**Historic Boonesociety**, Watauga County Public Library, and NCDigital.org.

**February 13, 1889**

"F.J. McMILLAN & SON of Mouth of Wilson, Va., Manufactures all kinds of woolen goods, which they will send to your door in exchange for wool," announced an advertisement in this week's edition of the Watauga Democrat. "They also keep a full line of goods on hand at SUTHERLANDS, ASHE Co., N.C.," continued the notice. "They pay highest CASH prices for wool."  
A column entitled "Town and Country" included this reflection: "We are sorry to hear of so many of our good citizens leaving for the west, but we hope they may better themselves by the move." At this period in Watauga County's history, raising sheep was a staple of farm life, although many local inhabitants were moving to areas such as the Pacific Northwest states in search of grazing land.