

THE FARMVILLE HERALD

HONOR FOR THE PAST, HELP FOR THE PRESENT, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

VOLUME XXXVIII

THE FARMVILLE HERALD FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1928

NUMBER 32

WATER METERS TO BE PUT IN PROMPTLY

Town Manager Instructed to Let Contract in Order to Hasten Completion

MANY CITIZENS "KICK"

Some Pay Flat Rate, Others Pay By Meter.—Council has Ordinary Session

Complaints of citizens that they were paying more for water measured by meter than their neighbors whose meters had not been installed, caused the Town Council last week to instruct City Manager Cralle to let the installation work to contract if necessary in order to have all meters installed in residences, business houses and industrial plants within thirty days.

A motion to go back to the flat rate until all meters are installed caused opposition as a "backward" step, and it was voted that early completion of the work would place all citizens on an equal basis. About 65 per cent of the meters have been installed, and there are about 300 more to be placed. Mr. Cralle said the work would go forward at once. He was also instructed to see that the work about the meters was properly done, so as to avoid any damage claims against the town.

Newman & Jones asked permission to place an advertising sign on Main street, weighing 405 pounds, 7x7 feet in size. Petition was referred to the street committee and Mayor to report.

A committee reported it had been advised that the donation of a site, or giving financial aid to an industry, was not legal, hence no action was taken relative to a site for the proposed kitchen cabinet factory.

A bill of 5 cents for one key was OK'd.

Council voted to rescind action appropriating \$2,000 for work on Third street. The matter of purchase of a steam roller and a scraper was referred to the town manager and the street committee. Councilman Duvall being added to the committee, the cost not to exceed \$5,000. Town Manager Cralle said the new equipment was needed and that it would pay for itself.

The ordinance committee was instructed to draw up an ordinance regulating the placing of gas tanks in conformity with the State laws.

It was estimated that extension of the water main from High street out Second avenue to Franklin street, thence to First avenue, thence to beyond Hugh Gilliam's property, would cost \$4,091.58, and the extension from Judge Watkins' straight out First Ave. to Gilliam's property would cost \$2300. It was argued that a water main on Second avenue would cause that street to build up. The matter was continued thirty days.

Bids for supplying the town with coal were opened and action deferred on award pending ascertaining of certain freight rates. The light committee, with Mayor Sanford sitting for Mr. Barrow, was authorized to act.

An appropriation of \$50, provided for in the budget, was voted for the annual Confederate veterans' dinner.

The vehicle ordinance was read and adopted fixing the schedule of rates the same as last year.

FARMVILLE BOY NAMED MANAGER W. & M. QUINTET

E. Armstrong Smith, of Farmville, has been unanimously elected manager of the William and Mary basketball team for the season 1928-29. Mr. Smith is a son of Carey M. Smith, treasurer of Cumberland County, and is a junior at the college of William and Mary this year. For the past three years he has served as assistant manager of the team.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon social fraternity; Alpha Kappa Psi, honorary business fraternity, and is a member of the Junior-Senior Judicial Council, and was a member of the Sophomore judicial council during the year 1926-27.

The Indians produced a winning team this year losing no Virginia conference games and hereby winning the State championship title.

Friends of Mr. Smith are confident that he will make a splendid record as manager of the team. The schedule will soon be under way.

LOCAL BABIES MAKE EXCELLENT SHOW

Babies from two months to five years of age were entered in the baby show held at the Farmville Furniture Company's store last Saturday under the auspices of the Junior Woman's Club. There were fifty entrants and all the youngsters made an excellent showing. Dr. Price, of State Teachers College, was the judge. Awards were made as follows:

First prize, youngest child entered, Alexander Cralle, III, of Farmville, 2 months old; second, Willie Lester Wilkinson, Prospect; children up to 8 months, first, Mildred Oliver; second, Billy Hart; 8 months to 1 year, first, Walter Cunningham; second, Margaret Marie Bradshaw, Rice, Va.; 1 year to 18 months, first, girl, Helen Micer; second, Ruth Britte; first, boy, Barrye Wall, Jr.; second, Thomas Hardy, Jr.; 18 months to 2 years, first, girl, Alma Crawley, of Prospect; second, Dorothy Butler, of Farmville; first boy, Ben Ashley Cox; second, Normand Striplin; 2 to 3 years, first girl, Myrtle Putney; second, Catherine Hankins, of Richmond; first, boy, Frank Baldwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Baldwin, of Farmville; second, Donald Glenn, Prospect; 3 to 4 years, first, boy, Billy Baldwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Baldwin, of Farmville, Va.; second, T. J. Fulcher, Jr.; first, girl, Frankie Blair Hubbard; second, Ruth Whitten; 4 to 5 years, first, girl, Hannah Lee Crawford; second, Marjorie Smith; first, boy, Blake Putney; second, Samuel Geyer.

SAMUEL B. UPTON DIES SUDDENLY

Well-Known Barber Stricken With Paralysis at His Home Thursday Morning

The sudden death of Samuel B. Upton, which occurred from paralysis at his home at 4 o'clock Thursday morning, was a shock to the community. Mr. Upton had been in poor health for some years but he was up on the streets Monday apparently in his usual health. Mr. Upton was born at Camden, N. C., the son of S. B. Upton and Emma Marguerite Wilson Upton. He was sixty-four years of age, and for twenty-five years or more had been engaged in the barbering business in Farmville.

Mr. Upton was of charming personality, a splendid conversationalist, and he had many friends. He is survived by his wife, who was Maude Josephine Bowman, and the following children: Marguerite, now Peggy Hopkins Joyce; Mrs. Lucille Upton Harrison; Cecil and S. B. Upton, Jr.

Mr. Upton was a member of the Farmville Baptist Church, and had been identified with several fraternal societies.

Funeral services will be held at the home on Virginia Street this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment will be in the Farmville Cemetery.

HUNG JURY IN HOLD-UP CASE

"Rock" Jones and Joe Jones, brothers, charged with holding up John Crute at the point of a pistol and robbing the cash drawer of Crute & Turns, at Five Forks, February 26, were tried in the circuit court Wednesday, the jury being unable to agree as to their guilt, standing seven for conviction and five to acquit. The negroes were remanded to jail to await another trial.

CANTALOUPE GROWERS TO MEET

Farmers of the county interested in the cantaloupe crop are invited to meet in the high school building at Rice, Wednesday night, April 25, at which time L. B. Dietrick, vegetable gardening specialist of the V. P. I. extension division, and B. E. Shaffer, grading and marketing specialist, Division of Markets, will be present, as will also County Agent E. F. Striplin.

The purpose of the meeting is to try to offer suggestions and means for improving the crop and marketing the same. This crop is one which has great possibilities for this section and it is hoped that the growers may be encouraged and helped to the extent that they will find it profitable to enlarge their acreage from time to time.

For further information regarding this meeting call the county agent.

FARMVILLE PHONE COMPANY IS SOLD

John T. Johnson, of Milwaukee Purchases Four-Fifths Interest of R. B. Johns

SALE PRICE NOT GIVEN

Company is Thirty-Nine Years Old and Has 660 Phones in the System

Sale of his four-fifths interest in the Farmville Telephone Company to John T. Johnson, of Milwaukee, Wis., has been announced by R. B. Johns, who has managed the plant for the past twenty years. The sale price was not disclosed. The sale was negotiated by Grinnell Wylie, of Milwaukee, who has been in the city for some days.

Mr. Johnson is expected here this week to look over the property, which includes the exchanges at Burkeville, Hampden-Sydney, Prospect and the system operating in other parts of the county.

The remaining one-fifth interest is held in the name of E. R. Booker, J. L. Bugg, Mrs. F. M. Bugg, G. M. Robeson, W. C. Newman and the W. E. Anderson estate.

The Farmville Telephone Company is in its thirty-ninth year. Twenty years ago it was taken over by R. B. Johns, who has managed it since. At time of the transfer twenty years ago there were 135 names on the list. Today there are 660 telephones in use, and the system has been improved, and also nation-wide connection has been made through the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company.

The Farmville Telephone Company has an authorized capital stock of \$60,000.

No change of personnel has been announced and it is hoped by citizens that Mr. Johns will remain with the company in his present capacity.

TO DISCUSS GRADER FOR LOCAL MARKET

Farmers of Prince Edward, Cumberland and other counties in the Farmville tobacco area will meet in the courthouse at Farmville Saturday April 28 at 2:30 o'clock for the purpose of discussing the advisability of placing a grader on the local market. D. M. Gannaway of Guinea Mills and A. H. Irby, Federal inspector, will be here at that time.

EIGHT NEW CARS SOLD IN ONE DAY

George A. Newman of the Peerless Garage, reports the sale of eight new Chevrolet cars last Wednesday, this being the largest one day's sale. The eight cars included several different models of the Chevrolet make.

HOWARD L. ARMISTEAD

The death of Howard L. Armistead occurred yesterday morning at his home on the Hampden-Sydney road. Mr. Armistead had been in ill health for some time. Three brothers, J. A., and Robert of Farmville, and Dr. Thomas Armistead of Roanoke, and several sisters survive him.

STATE TRAP SHOOT DATES CHANGED

In order that the best shots may have the opportunity to attend the grand American Handicap held in August, the dates for the Virginia State Trapshooters Association's tournament, usually held on Labor Day and the day following, have been changed to July 4 and 5. The tournament will be held in Farmville for the third consecutive year. The event is expected to attract several hundred of the best shooters in the State to Farmville at that time.

NEARLY SMOTHERS UNDER HAY LOAD

M. B. Blanton, of "Bonheim," near Belona, father of Miller Blanton, operator of the Farmville-Richmond bus, narrowly escaped death a few days ago when a load of hay turned over and he was buried beneath the hay. Fortunately Mr. Blanton fell in such way that his arm was across his face and this gave him a little breathing space. Mr. Blanton, who is 72 years of age, was in another accident a few days later, but escaped serious injury.

POSTOFFICE CLERKS MEET HERE MAY 30

One Hundred and Twenty-Five Delegates and Visitors are Expected

HIGH OFFICIALS INVITED

Postmaster-General New and Others Expected.—Banquet at Night is Feature

The Virginia State Federation of Post-Office Clerks will meet in eighth annual convention in Farmville, Wednesday, May 30, and more than 125 delegates and visitors, including the wives and daughters of delegates, are expected.

Headquarters will be at the Weyanoke Hotel, and the business sessions will be held in the I. O. O. F. Hall.

Postmaster-General H. S. New; Thomas F. Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the national organization, and Clyde Kelly, member of Congress from Pennsylvania, and an authority on postal rates, have been invited to address the meeting.

The business session begins at 10:30 o'clock the morning of May 30, Dr. Frederick Diehl will offer the invocation; Dr. E. W. Sanford, Mayor, will extend a welcome, and there will be a response. J. H. Scott, of Portsmouth, president of the State federation, will preside.

A group picture will be made in the afternoon, and a visit to the State Teachers College will be included in the sight-seeing.

At 6:45 a banquet will be given at the Weyanoke. Speakers for this event will be announced later.

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW, SEPT. 21

Committee Chairmen Named Proceeds to go to Charity and Hospital

At a meeting held Tuesday afternoon in the Council Chamber plans were made for the annual Flower Show which will be held one day and night, September 21.

The following women were elected chairmen of committees: Mrs. W. F. Burger, general chairman; Mrs. J. L. Putney, vice-chairman; Mrs. F. G. Baldwin, treasurer; Mrs. T. H. Fallwell, secretary; Mrs. F. G. Baldwin, Mrs. W. C. Duvall, armory; Mrs. H. T. Miller, door; Mrs. W. G. Dunnington, supper; Mrs. J. E. Garland, chicken salad; Mrs. S. C. Bliss, fancy work; Mrs. Chas. Hubbard, candy; Mrs. T. H. Fallwell, cut flowers; Mrs. J. A. Garland, soliciting; Mrs. J. W. Dunnington, waitresses; Mrs. A. E. Willis, Mrs. John Burger, exhibits; Mrs. T. J. McIlwaine, grab bag.

It was decided that the proceeds go half for associated charities and half to be applied to the linen fund of the Southside Community Hospital.

BURKEVILLE HI WINS TWO GAMES

BURKEVILLE, VA., April 17.—The Burkeville baseball boys defeated the Rice baseball team, on Burkeville's diamond, by the score of 24 to 6.

Joe Terry pitched the first ball of the opening season and continued to until the latter part of the game when he was relieved by Joe Haga. Both boys did work that was an advantage to the team. David Henkel caught the entire game. Bruce Motley sprang a pleasant surprise when he hit for a homer and brought in three other Burkeville men ahead of him.

The boys continued their good work on Friday, April 13, at Amelia Courthouse, where they won their second game by a score of 11 to 8. This game was very thrilling and several times during the game the score was tied. Ernest Bolick and Poe Terrw pitched a splendid game while George Anderson worked hard behind the home plate. The team plans to meet Victoria Friday, April 20, on the Burkeville's diamond.

MASS MEETING AT 8 O'CLOCK

A mass meeting of Democratic voters will be held in the courthouse this evening at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of selecting candidates for the Town Council to be voted on at the June election and for the selection of delegates to the State convention to be held in Roanoke.

BETTER RELATIONS MEETING IS HELD

Southside Virginia should profit from the better-relations meeting sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, of Crewe, and held in Crewe last Tuesday evening. The Farmville Lions Club was represented by twelve members, headed by President Joe Garland, while the Victoria Kiwanis Club was represented by eleven members.

Following a very satisfying dinner, Mayor W. C. Kincheloe of Crewe, was called upon and he responded with the story of the four animals in the woods that banded together for protection against the more vicious beasts of the forests. Finally suspicion and distrust arose and they separated only to be devoured each in turn. The table was used to stress the importance and necessity of the towns in Southside Virginia becoming on better terms, and the business men becoming more interested in the welfare and success of their friends in neighboring towns.

Mayor E. W. Sanford, President Garland and E. Scott Martin responded on behalf of the Farmville Lions; T. Freeman Epes and Farrar Verser speaking for Crewe Kiwanians, and R. S. Weaver, Sr., R. S. Weaver, Jr., and President Gee in behalf of the Victoria Kiwanians.

Each speaker developed a different line of thought, but all centered on the good resulting from inter-club meetings. The getting of better acquainted, and the benefits to be derived from co-operation in behalf of the entire southside Virginia.

New acquaintances were made by the business men attending the meeting, and there were promises of other such meetings in the very near future, when larger representation of the several clubs will be possible.

POST "M" T. P. A. NAMES DELEGATES

Members of Post "M", Travelers Protective Association of Farmville, have elected J. D. Morton, C. B. Cunningham, W. B. Hobson, A. T. Hubbard, F. W. Wilkerson, E. R. Booker, S. W. Putney and V. P. Paulet as delegates to the State convention which will be held in Alexandria, Va., May 4 and 5. The report of the local post will show that the membership has been slightly increased the past year.

OIL WORK STARTS ON ROUTE NO. 10

The State Department of Highways announced last Tuesday the completion of surface treatment or oiling on Route 20 between Amedia and Jetersville on the Richmond-Lynchburg highway. The oiling outfit which did this work has been moved over to Route 10 and has started surface treating a stretch of road just east of Blackstone.

Completion of this latter project will finish Route 10 from the coast to a point just west of Farmville. The soil roadway from Farmville to Appomattox has been completed and as soon as it settles this stretch will be oiled.

SIGMA HONORS ON FOUNDERS' DAY

The memory of eight founders of Tri-Sigma will be commemorated by the placing of a memorial in the rotunda of the main building at the State Teachers College, tomorrow, the second day of a meeting in celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of the sorority. Alpha Chapter will be hostess to the representatives of the National Council, active chapters and alumnae who gather today for the first session.

The celebration is of interest to the national sorority world in general and to the Association of Educational Sororities in particular, because Tri-Sigma founded that organization in 1911 and made the professional woman's sorority have a separate and distinct purpose in the field of education.

The memorial will be placed Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at which time memorial services will be held and in memory of the eight founders gifts will be presented to the school.

The public is invited to this service.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE HERALD

"SHORT BALLOT" IS ABLY DISCUSSED

Ex-State Senator C. O'Connor Goolrick Speaks for the Amendment

J. T. DEAL OPPOSES PLAN

C. H. Morrisette, State Tax Commissioner and J. T. Thompson Heard

Men and women interested in the proposed amendments to the State Constitution filled the court house to overflowing last Tuesday afternoon, when E-Senator C. O'Connor Goolrick, of Fredericksburg; Congressman Joseph T. Deal, of Norfolk; State Tax Commissioner C. H. Morrisette, of Richmond, and J. Taylor Thompson, of Farmville, speaking in the place of ex-Senator G. Walter Mapp, were heard on the various phases of the questions to be decided at the polls June 19.

Mayor E. W. Sanford presided and introduced Mr. Goolrick, who said his coming to Farmville to speak on the subject was not actuated by political motives but purely from an economic standpoint in the interest of the State's welfare. He stressed the point that from 1776 until the constitutional convention of 1901-2, the short ballot had prevailed in Virginia. He said the Federal government used the short ballot, and said its use by a State was economy and tended towards efficiency. He said it was in line with progress and would do away with "blind voting" which the long ballot encouraged.

Congressman Deal had come prepared to speak on tax segregation, but due to Senator Mapp being detained on account of illness, Mr. Deal was asked to speak on the short ballot, which he did very ably and impressively. He commended the economy and efficiency program of the State in some ways, particularly in reducing 87 departments to 32, and concentrating the 32 under twelve heads. He endorsed the pay-as-you-go plan for road building and said he believed the gas tax was equitable. He voiced opposition, however, to the amendments providing for the short ballot and for writing segregation into the Constitution of the State. He said the State Constitution provided the way for amending the Constitution, and that section 197 clearly defined the way it should be done. Mr. Deal said the appointment of a commission of seven; five members from the Governor's district, and two from the Norfolk district, to prepare the amendments to the Constitution, leaving five districts unrepresented and without a voice, was not proper, and stressed the point that the members of the convention of 1901-2 sat for more than a year considering the questions and weighing each one carefully, while the proposed changes were given not more than seven hours of consideration by the last Legislature.

Mr. Morrisette said the Prentiss Commission and the General Assembly would not deliberately deceive the people by offering an unconstitutional document, and then went into an exhaustive explanation of the tax propositions.

Mr. Thompson said the proponents have the burden of proving that the present Constitution is wrong. He said the short ballot would result in experienced department heads being ousted to make places for friends of the Governor, whoever he might be. Mr. Deal also made the telling point that there had been only two changes in the offices of State Treasurer and the Education Board in twenty-five years and that the present Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration had served twenty-five years, while the short ballot, if it prevailed, each incoming Governor would appoint his friends to these offices, causing continual changes.

It looked like Richmond had swooped down on Farmville Tuesday, among the visitors being J. J. Owen of the agricultural department, whose home is near Rice; James M. Hayes, motor vehicle commissioner; Peter Saunders, secretary to Governor Byrd; C. W. "Bishop" Wormeley, director of State publicity, and Earle Lutz, reporter for the Times-Dispatch.

METHODIST CHURCH

The regular morning and evening services at the Methodist Church will be conducted by the pastor, Rev. Henry W. Davis.

ARCHIBALD McROBERT, Patriot, Scholar, Man of God

An Address Before the Daughters of the American Revolution Chapter, of Farmville, February 1928, By Dr. J. D. Eggleston

IN the fall of 1926, Dr. Charles W. Dabney, while a guest in my home, mentioned to me that Capt. James A. Baker, a prominent lawyer of Houston, Texas, was a descendant of Daniel Baker, noted Presbyterian preacher, evangelist, and educator, who had entered Hampden-Sydney in 1811. Daniel Baker founded Austin College, in Texas; and Daniel Baker College, at Brownsville, Texas, was named for him. He married in 1816 Elizabeth B. McRobert, daughter of Theodorick B. McRobert and grand daughter of Archibald McRobert. It may be said in passing that Theodorick McRobert in October 1792 married Agnes Morton, with the consent of her guardian and uncle, Jacob Morton. Agnes Morton was the daughter of Josiah Morton, then deceased, of Charlotte County, and his wife Elizabeth Venable, who was the daughter of Abraham Venable and Martha Davis. Josiah Morton was the son of Joseph Morton and Agnes Woodson.

I had for some time been hoping that some way could be found to remove the dust of Archibald McRobert from an old field to College Church Cemetery and to have a suitable stone placed over his grave; and this seemed to me to be the opportunity. So I mentioned to Dr. Dabney that Captain Baker was a descendant of Archibald McRobert, and told him of the neglected grave. Dr. Dabney kindly introduced Captain Baker and myself by correspondence, and last May, thanks to his prompt response to my suggestion, Captain Baker had the dust removed and a suitable stone placed over the new grave of this worthy patriot.

When Prince Edward County was taken from Amelia County in 1754, an Episcopal church was standing about two hundred yards east of the homes of Mr. John Rodgers and of his father, the late Mr. Branch Rodgers, at Kingsville. Here in 1807 Archibald McRobert was laid to rest. After the War of the Revolution the church, known as French's church, fell into disuse and was sold and taken down. Only a few scattered brick remain today to mark the spot, which is now grown up with trees and underbrush. Tradition says that some of the timbers were used to build "White Hall," between Kingsville and the old Mettauer home; and that some of the timbers were used in the old College Hall. The old pulpit, now made into a table, is in the home of Misses Anna and Sallie Dickinson.

At the close of the Revolution a body of French soldiers encamped at Kingsville, and tradition states that seventy of them died of smallpox, the church being used as a hospital. The graves of these soldiers can still be seen in the old field nearby, and from time to time French coins have been plowed up. Let me say here that I believe it would be worth while for the ladies of the Farmville chapter of the D. A. R. to petition our Representatives in Congress to take steps for a Federal appropriation to erect a monument, and to set off this spot, where these soldiers are buried. This spot, as you know, is on Route No. 32, and a monument there would be most interesting to the thousands of tourists who are passing through. It is interesting to add here that the great surgeon, John Peter Mettauer, son of the Dr. Francis Joseph Mettauer, who was the surgeon to these French troops, married Margaret Carter, a daughter of Samuel Carter, a distinguished officer in the War of the Revolution, and his wife Elizabeth McRobert, who was a daughter of Archibald McRobert.

From Captain Baker I have been able to get an exact copy of a paper now in the hands of his sister, Mrs. George Thompson:

"To: London.

I do declare that I will conform to the Liturgy of the Church of England as it is now by Law established.—

Arch. McRobert.

This declaration was made and subscribed before us by the said Archibald McRobert (Clerk) to be licensed to perform the Ministerial Office in the Province of Virginia in America, the 25th of February, in the year of our Lord, 1761, and in the thirteenth year of our Translations."

That Archibald McRobert had the entree to the best social circles of the day, is indicated by his marriage to Elizabeth Munford, daughter of Robert Munford and his wife Anna Bland. I have not yet been able to find the date of this marriage, but Elizabeth Munford was born September 27, 1733, in Prince George County, Virginia. Robert Munford was a Burgess for Prince George County, Virginia, in 1736, 1738, and 1740. He was a son of Robert Munford and Martha, daughter of Richard Kennon of "Conjuror's Neck." Richard Kennon was a vestryman in Bristol Parish, in Prince George County, and a Burgess in 1720 and 1722.

Anna (Bland) Munford, mother of Elizabeth (Munford) McRobert, was the daughter of Richard Bland of "Jordan's Point," and his wife Elizabeth Randolph, who was the daughter of Col. William Randolph of "Turkey Island," and his wife Mary Isham. Col. Randolph was a Burgess and a member of the Council of Virginia.

The Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. 36, page 75, states that Robert Munford died in 1744. In the District Court Book for 1789—September court—Prince Edward County, it is stated that he made his will September 8, 1743; that he died in 1745; that he left a widow Anna, who died in 1770; that their son, Theodorick died in 1772; that their daughter Elizabeth died in 1783; and that their daughter Elizabeth had married Archibald McRobert.

The earliest mention of Archibald McRobert in the Chesterfield County records is found in Deed Book 6, P. 217, June 24, 1769, when he signs a deed as attorney in fact for Reverend Thomas Wilkinson, rector of Nottoway Parish in Amelia County.

On February 6, 1773 (D. B. 7, page 211), George Smith of Goochland County sold to Archibald McRobert, for 257 pounds, 300 acres of land "on Tomahawk and Horsepen Branch" in Chesterfield County; and on July 1, 1773, Smith sold to McRobert, for 100 pounds, 156 acres "on the branches of Tomahawk, being land originally granted to Perrin Giles by letters patent bearing date 12 January, 1746." McRobert sold 401 acres of this land on November 20, 1777, when he had become a citizen of Prince Edward County. From the general description and names of witnesses and landowners mentioned in these deeds, this land was probably between Midlothian and Swift Creek.

McRobert was evidently a man of strong individuality and independence of thought. The Chesterfield County Records show that he was indicted at the May Court 1772, as follows: "The Reverend Archibald McRobert, Minister of Dale Parish, for making use of

Hymns, or Poems, in the Church Service, instead of David's Psalms, contrary to law within twelve months last past." The case came to trial at the March Court, 1774, and the jury, after hearing the argument, rendered the following verdict, which might be called a "dog-fall": "We, of the Jury, do find that the Deft. has used Hymns, or Poems, other than the Psalms of David after the Communion Service and after Sermon. If, upon the whole, the Law be against the Deft. we find him guilty, but if the Law be for the Deft. we find him not guilty." The case was continued, but apparently never came to trial again.

It is equally evident that by 1774 McRobert was regarded by his fellow-citizens of Chesterfield County as one of the first citizens of the County, and at that early date a staunch supporter of the rights of the American Colonies. In the American Archives, 4th series, Vol. 1., page 538, is the following paper:

At a meeting of the Freeholders and others, Inhabitants of the County of Chesterfield, at the Court House of the said County, on Thursday, the 14th of July, 1774, to take into consideration the present very alarming situation of this Colony:

The Reverend Archibald McRobert being unanimously chosen Moderator,

Resolved, nemine contradicente, That we are ready and willing, at the expense of our lives and fortunes, to defend and maintain his Majesty's right and title to the Crown of Great Britain, and his American Dominions, against all his enemies, and we do profess all just obedience and fidelity to his sacred person and Government.

Resolved, That the sole right of making laws for the Government of this his Majesty's ancient Colony and Dominion of Virginia, and for raising and levying taxes on the inhabitants thereof, ought to be, and is vested in the General Assembly of the said Colony, and cannot be executed by any other power without danger to our liberties; subject, nevertheless, as our custom has been, to his Majesty's approbation.

Resolved, That every other of his Majesty's Dominions in America, ought to be, and of right is entitled to, the same privileges as this Colony.

Resolved, That the present demand of money as a duty upon tea imported into this, or any other Colony in America, under the authority of the British Colony, "for the sole purpose of raising a revenue in America", without the consent of our Representatives, is arbitrary and unjust, is subversion of the ancient and constitutional mode of levying money upon British subjects, and evidently calculated to fix a precedent for future demands of the same nature, and by that means reduce the Colonies to a state of slavery, and that all persons aiding in the execution of such laws be considered as enemies to the freedom of British subjects.

Resolved, That the Act of the British Parliament for depriving the inhabitants of the town of Boston, in our sister Colony of the Massachusetts Bay of their lawful trade, as also the Bills brought into the House of Commons of Great Britain, one of which Bills is entitled, "A Bill for the impartial administration of justice in the cases of persons questioned for any act done by them in the execution of the law, or for the suppression of riots or tumults in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, in New England", are unjust, arbitrary, and unconstitutional; and although levelled particularly against one of our first Colonies, yet ought to be resented with the same indignation by this, and every Colony, as if all of them were included in the said Act and Bills.

Resolved, That an extensive Association ought to be entered into and that no goods or commodities of any kind whatsoever ought to be imported from Great Britain into this Colony after the first day of August next, except medicines, paper, books, needles, cotton, wool, and clothers cards, steel, gunpowder, ozonabrigs, hempen rolls, negro cotton, and plains; Dutch blankets, saltpetre, and implements necessary for the manufacture of woollens and linen; and that all and every person who has sent orders to Great Britain for any article except such as are already accepted, ought to embrace the first opportunity to countermand such orders.

Resolved, That any inhabitant, of this Colony who shall import any article not allowed by this Association, or purchase from any other person who shall import such articles, except already ordered, shall be deemed a betrayer of the liberties of his country; and that we will not hold friendship, or have connection with such offending person.

Resolved, That every kind of luxury, extravagance, and dissipation, should now and at all times, be carefully discouraged, and that an extensive plan of establishing manufactures amongst the inhabitants of this, and the other Colonies in North America, should immediately be adopted as the only possible means of avoiding a dependent commercial connection which hath hitherto subsisted between the Colonies and Great Britain, which hath induced an arbitrary and designing Administration to attempt the total destruction of our rights and liberties; and that to carry the same more effectually into execution, subscriptions be opened for that purpose under proper regulations.

Resolved, That to dissolve the General Assembly of the Colony setting for the despatch of public business, "because they enter into a consideration of the grievances under which they labor, and nobly assert their right to freedom", is arbitrary and oppressive, a manifest proof of a fixed intention to destroy the ancient constitutional legislative authority in the Colony, and directly contradictory to the spirit of the acknowledgments made in favour of the rights of British people.

Resolved, That this Colony ought not to hold any commercial intercourse with any of the Colonies in North America that shall refuse to adopt proper measures for procuring a redress of our grievances.

Resolved, That the town of Boston is now suffering in the cause of American liberty; that her safety and protection is, and ought to be, the common cause of the other Colonies; and that their relief ought to be attempted by all proper and constitutional ways and means in our power.

Resolved, That we do most heartily concur with the late Representatives of this Colony in their sentiments delivered at the meeting held in Williamsburg after the dissolution of the last Assembly. We return them our warmest thanks for their spirited conduct on that and every other occasion, and entreat their steady and determined attention to the same principles; at the meeting to be held on the first day of August next in the City of Williamsburg.

Resolved, That Archibald Cary and Benjamin Watkins our late worthy Representatives, together with the Representatives to be chosen for this county in the next Assembly, be, and they are hereby appointed Deputies on the part of the freeholders and inhabitants of this county, to meet such Deputies as shall be appointed by the other counties and corporations in this Colony, in the City of Williamsburg, on the first day of August next, to take under their consideration the several grievances under which this, and the other American Colonies, are at

SANDY RIVER CHURCH



REVEREND ARCHIBALD McROBERT was one of the first pastors of Sandy River Church. The church was then conducted as an Episcopal Church. It is still in use and is a thriving church of the Baptist denomination. Rev. Geo. F. Cook of Rice is pastor of the church.

present labouring, to concert and deliberate upon proper ways and means to procure redress of those grievances, and that they, together with such Deputies as shall be then and there assembled, do nominate proper persons on the part of this Colony, to meet such Deputies as shall be appointed upon the part of the other Continental Colonies in a general Congress, to consult and agree upon a firm and indissoluble union and association for preserving, by the best and most proper means, their common rights and liberties.

Resolved, That the Clerk of this meeting transmit to the printers of both Gazette copies of these Resolutions with the earnest request of this county that the other counties and corporations within the Colony will appoint Deputies to meet at the time and place, and for the purposes aforesaid.

GERMAN BAKER, Clerk to Meeting

Archibald McRobert became the minister of St. Patrick's Parish, in Prince Edward County, in 1777, succeeding the Rev. James Garden. In May, 1776, he had bought 270 acres of land next to the glebe lands in Prince Edward, and another tract next to the lands of Peyton Randolph and others. In August, 1788, he bought from the Vestry of St. Patrick's Parish—Thomas Scott, Benjamin and Thomas Haskins, John Nash, Peter Johnston Sen'r, Peter Legrand, Philemon Holcombe, and William Bibb, Gentlemen—500 acres of "land hitherto held and possessed as the glebe of said Parish and County."

His ardent patriotism and independent views led him to withdraw from the Establishment about 1779. He continued to preach, but finding himself more and more in accord with the Presbyterian church, which was rapidly growing at that time in this section, he united with that church in 1787. His charges had been the French church, at Kingsville, the Sandy River church, and Walker's church, near Prospect. The Sandy River church, built in 1763, still stands, and is now owned by the Baptists.

At a meeting of the vestry in December, 1762, it was decided "to advertise letting of Sandy River church in The Virginia Gazette to be let 25th of March next." And at the November meeting, 1763, is found the following entry in the minutes of the vestry: "To William Davison for three acres of land where Sandy River Church stands to be paid when he makes a Deed . . . 3. 4. 6."

In November, 1775, Archibald McRobert qualified as a trustee of Hampden-Sydney Academy, and in 1783 as a Charter Trustee of the College. He resigned in 1795, doubtless because of ill health. The Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the College show that he was very active in his interest in the College and often presided at the meetings of the Board.

Bishop Meade, in his "Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia" (Vol. 2, page 448-49), says of McRobert: "He was the bosom friend of Mr. Jarratt for a number of years, but left the Church about the year 1779, during the war, and after the Church had become very unpopular. His defense of this act will, I think, be considered by nearly all as a very weak one. He was not the minister of Dale Parish at the time, but one in Prince Edward. His letter in reply to two written to him by Mr. Jarratt, inquiring into the truth of his reported change, and as to his reasons for it, is dated Providence, July 13, 1780. This was the name of the glebe near Prince Edward Court House. In it he says:

"Upon the strictest inquiry it appears to me that the Church of Christ is truly and properly independent; and I am a Dissenter under that denomination. Ecclesiastical matters among the Presbyterians I find every day verging toward my sentiments, and will, I believe, terminate there. There is very little that divides us even now. They constantly attend my poor ministry. Several of Mr. Sankey's people have joined my congregation and I have lately had a most delightful communion-season at Cumberland, where I assisted Mr. Smith at the urgent request of himself and the elders. Soon after my dissent, as my concern for the people had suffered no change, I drew up a set of articles including the essential parts of natural and revealed religion, together with the Constitution and Discipline of the Christian Church, and proposed them to their consideration; since which they have formed a congregation at the chapel, and a few have acceded at French's and Sandy River. I preach at the churches by permission, and intend to continue, God willing, until the first of January, at which time, if congregations should not be formed at the lower churches, my time will be confined to the chapel, and such other place or places as Providence may point out and the good spirit of God unite his people at."

The Mr. Sankey mentioned in the above letter was Rev. Richard Sankey, a Presbyterian minister, born in

North Ireland, who became an Academy Trustee in 1775, and a Charter Trustee of the College in 1783. He was a member of the Committee of Safety for Prince Edward County in 1775. He has descendants living in the South. The Mr. Smith mentioned in the letter was probably President John Blair Smith of Hampden-Sydney.

Bishop Meade continues: "It appears that, failing to attach his old Episcopal congregations to the Independent Church, which he was endeavoring to establish, he afterward connected himself with the Presbyterian, which was then gaining ground in that region, as we find him spoken of as a minister of that communion. Of his subsequent history we know little. That he was a pious and conscientious man we are well convinced. A correspondent, (not of the Episcopal communion), who seems well acquainted with the history of this period and region, writes thus concerning Mr. McRoberts:—"He was, like many other of the old Episcopal clergy, a Scotchman by birth. The opinion you express concerning him was, I dare say, the general one, and is certainly the judgment of charity. There were persons, however, who thought that he showed something of the wariness of his countrymen in abandoning a sinking ship."

At this late day, when the passions of the time have cooled, it appears that Archibald McRobert was not showing "something of the wariness of his countrymen in abandoning a sinking ship" when in 1772 he was courageous enough and independent enough to "use Hymns, or Poems, instead of the Psalms of David"; an offense so grave that he was indicted for it in the County Court. Nor can he be accused of "abandoning a sinking ship," when, in July 1774, he was Chairman of the meeting of citizens of Chesterfield County, which passed the bold resolutions quoted above. He was a Scotsman of excellent abilities and education, and a fearless leader and thinker in a time of stress and storm.

His abilities, his patriotism, and his deep interest in education, were recognized in Prince Edward County in 1775, when he was still a citizen of Chesterfield County; for in November 1775, he was elected a trustee of Hampden-Sydney Academy, his name being the second on the list.

Archibald McRobert's will, written in a clear, bold hand, was recorded December 21, 1807, in Prince Edward County. In it he mentions his son, Ebenezer; his daughter, Elizabeth Carter, wife of Samuel Carter; his son, Theodorick; and his wife Elizabeth. He left to his son Ebenezer certain books from his library, "and as to the rest of my books, my will is that such of them as may coincide with the design of the theological library lately instituted at Hampden-Sydney College, be given to the Trustees of that Institution and to their successors forever for the benefit thereof. Particularly, my desire is that Pool's Annotations on the Holy Bible, Dr. Campbell's Gospel, Dr. Reynolds's, and the works of Rev'd. Ralph Erskine; Doddridge's Lectures and Doctor South's Sermons, shall be of the number of the books designed in this bequest." He orders that several manuscripts of proposed books be destroyed.

One loves to dwell on a note of thoughtfulness and tenderness found in the concluding paragraphs of his will. "My beloved wife, Elizabeth McRobert," he says, "shall, at her option, reside where she may think best . . . My design in this is to free her from all embarrassment in the management of negroes and all perplexing cares of a domestic kind, and from a confidence which I have that my son, Theodorick B. McRobert, and my son-in-law, Samuel Carter, will accomplish my desire and so consult the comfort of their mother as to render her remaining days as peaceful and tranquil as may be. But if she should not be satisfied with this, she may choose what part of the estate she pleases and occupy the same, without interruption, during her pleasure." I do not know the date of her death. She was living in March, 1815.

Bishop Meade quotes a local correspondent as follows:

"Most of the able-bodied men of Prince Edward were off with the army, on duty elsewhere, when Tarleton with his troop of cavalry made his foray through that and the neighboring counties. He visited sundry houses in Prince Edward, attempted to frighten women and children, destroyed much furniture, and otherwise did wanton mischief. A detachment was also sent to the glebe, and Mr. McRoberts had hardly time to escape. They ripped open feather-beds, broke mirrors, etc., and went off, having set fire to the house. It burned slowly at first, but the building would have been consumed had not a shower of rain come up suddenly and extinguished the flames. Mr. McRoberts, who regarded this as a special interposition of Providence, called the place Providence—a name it has borne to this day."

It is good to know that the dust of this patriot, scholar, and man of God now rests in College Church Cemetery, and that a suitable stone marks the spot.