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In Cleveland County's Early Days

By MAMIE JONES

CENSUS FIGURES REVEAL GROWTH

The first Cleveland county census was taken 100 years ago. The following tables show the growth in population of the county during the past century, and of the towns during the past 50 years.

Year	Pop.
1850	10,396
1860	12,384
1870	12,696
1880	16,574
1890	20,394
1900	25,078
1910	29,494
1920	34,272
1930	52,305
1940	58,055
1950	64,316

Towns	1900	1950
Shelby	1,184	15,375
Kings Mountain	1,281	7,198
Lawndale	None	964
Grover	174	492
Waco	160	310
Lattimore	108	287
Boiling Springs	None	1,147
No. 6 Township	4,349	23,081

When the first census was taken 100 years ago Shelby had 354 inhabitants, 199 of whom were Negroes.

The towns of Lawndale and Boiling Springs were not incorporated until about 40 years ago, hence there are no figures for the year 1900. The population figures for Boiling Springs include G-W college students.

The villages of Polkville, Mooresboro, Fallston, Casar, Belwood, Earl, and Patterson Springs are not incorporated. Hence there is no record of their population, as villages. Their population is includ-

ed in the township figures, which have not yet been made public. None of these 1950 figures are official.

TWO BRILLIANT BARRISTERS

A long time ago, before Cleveland was carved out of Lincoln and Rutherford counties, there were two especially brilliant young lawyers in Lincoln county, according to stories in Griffin's History of Old Tryon, and Sherrill's Annals of Lincoln County.

One of these young men was Thomas Dews, Jr., who was born in the Isle of Gurnsey. (Incidentally, he was the great-great uncle of Mrs. C. J. Woodson). He taught for awhile at Pleasant Retreat school near Lincolnton. Later, at the age of 24 he represented Lincoln county in the legislature, and after that served as solicitor. The other brilliant young attorney was Col. J. R. Dodge, a nephew of Washington Irving.

At the April term, 1832, of Rutherford Superior court, Judge David Swain, who was afterwards governor of North Carolina, and later was president of the University of North Carolina, was presiding. In the bar were Samuel Hillman, Thomas Dews, and Jas. R. Dodge.

PUNNING EPITAPH

While Col. Dodge was addressing the jury, Judge Swain wrote on a slip of paper a punning epitaph and passed it among the lawyers, to their very great amusement. When Col. Dodge had finished his speech he found lying on his table a slip of paper on which was written the following:

"Epitaph of James R. Dodge.
Esq., Atty at Law:

"Here lies a Dodge who dod-

ged all good; and dodged a deal of evil. Who after dodging all he could, could not dodge the Devil."

Col. Dodge read the paper, turned it over and wrote on the other side:

"Epitaph of Three Attorneys:

"Here lies a Hillman and a Swain, whose lot let no man choose; They lived in sin and died in pain and the Devil got his Dews (dues)."

Thomas Dews, Jr., was drowned in 1838 when he was 30 years old. **FAKE GEM EXPERT**

In the 1890's my father was chief of police. Once he arrested a man who had come into town as a vagrant. The man declared he was unable to work, but said he was a trained mineralogist and was interested in certain minerals he believed were to be found in this section.

In those days we got medicines and other liquids in beautifully colored thick glass bottles, green, red, blue, yellow, and occasionally white.

Sometimes I would take these bottles, put them into a very hot fire, and the glass would swell greatly. Then I would take out this molten glass, drop it into a pot of cold water and it would break into thousands of pieces that looked just like uncut gems. I had a small-sized cigar box half full of these bits of broken glass.

Since the vagrant had declared he was a gem expert and knew about precious stones, my father took this cigar box half full of colored glass to this so-called expert. Immediately he identified these "uncut gems" as emeralds, rubies, amethysts, topaz, sapphires

and crystals.

Although the whipping post had been abolished by law, the mayor of the town could order a whipping if he deemed it advisable. He ordered this man whipped, and that he either go to work or leave town.

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