

A VIEW OF CHARLOTTE IN 1898.—In the picture, left corner, is the First ARP Church, at Third and Tryon Streets, since demolished. The tower of the Johnston Building now stands. The large building on the right, with the many chimneys, is the Duford Hotel, then located at Fourth and Tryon Streets. The old standpipe is shown in the center, rear. Adjoining it is the Piedmont Building, an office building. Next to it may be observed two frame residences, where the towering Johnston Building now stands. The tower of the Johnston Building may be seen the tower of the City Hall, which was a new municipal structure and was located at Fifth and Tryon Streets. Directly behind it

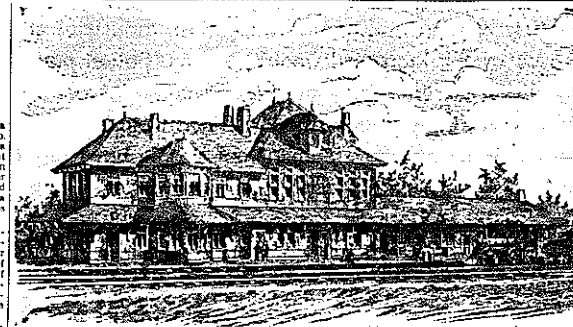
News Issued Special Edition On Mecklenburg Celebration

Stories Told Of Progress Of City And Recalled Old Days In Mecklenburg

The Charlotte News was four years old when, in 1904, it published a large special edition in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence—a special edition that trails the News in the "big paper" class.

There were six sections of eight or ten pages each. The stories written were stories of the town's progress and especially the development of hydro-electric power. The paper was published under the name of The Charlotte News And Times-Democrat.

The Charlotte Public Library's copy of the edition, yellowed and worn, was minus the first section. But the remaining five sections told a story of the day that was interesting and entertaining.



STATION 50 YEARS AGO.—Charlotte's railway station, where trains far from stream-lined chugged to a stop. This depot was originally known as the Richmond and Danville passenger station. It was located where the Southern railway passenger station now stands.

A copy of the Mecklenburg Declaration adorns the first page of Section two. Dr. George W. Graham wrote a story of the Declaration, which was unanimously adopted about 7 o'clock on the morning of May 20, 1775. The original was burned in the home of John McKnight Alexander, one of the signers, said Dr. Graham. Alexander made several copies from memory and later one was published in the Raleigh Register. A controversy raged over the Declaration.

The special edition contained a drawing of the Ship monument, which was erected in front of the Government Building in honor of Laurens William Evers Ship, First Lieutenant of Tenth Cavalry, killed on July 1, 1869, near San Juan, in an engagement in which several other American officers lost their lives. The monument was dedicated in May, 1902. The principal address was delivered by Col. J. P. Thomas.

A story by Dr. J. B. Alexander on "Early Reminiscences" told much of the history of Mecklenburg and related anecdotal incidents which had been handed down to him.

A "History of Mecklenburg County" by G. E. Littlejohn occupied several columns in one section. The paper carried a picture of Alexander Graham, "whose searchings into the Mecklenburg Declaration history have added much light to this document."

An interesting illustration was a photograph of the "Colonial residence of Mr. B. D. Heath at Piedmont—Charlotte's growing suburb." Unchanged, the large residence on Central Avenue is now occupied by the Charlotte Community Church.

Littlejohn's history says: "In Wheeler's history of North Carolina, published about 1850, the population of Mecklenburg is given as being 8,264 whites, 127 free Negroes and 5,472 slaves."

Other pictures show the Mecklenburg County Courthouse in the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence Monument, erected in front of the Courthouse on E. Tryon Street in 1829.

William C. Whittman, editor of

the Associated Press through its center and news photo service supplies subscribers with a complete feature service, comprising news photos, news feature stories with and without illustrations, comic strips and news cartoons. These are available to members only.

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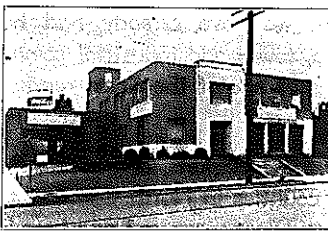
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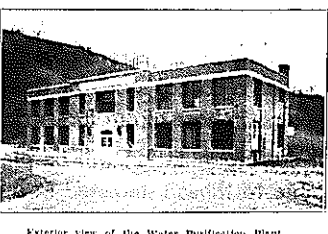
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Two of Charlotte's mayors 50 years ago and the oldest living mayor. At the left is F. B. McDowell, who was mayor of Charlotte in 1888, and at the right is J. D. McCall, who served as mayor from 1899 to 1901 and is today's oldest living mayor. The picture shows him at the time he was mayor.



TWO OF CHARLOTTE'S MAYORS—Pictures show Charlotte's mayor 50 years ago and the oldest living mayor. At the left is F. B. McDowell, who was mayor of Charlotte in 1888, and at the right is J. D. McCall, who served as mayor from 1899 to 1901 and is today's oldest living mayor. The picture shows him at the time he was mayor.

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