

8B—The Mount Airy NEWS.
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ing at the most inopportune times—for instance, when his so-called master is just ready to climb into bed.

But to the dog owner, it's all worthwhile, even if Laddie's food does cost twice as much in a year as the average infant's. For the dog has become a status symbol in our society.

Letter To Editor

The Old Methodist Church
and Cemetery

I don't remember when the old church was used as it was before my time, but it fascinated me and I went there many times before it was torn down years later. Built of wide clapboard, painted white, a high belfry and a recessed porch with an enclosed stairway on each side, which led to the gallery where the slaves sat. The building had no special claim to architectural design—just a quaint oldfashioned church standing even with the burial ground. An avenue of cedar trees lined the wide driveway in the center leading to the church; beyond them were broad esplanades with hitching posts for the horses. What a pity it was demolished!

About 1897 the congregation moved up town to the new Central Methodist Church on Franklin Street, and the years following the old cemetery were sadly neglected—briars and honeysuckle ran riot over the ground; vandals overturned gravestones, breaking many beyond repair, and the scene was one of utter desecration. Discouraging as the outlook appeared, two brave souls decided to do something about it. They were Mary Fulton Bennett and Gertrude Smith. Their first step was to go before the Town Commissioners and ask that a high metal fence be put up enclosing the entire cemetery. They acceded to the request and have been most helpful. The town paid for the fence and having it put up, the stone gate posts given by the North Carolina Granite Corporation set in place and the wrought iron gate hung. They volunteered to take it over as to mowing the grass etc.—which insures its maintenance. All this was encouraging; however, money had to be raised for clearing the ground and other expenses involved. They asked my help and we got busy contacting relatives of those buried there and wrote many letters to ones out of town, most of whom responded generously.

The Garden Clubs were told of the plan and asked their help. They accepted the request as a worthy project. Many of the members gave flowers and shrubs from their gardens. A few English boxwood have survived over the years. Lettie Hollingsworth and Irene Smith gave more, and we're very proud of them, the aristocrat of evergreens, especially at home in this setting. The gardeners went to work directing the planting; they did a wonderful job, and all those interested, and they are legion, give them most hearty

thanks.

The grass is up and looks like a green velvet carpet. As one enters the gate, one sees an ancient very tall pine tree standing majestically in the background, close by the fence, which I fancy is

saying, "I am keeping watch over this hallowed ground, wherein lies the dust of the long ago citizens of the village of Mount Airy."

ALMA B. BIVENS

P.S. Those who have helped in so many ways restoring the old ceme-

tery invite the public to visit the restored Methodist Cemetery, Sunday afternoon, June 27, between the hours of two and six o'clock.

Experience is what those who need it most can never have.