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Reverse View of Smithtown Tragedy

Ebb Nick Died Without a Rabbit's Chance, As Testified By His Family and Friends—Was the Federal Firing Squad Detailed to Kill Without Quarter?—Sidelights On a Sad Incident In the Hills.

(Editorial Correspondence.)

It was six o'clock Saturday morning, October 19, 1929. The sun had not risen, but the russet light out of the east was breaking through the beautiful October woods, when Ebb Nick came out of his house, traversed a path that runs through a thicket of undergrowth or small bushes that skirts the eastern end of his yard, and emerged into the big road that runs alongside of his homestead, to face a squad of Federal and State officers who opened fire on him at ten or fifteen paces.

Ebb carried a small tin vessel in his hand, as he had started to find some whiskey hidden somewhere, desiring an early morning drink. He dropped the tin and ran across the road, entering a new-ground clearing, which was covered with a growth of sprouts averaging waist-high. Beyond the new ground was the forest 150 yards away.

With rifles, revolvers and sawed-off shotguns loaded with buckshot, the officers poured a withering fire into the fleeing man. Some 40 yards distant, in the middle of the new ground clearing, Ebb crumpled up, his back pierced by a number of high-calibered bullets, either one of which would have been fatal.

Ebb's boy, named Ed, aged 13, was in the midst of the shooting, having been near his father when the latter emerged from the thicket into the road. Ed, anxious for his father's fate, excited to death, ran along with the officers as they approached the still form lying in the clearing.

In the meantime the shots, and the screams of Ebb's wife and children, aroused John R. Hill, Ebb's father-in-law, who lives a short distance east of the new ground. Mr. Hill came up bitterly demeaning the officers for their action. No reply was elicited except from one who said: "Mr. Hill, we are very sorry for it."

Mr. Hill stooped down and raised Ebb's head, noticing his revolver, a 44-Special S. & W., which was lying under the dying man, Mr. Hill not being certain whether the gun was in the scabbard or not. Mr. Hill started to pick it up when one of the officers took it from his hands.

Ebb Didn't Get a Rabbit's Chance.

This was the sentiment of the crowd who had gathered Sunday evening when the Reporter man called. Many cars were coming and going, and had been all day, we were told. Visitors out of curiosity wanted to look over the scene of the tragedy. There were the tracks Ebb made as he scampered up a low bank into the new ground. Marks of bullets were to be seen here and there where twigs and bark from saplings had been pierced. In one or more places evidences of heavy-calibered balls were seen where they ploughed up the dirt. Where Ebb fell in the field the growth was pressed down. Ed showed us where his father's head had lain, and where his feet were stretched. We questioned the boy. This is his story, told between his sobs:

Ed's Story.

I am 13 years old. My father thought a heap of me, and always had me to fix his dram. I got up when daddy did Saturday morning, and I was in the thicket right here (he showed us the exact place three feet from the path) when daddy passed me, saying "I'll be back in a minute, son. Wait here for me." A moment later I heard the men shooting daddy and I ran out into the road and with them. They had been hidden right near to where I was, and I did not know it. I saw daddy running with both hands stuck up. I saw the men shooting at him, I saw him fall and I heard one of the men say while daddy was on the ground: "Let's blow his d—d head off." I went up to daddy where he was lying and asked him if he was shot much bad and he sort of smiled, and tried to say something but he couldn't, as they had killed him. I loved my daddy, he was good to me, and I stayed with him so much, and he was good to us all. I don't know what we shall do now."

There was an ominous stillness around the house. Men were gathered in small bunches, conversing low. A few women were on the porch. There was an air of expectant melancholy. After awhile a horse from Winston-Salem drew up, backed up and unloaded the basket. Many hands helped carry it in the little front room, and arrange it there open. Ebb was home once

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WALNUT COVE NEWS AND PERSONALS

Two Ladies Ill—Womans' Auxiliary Meets—Flower Show—A Birth.

Walnut Cove, Oct. 23.—The Woman's Auxiliary of the Episcopal church met Tuesday evening with Mrs. Jacob Fulton in a very interesting and well attended meeting. The president, Mrs. R. A. Hedgecock, presided and after the business period the ninth chapter of the Gospel of St. Luke was read and discussed. A questionnaire on the chapter was given by the hostess. A social half hour was enjoyed at the conclusion of the program and tempting refreshments served.

Squire Jim Marshall, Forsyth representative and Geo. A. Younce, of Greensboro, candidate for solicitor in this district, were visitors here Monday.

Mrs. Ellen Simmons, who has charge of the central office here has been quite sick at her home but is improving, her many friends will be glad to know.

Mrs. W. L. Vaughn was in Charlotte the past week consulting a specialist. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Everett Mathews, of Winston-Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Rierson and daughters, Misses Claudia and Stell, spent the week-end in Charlotte with Mr. and Mrs. Pink Rierson.

Misses Elizabeth Sparger, Dixie Reeves and Ratley spent Saturday in Greensboro.

Miss Grace Woodruff returned to St. Mary's school, Raleigh, on Monday.

Mrs. B. D. Gentry and small son, Jackie, of Lexington, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Dunlap.

Miss Annie Martin spent Saturday in Greensboro.

Mrs. H. H. Davis spent Tuesday in the Twin-City.

Mrs. J. B. Woodruff, Miss Grace Woodruff and John Woodruff spent Sunday at Danville, Va., with relatives.

Miss Julia Hairston attended the party in Winston-Salem yesterday evening given by Mrs. Julius Neely.

Mrs. Robert Hays, Jr., of Newark, N. J., arrived this week to be with her mother, Mrs. Ellen Simmons.

Mesdames George Fulton and J. W. Jones were shopping in Greensboro yesterday.

Among those who attended the Carolina-Georgia game Saturday were: Dr. R. H. Hackler, Jacob Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Vaughn announce the arrival of a daughter Tuesday in Winston-Salem. Mr. Vaughn is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Vaughn, of Walnut Cove.

One of the attractive spots in town at present is the flow-

FAMOUS WILL CASE IS HEARD HERE

Guilford County Jury Renders Verdict Favorable To Propounders—Two Divorces Granted By Court.

A special jury composed of Guilford county citizens was brought to Danbury Monday morning to hear the evidence in the case in which some of the heirs were seeking to break the will of the late Samuel P. ers, which means that the will tain section of Stokes county.

The trial was taken up Monday afternoon in Stokes Superior court and today (Wednesday) the jury rendered a verdict in favor of the propounders as it was made. However, the caveators have given notice of appeal to the Supreme court.

The consideration involved in this case is said to be only about 125 acres of mountain land, lying in the Brown Mt. section, and attorneys fees and costs have no doubt amounted to much more than the value of the land, it is said, as this was the third time the court has heard the case, the two other trials resulting in disagreement of the juries.

Two divorce cases were heard by the court Monday, divorce being granted in each case. They were Joe Wall vs. Fannie Wall, and Essie H. Haswell vs. W. Y. Haswell.

Today the court took up the case entitled Virginia Bailey by her next friend, Jno. C. Bailey, vs. John A. McKay and others, the suit being for damage in an automobile accident.

Judge Walter E. Moore is presiding over the court, and there are a number of cases yet to be heard this week.

Hallowe'en Box Party At Lawsonville

You have a special invitation to a Hallowe'en box party that is to be given Friday night, November 1st, in the school building at Lawsonville, North Carolina. Come prepared, in Hallowe'en fashion, to drink lemonade, have your fortune told, fish a little, vote on the prettiest girl, and, if you are a boy, to buy the box of some pretty girl. There may be some good music given at this party. Remember the place and the date.

F. L. S.

Caswell county farmers have ordered 138 tons of ground limestone to be used under soil improving crops this fall.

er garden of Mrs. Joe Welch which is filled with gorgeous chrysanthemums in full bloom. Attorney Gilmer Sparger spent the week-end at Mt. Airy, with friends.

Mrs. Jacob Fulton and Miss Elizabeth Russell spent the day in Greensboro Saturday.

PERSONALS AND NEWS OF KING

Death of Two Children—A Marriage—Several Births—Opening New Cafe—Oyster and Chicken Supper.

King, Oct. 21.—An oyster and chicken supper will be given in the old bank building next to the King Theater on Saturday, Oct. 26th, beginning at 4:30 P. M. Proceeds go to the Moravian church.

Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Caudle and daughter, Miss Flossie Caudle, of Winston-Salem, were week-end visitors to relatives here.

Dr. R. S. Helsabeck has returned to his home here after spending a short vacation in Richmond, Va. He was the guest of his brother while in Richmond.

Mrs. Bettie J. Stone is spending a few days with her daughter, Mrs. S. O. Schaub, in High Point.

Albert Petree, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is spending a few days with relatives here. Mr. Petree who was reared near here, has many relatives and warm friends in this section. He holds a position as locomotive engineer with the Norfolk & Western Railway. He has been in Cincinnati twenty-six years.

Paul, the ten-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kirby, died at their home in Winston-Salem Wednesday from ptomaine poisoning. The remains were brought back here and laid to rest in the Mount Pleasant cemetery Thursday at two o'clock P. M.

The following births were registered here last week: To Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Brown, a son, to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gordy, a daughter, and to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Moss, a daughter.

Holton Kiser, of King, and Miss Sallie Vogler, of Tobaccoville, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony Friday. They left immediately for the mountains of Virginia where they will spend their honeymoon. Both young people are popular and their many friends wish for them a long and happy married life.

The twenty-six months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar McGee died at their home just south of town Saturday morning following an attack of pneumonia and spinal meningitis. The funeral service was conducted at the King first Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 2:30 and burial followed in the church cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester O. Pulliam, of Greensboro, are spending a few days here the guests of relatives.

Al Vest, of West End, formerly of King, is spending a few days with relatives and friends here.

Happy Smith is preparing to open up a cafe in the Nance building next to the Bank of Stokes County.

H. D. Pulliam, of High Point, is among the business visitors here today.

C. W. Patterson, of Pilot Mt., was here Monday looking after some business matters.

Farmers in this section are very busy preparing tobacco for market.

Ball Game Saturday At Walnut Cove

Stokesdale and Walnut Cove will play baseball on the Walnut Cove diamond Saturday at 2:30 P. M. Carl Ray pitching for Walnut Cove and Jimmie Poole and Carr Smith to be in the line up. Be there if you want to see a good game.

In China husbands and wives seldom see each other before marriage. In America some seldom see each other afterward.

PETE STONE FOUND GUILTY

Given 15 Years Sentence On Manslaughter Charge—Number of Others Sentenced At Last Week's Term of Court.

Pete Stone has given notice of appeal in the case in which he was found guilty of manslaughter in Stokes Superior court last week. Bond was fixed at \$5,000 and the defendant has not yet been able to give it. He is being held in jail here. Stone was charged with killing his own young son by striking it on the head with some instrument.

Keever Newsum, Curtis Moser and Judson Spainhour, the three King men charged with housebreaking, larceny and receiving, were sentenced at the close of the court. Newsum got not less than 3 or more than 5 years in the penitentiary in one case and not less than 1 or more than 2 years in the other. Spainhour and Moser drew the same sentences, each being fined \$500 and the cost, and given suspended sentences of 2 years each in the penitentiary.

Geo. Woody, colored, found guilty of attempting to commit rape on a member of his own race, was sentenced to not less than 5 or more than 6 years in the penitentiary.

Rufe Pruitt, on a charge of larceny and receiving, was given a 6 months road sentence.

Gilbert Bullin, assault on female, six months on road.

Sam Manning, assault on female, 6 months on road, and 6 months suspended sentence at former term of court put into effect, making 12 months.

Paul Huffman, found guilty of reckless driving by jury, fined \$25 and cost.

Ollie Manuel, pleading guilty to concealing birth of child, given 6 months suspended sentence in jail.

Joe Beck Moore, carrying concealed weapon, fined \$50 and cost and given suspended sentence of 6 months.

Jack Gunter, failure to show good behaviour, 6 months on road.

Everett Hooker, possession of liquor, \$25 and cost.

McKinley Foddrell, carrying concealed weapon, given four months road sentence for failure to pay fine and cost in case at former term.

The criminal term of Superior court held until late Saturday afternoon but the docket still has plenty of work left for the special term beginning Dec. 9th.

Judge Moore spent Sunday here and opened the civil term of court for Stokes on Monday morning.

Dairymen of Wake county established a bottle exchange. Nine members delivered 2,818 bottles on the opening day.