences, and to the more accurate lecture of the late Governor Z. B. Vance on the Life and Character of Hon. David L. Swain.

Governor Swain was tall and ungainly in figure and awkward in manner. When he was elected judge the candidate of the opposing party was Judge Seawell, a very popular man, whom up to that time his opponents, after repeated efforts with different aspirants, had found it impossible to defeat. "Then," said a member of the Legislature from Iredell County, "we took up old warping bars from Buncombe and warped him out." From this remark Mr. Swain acquired the nickname of "Old Warping Bars," a not inapt appellation, which stuck to him until he became president of the University when the students bestowed upon him the name of "Old Bunk." He continued to be "Old Bunk" all the rest of his life. While he was practising at the bar the lawyers rode the circuits. Beginning at the first term of the court in which they practised, they followed the courts through all the counties of that circuit. Among Swain's fellow lawyers on the Western Circuit were James R. Dodge, afterwards clerk of the Supreme Court of the State and a nephew of Washington Irving, Samuel Hillman and Thomas Dewes. On one occasion these were all present at the court in one of the western counties and Dodge was making a speech to the jury. Swain had somewhere seen a punning epitaph on a man whose name was Dodge. This he wrote off on a

piece of paper and it passed around among the lawyers, creating much merriment at Dodge's expense. After the latter took his seat some one handed it to him. It read:

"Epitaph on James R. Dodge, Attorney at Law
Here lies a Dodge who dodged all good,
And dodged a deal of evil;
But after dodging all he could,
He could not dodge the devil."

Mr. Dodge perceived immediately that it was Swain's writing, and supposed that Hillman and Dewes had had something to do with it. He at once wrote on the back of the piece of paper this impromptu reply:

"Another Epitaph on Three Attorneys
Here lie a Hillman and a Swain,
Their lot no man choose;
They lived in sin and died in pain,
And the devil got his Dewes."

While Mr. Swain was Governor, Mrs. Silvers of Burke County, a white woman, was hanged for the murder of her husband. She was the only white woman, and, with the exception of one negro, the only woman ever hanged in North Carolina after it became a State.

David L. Swain, as Governor of the State, laid, in 1833, the corner stone of the State capitol.

Joshua Roberts was of Welsh extraction and was the son of John and Sarah Roberts. He was born February 5, 1795, near Shelby in Cleveland County, North Carolina. He was for a time a clerk in a store and while so acting studied law. On November 18, 1822, having commenced to practise law at Asheville, North Carolina, he married Lucinda Patton, daughter of Colonel John Patton, and, soon after, settled at Franklin in Macon County of that State where for some years he practised law. In 1830 he returned to Asheville and built a home near the Indian graves on Buchanan Hill. Later he took up his residence on a farm where is now the passenger station of the Southern Railway Company. His house there is still standing. There he died

on November 21, 1865. He was for three terms clerk of the Superior Court of Buncombe County and for one term that county's register of deeds. In company with John Christy he established the *Highland Messenger,* the first newspaper in Western North Carolina and the ancestor of *The Asheville Citizen.* For some of these facts of his life I am indebted to his grandson, Mr. William R. Whitson, of Asheville.

Joshua Roberts caused to be built as his residence the first house erected in the town of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina.

Thomas Lanier Clingman was partly of Indian descent. He was born at Huntsville, North Carolina, July 27, 1812. Graduating at the University of North Carolina in 1832, he began to practise law in Surry County of this State which in 1835 he represented in the House of Commons. In 1836 he removed to Asheville and there practised law, serving several times in the legislature from Buncombe County and becoming in 1843 and, except in the 29th congress, continuing until June 4, 1858, the member from that district of the United States House of Representatives. In 1858 he became a United States Senator from North Carolina and held that place until January 21, 1861, when he resigned on the secession of his State. He joined the Confederate army and became a colonel and, on May 17, 1862, a brigadier-general, being wounded at the second battle of Cold Harbor and more seriously near Petersburg, Virginia. While a member of the United States House of Representatives he fought in Maryland near Washington City, in 1845, a duel with Hon. William L. Yancey of Alabama but neither was injured. In 1855 he measured the altitude of a peak of the Black Mountains in Yancey County which is now known as Mitchell's Peak, the highest land in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Elisha Mitchell claimed to have measured that peak in 1844. A controversy between them on the subject caused Dr. Mitchell's attempt to prove the measurement which he claimed and in attempting to secure the proof of his claim he lost his life by falling into a stream on the Black Mountain, June 27, 1857. Clingman measured, in 1858, the highest peak of the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, which is called in honor of him, Clingman's Dome.

Zebulon B. Vance was the son of David Vance and Mira (Baird) Vance and was born at Vanceville on Reems Creek in Buncombe

County, North Carolina, May 13, 1830. He attended school at Newton Academy and at the University of North Carolina and, in May, 1852, began the practice of law in Asheville. He was in 1854 a member of the North Carolina House of Commons and in 1856 and 1860 he became the representative of Western North Carolina in the United States House of Representatives. He joined the Confederate army. In 1862 he became Governor of North Carolina and continued to be such until the end of the war. In 1876 he again was made Governor of that State and in 1879 became United States Senator from North Carolina. This position he held until his death on April 14, 1894. He was buried in Asheville. Two monuments in North Carolina have been erected to his memory, a granite shaft on the Public Square in Asheville and a bronze statue on the Capitol Square in Raleigh.

Robert Brank Vance, a brother of Zebulon B. Vance and son of David Vance and Mira M. (Baird) Vance, was born at Vanceville, Reems Creek, Buncombe County, April 24, 1828, and attended school at Newton Academy. He joined the Confederate army and became a captain, then a colonel and finally a brigadier-general. In 1872 he became a member from the Western North Carolina district of the United States House of Representatives and continued to hold that place until in 1884. Later he was a member from Buncombe County of the North Carolina House of Representatives. He died at Alexander in Buncombe County, on November 28, 1899.

Allen Turner Davidson, another grandson of Colonel David Vance, and a grandson of Major William Davidson, who was one of the first settlers in Buncombe County and lived at the mouth of Bee Tree Creek, was the son of William Mitchell Davidson and was born on Jonathan's Creek in Haywood County, North Carolina, May 9, 1819. Clerking for a time at the store of his father in Waynesville, in 1843 he became Clerk and Master in Equity of Haywood County and began the practice of law on January 1, 1845. He removed to Murphy in Cherokee County of the same State where for about twelve years he engaged in an extensive practice as a lawyer and was particularly distinguished as an advocate in criminal law. He was solicitor of that county and in April, 1860, was made president of the Miners and Planters Bank of Murphy. In 1861 he was a member

of the North Carolina Secession Convention and a delegate therefrom to the Confederate Provisional Government. And in 1862 he became a member of the House of Representatives of the Confederate States. He removed to Franklin, Macon County, in 1865, and to Asheville in 1869, where he died. Before he was twenty-one years old he was a colonel in the militia of Haywood County. His death was on January 24, 1905.

Augustus S. Merrimon was born in Transylvania County, North Carolina, September 15, 1830, the son of B. H. Merrimon. In 1855 he began to practise law at Asheville and later was elected a member of the North Carolina House of Commons. And in 1865 he became a judge of the Superior Court. He was made, in 1873, United States Senator from North Carolina, serving as such for one term, and, on September 29, 1883, an associate justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and, on November 14, 1889, chief justice of that court. The last position he continued to hold until his death on November 14, 1892.

John L. Bailey was born in Pasquotank County, North Carolina, August 13, 1795. Having been licensed to practise law, he began that work in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. In 1824 he represented Pasquotank County in the House of Commons and in 1827 and 1828 and 1832 in the State Senate, and in 1835 in the North Carolina Constitutional Convention. Becoming a judge of the Superior Court in 1837 he continued to hold that position until his resignation in 1863. He taught a law school in Elizabeth City and when later he removed to Hillsboro, North Carolina, he was associated in a law school as teacher with Judge F. N. Nash of the North Carolina Supreme Court. When Judge Nash died Judge Bailey removed to Buncombe County and took up his residence on the North Fork of Swannanoa River at the foot of Black Mountain and continued there his law school until 1861 when it was interrupted by the war on the South. Then in 1865 he removed, house and all, to Asheville and erected a home where is now Aston Park. Then he entered on the practice of law and continued his school until 1877. On June 30, 1877, he died in Asheville.

David Coleman was born in Buncombe County, February 5, 1824. His mother was a sister of Governor David L. Swain. After

attending school at the Newton Academy and at the University of North Carolina he went to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. In 1850 he resigned from the navy and began to practise law at Asheville. In 1854 and again in 1856 he represented Buncombe County in the State Senate. He joined the army of the Confederacy and became a colonel. After the war he resumed the practice of law in Asheville and in 1875 was a member from Buncombe County of the North Carolina Constitutional Convention. He died in Asheville, March 5, 1883. His eccentricity was a matter of common notice. Often he would walk for hours about the country with his hands crossed behind him and not unfrequently with his hat in his hands. Such was the ardor of his devotion to the cause of the South that never after the war would he wear other suits of clothes than those manufactured from home-made cloth and always of a gray color.

Soon after Governor Swain began the practice, Nicholas W. Woodfin became a lawyer, and served as the connecting link between the old times and the modern bar for many years. He was born in Buncombe County on the upper French Broad River, and began life under most unfavorable circumstances, and for a while labored under the greatest disadvantages. He became, however, one of North Carolina's most famous and astute lawyers. But few men have ever met with such distinguished success at the bar as he. He was Buncombe's representative in the State Senate in 1844, 1846, 1848 and 1850. In the course of his career he acquired a large fortune, and owned great quantities of land in Asheville and its neighborhood. With the practice of law he carried on an extensive business as a farmer, and in the last business was famous for the introduction of many useful improvements in agriculture. He it was who first introduced orchard grass in Buncombe County, and turned the attention of her farmers to the raising of cattle on a large scale and the cultivation of sorghum.

Soon after the conclusion of the late war Mr. Woodfin organized a company, and established on Elk Mountain a cheese factory. This was followed by a factory established by the late William R. Baird, on the waters of Beaverdam. These factories, however, proved unsuccessful, and the business was not kept up in the county. Mr. Woodfin died on May 23, 1876, at the handsome residence which he

erected and for many years occupied on North Main Street in Asheville where Dr. J. A. Burroughs once lived. It is now occupied by the Young Men's Christian Association. Woodfin Street was named for him.

Mr. N. W. Woodfin was born January 29, 1810, and the part of Buncombe in which he was born is now in Henderson County. He began to practise law in 1831. And in 1861 he represented Buncombe County in the convention at which North Carolina seceded from the United States.

Marcus Erwin, son of Leander A. Erwin, was born in Burke County, North Carolina, June 28, 1826. Soon after, his father removed to New Orleans, Louisiana. Marcus was sent to Transylvania University, where he graduated with high honors. He studied law in New Orleans. When the Mexican War commenced, he joined the Texas Mounted Rifles and was in the military service for six months, in which time he participated in several fights in Mexico. Returning to North Carolina, he was, in 1848-1849, licensed to practise law and settled at Asheville, where, for a time, he also edited the *Asheville News*. He was elected solicitor of the Seventh Circuit of North Carolina, extending from Cherokee to Cleveland County, both inclusive, and acquired much additional reputation in the discharge of the duties of that office. A member of the State legislature, in the House of Commons in 1850 and 1856 and in the Senate in 1860, from Buncombe County, he made still greater reputation, and especially in the latter, in a discussion on secession with John M. Morehead, who had been governor of the State. Mr. Erwin was an early and ardent secessionist; and when war on the South commenced he enlisted in the Southern army and fought as long as it continued except while a prisoner. He became a major in the service; and was engaged in North Carolina and Virginia. After the close of that war he became United States Assistant District Attorney. As a lawyer, writer, and speaker Major Erwin attained great fame and he was known throughout the State and adjoining States for his ability and brilliancy. He died at Morganton, North Carolina, July 9, 1881. To his son, Honorable Marcus Erwin, present State Senator from Buncombe County I am indebted for some of the facts of Major Erwin's life.

Chapter X

BUNCOMBE'S FIRST COURT

THE first County Court of Buncombe County, which organized the County of Buncombe, was composed of seven justices of the peace appointed by the legislature which created the county and by that legislature directed to organize that county. They were "James Davidson, David Vance, William Whitson, William Davidson, James Alexander, James Brittain, Philip Hoodenpile." The first action was to swear in these justices of the peace. Then, "Silence being commanded and proclamation being made the court was opened in due and solemn form of law by John Patton specially appointed for that purpose." All this was on April 16, 1792. Then on the same day "Lambert Claytor & William Brittain being duly commissioned as Justices of said County appeared and were qualified as such, by taking the oaths for the qualification of public officers and the oath of Office as Justices of the peace for said county and took their seats." The court now having nine justices of the peace, next proceeded to the election of other county officers. Later on they came at the next term, in July, 1792, to the trial of the first cases tried in the new county.

The first case tried in Buncombe County was that of the State against Richard Yardly, in July, 1792. He was indicted for petit larceny, was convicted, and appealed to Morgan Superior Court. The first civil suit was that of W. Avery against William Fletcher, which was tried by order of the court on the premises on the third Monday in April, 1795, by a jury summoned for that purpose. The first pauper provided for by the court was Susannah Baker with her child. The first processioning proceeding was in April, 1796, when William Whitson, the processioner thereof, returned into the court "the processioning of a tract of two hundred acres of land, on the East side of French Broad River about one mile and a quarter from Morristown, the place where James Henderson now lives," dated April 20, 1796. This embraces the property lying on Park Avenue and in that vicinity. Its eastern boundary line is formed in part of the Lineing Branch, the small branch immediately eastward thereof, and for some distance

parallel with Depot Street. The first will admitted to probate therein was that of Jonas Gooch in July, 1792, but the first now on record is that of Colonel John Patton in 1831. The first dower assigned was to Demey Gash, widow of Joseph Gash, April, 1805. At the October Term of 1800 we meet with the following entry on the country court minutes:

"The following petition was presented and read in court by the Rev. George Newton, and ordered to be recorded at length on the Minute docket of said Court, to-wit:

"CIRCULAR

"To the worshipful Court of Buncombe, the petition of the Presbytry of Concord humbly showeth that whereas many gross immoralities, daily abound among the citizens of our state, of which intemperance in the use of ardent spirits, profane swearing, breach of the holy sabbath are none of the least, as those crimes with many others strike against our political happiness, as well as incurs the displeasure of God.

"And as our legislature have been careful to enact a sufficient number of wholesome and salutary laws for the suppression of such crimes & have appointed you the executors of those and other Laws which are necessary for political existence as a civil government. We offer this our earnest and humble petition that those with other useful and necessary Laws be carried into vigorous execution: We are the more encouraged to offer this request, as we are well assured many within our bounds who hold commissions in the peace would be happy to see an effectual check given to the above enormities, and we flatter ourselves that many of our private members will be cordial in strengthening the hands of the civil magistracy in supporting that good order, which is essential to the happiness both of civil and religious societies.

"On a due attention to the above, your humble petitioners as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

"Geo. Newton, Modr.
"Wm. C. Davis, pro. Clk.

"Unity Church, Sept. 30, 1800.

"And signed by a number of church members."

At January Term, 1801:

"On motion of the Rev. George Newton, the Court took up the consideration of a petition from the Presbytry of Corncord & present and read last Court by said Newton, praying the executive officers to exert their lawful authority in suppressing vice and immorality, by carrying the law into vigorous execution.

"The court upon full consideration are fully persuaded that the suppression of drunkenness, profane swearing, sabbath breaking and vice of every kind will have great tendency to promote the happiness both of civil and religious society:

"Therefore unanimous resolved, that each of us in our public Capacity, as well as in private life, agreeably to the power and authority vested in us by the Laws of our Country, will exert ourselves in suppressing such enormous practices, and carrying the laws into vigorous execution, against every offender."

Per contra take the following entry in January, 1810:

"The managers of the Newton Academy lottery come into open court and enter into Bond for the discharge of office & took the oath of office."

At January Court, 1799, occurs the following entry:

"The jury find the defendant Edward Williams, guilty of the petit larceny, in manner and form as charged in bill of indictment.

"The Court adjudge that the prisoner receive 25 lashes on his bare back, well laid on, at the public whipping post and that the sheriff of the county carry the judgment into execution. Appeal prayed."

This is the first infliction of this barbarous punishment adjudged in the county. The last occurred in 1865.

The punishments of public whipping, branding, the stocks, and the pillory continued to be inflicted in North Carolina until 1868. Up to that time eighteen separate offences were punishable in that State with death, except as some of them relating to slavery had necessarily been done away with in the recent abolition of that institution. Under the new Constitution then adopted there are only five capital felonies in the State. That "cropping" once was a punishment known in Buncombe County is shown by the allowance of a certificate made to

Thomas Hopper by the County Court at its October Term, 1793, showing that Hopper had lost his right ear in a fight with Philip Williams, although it seems not a little strange for a court to be issuing certificates about what occurred in an unlawful breach of the peace. In July, 1838, Buncombe County Court provided for repairs to be made on its "jail, stocks and pillery."

Imprisonment for debt where there was no fraud had been abolished by North Carolina in her first Constitution adopted December 18, 1776; so that Buncombe never had a debtor's prison. But, in her early history a debtor was required to surrender all his property, except a few articles as the tools used in his trade and similar things, and was not permitted to enjoy exemptions from his debt in large amounts of land and personal property as now he can do under the Constitution of 1868, exemptions which, as to the land the Supreme Court of the United States once intimated, in a case from this State, were void as being excessive.

Per contra again:

"On motion of Joseph Spencer on the petition of Thomas Foster, to this court, to have his negro man slave Jerry Smith emancipated and set free, for his meritorious services: The Court proceeded to take the petition under consideration and do adjudge and decree, that the said Jerry Smith, is a fit person to be set free, and emancipated: Therefore ordered by the court, that the said Jerry Smith be emancipated and set free, for his meritorious services, with all the advantages and emoluments which it is in the power of this Court to grant, during his the said Jerry's natural life; and that the Clerk of this Court do issue a license or Certificate to the said Jerry Smith for his freedom accordingly."

At July Term, 1799, it was

"Ordered by court that two fairs be established in the county of Buncombe in Asheville, to-wit, to commence the first Thursday & Friday in June following, and to continue on said days annually, without said court should find it more convenient to make other alterations."

At July Term, 1802, it was

"Ordered by Court that the following instrument of writing be recorded at length as follows to-wit:

"The deposition of Caty Troxell, being of lawful age and first sworn on the Holy Evangelists, deposeth and saith that on the nineteenth and twentieth day of May one thousand seven hundred and ninety six, a certain John Morrice legally intermarried with her daughter Judith Troxell, & continued to live with said wife for the space of two years in all possible connuptial Love and friendship, that without any cause assigned or any application for a divorce, said John Morrice, has absconded and has never been heard of by said wife or and other person to the said deponent's knowledge:—and for a description of the said John Morrice this deponant saith as follow to-wit. He appeared to be upwards of twenty large odd years of age, appeared to be about five feet eight inches high, with dark Brown hair, with blue eyes his speech rather on the shrill key. And further this deponant saith not.

"Caty Troxell.

"Subscribed and sworn to by the said deponant this 23d day of July, 1800, in the County of Pulaski, and State of Kentucky.

"Sworn to before us Samuel Gilmore and Robert Modrell, Justices of the peace for said county.

"As witness our hands and seals the above date said.

"Samuel Gilmore (seal).

"Robt. Modrell (seal)."

The first suit tried in Asheville (then Morristown) was at July Court, 1793, before Esquires "Will Willson, Lambert Clayton, Wm. Brittain" and a jury, and was a "Caveat" in regard to an entry of land. It was the case of "Waightstill Avery vs. William Fletcher." Fletcher won; Avery gave notice "that *he* will move for a *Certiorari* to bring the proceedings of this court Supr. Court, September Term, on the first five days of the Term."

This Waightstill Avery was the gentleman who was North Carolina's first Attorney General.

All the elections to county offices at this time from sheriff to clerk, register of deeds, coroner, entry taker, surveyor and treasurer,

down to treasurer of public buildings and standard keeper, were made by the County Court.

It will be remembered, too, that at the beginning the Superior Courts were held at Morganton. In 1806, the legislature of the State, after reciting that "the delays and expenses inseparable from the present constitution of the courts of this State do often amount to a denial of justice, the ruin of suitors, and render a change in the same indespensibly necessary," enacted "that a Superior Court shall be held at the court house in each county in the State twice every year," and divided the State into six circuits, of which the last comprised the counties of Surry, Wilkes, Ashe, Buncombe, Rutherford, Burke, Lincoln, Iredell, Cabarrus and Mecklenburg, and directed the courts to be held in Buncombe the first Monday after the fourth Monday in March and September.

Thus in 1807 was held Buncombe's first Superior court, in the spring of that year. The first trial for a capital offence in Buncombe County was that of Randal Delk. This trial occurred in 1807 or 1808. Delk had fled after the commission of the offence to the Indian Nation, but he was followed, brought back, tried, condemned and hung. This was the first execution in Buncombe County, and took place just south of Patton Avenue opposite to the postoffice. It is said that soon after a negro named Christopher was for barn burning executed in the county, but the third capital execution in Buncombe is the most celebrated in her annals. Subsequent to the execution of Delk and between the years 1832 and 1835, inclusive, Sneed and Henry, two Tennesseeans, were charged with highway robbery committed upon one Holcombe.

The alleged robbery is said to have taken place on the old Buncombe Turnpike Road about a mile south of Swannanoa River and between the Old Patton Ford and the present road from Asheville to Hendersonville. Highway robbery was then a capital offence. They strenuously insisted that they had won from Holcombe, in gambling, the horse and other articles of which he claimed that they had robbed him. They were convicted, however, and hanged in the immediate vicinity of the crossing of East and Seney streets. The field here was until recently known as the Gallows Field. The trial created intense

public excitement, and it has always been the popular opinion that it was a judicial murder. It is said that after their conviction they sent for Holcombe, who shrank from facing them, and that the subsequent life of this man was one of continued misfortune and suffering.

A Yankee negro garrison was placed in Asheville in 1865 and kept there for a short while. Within this time and in that year some of the members of that garrison committed a most serious outrage in the northern part of the county, for which they were tried by a court martial and eight or ten of them condemned to be shot. This sentence was promptly executed in the same year at the place on North Main Street where East Street joins that street and Chestnut Street. The negroes were buried where they were shot. Thirty-five or more years later when East Street work was in progress the workmen dug into the graves of these negroes.

One of the entries at April Term, 1796, of the County Court is as follows: "On motion of Reuben Wood, Esq., Ordered by Court that wherever the parties lived out of the State, a notice on the adverse parties council shall be considered sufficient notice." From this it would seem that the County Court in its early career some times assumed legislative functions.

Another attempt of the same sort of more immediate interest to the people of Asheville is the following order made at July court, 1799, by that body, namely:

"The Court further appoint the following commissioners to make such laws and regulations as will be found necessary for the advantage and order of said Town (Asheville), to-wit: Zebulon Baird, Daniel Jarrett, William Brittain, Sam'l Chunn, William Welshe, George Swain and John Patton."

It would be a matter of no small interest if we were allowed to examine a copy of these ordinances.

The lottery mentioned above as "the Newton Academy lottery" was advertised but enough tickets were not sold to warrant the drawing and the money already collected was returned to those who had subscribed and paid.

The "processioning" spoken of was a simple method of deciding disputes as to the dividing line between adjoining tracts of land. It grew out of a custom in England of walking annually around the bounds of the parish *in procession* so that the young people might learn from the older ones where the bounds were. This "processioning," based on such a custom, became a law under certain regulations at an early day in the English settlements of eastern North Carolina. Long ago the law fell into disuse. It had some grave disadvantages.

The next capital execution after that of Sneed and Henry was of a man named Mason, who was charged with having murdered his wife, and was convicted and hung where now College Street turns to the southeast and begins to ascend the mountain to Beaucatcher Gap.

Chapter XI

EARLY CUSTOMS IN BUNCOMBE

FROM necessity the early settlers of Buncombe County manufactured almost everything which they used. This prevailed to even a greater extent than at first we would be led to suppose. They not only raised sheep and from the wool manufactured the cloth for their garments, but also cultivated flax and from it produced a good quality of linen. They made felt hats, straw hats, and every other article of domestic consumption; manufactured their own furniture and ropes, ground their own grain, and sawed their own lumber. They made their own leather and with it their own shoes, harness and saddles. They even made their own cow bells and, by boring steel bars, made their own guns. They burned their own pottery and delft ware. They built their own mills and manufactured and prepared everything used in erecting their houses. Their meats were easily obtained. Game was abundant. Old Captain Thomas Foster used to say that when he began housekeeping he would at night turn out his horse to graze about the canebrakes at the mouth of Swannanoa and when morning came would start to bring him home before breakfast, carrying his gun with him. On the way he would kill a deer, leave it until he caught his horse and return with his horse and deer in time for breakfast. Fish thronged the Swannanoa and French Broad rivers. A good site for a fish trap was the greatest recommendation which a piece of land could have. These places were always the first entered and granted. In them fish by the barrel full would sometimes be caught in a single night where the trap was well situated and strongly built. Fishing at night in canoes by torchlight with a gig was a favorite sport as well as profitable practice and it was much indulged in.

Ardent spirits were then in almost universal use and nearly every prosperous man had his whiskey or brandy still. Even preachers in some instances have made and sold liquor. A barroom was a place shunned by none. The court records show license to retail issued to

men who stood high as exemplary members of churches. On November 2, 1800, Bishop Asbury chronicles that "Francis Alexander Ramsey pursued us to the ferry, franked us over and took us to his excellent mansion, a stone house; it may not be amiss to mention that our host has built his house, and takes in his harvest without the aid of whiskey." This was in Tennessee near the North Carolina line.

In 1796 Governor Ashe issued a proclamation announcing "that in pursuance of an Act to provide for the public safety by granting encouragement to certain manufacturers, that Jacob Byler, of the county of Buncombe, has exhibited to him a sample of gunpowder manufactured by him in the year 1795, and also a certificate proving that he had made six hundred and sixty-three pounds of good, merchantable rifle gunpowder; and therefore, he was entitled to the bounty under that Act." (2 Wheeler's History of North Carolina, page 52.) This Jacob Byler, or rather Boyler, was afterward a member of Buncombe County Court, and in the inventory of his property returned by his administrator after his death in October, 1804, is mentioned "Powder mill Irons."

Naturally these people needed iron, and the State of North Carolina at an early day encouraged its manufacture by granting bounties therefor. Three forges where it was made grew up in Buncombe County, one on Hominy Creek upon the old Solomon Luther place which belonged to Charles Lane; another on Reems Creek at the Coleman Mill place, which belonged to the same man, but was sold by him in 1803 to Andrew Baird; the third was on Mills River, now in Henderson County, on what has ever since been called the Forge Mountain. On this mountain are the Boilston Gold Mines. The iron ore for this purpose was procured at different places in Buncombe County.

The first consideration, however, to these primitive inhabitants was the matter of grist mills. Hence at the first session of the county court we find it "Ordered that William Davidson have liberty to build a Grist mill on Swannanoa, near his saw Mill, Provided he builds said mill on his own land." This was in April, 1792. In January, 1793, it was "Ordered that John Burton have liberty to build a Grist mill, on his own land, on a branch of French Broad River, near

Nathan Smith's, below the mouth of Swannanoa." Apparently Davidson's mill was not built, but John Burton's was on Glenn's Creek a short distance above its mouth. The late James Gudger, who was brought in his early infancy to his father's residence on Swannanoa, just settled, and who, in 1830 and 1835, represented Buncombe County in the North Carolina Senate, told his grandson, Captain J. M. Gudger, that when he was a very small boy it was the custom to send a number of boys with bags of grain to this mill to be ground, and leave it there until a month later, when the boys would return with other grain and carry back the meal ground from the first. He further said that usually a man accompanied the party to put on the sacks when they fell from the horses, but that on one occasion as he, then a very small boy, was returning from the mill, with his companions of about the same age, the man for some reason was not along, and one of the sacks fell off on the Battery Park hill over which they had to pass; that while here endeavoring in vain to replace the sack a party of Indians came upon them and from pure mischief threatened and actually began to hang them; that the boys were badly frightened, but finally the Indians left them unharmed, and they went on their way, and that the hill was afterwards known through the country as the hill where the boys were hung. He still further said that the miller in charge of this mill, whose name was Handlen, undertook to cultivate a crop on the mountain on the western side of the French Broad, but as he did not return to the settlement for a long while his friends became frightened, and in a party went to his clearing, where they found him killed and scalped, and his crop destroyed, and that from this incident that mountain took its name of Handlen Mountain.

This mill John Burton afterwards sold with the fifty acres of land on which it stood, to Zebulon and Bedent Baird. It was undoubtedly the first grist mill in Buncombe County, all the grinding of the settlers having been done previous to its erection at the Old Fort. After this sale John Burton moved to Gap Creek on the road from Asheville to Fairview, where he met with business misfortune and lost all his property. His wife, Jean or Aunt Jean Burton, was a sister of William Forster mentioned above, and an aunt to Captain Thomas Foster. She was born April 13, 1746, and died January 28, 1824.

We have noted above that one of the last of his town lots sold by John Burton was to Patton and Erwin, after the town had become Asheville.

Patton and Erwin was a firm of merchants composed of James Patton and his brother-in-law Andrew Erwin. James Patton was born in Ireland on February 13, 1756, and emigrated to America in 1783. He was a weaver by trade, but soon became a prosperous merchant. After his arrival in America he labored for several years at mining, well-digging, working on the canals, grubbing, etc. After this he set out from Philadelphia where he had landed, and with a small pack of goods went south as a peddler. He made his way into North Carolina and for several years traded in Wilkes, Burke and Buncombe counties, getting his supplies from the north. In 1791 he met Andrew Erwin, who afterwards married his sister, and went into business with him. This partnership continued for twenty years, and was settled up in one day, James Patton taking the North Carolina lands belonging to the firm and Andrew Erwin taking those in Tennessee.

In 1807 these gentlemen moved to Swannanoa, and settled on the farm where Mr. Frank Reed now lives. They they lived until 1814, when they removed to Asheville. Mr. Patton opened a store and hotel and engaged at the same time in tanning leather and farming. His hotel was the Eagle Hotel on South Main Street, about midway between Sycamore and Eagle streets. In 1831 he bought out and improved the Warm Springs. After a long and prosperous life he died at Asheville on September 9, 1846. His tanyard stood on the west side of where Valley Street now runs at a big poplar near where that street enters South Main Street. An autobiography of him is yet in existence. The partnership between him and Andrew Erwin was dissolved on March 11, 1814.

Andrew Erwin is the man to whom Bishop Asbury refers as "a chief man." He was born in Virginia about 1773, and died at his residence near the War Trace in Bedford County, Tennessee, in 1833. When seventeen years of age he entered the employment of James Patton, with whom he soon afterwards went into partnership as innkeeper and merchant at Wilkesborough, North Carolina. In 1800 and 1801 he was a member of the House of Commons of North Carolina

from Wilkes County. He was Asheville's first postmaster. In 1814 he removed to Augusta, Georgia, and afterward carried on an extensive mercantile establishment as the leading partner in various firms in Savannah, Charleston, Nashville, New Orleans and elsewhere, but his business was unsuccessful and ended in disaster.

James W. Patton, the oldest son of James Patton above mentioned, was born February 13, 1803. He became a merchant and hotel keeper in Asheville and conducted there a large tanyard and several other business undertakings. For many years he was chairman of the County Court of Buncombe and one of that county's most prominent men. He died in December, 1861.

A granddaughter of this same James Patton mentioned above, Miss S. Rose Morrison, became the wife of Albert T. Summey, whose long life in Buncombe County as one of its most worthy and best-known inhabitants reached down to a time comparatively recent. He was born in that part of Lincoln County which is now Catawba County, September 1, 1823. Removing with his father, George Summey, to Flat Rock now in Henderson County, North Carolina, he was in business there until 1842, when he came to Asheville and was employed for six years in a mercantile house into which, at the end of that time, he bought an interest. In that business, through various changes, he continued up to 1873. For sixteen years he was treasurer of the county, an office then known as County Trustee, and for several years treasurer of the Buncombe Turnpike Company. For thirty-six years he was a justice of the peace, for twenty years a United States Commissioner, for the period from 1876 to 1881 Mayor of Asheville, and for many years held other places of trust in the community. He died in Asheville, April 16, 1906.

In 1808 the County of Haywood was created out of Buncombe's territory, and included all of Western North Carolina beyond Buncombe County. The description of the part of Buncombe County taken to make the County of Haywood is as follows:

"That all that part of the county of Buncombe, to wit: beginning where the southern boundary line of this state crosses the highest part of the ridge dividing the waters of the French Broad from those of the Tucky Siegy River, then along the said ridge to the ridge dividing the

waters of Pigeon and the French Broad River, then with said ridge to the top of Mount Pisgah, thence a direct line to the mounth of the first branch emptying into Hominy Creek on the north side above Jesse Belieu's, thence with said branch to the source, and thence along the top of the ridge, dividing the waters of French Broad and those of Pigeon River, to the northern boundary of this state, and with the state line to the line which shall divide this state from the state of Georgia, and with that line to the beginning, shall be and is hereby erected into a separate and distinct county, by the name of Haywood, in honor of the present treasurer of this state."

The eastern part of North Carolina, having been the first settled by white people, controlled, of course, the government of the State. The creation of every new county in the western part of the State gave to that part at least one additional member of the State legislature. Soon the eastern part of the State grew exceedingly apprehensive that its control of the State government would be destroyed by the creation of new counties in the west. Hence they refused to consent to the foundation of a new western county unless, at the same time, a new eastern county was formed. This explains the fact that the same act which created the western County of Haywood created also the eastern County of Columbus.

In 1833 another part of Buncombe's territory was taken to help make the County of Yancey. In 1838 still more of Buncombe's territory was taken away to form the County of Henderson, and in 1850 she lost more of her territory when the new County of Madison was made; then, in 1851, some more to the County of Henderson.

The first settlers of Buncombe County were chiefly Presbyterians, Methodists and Baptists. For some time the only preaching which they had was by travelling preachers. Soon, however, churches began to be established, and houses of worship built. The earliest Presbyterian congregations were at Swannanoa (afterward called Piney Grove), Reems Creek, Asheville, and Cane Creek. The earliest Methodist congregations were at Beaverdam (Killian's), Salem Camp-ground (Weaverville), Asheville, and Turkey Creek Camp-ground; and the earliest Baptist at Asheville, Green River, and Ivy.

The first church building in Asheville appears to have been where

the Newton Academy now is. For some time there had been a small combined church and school house there, when on July 11, 1803, William Foster, Jr., conveyed the land on which it stood "including an old school house with a new one, and a frame Dwelling house, a spring, &c," containing eight acres, to "Andrew Erwin, Daniel Smith, John Patton, Edmond Sams, James Blakely, William Foster, Senr., Thomas Foster, Jur., William Whitson, William Gudger, Samuel Murray, Joseph Henry, David Vance, William Brittain, George Davidson, John Davidson of Hominy, and the Reverend George Newton," as a gift "for the Further Maintenance and support of the gospel, and teaching a Latin and English school or either, as may be thought most proper, from time to time, by the above named Trustees or a majority of them, or their successors in office, he the said William Foster reserving to himself an Equal Interest and privilege with the above named trustees and to be considered as one of them in all future proceedings so long as he continues to act as trustee. . . . for a place of residence, for a preacher of the Gospel, teacher of Latin and English School or Either as may be thought the most proper," with a provision for substitution of trustees in case of death, refusal or inability to act, and with further provision that "there shall at all times be eleven trustees in the neighborhood of said institution who live convenient enough to send their Children to said school or schools from them their Own Dwelling houses and two from the Reverend George Newton's present congregation on Cain Creek, and two from his present congregation on the waters of Rims creek, and One from his present Congregation in the neighborhood of Robert Patton's meeting house, and one from the neighborhood of the mouth of Hominy who shall be so appointed and approved of from time to time." (Record Book 4, page 678.)

"Robert Patton's meeting house" was the predecessor of Piney Grove near the present town of Swannanoa, and was on the side of the mountain about three-fourths of a mile east of Piney Grove to which it gave way.

Again on November 15, 1809, said William Forster, Jr., conveyed three and one-fourth acres of land adjoining this on the south "including the brick house now building to Andrew Erwin, Daniel Smith,

John Patton, Edmond Sams, George Swain, William Forster, Sr., Benjm. Hawkins, Thomas Foster, Jr., James Patton, William Gudger, Sr., David Vance, William Brittain, Samuel Murray, Sr., John McLane, William McLane, William Moore, Sr., Samuel Davidson, and the Rev. George Newton, Trustees of the Union Hill Academy," "established by an act of assembly a seminary of learning in chapter 43 in the year 1805." This William Forster, Jr., was a brother of Captain Thomas Foster above mentioned and a son of William Forster, Sr., above spoken of. Union Hill Academy was a log house, which was removed in 1809, and a brick house took its place. In the same year its name was changed by an act of the legislature to Newton Academy. Here for many years the people attending preaching, sent their children to school and buried their dead. In 1857 or 1858 the brick building between the present academy and the graveyard was removed and the brick academy now there was erected. (See Clayton vs. Trustees, 95 N. C. Reports, 298.)

From 1797 to 1814 this George Newton taught a classical school at this place, which was famous throughout several States. Mr. Newton was a Presbyterian preacher and reported to the synod at Bethel Church, South Carolina, October 18, 1798, as having been received by ordination by the Presbytery of Concord. (Foote's Sketches of North Carolina, page 297.) He lived on Swannanoa until 1814, when he removed to Bedford County, Tennessee. There for many years he was principal of Dickson Academy and pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Shelbyville, and there died about 1841.

The first church building in Asheville appears to have been the old log church used by the Baptists, which stood at the Melke place. It was probably built about 1829, and it remained standing until about 1842. They never owned the land on which it was built. Their next church was at the corner of Spruce and Woodfin streets on land conveyed August 21, 1863, by Herman Franze to David Garren, C. C. Matthews, G. N. Alexander, J. F. Sullivan and G. W. Shackelford, trustees of the Baptist Church in the town of Asheville. (Record Book 27, page 387.)

This structure still stands, although on July 11, 1890, the congregation bought a lot at the corner of Spruce and College streets, and

after erecting on it a very handsome church edifice, removed to it, and have ever since occupied it. The old church is now a Jewish Synagogue.

Apparently the next church after that at the Melke place built in Asheville was an inferior frame structure of the Methodists. On July 20, 1839, James M. Alexander gave and conveyed the land on which this building had been put "including the building erected for a female academy and Methodist E. church, and the Sunday School house," to

Asheville—Central (Church Street) M. E. Church, South, 1857-1903

"William Coleman, Israel Baird, Wilie Jones, J. F. E. Hardy, N. W. Woodfin, James M. Alexander, Geo. W. Jones, James M. Smith and Joshua Roberts, Trustees," as a gift "for the use of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and when the same is not in the occupancy of the said M. E. Church, ministers of any other regular orthodox denomination of Christians who shall come duly authorized by their respective churches and whose moral and religious character and habits are unexceptionable, may be authorized to occupy the same as transient visitors." About 1857 this old building was replaced by a brick structure which, after being remodelled several times was replaced by the stone edifice which is known as Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South, erected in 1903. It stands on the western side of Church Street. (Record Book 22, page 359.)

On October 8, 1842, James Patton conveyed to Charles Moore, James W. Patton, Samuel Chunn, John Hawkins and John B. Whiteside, trustees of the Presbyterian Church in the town of Asheville, a portion of the land on which the Church Street Presbyterian Church now stands. The remainder of this is said to have been given by Samuel Chunn for the same purpose and at about the same time. The church erected here was a brick structure facing to the east. This was afterwards rebuilt and then remodelled and afterwards removed to give way to the present church building at the same place. (Record Book 22, page 507.)

On April 30, 1859, James W. Patton gave the site of the Episcopal Church on Church Street by conveying it to "Nicholas W. Woodfin, Lester Chapman and Hatfield Ogden, of the Vestry and Trustees of Trinity Church, Asheville, and members of the said congregation" "to and for the use and benefit of the congregation of said Trinity Church Asheville worshiping according to the forms of the Protestant Episcopal Church, as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and for no other purpose whatsoever."

A brick church-house was erected in this lot. Later about 1880 a more commodious edifice succeeded that; and, when the later structure burned, the present church was built there.

James Mitchell Alexander was born at the Alexander Place on Bee Tree, May 22, 1793. His grandfather John Alexander, of Scotch-

Irish descent, was a native of Pennsylvania. The latter married Rachel Davidson, sister to Major William Davidson and Samuel Davidson above mentioned; lived in Rowan County, North Carolina, but removed to Lincoln County, North Carolina; and resided there during the Revolutionary War. Afterward he came with the very first settlers to Buncombe County, and, after a few years, moved to Tennessee, and settled on Harpeth River, where he and his wife died. His son, James Alexander, was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, December 23, 1756, on Buffalo Creek. He removed with his father to Lincoln County, where they settled on Crowder's Creek, near Kings Mountain. While living here he fought on the American side at Musgrove's Mill and Kings Mountain, and a camp chest, said to have belonged to Lord Cornwallis, was captured by him in that last fight and is still in Buncombe County. On March 19, 1782, he married in York District, South Carolina, Rhoda Cunningham, who was born October 15, 1763, in Maryland, and removed to South Carolina before her marriage. James Alexander after his marriage removed to Buncombe County with his father and uncle, and settled on Bee Tree, the old Alexander Place. They came over the Swannanoa Gap. The old road through this gap did not cross, as it has often been stated to have done, at the place where the Long or Swannanoa Tunnel is. In later years the stage road did cross at that place. But the old road crossed a half a mile further south. To travel it one would not, as in the case of the later road, leave Old Fort and pass up Mill Creek three miles to where Henry Station, so long the head of the railroad, stood. He would leave Old Fort and go across the creek directly west for about a mile before going into the mountains. Then he would turn to the right, ascend the mountain, cross it at about one-half mile south of Swannanoa Tunnel, and thence pass down the mountain until his road joined the later road above the town of Black Mountain.

This James Alexander was the James Alexander who was one of the justices of Buncombe County's first County Court who organized that county in 1792. The United States paid him a pension throughout his later life for his services in the Revolutionary War; and, after his death on June 28, 1844, in Buncombe County, continued the

pension to his widow, Mrs. Rhoda Alexander, until her death at the same place on January 29, 1848.

James Alexander died at the place where he first settled on Bee Tree. He was a Presbyterian.

Grave of James Alexander—Piney Grove. Dark slab with white piece inserted

James Mitchell Alexander was a son of James Alexander and Rhoda, his wife. On September 8, 1814, he married Nancy Foster, oldest child of Captain Thomas Foster above mentioned, who was born November 17, 1797. In 1816 James Mitchell Alexander removed to Asheville and bought and improved the property on the west side of South Main Street known as the Hilliard residence. On this he erected the old house which was removed in 1889 in widening the street and stood just at the turn in the street. By trade he was a saddler, and at this house lived until 1828, carrying on his trade and keeping a hotel. At the last mentioned date, upon the opening of the Buncombe Turnpike, part of which he built as a contractor, he bought and improved the place on the eastern side of French Broad River at Alexander's known in the early days as the "Alexander Hotel" and "French Broad." Here for a great many years he conducted a hotel and mer-

chandise business, and carried on a tanyard, a shoe-shop, a harness-shop, a blacksmith-shop, a grist mill, a saw mill, a farm and a wagon-shop. His hotel was famous from Cincinnati to Charleston for its superior accommodations. In the latter part of his life he turned over his business to his son, the late A. M. Alexander, and one of his sons-in-law, the late J. S. Burnett, and improved a place three miles nearer Asheville called Montrealla. Here he died on June 11, 1858, and was buried in his family burying ground about a half a mile away at Alexander's Chapel, a church named in his honor and built by him. He accumulated a good property. His wife survived him a few years and died January 14, 1862, and is buried by his side. They were Methodists.

Reference has several times been made to James M. Smith. He was the first white child born west of the Blue Ridge in North Carolina. His father, Colonel Daniel Smith, a native of New Jersey, after considerable experience in the Indian wars, and as a soldier on the American side in the Revolutionary War, removed to Buncombe, then Burke, and settled immediately east of the railroad at the first branch above the passenger station at Asheville, on the hill just north of the branch where his cabin stood for many years, and where he died May 17, 1824. He was buried with military honors on the hill where Fernihurst now stands; but about 1875 his body was removed to the Newton Academy graveyard where it now rests. The curious and interesting inscription on his tombstone is as follows:

"In memory of Col. Daniel Smith, who departed this life on the 17th May, 1824, Aged 67. A native of New Jersey, an industrious citizen, an honest man, and a brave soldier. The soil which inurns his ashes is a part of the heritage wrested by his valour for his children and his country from a ruthless and savage foe."

His old rifle is still in Asheville. His widow, Mary Smith, who was a daughter of Major William Davidson above mentioned, died April 29, 1842, in the 82d year of her age and is buried by his side.

At the home place of Colonel Daniel Smith just described was born on January 7, 1894, his son, James McConnell Smith. The latter married Polly Patton, daughter of Colonel John Patton hereinbefore mentioned.

He settled in Asheville, and began at the old Buck Hotel and on the opposite side of the street his long and singularly successful career as hotel keeper, merchant and manufacturer of several kinds of articles. He also conducted farming on a large scale, and for many years kept a tanyard in the valley of Gash's Creek between where South Main Street crosses that stream and where Southside Avenue first crossses it going from the public square in Asheville. He was a large landowner in Asheville, and its vicinity, and at the time of his death was a very wealthy man. He died on December 11, 1853, and was buried at the graveyard of his family where Fernihurst is now; but in 1875 his body was removed to, and now rests in, the Newton Academy graveyard. His wife had died in 1843. A numerous family of children and descendants survive him, and are yet living in Buncombe County and elsewhere in the United States.

On August 12, 1869, W. D. Rankin and wife, E. L. Rankin, conveyed what has since been known as Catholic Hill to Rev. James Gibbons for a Catholic Church. About 1874 or 1875 the Catholics built on this lot the brick structure used by them for many years as a church, but in 1889 they bought the lot on Haywood Street at the corner of Flint and erected on it a Catholic Church, first a frame and later a brick building, the last now standing and very handsome.

The first female school in Asheville was that conducted by John Dickson, D.D., M.D., in the building which stood on the site of a portion of the Drhumor Block. His music teacher had conceived the idea of studying medicine. He taught her in this science, and later gave her material assistance. She was Elizabeth Blackwell, and afterwards became the first woman doctor who ever received a medical diploma in the United States. This school, through various changes from time to time, was later the Asheville College for Young Women.

In 1846, the late Stephen Lee, a South Carolinian, opened first at the Thornton place near Swannanoa River and later at his residence in Chunn's Cove, now occupied by the Messrs. Armstrong, a boys' school. This he continued to teach until 1879, the time of his death, except during the war, when he was a colonel in the Confederate service, and one session, which he taught in conjunction with Mr. Sturgeon, a Presbyterian preacher, in 1867, at the Newton Academy. Probably no

local school ever had a greater fame, a wider patronage, or a better teacher than Colonel Lee's. Men from all parts of the south sent their boys here to school, and it was nothing unusual to meet in any of the Southern States with a man whose education was begun at Colonel Lee's school near Asheville. He was a graduate of West Point, and a strict disciplinarian, but a kind hearted man.

And yet we are told that in the face of these facts, a few years ago in the Congress of the United States "Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, was showing the percentage of population as to reading, and found Buncombe County, North Carolina, the lowest." (Why We Laugh, by Samuel S. Cox, page 242.)

Asheville's first newspaper, established about 1840, was the *Highland Messenger*. It was edited by D. R. McAnally, who was a Methodist preacher and later a Methodist editor in Saint Louis, Missouri, where he died in July, 1895. He was born in Granger County, Tennessee, February 17, 1810, and became a preacher when he was nineteen years old. For some years he engaged in preaching and came to Asheville in that work, living at the foot of the hill on the north side of Woodfin Street a little east of the mouth of Vance Street. He edited the *Highland Messenger,* a weekly paper, for three years, and in 1843 went to Knoxville, Tennessee, where, for eight years, he had charge of a female school, four years of which he also edited a religious newspaper there. In 1851 he went to Saint Louis, Missouri, and there for many years was editor of the *Christian Advocate,* and was superintendent of a Methodist book concern. When the war on the South was conducted he was imprisoned and suffered much for his outspoken devotion to the cause of the South. He was the author of Life of Martha Laurens Ramsey (1852), Life and Times of Rev. William Patton (1856), Life and Times of Rev. Dr. Samuel Patton (1857), Life and Labors of Bishop Marvin (1878), History of Methodism in Missouri (1881), and a large number of pamphlets. His second wife was a sister of Dr. R. H. Reeves of Asheville.

Such was Asheville's and western North Carolina's first editor. The publishers of the *Highland Messenger* were Joshua Roberts above mentioned and his brother-in-law, John H. Christy, who later removed

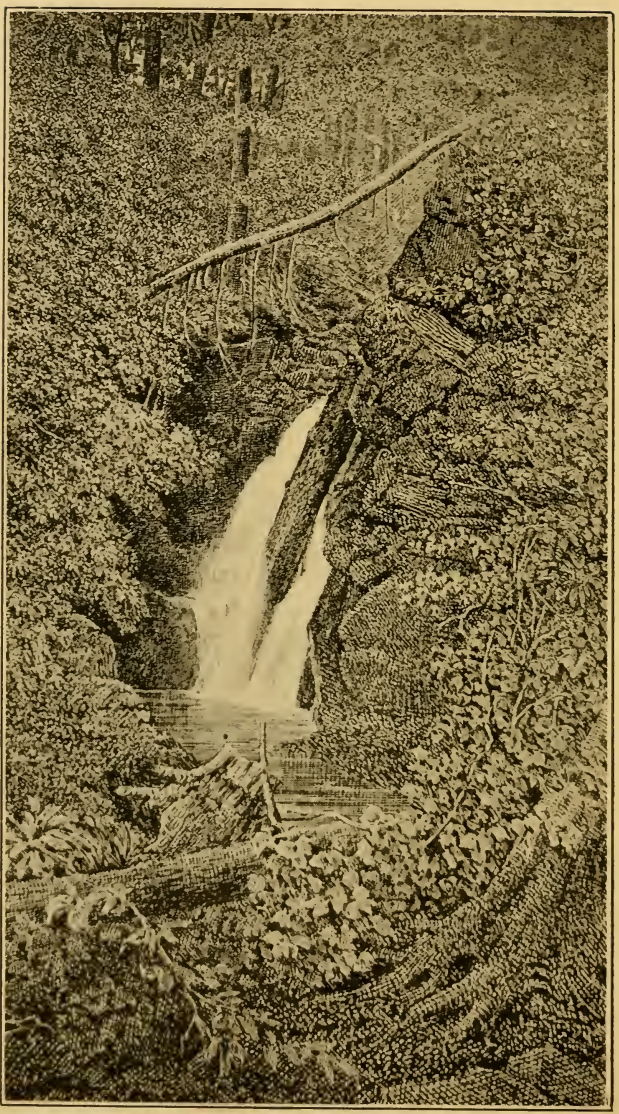
to Athens, Georgia, where he published the *Southern Watchman.* The first newspaper published in Asheville more frequently than once a week was the *Journal,* owned and edited by W. H. Deaver, and published by him semi-weekly in 1879 on the western side of the Public Square a little north of the present Smith Drug Store. *The Asheville Citizen* soon thereafter began to issue, besides its weekly edition, the first daily newspaper published in Asheville.

Chapter XII

CALHOUN'S PREDICTION

ASHEVILLE and its vicinity was a favorite summer resort of John C. Calhoun. Probably no greater triumph of inductive reasoning could anywhere be found than the process by which that extraordinary man, merely by an examination of the map, reached the conclusion long before the facts had been demonstrated by measurement, that in the Black Mountains near Asheville was the highest land in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. He repeatedly declared this to be the fact to Governor Swain and others before any measurement of those altitudes had been made. Finally, in 1835, and 1844, Elisha Mitchell, D.D., who had been professor of mathematics and natural philosophy in the University of North Carolina, and then held in that institution the chair of chemistry, mineralogy and geology, measured these mountains, and found one of them to be, as Calhoun had declared he would, the highest peak east of the Rocky Mountains. Dr. Mitchell was born in Washington, Litchfield County, Connecticut, August 19, 1793. After graduating in Yale College in 1815, he was elected to a chair in the North Carolina University in 1817, was married in 1819, ordained by Orange Presbytery in 1821, made professor of chemistry, mineralogy and geology at the University in 1825, became Doctor Divinity in 1840, and died June 27, 1857.

A controversy arose between him and the late General T. L. Clingman as to who had first measured the highest peak. Dr. Mitchell undertook to establish his claim, and was proceeding through these mountains to Big Tom Wilson's in order to get up evidence for this purpose, when, being overtaken by night, he fell over a declivity and was drowned at what was afterwards called Mitchell's Fall on Cat Tail Creek of Cane River in Yancey County, near the scene of his greatest achievement. For days his disappearance could not be accounted for, and numerous parties from all directions flocked to the mountains in search for him. At last his body was found and brought to Asheville, where it was buried in the churchyard of the Presbyterian

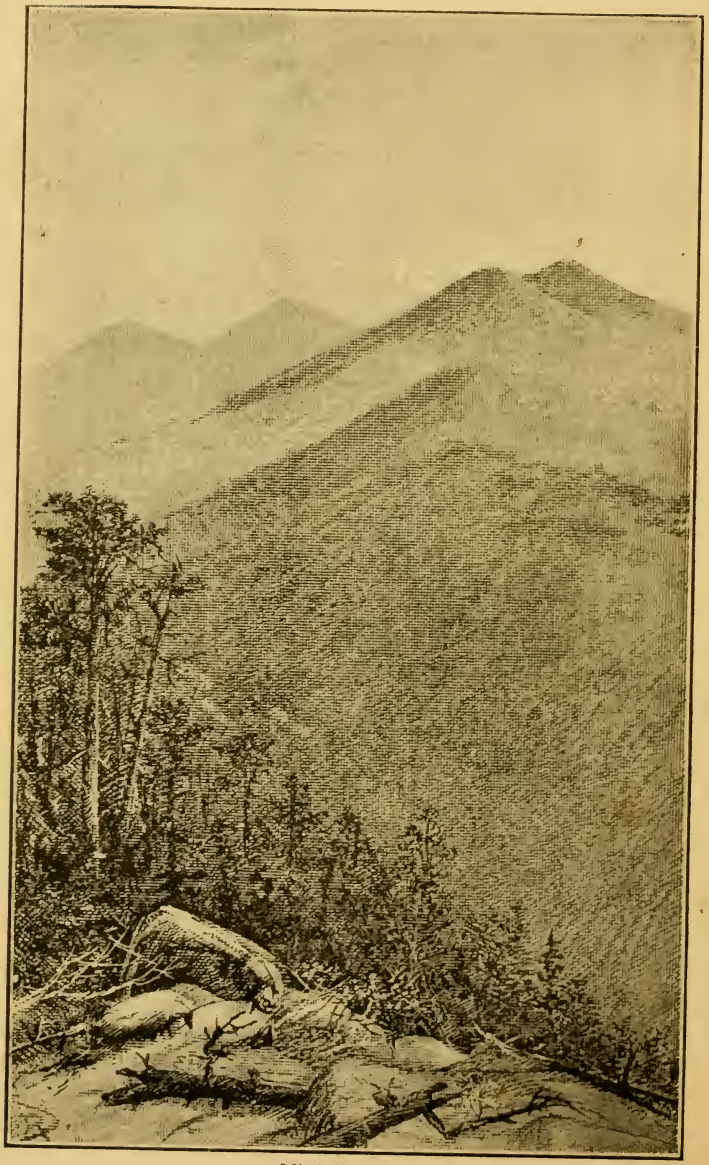


Mitchell's Falls—Yancey County—Cat-tail Branch of Caney River—Scene of Death of Dr. Elisha Mitchell in 1857

Church on Church Street. Later it was removed and reburied on the top of the highest peak of the Black Mountains, named in his honor, Mitchell's Peak. Here a monument has in late years been erected to him.

There was no dispute as to Clingman's having measured the high peak in 1855 or as to Mitchell's having measured peaks of the Black Mountain in 1844. The only question was as to whether or not Mitchell had measured the high peak in 1844. In this last mentioned year his guide had been Thomas Wilson of Yancey County, commonly called "Big Tom Wilson"; and when Mitchell lost his life he was on the way to the home of Wilson in order to secure a statement from the latter that the high peak was one of those which Mitchell had measured the altitude of in 1844. It was Wilson who led the party that discovered Mitchell's dead body. For years following this, great numbers of people visited Mitchell's Peak every summer, approaching it by way of the North Fork of Swannanoa. At the foot of the mountains near which has been for years the "intake" of the Asheville Waterworks, was built a house for the entertainment of the visitors and halfway up the mountain, five miles above that house, Mr. William Patton, of Charleston, South Carolina, built another house where such visitors might spend the night, and for some time he kept it up. Finally during the war on the South this latter house, commonly called the "Mountain House," or Half-way House," was left without any one to care for it and at last decayed and fell. Years later visitors to Mitchell's Peak began to reach it from the town of Black Mountain over the peak called Greybeard and later over a logging railroad.

Mitchell's Peak has been variously called Mitchell's Peak, Mitchell's High Peak, Clingman's Peak, Black Dome, and sometimes Mount Mitchell, although this last name has also been given to another peak of the same range a few miles away. According to the measurements of A. Guyot the high peak is 6,701 feet above sea-level at its top, but a later measurement of Professor Turner puts its altitude at 6,711 feet. T. L. Clingman made it 6,941 feet and Dr. Mitchell made it 6,708 feet high, although the latter's former measurement was 6,772 feet.



Mitchell's Peak

Mitchell had been led to measure the heights of peaks in these mountains called the Black Mountain by the hope of finding here the highest land in the United States east of the Rocky Mountains, because he found here a greater variety of vegetation than anywhere else and much of this vegetation towards the tops of the mountains in "the Black" was of a character that belonged only to high altitudes or far northern latitudes.

About 1873 the United States established and for some time maintained on the top of Mitchell's Peak a meteorological signal station and built there a log cabin in which the men so employed lived. Their food and other supplies were carried to them from the settlement ten miles or more below chiefly by the late Charles Glass on his back.

When about the year 1836 a railroad from Cincinnati to Charleston, which should pass through Asheville, was projected, Robert Y. Hayne, the great South Carolinian, who had vanquished Daniel Webster in debate and cowed Andrew Jackson in resolution, was made its president. At a meeting of this company, held in Asheville in 1839, Mr. Hayne, who had continued to be its president, became dangerously ill, and died here September 24, 1839.

During the war on the South, Asheville became in a small way a military centre. Confederate troops were from time to time encamped at Camp Patton, at Camp Clingman on French Broad Avenue and Philip Street, at the crossing of Flint Street and Cherry Street on the north side of Flint Street called Camp Jeter, on Battery Park hill then Battery Porter, on Beaucatcher Peak now called Beaumont, on Woodfin Street opposite the former site of the Oaks Hotel, on Montford Avenue near the residence of J. E. Rumbough, on the hill near the end of Riverside Drive north of T. S. Morrison's, and on the ridge immediately east of the place where North Main Street last crosses Glenn's Creek, just before reaching French Broad River, once owned by the children of the late N. W. Woodfin. At this last place, on April 5, 1865, a battle was fought between the Confederate troops at Asheville and a detachment of United States troops, who came up the French Broad River. The latter was defeated and compelled to return into Tennessee. This was the battle of Asheville.

In 1869 S. C. Shelton, who had just removed from Virginia and settled in Chunn's Cove, introduced into Buncombe County the culture of tobacco, which theretofore had been raised in that region only in small patches planted by old women and negroes. Soon tobacco came to be the chief crop of the farmer and in two or three years equally so in Madison and other adjoining counties. About 1888 Asheville had six or seven large warehouses devoted, in the season for sales, to the marketing of tobacco raised in Western North Carolina, which was said to be the finest and best in the world. Packing-houses were numerous throughout the business parts of the city; but the warehouses were on the site of the present Millard Building at the corner of North Main and Walnut streets, and in the southern portion of the Swannanoa Hotel on South Main Street, and on Valley Street, and at the northwestern corner of Walnut Street and Lexington Avenue (then called Water Street), and at the southeastern corner of Patton Avenue and Bailey Street (now Asheland Avenue) where is now the street-car building. In two or three years more the business had disappeared and a very few pounds of tobacco were raised in Western North Carolina. The danger from early frosts, the labor and risk in curing, and the variations in prices, have all been assigned as reasons for this sudden change in farming, while some tobacco-buyers said that the soil no longer produced as fine a quality of the article as before.

The Confederate postoffice was in the old Buck Hotel building on North Main Street, now Langren. The Confederate commissary was on the east side of North Main Street between the Public Square and College Street. This old building was afterwards removed to Patton Avenue, whence it was removed again to give way to a brick building. The Confederate hospital stood on the grounds afterwards occupied by the Legal Building. The chief armories of the Confederate States were at Richmond, Virginia, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, but there were two smaller establishments, one at Asheville, North Carolina, and the other at Tallahassee, Alabama. (1 Davis's Rise and Fall of the Confederate Government, page 480.)

The armory at Asheville was in charge of an Englishman by the name of Riley as chief machinist. It stood on the branch immediately east of where Valley Street crosses it. About a hundreds yards or a

little more north of it was the armorer's house on the same lot. Here when North Carolina was one of the Confederate States of America, the Confederate flag from a high flag pole was constantly displayed. There it floated in the breeze and rested in the sunlight, the emblem

"Of liberty born of a patriot's dream,
Of a storm-cradled nation that fell."

These buildings were burned by the United States troops when they entered the town in the latter part of April, 1865.

In 1840 the charter of the City of Asheville was amended by an act of the Legislature, Chapter 58, which recites that

"The main street in Asheville is too narrow, and the laying out of one or more cross streets and the ascertaining the extent of the public square and the boundaries of the village and the encroachments upon same are demanded by the public convenience"; and appoints Philip Brittain, Thomas Foster and James Gudger as commissioners to buy land for widening the street, and making cross streets, and for other purposes. Afterwards, on January 11, 1841, the Legislature passed another amendatory statute whereby "James M. Smith, James W. Patton, N. W. Woodfin, Isaac T. Poor and James F. E. Hardy" were "incorporated into a body politic and corporate by the name of the 'Board of Commissioners for the town of Asheville,'" with certain powers therein defined. Still later by an act ratified March 8, 1883, and entitled "An act to amend the charter of the town of Asheville," the town of Asheville ceased to exist as such, and thenceforth became "The City of Asheville."

In 1901 another act of the legislature enlarged the territorial limits of the city. Then again on March 4, 1905, another act was passed further extending the city's northern and southern borders until at the southwestern corner they reached nearly to the mouth of the Swannanoa River, and reached on the east one hundred feet east of the mountain crest. Various small municipalities had then recently been incorporated on the northern and southern borders of the city. On the northern part had been so formed on February 28, 1889, the town of Ramoth, the name of which had been changed to Woolsey, on March 2, 1903. At the same end and further west had been thus formed on

February 17, 1893, the town of Montford. Then on the southern end had been so formed on February 27, 1891, the town of Kenilworth, and west of that had been thus formed on March 7, 1887, the town of Victoria. This act of March 4, 1905, enlarging the city's limits, took into these the territory of Woolsey and Montford and Victoria and part of the territory of Kenilworth and repealed the charter of all of these small towns except that of Kenilworth, and even the charter of Kenilworth in so far as it related to territory formerly belonging to that municipality but now transferred to the City of Asheville. On February 9, 1889, the legislature had incorporated the town of West Asheville for territory opposite Asheville and on the western side of French Broad River. This charter was repealed on March 8, 1897; but the town was reincorporated on March 6, 1913. On March 5, 1917, provision was made in an act of legislature for a consolidation of West Asheville with the City of Asheville if so approved by a vote of the two corporations at an election on the question to be held in June, 1917. The election was held at the time so appointed and resulted favorably to the consolidation and West Asheville became a part of the City of Asheville.

For many years Asheville was the only municipal corporation in Buncombe County. After a while a good number of small towns within that county were, from time to time, incorporated by special legislative enactments.

On September 7, 1832, there was formed at what is now the southern end of Weaverville a campmeeting place called "Salem." Adjoining this was a church building provided for on the north on September 20, 1844. Then, on December 19, 1849, was provided a Methodist Parsonage on the east; and on June 17, 1851, a Temperance Hall and school house adjoining the church and camp ground on the west. Then a college on the north of the church and Temperance Hall lots was incorporated under the name of Weaverville College on December 15, 1873. At this place, on March 16, 1875, was formed by legislative charter the town of Weaversville, which on March 8, 1909, was made the town of Weaverville by an act of the legislature then passed. Some years before the war on the South a settlement on Newfound Creek in the northwestern part of Buncombe County was named

Leicester in honor of Mr. Leicester Chapman, a naturalized Englishman then engaged in merchandizing at the place. To the public, however, it soom became somewhat jocularly known as "Lick Skillet" and even as "The Skillet." Even yet the name of Leicester is pronounced in the neighborhood by many people just as it is spelled and not as the English pronunciation of Lester would have it. The town was incorporated on February 9, 1874, but the act of final incorporation was repealed March 2, 1905.

On March 29, 1880, the State of North Carolina sold its interest in the Western North Carolina Railroad Company to W. J. Best and his associates. At that time the railroad of that company had been extended west to the Blue Ridge vicinity but not across to where is now the town of Biltmore. When it reached that far the place was made a station and called Best. In May 3, 1888, Mr. G. W. Vanderbilt began to buy land in that neighborhood and erected on that his handsome mansion (finished in 1895) and Biltmore Estate. In his purchase he included Best, and built on its site the town of Biltmore on the southern side of Swannanoa River. That town was incorporated under the name of Biltmore on March 6, 1893. Its corporate limits were enlarged so as to cross Swannanoa River and take in some land to the north of the stream and the stream itself on March 6, 1903, and it now adjoins the City of Asheville.

To the south of Biltmore is the town of South Biltmore incorporated February 15, 1895.

Black Mountain, where for many years before the arrival of the railroad there had been a postoffice called Gray Eagle at Mr. S. Dougherty's, was incorporated March 4, 1893; and its close neighbor Montreat is the town of the "Mountain Retreat Association," incorporated March 2, 1897.

Arden was incorporated March 13, 1895.

Alexander became a town February 21, 1905.

Swannanoa was first made a railroad station and called "Cooper's" in honor of A. D. Cooper who then owned the land; but soon the name was changed to "Swannanoa."

Hazel was incorporated February 28, 1891, and Jupiter March 12, 1895.

Buena Vista was incorporated March 4, 1891; but its charter was repealed in 1903. So, too, Inanda was incorporated in 1893 and its charter was repealed March 7, 1901.

Other places, such as Fairview, Ridgecrest, Acton, Turnpike, Skyland, Busbee, Candler, and Barnardsville, had grown up in the county, chiefly since the railroads came.

The matter of early roads in Buncombe County has been already mentioned. The Asheville Plateau was approached through gaps in the surrounding mountains although usually the roads through these gaps were scarcely worthy of the name. Going from Asheville toward the east there was a road which passed up the French Broad River and over the mountains near Caesar's Head into what is now Greenville County of upper South Carolina; then further north the road from Asheville ran by way of the present Hendersonville through Saluda Gap and on to what is now the City of Greenville, and to Columbia in separate branches; then yet further north was what was called the Howard Gap Road which left the road to Saluda Gap at Fletchers on Cane Creek and taking to the east passed through Howard's Gap and by way of the modern Lynn to the town of Spartanburg; then still further north the Mills Gap Road left the road to Saluda Gap at the present Busbee and ran by way of Edneyville across Mills's Gap at Point Lookout Mountain down to Green River; then another road left the Mills Gap Road before reaching Mills's Gap and running further east went through Cooper's Gap north of Mills's Gap and near Sugar Loaf Mountain; then further north still a road known as the Hickorynut Gap Road turned to the east at the present town of Biltmore and passed by the modern Fairview and through Sherrill's Gap later called Hickorynut Gap and down Broad River, and a road from Edneyville and on through Reedy Patch Gap (the lowest gap in these mountains) into the Hickorynut Gap Road at little north of Chimney Rock, and then still to the north the Swannanoa Road ran up Swannanoa River and passed through Swannanoa Gap (originally one-half mile south of the Big Tunnel place and later at that place) down Davidson's Mill Creek to the Old Fort. Going from Asheville toward the west the road ran to the Pigeon River at the site of the present town of Canton and on to Clyde, but forked with one fork

passing down Pigeon River into Tennessee and another running on west, one branch by Franklin and through Rabun's Gap into Georgia, another branch down Tuckaseigee and Little Tennessee rivers into Tennessee, and a third branch between them into the present Cherokee County. From Asheville going to the north the road ran down French Broad River, the Old Warm Spring Road often leaving the river to the west for considerable distances, but the later Buncombe Turnpike keeping near that stream's eastern or northern bank, passing opposite Warm Springs to Paint Rock; another road led northward from Asheville by way of the present Weaverville beyond which it forked, with the left fork passing over into Tennessee in the Watauga region and the right fork running to the modern town of Burnsville. Mr. S. M. Featherstone has aided me much in locating some of the eastern gaps just mentioned.

Of these roads in early days, that between Paint Rock and Saluda Gap was most used, especially after the construction of the Buncombe Turnpike, which was for many years kept in excellent repair by squads of hands under the direction of the late Colonel Enoch H. Cunningham. All the more prosperous people of the country kept handsome carriages and a pair of fine horses whose only duty was to draw the vehicle and with a negro man who generally gave his entire time to the care of the carriage and its horses. At a very early day wealthy men from South Carolina and Georgia began to spend their summers in these mountains and came with their beautiful carriages and horses. Thus, particularly in summer but throughout the year, a traveller on one of the principal Buncombe roads, and especially on the Buncombe Turnpike, was sure to meet many handsome equipages on any portion of his journey.

Then, too, even as early as 1800, stock-raisers of Kentucky and Tennessee had begun to drive their hogs and horses and cattle in large droves through Buncombe County to the markets of South Carolina and Georgia. This species of travel greatly increased when the Buncombe Turnpike was opened. To such an extent was this increase that at the proper season of the year one passing along that road in daytime was scarcely ever out of sight and hearing of one or more of these droves. Even turkeys were driven to market in the same way, the

drivers using whips with pieces of red flannel tied to the end of the lash. At one period there passed through Asheville in these droves every year from 140,000 to 160,000 hogs in the months of November and December. For the entertainment of these drivers and their droves taverns sprung up along the road at about every five miles and their capacities were often taxed to the utmost. The country raised the corn which, in enormous quantities, was required to meet the demands of this extensive business. This brought considerable profits to the farmers, the merchants and the innkeepers, and prosperity to the entire community. The business of driving stock continued, though in decreasing quantities, until about 1870, when it ceased. Railroads had increased everywhere and furnished the stock-raisers of Kentucky and Tennessee cheaper and quicker methods of reaching the markets with their products.

Chapter XIII

IN 1885 occurred in Buncombe County a change in the law regulating the care of stock raised in that region. Before that time any one who chose to do so might turn out his cattle and hogs to seek food wherever they could find it. Of course, this made it necessary for farmers to protect their crops by surrounding them with fences. After a while the timber required for fences became scarce. Then, in 1885, the law was so changed that owners of livestock must prevent them from depredating on lands of other people. Fences then disappeared. For economic reasons the change was unavoidable, but the absence of fences detracted much from the beauty of farms. Before this the fences had contributed greatly to the appearance of agricultural districts, especially where such fences were of planks. This was often the case, particularly along roadsides. A farm so fenced was a great beauty in the landscape, and its roads were most attractive to the traveller.

When carriages became less numerous and stock-driving through the country had ceased, less attention was paid to roads and even the turnpike companies allowed their privileges to lapse. In 1848-1849 the State of North Carolina directed the building of the Western Turnpike from Salisbury westward to the Georgia line. In 1854-1855 Asheville was ordered to be the eastern terminus of this road. Then the road was constructed, but was never a good one. When railroads arrived all care of other roads was, for a time, abandoned. Meanwhile the streets of Asheville, from increased use by a growing population, were in such condition that, in seasons of winter or prolonged rains, they were often impassable. Paving with crushed rock, obtained from the place where the "New Reservoir" is now, was put upon some of the streets near the city's centre and toward the depot, beginning about 1884. Then other streets were paved with stone blocks. At last, in 1890, a system of paving was adopted. The first of this was on that part of South Main Street from the Public Square southward toward Southside Avenue. The material used for this work was paving-bricks and the contractor for the work was General P. M. B.

Young, the distinguished Confederate cavalry officer. In 1896 Mr. Caney Brown was chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Buncombe County and revived the matter of road improvement. He and his successor, Mr. J. E. Rankin, did a small amount of paving with crushed rock on the road between Asheville and Biltmore; but in 1900, when Mr. M. L. Reed was chairman of that board, the county commenced systematically to pave its roads and put iron and concrete bridges over the streams where the roads crossed them.

The Western North Carolina Railroad was the first to reach Asheville. This was in 1881. Its first depot in the place was a frame building erected for the purpose where West Haywood Street crosses that railroad in the vicinity of the old Smith's Bridge place. After a year or so the present freight depot on Depot Street was built and its northern end used for a while as a passenger station-house while the remainder of the building was used for freight. Then the present passenger depot was constructed. The Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad was completed to what is now Biltmore, but then was Best, in 1886. Through the enterprise of the late Captain C. M. McLoud, the city had a telegraph line connecting it with Henry Station on the Western North Carolina Railroad (now abandoned as a station) about three miles west of Old Fort, a year before the railroad came. In 1887 the first street cars were put upon the streets of Asheville. It was an electric trolley system from the beginning and ran at first only from the Public Square to the present passenger station. Its builder, a Mr. Davidson, gave a dinner at this station when the car made its first full trip down. That trip was by way of Southside Avenue. About one year later the streets began to be lighted with electricity, chiefly through a tall tower or mast which stood on the Public Square, there having theretofore been for a short time a few gas lamps near that square. Telephones were introduced in 1886. Until about 1876 Asheville's sidewalks were exceedingly few and short and were constructed entirely of round stones which were then found in great plenty on or near the surface of the ground on Battery Park hill. Then some walks were built of thick planks running longitudinally along the street, two planks about six inches apart constituting the sidewalk. These gave way to sidewalks of flagstones and these to bricks and these to concrete.

The road which left the present Patton Avenue at or about what is now the head of Asheland Avenue ran southwestwardly entering the modern Aston Park at its northeastern corner and circling with the top of the ridge until it came to the present French Broad Avenue at about the southeastern corner of Aston Park. That portion of this road which lay about fifty feet to the south of what is now the Meriwether Hospital was used in 1865 and 1866 for a tournament ground by the young Confederate soldiers who had just returned from the army. The first of these tournaments were ridden only with the sabre. The rider attempted to catch on his sabre a metal ring of about two inches in diameter suspended loosely from the arm of an upright post, which arm projected over the course at about half way, while the ring hung just a little above the rider's head. At one-fourth the length of the course, one on the right hand and the other on the left, stood by the side of the course two posts about as high as a horse. These posts were surmounted by large wooden balls supported on the posts by small pieces of wood six inches long and just large enough to hold the balls. The rider ran his horse at a rapid gallop along the course and sought as he passed to cut these small necks with his sabre so that the balls would fall to the ground and in the middle of the course catch the ring on the same weapon. Later the sabre and balls were abandoned and the rider attempted to catch one or more suspended rings with a long lance which he carried. At this place and at about the same time was held a barbarous "gander-pulling" in which instead of the ring was suspended a live gander with greased neck, while every rider attempted to pull off the bird's head. This brutal performance was never repeated. It is said to have been practised elsewhere in early days. (See Judge Longstreet's Georgia Scenes.) On this old field was Asheville's earliest baseball ground. Here occurred in 1866 the first game of that kind ever played in Buncombe County. Soon it supplanted the old "town-ball," of which it is a modification, and later it passed largely into the hands of professional players.

On this ground, too, which was uninclosed, were for many years conducted picnics and other popular sports and were held political speakings and other outdoor public gatherings. All these were by permission of the owners of the land or without objection from them.

In Asheville's early days the merchants of Buncombe County hauled their goods in four-horse or six-horse wagons from Charleston, South Carolina, and Augusta, Georgia, making annual trips and spending a month or more in the journey. The front pair of horses or mules always was adorned with jingling bells above their heads. Later when railroads came into general use these merchants made their purchases in Baltimore or New York, going in person to those markets usually every spring and every fall for the purpose. At the close of the war on the South Asheville was sixty miles from the nearest point of every of three railroads, Morganton in North Carolina, and Greenville in South Carolina and Greeneville in Tennessee, and goods were usually hauled in wagons from the last of these. Then the railroad from Morristown to Wolf Creek in Tennessee was completed as far as Wolf Creek and the goods were so brought from that place. Then the Western North Carolina Railroad reached Marion, North Carolina, and then Old Fort and then Henry Station and from these places, respectively, while one was the nearest railroad station, Asheville's merchants brought their goods by wagon.

At first the money used in Buncombe County was of the English denominations of pounds, shillings and pence and it was for pounds and shillings that the first lots in Asheville were sold. Later occasionally Mexican dollars, or as they were usually called "Spanish milled dollars," were in common use. Then came the United States currency. As late as 1872 there were in circulation in Asheville a good many silver six-pence (six and one-fourth cents) and shilling (twelve and one-half cents) pieces. From 1830 to 1835 two men named Bechtler of Rutherfordton, North Carolina, obtained an act of Congress which permitted them to coin, in private coinage, gold gathered in the piedmont portion of Western North Carolina and South Carolina and in Northern Georgia. They produced a good many coins of the denominations of one dollar, two and one-half dollars, and five dollars, the one dollars being far the most numerous. These coins contained a little more gold than their denominations called for, and were produced for many years, constituting with Mexican silver dollars the principal money of that region. Often they were counterfeited in brass; but, as the brass was less easily bent than the gold, a practice grew up of test-

ing the genuineness of a Bechtler coin by placing it in the crack of a door and bending it in order to see how easily it was to bend. For this reason most of such coins which exist have creases across them. They are now very scarce, however, and command large premiums from collectors. During the war on the South both the Treasurer of Buncombe

Bechtler Coins

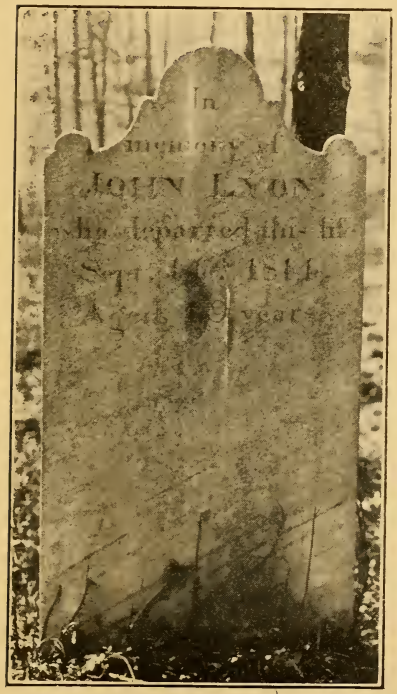
County in behalf of the State and Asheville for itself issued paper money; the county in denominations of five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and fifty cents and one dollar; and the town in the same denominations less than one dollar. But probably the greater part of the mercantile transactions up to about 1875 was by exchanging country produce for goods, or as these transactions were differently called, "barter," or the customer selling his produce and "taking it out in trade." Sometimes the merchant had two prices which he would pay for produce, giving more when the seller agreed to "take it out in trade."

Asheville never had a complete market house until the present building called the City Hall was erected in 1892; but ever mercantile establishment, except a drug store, was a general store which sold all

Asheville Confederate Currency

kinds of goods and bought all kinds of country produce, although for a short time before that market-house was built there was in the city a sort of market-house.

Asheville's first burying-ground was at the southeast corner of Eagle Street and Market Street, but later on this was changed to a burying-ground on the east side of the present Church Street between the Presbyterian Church and Aston Street. Then in 1865 a Methodist burying-ground was established on the western side of Church Street immediately south of the Central Methodist Episcopal Church, South, church building. There were also some burials in the churchyard of Trinity Episcopal Church immediately south of that church building on the eastern side of Church Street, and some on the same side of that street immediately north of the Presbyterian Church. All these graves on Church Street, with the exception of that of James Patton, were removed to Riverside Cemetery when it was established in 1885 by the Asheville Cemetery Company incorporated on August 4th of that year. In this way it came about that many graves in Riverside Cemetery contain bodies which were removed to it from other burying-grounds and some of which have been removed twice. Among the latter is the grave marked by the oldest tombstone in that cemetery. It is that of John Lyon, the distinguished English botanist, "a gentleman through whose industry and skill more new and rare American plants have lately been introduced into Europe than through all other channels



Grave of John Lyon, Riverside Cemetery, Asheville

whatever." John Lyon died of consumption in the old Swain Building on the eastern side of South Main Street, in September, 1814, at the age of 49, a lonely stranger in a strange land among strangers thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean from any relative, but cared for by strangers with great tenderness. His body was buried in the old burying-ground east of Market Street and removed thence to the old Presbyterian graveyard east of Church Street and finally to its resting place in Riverside Cemetery near the southeastern corner. No doubt the oldest burying-ground in the county is the Shawano Indian burying-ground on the eastern banks of French Broad River about one mile above the mouth of Swannanoa River. Probably the oldest burying-ground of white people in the county is the old Robert Patton burying-ground near the town of Swannanoa. The Newton Academy graveyard is now the oldest graveyard in Asheville; but the oldest graves in Asheville were the "Indian Graves" on Patton Avenue, immediately west of the crossing of Lexington Avenue, which were used as a landmark to indicate the place selected for Buncombe's county town. This and the other circumstances attendant upon the making of that location seem to disprove the old story told about that location, as about the location of other towns, that the commissioners determined to put the town at the bar-room at which they had met for the purpose of drinking and had been drinking. There was no bar-room where they determined should be the site of the county town of Buncombe. Had there been, it would have been called for in making the location. The more detailed story that the bar-room was at a cross-roads where the proporietor professod to be deaf and would ask every traveller who stopped to inquire his way whether he said that he wanted a whiskey or brandy, is equally set at rest in the same way.

Chapter XIV

THE first preachers having charge of churches in Asheville were: For the Presbyterians, George Newton mentioned above; for the Methodists, the first circuit rider of "Swanino Circuit" was Samuel Edney in 1792-1793, while Samuel Lowe was its presiding elder; and the first station preacher at Asheville was J. S. Burnett (in 1848); for the Episcopalians, the first preacher was Jarvis Buxton; for the Baptists, the first regular preacher was Thomas Stradley, an Englishman who came to America and lived on Beaverdam in Buncombe County. The first Episcopalian in Buncombe County was Mrs. William Coleman (born Miss Evelina Baird). Dr. Jarvis Buxton was born February 27, 1820, near Washington, North Carolina; came to Asheville in 1846, where he established the first Episcopal Church; and died March 11, 1902.

The first physician in Asheville seems to have been R. B. Vance, who became a member of Congress from the district and was killed in a duel by S. P. Carson; and the first drug store was built and opened in 1850 and thence conducted by P. C. Lester, a physician, on the western side of South Main Street, in a frame building where is now Hilliard Hall, and in the second story of which was Asheville's first photograph gallery kept by an itinerant photographer about 1866.

Apparently the first hotel in the place was that of Colonel James M. Alexander on South Main Street in what became the Hilliard Residence that occupied a site now within the street. Opposite that house and just south of the "Henrietta" was a hitching lot where horseback riders from the country visiting the town hitched their horses; but later the hitching lot was on the western side of Haywood Street opposite the present Citizen Building; and later still every merchant had his own hitching lot. The next hotel was the Eagle Hotel on the eastern side of South Main Street between the present streets called Eagle and Sycamore. It was kept by James Patton. Then, at an early day, came the Buck Hotel on the site of the present Langren and kept by James M. Smith. Next came the brick house at the southwestern corner of North Main and Cherry streets kept by

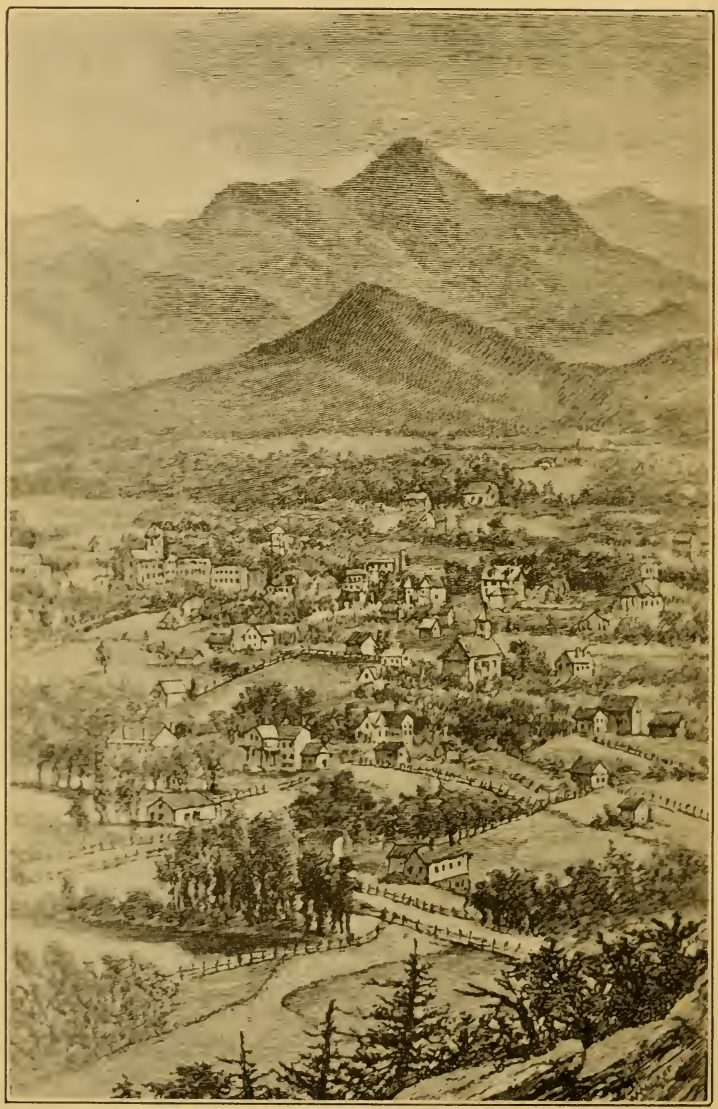
Top—Bank Hotel looking north, site of T. C. Smith Drug Store
Bottom—North Public Square, Buck Hotel, left background—1888

Israel Baird and later the Brand residence. The Carolina House, built by John Reynolds on the western side of North Main Street a little the south of Woodfin Street, was next. The Battery Park Hotel was built by Frank Coxe and opened in the summer of 1886 to visitors. It occupied the site of the old Battery Porter, so called from a Confederate battery stationed there; and when the hotel was built the name was change to "Battery Park." For many years, extending back to the time of its origin, Asheville had been visited by many strangers in the summer months of every year; but about the time this hotel was first opened, the town began to be an all-the-year resort for the pleasure-seekers and tourists. In the year 1912 on July 4th, the Langren Hotel, occupying the site of the old Buck Hotel, began business, chiefly patronized by commercial travel. Then in the summer of 1913 Grove Park Inn first threw open its door for public entertainment.

Before the war on the South the advantages offered by Asheville climate for the treatment of persons afflicted with consumption had been well known. In 1871 two physicians of the name of Gatchell established a sanatarium at Forest Hill then just without Asheville's corporate limits. After some while this enterprise was abandoned but later revived by one of them at the northeastern corner of Haywood and College Streets. In 1876 a physician named Gleitzman began to conduct in the old Carolina House on North Main Street a sanatorium for tubercular patients and continued it for some years.

During the war there had been a Confederate hospital where the Central Bank is now. After that Asheville had no hospital until 1892 when the Mission Hospital was built on Charlotte and Woodfin streets, after the Supreme Court of the State had declared void an ordinance of the city under which the city authorities attempted to prevent its erection. (See State vs. J. A. Tenant, 110 N. C. 609.)

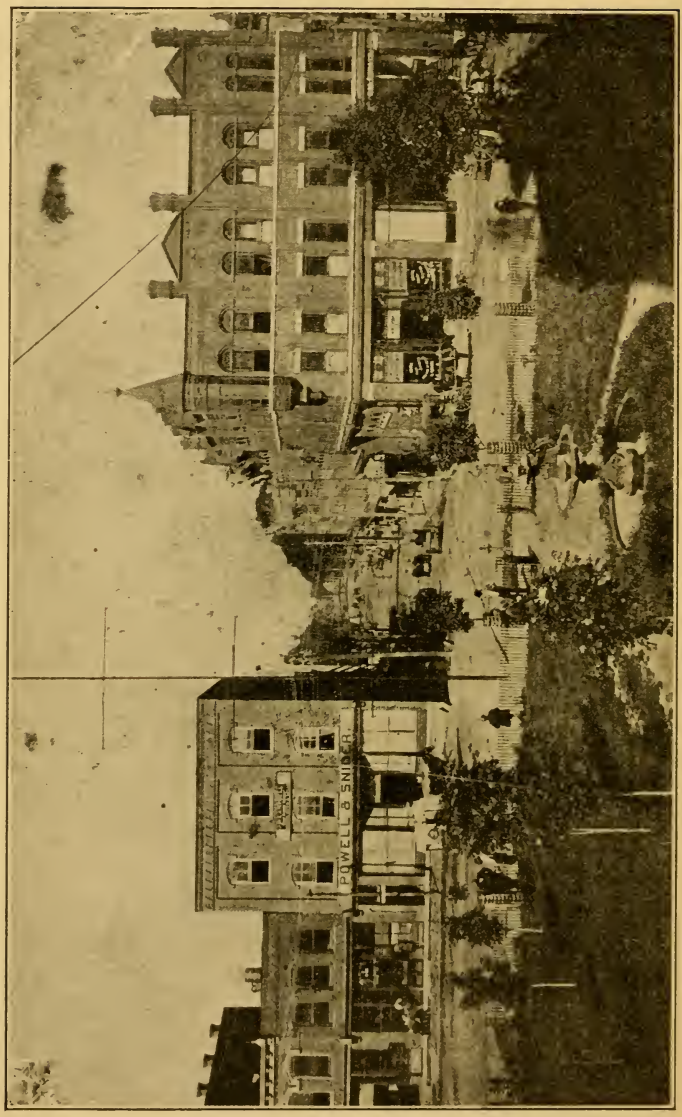
Before 1884 Asheville had no waterworks. The need of its inhabitants for water was met by wells and springs. A public well stood about thirty feet north of the present Central Bank and another one was on the other side of the Public Square about seventy-five feet north from the former. Many homes had private wells and a few had springs. Many of the physical features of Asheville had changed since it became a town. Some of these physical features of the place are no longer recognizable, even to people yet living who had known it years



Asheville, 1883—Eastern side of French Broad River near (earlier) site of Smith's Bridge

ago. The streams have ceased to rise and flow where they once rose and flowed. On the west side of Water Street immediately south of Walnut Street once stood a famous spring called for in the old deeds, but now not to be found. Below it, on both sides of the street, springs have disappeared in the last half of a century. Even subsequent to the late war, horses have been seen to mire up to the body in the blue mud of Water Street (Lexington Avenue) just south of Woodfin Street. Almost the same state of affairs has existed, and the same changes taken place in Central Avenue since 1865, when it was a narrow lane ending at a private residence now opposite the entrance of Orange Street. I was informed by the late Mr. R. B. Justice, that at the time of his first visit to Asheville in 1846, a spring of good water, much used, existed on the spot where now stands the postoffice or Federal Building. Until within the last two years there stood on the northern border of South Beaumont Street about fifty yards west from its junction with College Street a large old chestnut tree in which the late Colonel E. H. Cunningham used to relate that he had seen killed at one time three black bears, an old one and her two young.

At a time not long antecedent to the war, some gentlemen had conceived the idea of having a waterworks for the town and, under the supervision of the late Hosea Lindsey, had excavated, at the present site of the "Old Reservoir," a place in the mountains near where College Street begins to ascend and had dug a trench for pipes from it some distance in the direction of the town's centre; but the project had been abandoned. About 1884 the City, at the suggestion of the late Captain Thomas W. Patton, completed that reservoir and pipe line bringing into them the water collected from the branches running west out of the mountain for a distance of about a mile to the north. Then in 1886 the City constructed a pumping station on Swannanoa River at the place where the road to Oteen leaves the river, now called the "Old Waterworks," but formerly the site of the late Montraville Patton's grist mill. This water supply was pumped across Beaucatcher Gap into the "Old Reservoir" and later also into the metal standpipe on College Street and the old supply of water from the branches was abandoned. Then, in 1902-1903, the city built a gravity line by which water from "the intake" on the North Fork of Swannanoa River was



Asheville—Patton Avenue—Public Square looking west—About 1885

carried in pipes from its superior altitude, across Beaucatcher Gap, into the "Old Reservoir" and this standpipe. The filter station on the southern side of College Street was built in 1890. In 1907 the City constructed the "New Reservoir" near the standpipe on the eastern side of College Street a little to the north of Beaucatcher Gap. Then in 1920 was added to the existing source of water supply another "gravity line" by which water from Bee Tree Creek is carried over Beaucatcher Gap into the same reservoirs.

As long as Asheville had no waterworks it had, of course, no fire department or sewer lines. When a fire occurred crowds assembled and organized an extemporary "bucket brigade." A Hook and Ladder Company was organized as early as 1882 to assist at fires. But when waterworks had been established, voluntary "hook and ladder" and "hose-reel" companies were formed, the first in 1884; and, since the reservoirs were higher than the part of the City then built up, no fire-engine was needed or has been used. Sewers came in 1888.

Asheville's altitude above sea-level is 2,200 feet according to some or 2,250 feet according to Guyot, at the Public Square. Most of the City is built on hills elevated far above the French Broad and Swannanoa rivers, while parts of the City are much lower than these. For many years there had occurred, at very rare intervals, floods of considerable size in these streams; but no one apprehended danger to any part of the place from such a source. It is said that there had been a heavy freshet in April, 1791 and another in May, 1845. On August 28-30, 1852, a freshet had done considerable damage in the valleys of these rivers and washed away on the French Broad the bridge at Captain Wiley Jones's near the mouth of Hominy Creek, Smith's Bridge at Asheville, Garmon's Bridge at what is now Craggy, Alexander's Bridge at French Broad (now Alexander) and Chunn's Bridge and the Warm Springs Bridge in Madison County, and on the Swannanoa Patton's Bridge about half a mile above the mouth of that stream. It has been said that in about 1810 or 1811 there had been a famous freshet in the Swannanoa River, but the injury from it was not great; but this is probably an exaggerated statement. Then in June, 1876, a freshet in both rivers had done much damage, especially in the valley of the French Broad. But on July 16, 1916, occurred a flood in both

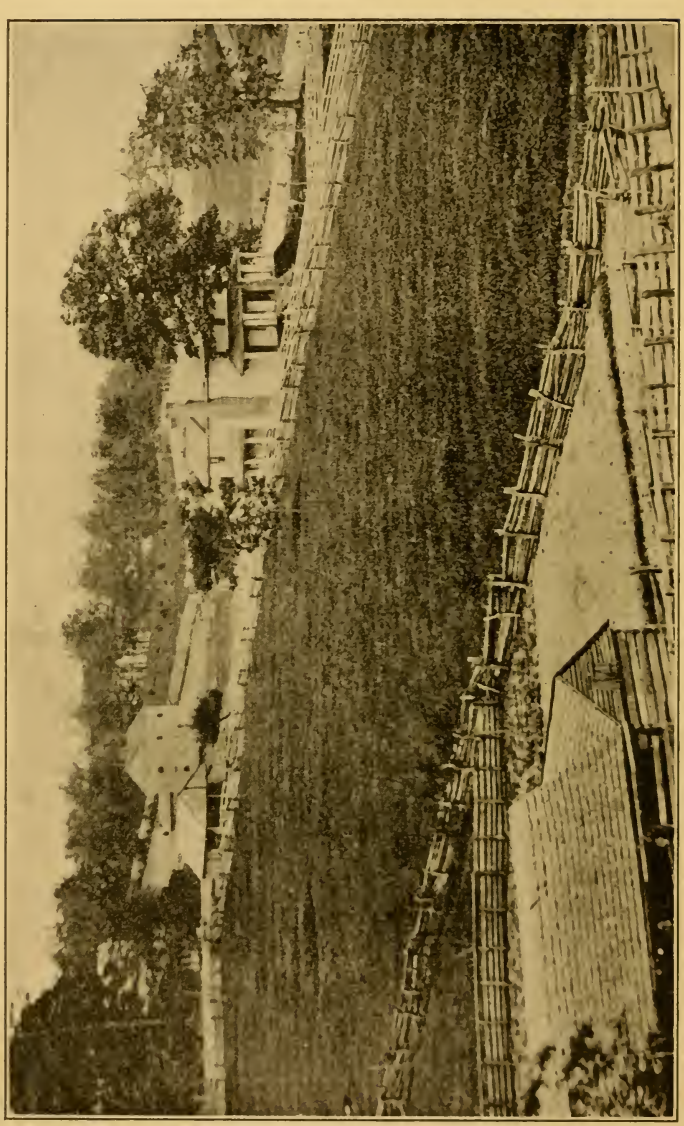
rivers which exceeded any of these and caused ravages parts of which are yet to be seen. The streets of Biltmore and the lower parts of Asheville were flooded to considerable depths until in both places men were drowned in them, while much property and many bridges disappeared or were ruined or greatly injured.

Patton Avenue is Asheville's principal business street. The part of it from the Public Square to the Federal Building, with much narrower width, was part of the old Haywood Road. Beyond that part to the west until it comes to Haywood Street about three-quarters of a miles from the Public Square had been opened, under the name of Patton Street, as a rough country road through the woods before the war, but the large fills where three hollows were crossed had washed out in great part, and it was rare that wagons attempted to pass over it by driving around the fills. In 1876 this part of the street was rebuilt and widened under the supervision of E. Clayton.

Ephraim Clayton was born in that part of Buncombe County which is now Transylvania County, on Davidson River, in 1805. In early life he became a contractor for building houses and in that business built probably more houses in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia than any other two men. Among the buildings erected by him were Wofford College at Spartanburg, South Carolina, and the Buncombe Courthouse which was burned in 1865 and the present

Gun for Confederate use made on Spruce Street in Asheville by E. Clayton, R. W. Pulliam and G. W. Whitson

Newton Academy and (in 1840) the house in Asheville which gave place to the Drhumor Building and the houses of the Everett (formerly Ward and then Lowndes) Place on French Broad River in Transylvania County. His home for the greater part of his life was in Asheville on what is now the eastern side of Spruce Street opposite the eastern end of Walnut Street. He brought to Asheville the first planing machine ever in Western North Carolina. During the war on the South he headed a company which manufactured in that town guns of the Enfield rifle type for the use of Confederate soldiers with which to protect their country from an invading foe. One of those guns is now owned by the writer. These guns were made at Colonel Clayton's shop adjoining his home on the north, where is now the residence of Doctor R. H. Reeves, and the company which made them was composed of Ephraim Clayton, R. W. Pulliam and G. W. Whitson. The guns, however, could not be made satisfactory at first for want of proper machinery, but later were by improved machinery superior rifles, the best in the Confederate army. Iron for their manufacture was obtained at Cranberry. After the war Colonel Clayton went into railroad contracting. A large contract on the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad was worked out by him; and, when, by the failure of the railroad company, he lost all that was due to him for this work his property was greatly reduced. He died at his home near Asheville on the western side of French Broad River on August 9, 1892, the day before that on which Buncombe County's centennial was celebrated at the northeastern corner of Flint and Magnolia streets and with various displays and ceremonies throughout the City.



Asheville, 1866—Right centre, Roberts House—Stable above, site of Elks Building on Haywood Street—Walnut Street between—House above that stable, site of Haywood Building—Lower left corner, stable on Lexington Avenue—Penland Street now crosses centre from left to right

Chapter XV

FOR a long time the name of Asheville's streets were such as the public saw fit to bestow on them, every man applying to a street such name as he liked. This continued until December 4, 1876, when the town authorities appointed a committee, consisting of two aldermen P. Rollins and F. M. Miller and Colonel R. W. Pulliam, Captain Thomas W. Patton and Captain William M. Cocke, Jr., all now deceased, to give official names to all the streets. Some of the names then given yet remain, but many of them have disappeared. It would not be too much to say that the official work has not always improved upon the haphazard of earlier nomenclature in sound or propriety. Anyhow, Academy Street has been changed to Montford Avenue, Mulberry Street to Cumberland Avenue, Starnes Street to Hiawassee Street, North Main Street to Broadway, Beaverdam Street to Merrimon Avenue, Libbey Street to Liberty Street, Bridge Street to Central Avenue, White Oak Street to Oak Street, Pine Street to Furman Avenue, South Main Street to Biltmore Avenue, Bailey Street to Asheland Avenue, Maria Avenue to French Broad Avenue, Roberts Street to Bartlett Street, and Buxton Street to Park Avenue and the "Public Square" to "Pack Square."

The Public Library of Asheville was started in 1879 as a private benevolence. Asheville and Western North Carolina have not been entirely without a historical literature. The principal of the books on the subject are: (1) Francis Asbury's Journal, quoted above; (2) Charles Lanman's Letters from the Alleghany Mountains, 1849, republished in his Adventures in the Wilds of the United States and British American Provinces, 1856, vol. 1; (3) D. K. Bennett's Chronology of North Carolina, of which the parts on Western North Carolina were by the publisher, James M. Edney, 1858; (4) Henry E. Colton's Mountain Scenery, 1859; (5) The Land of the Sky by Christian Reid (Miss Frances Fisher afterwards Mrs. Tiernan), 1875; (6) T. L. Clingman's Speeches and Writings, 1877; (7) W. G. Zeigler and B. S. Grosscup's Heart of the Alleghanies, 1883; (8) Standard Guide to Asheville and Western North Carolina, illustrated by Roger Davis,

Asheville—Eastern side of South Main Street—Upper floor marked "Reading," first room occupied by Asheville Public Library—About 1878—Site of Old George Swain House where John Lyon died, in portion just south of cut

published by Fred L. Jacobs, Asheville, N. C., 1887; and (9) John Preston Arthur's Western North Carolina, 1914, published by the Edward Buncombe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Asheville, N. C.

As bearing more particularly, although not exclusively, on the Cherokees may be mentioned a two-volume novel now extremely scarce,

entitled "Eoneguski or the Cherokee Chief: A Tale of Past Wars. By an American" (Judge Robert Strange of North Carolina), 1839; and Myths of the Cherokee, by James Mooney, published in 1902 as a part of the United States government publication "Nineteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology."

On the botany of Western North Carolina a very clear and trustworthy guide to the trees and shrubs will be found in Dr. M. A. Curtis's Trees and Shrubs of North Carolina, originally published as Part III of "Emmons's Geological and Natural History Survey of North Carolina," 1860 reprinted as part of P. M. Hale's "Woods and Timbers of North Carolina," 1883; and on the gems of Western North Carolina a valuable treatise will be found in George Frederick Kunz's "History of the Gems Found in North Carolina," published as "Bulletin No. 12," being a part of J. Hyde Pratt's "North Carolina Geological and Economical Survey, 1907."

The book by Christian Reid mentioned above applied a new and popular name to the Asheville region, which at once became to the public and has since been frequently called

The Land of the Sky.

Finis.

GENESIS OF THE COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

Genesis of the County of Buncombe

By Hon. Theo. F. Davidson

At the close of 1791, Burke and Rutherford were the frontier counties of North Carolina, their western boundaries extending with the Cherokee Indian treaty lines from the State of South Carolina to Tennessee.

Within a short time after the close of the Revolutionary War, hostilities with the Cherokee Indians, who had been the allies of the British, ceased, and the beautiful and fertile lands of the French Broad valley began to attract a rapid influx of emigrants from the Piedmont Section of North Carolina and the "Watauga settlements" of Tennessee, and to which was added a steady, although relatively smaller stream from southwest Virginia and the upper districts of South Carolina. They were descended from that remarkable people known as Scotch-Irish, and were peculiarly fitted by their courage, self-reliance, love of adventure and devotion to the true principles of liberty, for the dangerous and difficult task of developing a new country and establishing sound government.

In 1791, the population along the French Broad, extending from the vicinity of the present towns of Hendersonville and Brevard to the Warm Springs, but confined chiefly to the eastern side of the river, had become sufficiently numerous and important to require a new county, and at the session of the General Assembly of North Carolina, which assembled in November of that year, in the town of Newbern, an act was passed creating the County of Buncombe.

The Journal of the House of Commons for Saturday, December 17, 1791, recites:

"Mr. Vance presented the petition of the inhabitants of that part of Burke County lying west of the Appalachian Mountains, praying that a part of that and a part of Rutherford County be made into a separate and distinct county. Mr. Wm. Davidson presented a petition to the same effect, both of which being read, Mr. Vance moved for leave

and presented a bill to answer the prayer of the said petitions, which was read the first time, passed and sent to the Senate."

The Journal of the Senate shows that the bill was received and passed by that body on the same day, and it was ratified on the 14th day of January, 1792. The "Mr. Vance," who introduced the bill, was Colonel David Vance, and was one of the representatives in the General Assembly from the County of Burke, and at that time and until his death in 1813, he resided on his farm at the head of Reems Creek valley. The "Mr. Wm. Davidson," who presented one of the petitions for the new county, was Colonel William Davidson, then one of the representatives in the General Assembly from the County of Burke. At that time he resided on the south side of the Swannanoa River, at the place, a short distance west of the present village of Biltmore, now known as the "Gum Spring." At his house in April following the county was organized.

The following is a copy of the act:

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:

"That all that part of the counties of Burke and Rutherford circumscribed by the following lines (viz.): Beginning on the extreme height of the Appalachian mountains where the southern boundary of this State crosses the same, thence along the extreme height of said Mountains, to where the road from the head of the Catawba River to Swannanoa crosses; thence along the main ridge, dividing the waters of South Toe from those of Swannanoa into the Great Black Mountain; thence along said mountain to the northeast end; thence along the main ridge between South Toe and Little Crab Tree, to the mouth of said Catawba Creek; thence down Toe River aforesaid, to where the same empties into the Nolechukle River; thence down the said river to the extreme height of the Iron Mountain and Session line; thence along said Session line to the southern boundary; thence along the said boundary to the beginning is hereby created into a separate and distinct county, known by the name of Buncombe. And for the due administration of justice in said County of Buncombe.

"Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the justices nominated and commissioned in the said County of Buncombe

shall have the same power and jurisdiction as the justices of the peace have in any other county in this state;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Philip court for the said County of Buncombe aforesaid, shall be constantly held on the third Mondays of January, April, July and October, and their first court shall be held at the house of William Davidson, Esq., on Swannanoa, but the justices of said court may adjourn to any other place more convenient, until a court house shall be built;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Philip Hoodenpyl, William Brittain and Lemuel Clayton are hereby appointed commissioners to fix on the most central place in said county for the purpose of erecting a court house, prison and stocks;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That Benjamin Hawkins, William Whitson and John Patton are hereby appointed commissioners for the purpose of contracting with workmen to erect the necessary public buildings in said county as soon as the commissioners shall fix on the center;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to debar the late sheriffs of Burke and Rutherford counties as they stood undivided, to make distress for any levies, fees and other dues now actually due, or owing from the inhabitants of said counties of Burke and Rutherford as they formerly stood undivided in the same manner as by law the said sheriffs or collectors could or might have done, if the said counties had remained undivided, and the said levies, fees and other dues shall be collected and accounted for in the same manner as if this act had never been made, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the sheriffs and other collectors and holders of public money in the said County of Buncombe, shall, from time to time account for and pay into the public treasury of this state, all public money wherewith they shall stand chargeable, in the same manner and under the same pains and penalties as by law any other sheriff and holder of public money are obliged to account in the State;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That a tax of one shilling on each poll and a tax of four pence on every hundred

acres of land, shall be and is hereby assessed on the taxable property in the said County of Buncombe for two years, to commence from the passing of this act, and that all persons who shall neglect and refuse to pay the aforesaid tax at the time limited for the payment of public taxes shall be liable to the same penalties and distresses as for the non-payment of public taxes, and the collectors of said taxes are hereby required and directed to account for and pay the money by them collected, to the commissioners, aforesaid, after deducting two and a half per cent for the trouble of collecting the same, and in case of failure or neglect in any of the said collectors, each collector so failing or neglecting, shall be liable to the same penalties and recoveries as by law may be had against collectors of public taxes;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That all manner of suits, causes and pleas, whether civil or criminal, commenced or depending in the said county courts of Burke and Rutherford, shall continue and may be prosecuted to the final end and determination in the same manner as if this act had never passed;

"And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the court of the said County of Buncombe shall appoint five jurors to attend at every Superior Court for the district of Morgan;

"And, whereas, the County of Burke appoints jurors to attend the Superior Court, and Rutherford court appoints nine jurors to attend the said court, which in justice ought to be altered agreeably to the part taken off each county;

"Be it therefore enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the County of Burke, from and after the passing of this act, shall appoint twelve jurors to attend the Superior Court, and Rutherford seven jurors to attend said court, any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

"Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the county court of Burke shall constantly be held on the fourth Mondays of January, April, July and October;

"Be it further enacted, That all justices appointed, either in the counties of Burke or Rutherford, which now reside in the County of Buncombe, shall exercise their offices in the same manner in the County

of Buncombe as they could have exercised them in the counties of Burke and Rutherford as they stood undivided.

"Wm. Lenoir, S. S.
"S. Cabarrus, Sp. H. C.

"Read three times and ratified in General Assembly the 14th day of January, Anno Domini 1792."

(Endorsed on back.)

"An act forming the western parts of Burke and Rutherford counties into a separate and distinct county.

"Examined. "J. Graham,
"D. Stone."

Then came the work of organization and putting the machinery of county government in operation, and fortunately we have preserved the original record now before us in the handwriting of Col. David Vance, the first clerk of the court. The beauty of his chirography, the order, neatness and accuracies of his entries, ~~giving~~ evidence of his qualifications for the duties of his office. The following extract from the record of that day's proceedings showing the first officers and jurors for the county, cannot fail to be deeply interesting to every one who loves his country or reveres his ancestors.

"B

"North Carolina, Buncombe County.

"April 16th, A.D., 1792.

"Minutes of April Court, 1792.

"Agreeably to a commission to us directed the county court of said county was begun, opened and held at the house of Col. William Davidson, Esq.

"Present:—James Davidson, David Vance, William Whitson, William Davidson, James Alexander, James Brittain, Philip Hoodenpile.

"Took the oath of office for the qualification of public officers and took their seats as justices.

"Silence being commanded and proclamation being made, the court was opened in due and solemn form of law, by John Patton specially appointed for that purpose.

"Lambert Clayton and William Brittain being duly commissioned as justices of said county, appeared and qualified as such by taking the oaths for the qualification of public officers and the oath of offices as justices of the peace for said county and took their seats.

"The court proceeded to the election of a sheriff for said county and did elect to that office Joseph Hughey, Esq., who was directed to find security, give bond and qualify tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

"The court then proceeded to elect the clerk of said county, and did elect thereto David Vance, Esq., who was directed to give bond with security tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

"The court then proceeded to election of entry officer of claims for land in said county, and did elect thereto Thomas Davidson, Esq.

"The court proceeded to elect a surveyor, and did elect to that office John Patton, Esq., who was directed to give bond and security tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

"The court proceeded to elect a registrar, and did elect thereto John Davidson (son of James).

"The court then proceeded to the election of a ranger, and did elect John Dillard, etc., etc.

"The court proceeded to the election of a coroner, and did elect to that office Edmund Sams, Esq.

"Court adjourned till tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

"Court met according to adjournment.

"Ordered by the court that the following persons be summoned to attend as jurors at the succeeding term, viz.:

"1. George Baker. 2. Hickman Hensley. 3. Will Treadway. 4. Henry Atkins. 5. Thomas Patton. 6. Matthew Patton. 7. Samuel Forgee. 8. Robert Patton. 9. Will Dever, Sr. 10. John Weaver. 11. Will Gudger. 12. Benjamin Hawkins. 13. William Greggory. 14. Benjamin Odele, Sr. 15. Joshua English. 16. Thomas May. 17. James Stringfield, Sr. 18. Nicholas Woodfin. — Benjamin Johnson. 19. Elijah Williamson. 20. John Craig. 21. James Wilson. 22. John Ashworth. 23. Henry Deweese. 24. John Dillard. 25. James Cravens. 26. Will Foster. 27. Gabriel Ragsdale. 28. James

Clemmons. 29. Harmon Reid. 30. Simon Kuykendall. 32. John Philips. 33. James Medlock. 34. Adam Dunsmore. 35. Benjamin Yearly. 36. Daniel Smith. 37. Nat Smith."

In these records will be recognized many names now borne by their descendants who yet "dwell in the lands which their fathers gave unto them."

It is interesting to note in the subsequent proceedings of this court the rapid growth in the population and development of the country, and the temptation to make further extracts is very great, but the purpose of this paper being only to direct the attention of my fellow citizens to the principal historic facts connected with the creation and organization of the now famous County of Buncombe, I shall leave its later history to more competent hands. Let me, however, give two further quaint extracts, which may illustrate the simple and grave manners of the men and women of those times:

"Minutes of July Court, 1792.

"A bill of divorce from Ruth Edwards to her husband John Edwards was proved in open court by Philip Hoodenpile, Esq., a subscribing witness heretofore—ordered to be registered."

While this homely method of untying the inconvenient matrimonial knot does not begin to compare with the modern solemn performances to accomplish the same end, it has the merit of being far more honest and direct—and doubtless was as effectual. Perhaps the parties, in the absence of any other known provisions of law or precedents, recalled the old Masaic statute, that when a man desires to get rid of an undesirable wife, "let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand and send her out of his house."

"Minutes of October Court, 1793.

"Ordered by court that Thomas Hopper, upon his own motion, have a certificate from the clerk, certifying that his right ear was bit off by Philip Williams in a fight between said Hooper and Williams. Certificates issued."

When we recall that in those days and for many years afterwards the punishment for certain crimes—perjury, forgery and perhaps some others—was by cutting off a portion of the ear of the offender, commonly called "cropping," we can well understand why "said Hopper"

was so anxious that the truth of his misfortune should be preserved in some authentic way. Evidently the court being plain, sensible and just men saw nothing unreasonable in the matter and gave a place on the records for the fact.

I have looked in vain through these records for evidence of any criminal prosecution of the "said Hopper and Williams," for this fight, but as good old-fashioned fighting without rocks, knives, pistols or "brass knucks" was one of the most common and popular amusements of those days, and there seems to have been no more serious injury than the loss of an ear, and doubtless the fight being a fair one, the conservators of the law and order did not feel called upon to take official notice of it. Nowadays such an occurrence would furnish us with a sensational two days' trial, and fees galore.

Perhaps, possibly with the exception of Orange, Buncombe has exerted greater influence in the thought, history and policy of the State than any other County. It has furnished three governors, three United States senators, one Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, nine judges of the Superior Court, nine representatives in Congress, one president of the University to the public service. In addition, its delegations to various constitutional conventions and representatives in our State Legislature and Executive Departments of the State are recognized among the first in the annals of our Government. In wealth, population, enterprise, especially in the great movements of civic and economic progress, it has been in the front rank.

"The past, at least, is secure."