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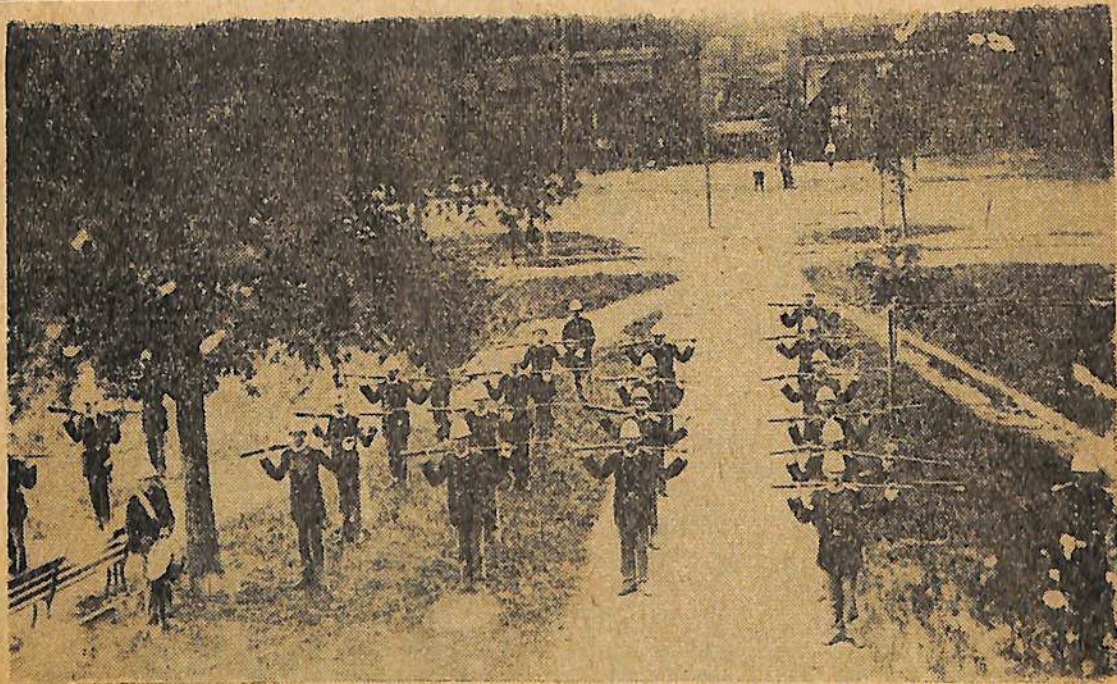
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SECOND
SECTION

The Shelby Da

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CLEVELAND COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER SINCE 1894



STREET SCENE 50-ODD YEARS AGO—The picture above shows Shelby's military company

on parade on the court square approximately 56 years ago.

In Cleveland County's Early Days

By MAMIE JONES

The above picture of the Cleveland Guards Military Company was taken sometime between 1891 and 1895. It will be observed that the locale is the Court Square and the men are facing east toward the Courthouse, their backs to La-Fayette street.

"Clothes may not make the man, but they surely make him glad he is one." Look at those uniforms! Look at those coats with simulated epaulets! Look at those helmets! Excellent targets for the enemy's bullets. It is my understanding that at the time this picture was made each man had to pay for his own uniform.

According to Will E. McArthur, who made the picture, the group includes: B. Edgar Hamrick, Will W. Jones, Upton Alexander, Jno. K. Wells, Jr. and R. L. (Bob) Simmons. If, as I believe, the picture was made in 1893 or '94, then B. Ed Hamrick is captain. I think I recognize my father, R. S. Jones, and John D. Lineberger, Sr., among the group.

ORGANIZED IN 1875

A little more than 75 years ago, on May 28, 1875, the Cleveland Guards Military Company, of Shelby, N. C., was organized. It was called Cleveland Guards after the first company of volunteers to go out from this county to fight for States' Rights and the Confederacy. (Recently, I wrote an article about that company).

In 1877, by Act of the General Assembly, the State Guard was organized and Cleveland Guards became a part of the State Militia as Company "B", 3rd Bn. The officers were: B. F. Logan, captain; Jno. K. Wells, Jr., 1st lieutenant; R. J. Durham, 2nd lieutenant; W. S. Alexander, junior 2nd lieutenant.

In 1878, R. J. Durham became captain, and W. L. Dameron 1st lieutenant. In 1880, B. F. Logan was again appointed captain. From 1879 to 1883, when the company disbanded, J. L. Webb served as 2nd lieutenant.

The company was reorganized in 1891 as Cleveland Guards, Company "H" 4th N. C. Regiment, with B. Edgar Hamrick as captain; W. Harry Gooding, 1st lieut.; and E. A. Rudisill, 2nd lieut. Later, Gooding resigned and Thos. W. Kendrick succeeded him.

In December, 1894, J. T. Gardner was appointed captain; in 1895, R. Shelton Jones was appointed 2nd lieut. In 1897, Jno. K. Wells, Jr. was appointed 1st lieut., and J. Frank Roberts 2nd lieut. J. T. Gardner served as captain for nine years. In 1903, he was promoted to major and J. Frank Roberts succeeded him as captain. Prior to the first world war, J. T. Gardner was appointed colonel of the State Guard.

When the USA declared war against Spain in 1898, the majority of members of this company volunteered for service in this Spanish-American war.

The Confederate monument was not erected until approximately 12 years after this picture was made. It is my understanding, however, that where the monument now stands there was—in the 1880's—a well from which water was drawn to make mortar necessary for the erection of the two brick buildings shown in the picture. Does anybody know when this well was filled in? It does not appear in the picture.

Looking straight down what we now call Westdale Alley, between the two brick buildings, we can see in the above picture the tracks of the Southern railroad. The woman standing in the alley is probably the daughter of the Negro, John Love, who operated a restaurant just back of the building on the right.

GASOLINE STREET LIGHTS

Through the foliage of the trees may be seen a lamp post on which there was a gasoline burning street lamp. There were several of these lamp posts around the Square, placed at considerable distances apart.

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At the time of this picture, they were placed along the main streets something like a block each way from the Square. Later, other lamps were added for a distance of perhaps three blocks each way from the Square.

Every night the lamplighter carried with him a small can of gasoline and refilled and lighted these lamps. But he did not always clean the smoky chimney, hence they frequently gave but meager light. If a Shelby resident found it necessary to go walking along the streets after dark he usually carried a lantern, for there were holes in the sidewalks.

LaFAYETTE STREET, 1894

The two large brick buildings here shown, were erected in 1884. At the right is what was then called the Masonic building, erected and owned by the Masonic Lodge. The sign over the corner room on the right, indicates that it was (June) Gardner's Pharmacy. This room is now occupied by Cohen's Department store. The little boy standing in front of the pharmacy is probably J. Talmadge Gardner, now dead. Next to the drug store was a doorway leading up into the hall on the second floor. (Senator Hoey and Joe Whisnant have law offices in these upstairs rooms now). In one of these rooms, in the 1890's, Audie Rudisill had placed a screen on which he showed magic lantern slides, and later he had a kalaidoscope, both forerunners of moving pictures.

Next to this doorway was Worth Little's saloon. Adjoining that was J. J. McMurry & Co. General store. Next to that was L. J. Pope's grocery store. Anyone who ever heard him could not forget the way Lonnie Pope used to cry his wares every Saturday: "Fresh Fish and Oysters! Fresh Fish and Oysters!" You could hear him two blocks away.

FULENWIDER STORES

The brick building on the left is now occupied by A. V. Wray & Six Sons. When the Blanton's (that is, Burrel Blanton and sons, bankers) erected this store room, it was especially arranged for Fulenwider Brothers, General Merchandise. They required a building exceeding the usual length, and a mezzanine floor.

During the early years of Shelby, various members of the Fulenwider family were among the town's leading merchants. In the 1860's, and for years thereafter, the firm of Fulenwider, Webb & Wells had what was then regarded as a big general merchandise store. Later, there was a firm of Fulenwider & Rudisill, General Merchants. About 1897, Edgar Fulenwider had a general merchandise store in the old Miller block on East Warren street. He went broke, and J. J. McMurry & Company bought the \$25,000 bankrupt stock. Later, during the early part of this century Ed. Fulenwider operated a big general merchandise store and again went into bankruptcy.

CUT COIN IN HALVES

To one of these Fulenwider stores one sunny day in 1880—or maybe it was 1881—my aunt Margaret, a shy little girl with red hair, went to buy a spool of thread. There was a woman customer ahead of her who had just made a purchase from Ed. Fulenwider amounting to perhaps \$1.12½. Pennies were not always plentiful in those days, and since Mr. Fulenwider had no pennies to make the correct change, he wanted the customer to pay \$1.15 for the purchase. She insisted that since he had no pennies, not even a silver three-cent piece (which coin was then in circulation) he should take the small loss.

Aunt Margaret said Ed Fulenwider got mad. Then he got madder. He picked up a nickle—or maybe it was a silver half-dime—grabbed a hatchet and cut the coin in two pieces. He gave the woman one piece and kept the other half himself. The customer took the piece of money, put it in her pocketbook and went her way.

BLANTON'S HALL

The covered stairway, adjoining the building on the left, led to Blanton's Hall, at that time probably the nicest "opera house" between Charlotte and Asheville. It was 52 by 110 feet. Here were held public meetings, and many mediocre road shows played here. The school "entertainments" were held in this building, since at that time there was no suitable auditorium at the school building. In this "opera house" home talent presented some excellent plays. Just as good as the Little Theatre

group presents today.
I stated above that Audie Rudisill had a kalaidoscope, forerunner of moving pictures. Later, he had the first moving picture theatre here, about 1906. Lee Pope, who "just knew" how to handle electric appliances without being taught, was the first operator. Audie Rudisill also had the first phonograph—with a morning glory shaped horn—about 1900.

NO TEMPTATIONS?

To the little town one summer's day, came a rather naive New Yorker to visit kinfolks. (She lives here now). She looked around, saw the dusty, ruddy streets, the weedy sidewalks, and the shabby stores. This was several years after 1899 when the saloons were

forced out. Then she saw the four uptown churches standing bravely.

She said: "Why all these churches? What sort of temptation could there be here to make the people commit sin to need so many churches?"

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