

Mount Airy News.

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Executions in Surry—Further Light On The Subject

Some weeks ago The News published a brief account of the executions that have been in this county since the memory of man, as recalled by old people. Mention was made of the fact that a man was hung for the murder of a man named Forkner, but at that time we were not able to find any one who could give the facts about this part of our history.

Mr. J. H. Freeman who lives near this city kindly gives us an account of this affair that he thinks is the truth of the matter. Mr. Freeman says that his father, Sam P. Freeman, was reared at Rockford from childhood and settled in the country a few miles north of Rockford after becoming a man. In this country home Mr. J. H. Freeman was born and reared. He says that when he was a child he thinks it was about 1851, he remembers that his people all went to the hanging at Rockford. He has the following story from his father who was present at the execution and often told the story in after years. He says that a white man named Lewis Forkner was killed by a negro named Hard Hill, the negro was known as "Free Hard Hill", because he was a free negro, never having been a slave. He killed Forkner with a little pen knife the blade of which was broken, by stabbing him. For the crime he paid with his life on the scaffold at old Rockford just before the county seat was moved from there to Dobson.

We published the facts about the execution of Charles Stokes, and Mr. Freeman says that he distinctly recalls hearing his father tell about the hanging of a man at Rockford by the name of Raah, but he does not remember the facts about this execution.

Work For The Courts

There is some work that the county courts need to do that would save some of our citizens from themselves. And when you come to think of it, often a man needs to be saved from himself, for it is easy for a man to become his own worst enemy. Down in the country a few miles east of this city live some young men, some of them with young families, who have fought each other until they have become notorious. They have been in the county courts here at Mount Airy and at Dobson and invariably they have been able to show that they are hard working young farmers with good connections. In that way they have usually been let off with light sentences, the courts no doubt believing that the young men would not be entangled again. But this disposition to fight each other has gone to that length that it puts young men in bad light to have to answer again for the same charge. Not long ago one of these young men was let off with a suspended road sentence with the promise that he would go back home and avoid further trouble. Now they tell how he has been again entangled and how he has left the country and how his wife is closing up his business and preparing to follow him. We hear of another young man who has been caught in some suspected violation and has left the county.

The latest affair that this section has developed was pulled off last Sunday afternoon on the road to Pilot Mountain when three young men in one automobile and three in another met on the road and quarreled. After a time they came to blows, and for an hour, with rocks and sticks and bare hands they tried to devour each other as brute beasts. They would fight for a time and stop and stand about and talk, and then like two mad animals, again they would go at each other.

It was, as we said above, on Sunday afternoon in a thickly settled section, and automobiles passed frequently while the young men were down on the ground trying to injure each other in any way they could. Neighbors who saw the fight, knowing the parties, preferred to play safe by not interfering. And so they fought each other until they evidently thought one man was nearly killed, for he was put out of the fight by a heavy blow on the top of the head with a rock. They carried him to a doctor as bloody as if he had been butchered for salt. With groans and appearing to be in an almost dying condition he was carried away. Another of the young men got his clothes almost cut from his body, though he escaped any serious injury.

They tell us that some of these young men are now under bond for good behavior, and to appear in court again in connection with the present ex-

perience because of that good behavior bond.

If the courts can save these young men from themselves until they become more mature, or until they in some way learn that it is not best to live as they have been doing, the courts will render a service that it appears can come from no other source.

Recorders Court Proceedings.

The Recorders court held a session last Tuesday, the first in several weeks because of the sickness of the Recorder, A. E. Tilley.

Attorneys J. H. Folger and W. F. Carter were both out of town attending the session of the Supreme Court at Raleigh and all cases in which they were to appear were continued because of their absence.

Brit Fleming, Ray Gunter, and Henry Goins were before the court charged with gambling. Gunter was let off with the cost and judgement will be passed next week on the other two. Fleming is already under a suspended sentence.

Junius Smith, a negro, was taxed \$9.80 for speeding.

Coy Woolwine, a negro boy ten years of age was before the court charged with stealing. He will be turned over to the judge of the juvenile court.

John Allred, negro, was sent to the roads for 60 days for stealing a side of meat from Luther Martin's store and bound to the Superior court for stealing a cow.

Moir Bowman drew \$9.80 for speeding.

Clyde Stack was taxed with the cost, \$9.80 for speeding.

J. Sanford Chilton and Dio Lewis were before the court charged with an affray. Both were let off with the cost, \$9.80 each.

Woodson O'Neil and Percy Fry were made to pay the cost of the action in which they were charged with fighting.

The policemen rounded up a bunch of eight negroes engaged in gambling game in a store building on Needmore street. They were playing for rather large stakes, and some of them claim to have lost several dollars. They were made to pay the cost amounting to about \$10.00 each.

A story of human interest was brought out at the session of the court that strikingly illustrates the awkward positions that poor mortals often entangle themselves in. To use the names of the parties would do no good and would add nothing to the value of the story.

A week ago a nicely dressed woman came to town from Winston and said she was here to visit a friend, but after arriving here she was not able to locate the friend and so stopped at a local hotel, but failed to register after securing a room. The same day a citizen came to town from Winston and just happened to meet up with the lady who happened to be an old friend of his. He claimed to be a mechanic and to be here on business. Together they rode about the town and took in the sights and later in the day the man registered at the same hotel and for some cause registered under an assumed name. Now "murder will out" and in some way the police got wind of the two visitors and somebody happened to know that both the man and the woman were known in the police circles in the town where they have lived. About eleven o'clock the night they were here the police visited the room where the woman was spending the night at the hotel and greatly to the embarrassment of all parties the man in the case was there. With this woman was a pretty little girl who was in the room with her and they claimed to be spending the evening at a game of cards, just being old friends. But the police were not satisfied with the reasons given and arrested them on the charge of securing a room at a hotel for immoral purpose.

Now it seems that the woman has a husband living at Raleigh and had been visiting her people for a time at Winston. When she found herself in the hands of a cold-blooded set of officers and the charge a grave one she became as humble as a whipped dog and begged so hard to be allowed to go back to her husband that she got on the nerves of the officers who allowed her to leave on her word that she would go back home and send a cash bond of \$25. On this promise she was allowed to leave town, and strange or not strange, as you care to think of it, the woman sent the \$25 back by wire as quick as she got home.

But the man was locked up in jail at the town hall and there he languished, if languished is the word, until the fit allowed Judge Tilley to come down town. It took six days waiting before he could get a hearing. During this time he tried to hire some of the boys about the jail to buy him a hack saw and offered them a dollar to get him one. The boys failed to fall for it but told the police who kept a strict watch on him after that. When haled into court the fellow appeared as a well-dressed man and made no bad lawyer. He had sense enough to see

the predicament he was in and was wise enough to make the very most of the situation. He frankly told the court that he was ready to plead guilty, and that he was willing to place himself at the mercy of the court. Then he told a story that got on the nerves of all present and brought about his liberation. He told how he had come to town and just accidentally met up with the woman in the case and how they were just old friends, and how he had spent the afternoon with her seeing the town as strangers will do, and how he had spent the evening in her room playing an innocent game of cards. He said he was a mechanic and had a job in Winston and with big tears creeping down his rough face he told the court how he was unfortunate in having had family troubles and how he had been ordered to pay over to the clerk of the Superior Court of Forsyth county a certain sum each month to his wife, and to show that he was telling the truth he pulled out of his pocket receipts from the clerk of the court showing that he had been paying his wife the sum of money the court ordered. Now he went on to tell the Judge, he was in a predicament and was not able to show that he was innocent, though, he claimed he was. But he would go back home to his wife and five children and be a good law-abiding citizen if he was allowed to depart. He said he only had enough money to pay his way back to Winston and if the court would only let him go back home he would faithfully send back the amount of the cost of his case. The fellow cried like a whipped boy and showed to the satisfaction of all present that he was humiliated to the limit and he was so earnest in his manner that he got the sympathy of the court and was allowed to go free. Those who heard the case were so im-

pressed with the man that they are expecting him to make his word good and send back the amount of the cost as he promised to do.

New Hotel Manager

R. B. Flake, the new manager of the Blue Ridge Inn, takes charge today. Mr. Flake has been with the Zintendorf hotel in Winston-Salem several years and has had considerable experience. He will operate the hotel for the owners, W. J. Byrley, G. C. and J. W. Lovill. W. M. Jordan who has been proprietor for several years moves into the home on Orchard street that he recently purchased from Rev. E. M. Taylor. He has not fully decided what business he will engage in.

Helping To Clothe Europe

Last week The News told of how the Mayo Mills had shipped a car load of underwear to England to help clothe the people in that manufacturing country. This week they are shipping another solid car load of the same kind of goods to Norway, all because that part of the world quit manufacturing during the long war that devastated Europe.

REVIVAL MEETING AT FRIENDS CHURCH.

The revival meeting which began Sunday at the Friends church has gained in interest and attendance with each succeeding service.

Rev. L. W. McFarland, who is doing the preaching, is well known here as an able speaker, his presentation of gospel truths is at once clear, logical, and forceful, and his sermons are strong, entertaining and gripping. He is ably assisted by Rev. John Permar as musical director. Rev. Permar is training a fine choir and his solo singing is already reaching and touching many hearts. The public is cordially invited to attend all services.



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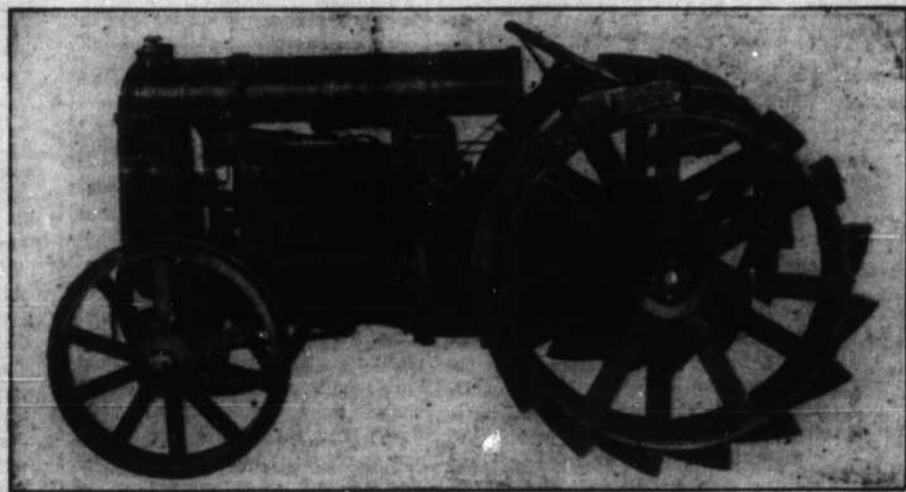
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