

## Pardon Commissioner Sink To Hear Ves Wesler's Case

Will Decide Whether Man Who Killed Wife 32 Years Ago, Married Again and Reared a Family, Deserves Anything Better Than a Sentence of Twenty-Five Years.

Raleigh, April 12.—Ves Wingle, whose case recalls Rip Van Winkle, will get his hearing shortly and Pardon Commissioner Hoyle Sink will decide whether the man who slew his young wife 32 years ago to take another 10 months later, is deserving of anything better than 25 years of slow death and of bonds.

Wingle's case became national in its interest. The fellow escaped trial for murder, he missed even the suspicion of his neighbors. He lived in Wilkes county, married Candace Miller in 1891 and lived with her two years and seven days. May 10 of 1893 Mrs. Wingle died, as Chief Justice Stacy writes in the 184 North Carolina, "under rather peculiar and suspicious circumstances. A coroner's inquest was held six days thereafter and again on May 23, the coroner's jury finally rendered a verdict that the deceased met her death by accidentally falling out of the loft of the defendant's cabin and striking her head against the stone hearth and hitting her shoulder and neck against the hearth and sharp wire ball of a pot in the fire place. This was the defendant's version, given at the trial, as to how she received her fatal injuries.

Has Reared a Family  
"In 1894, about 10 months later after Candace Wingle's death, the defendant married Melvina Wingle, the 16-year-old daughter of John Wingle. With the second wife, the defendant has since lived in the same community and raised another family. The child by his first wife was cared for largely by her grandmother, Mrs. Ann Miller."

Then came the fireworks. Ves Wingle in April three years ago swore out a warrant against one of John Shepherd's boys, charging him with an assault on Wingle's nine-year-old daughter, knocking out some of her teeth. Shepherd's boy fled and is still a fugitive. Two days after the warrant was sworn out, Shepherd made affidavit before a justice of the peace, who swore out a warrant against Wingle on the basis of the allegations, that Wingle had admitted in the presence of Shepherd and others that Wingle killed his wife and confessed it about the time of the murder.

Arrested and Convicted  
On the strength of this charge, nearly 30 years after the alleged killing, Wingle was arrested, tried and convicted. The defense sought to show that Shepherd was a falsifier and that he made this story against Wingle because the defendant, now more than 60 years old, had caused Shepherd's boy to run away. Judge McElroy tried the case and Wingle was convicted.

The testimony produced after these 30 years was to the effect that blood was found in the yard, on the old mattock in the house, that there were gashes and bruises on her body, and that there was no hole in the loft through which she could have fallen, that when this circumstance was called to Wingle's attention, Wingle said: "Yes, I killed her with the mattock, but in the name of God, don't tell it. Tell that she fell out of the loft and killed herself. For God's sake, open a place and tell she fell through there." Shepherd says Wingle then turned to him and said: "John, g—d—you, if you ever tell it, I will kill you."

Got Religion  
Of course the thing that made Shepherd tell after these 30 years was that "he got religion" at a revival and until then he had been afraid that Wingle would kill him. The jury convicted and the judge gave an indeterminate sentence of 25 to 30 years for murder in the second degree. Judge McElroy charged that there was no evidence of manslaughter and exception was taken to that charge.

Chief Justice Stacy, then associate wrote the opinion. It was the classic production of court during his tenure on it. The opinion has been copied all over the United States. The bachelor member brings religion, romance, everything to his aid. The scene, he said, opens in romance in the mountains of North Carolina, "it moves on from suggested intrigue to ultimate tragedy. So far as our records disclose, it is without a parallel in the judicial history of the state."

Justice Strikes Heavily  
Judge Stacy then turns to the immolation of woman, the high tax of blood and tears that nature exacts of her. "No civilization can last where women are permitted to be butchered like sheep in the shambles," he says. "Surely there is no pleasure to the wicked, but it would seem that this defendant ought to welcome an opportunity to expiate his crime and

to make some statement for it. \* \* Can the defendant ever forget that momentous hour when this woman with heroic courage took immortality by the hand and went down into the valley of the shadow of death that his child might live?"

And this other apostrophe to justice: "Though justice sometimes trends with leaden feet, if need be she strikes with an iron hand."

The case is now before Commissioner Sink. His office will necessitate his going to many places where crimes have been committed. This case will probably carry him to the mountains about 17 or 18 miles from Wilkesboro. The community had almost forgotten the murder and it is hard to get back in the atmosphere of 1893. There is considerable doubt about the integrity of Shepherd's story. And Commissioner Sink will go there to see what new light can be brought to the case. Wingle's term amounts to a life sentence.

### Atlantic City Waves Bring in 50 Cases Booze

Atlantic City, N. J., April 10.—Between 50 and 60 cases of whiskey came ashore last night about 8 o'clock along the Ocean City beach front. Citizens scurrying to the beach seized what they could carry. State police reported that citizens worked so fast that the patrolmen found only empty boxes.

### 35,000 PRESENT FOR EASTER RITES

Sunday's Attendance at Salem Service Greatest in City's History

Winston-Salem, April 12.—A congregation estimated by ushers to number thirty-five thousand people, the largest attendance at an Easter sunrise service in the history of this city, assembled at the home Moravian church and graveyard at 5 o'clock this morning, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The service was of perfect detail and proved one of the most impressive yet held.

Ideal spring weather added to the delightful solemnity of the occasion, and every feature of the Litany was rendered in delightful accord. The crowd was in perfect order, evidencing the one spirit of desire to celebrate the resurrection and manifesting a deep interest in the ceremony.

The service this morning was conducted by Bishop Edward Bondthaler this being his forty-eighth period of presiding. The band music, one of the most important features, was directed by B. J. Pfhol, for the thirty-fifth time, and Walter H. Hege directed the large corps of ushers for the sixteenth year.

In 1732 the first Moravian observance of Easter was held at Heerhut, Saxony, when a few men gathered before dawn and sang hymns above the dead in the local burying ground. In 1765 Count Zinzendorf, pioneer Moravian settler of Salem, wrote a ritual that could be pronounced at both church and graveyard. This ritual has become the central attraction of the most celebrated religious pilgrimage of this country.

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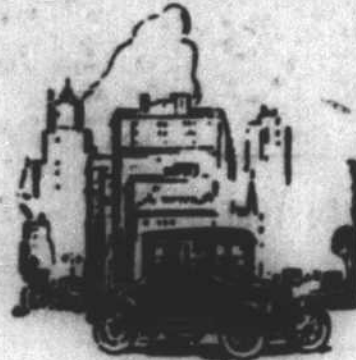
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**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
By virtue of the power conferred upon me by a deed of trust executed by C. F. Angel and wife E. E. Angel, said deed of trust being recorded in Book 86, page 24, in the Record of Deeds of Trust of Surry County, I will sell to the highest bidder, in front of the Granite Mercantile Company in Mount Airy, on Saturday, May 2, 1925, at one o'clock P. M., the following described real estate, to-wit:

A tract of land lying in Surry County, and bounded as follows: Beginning at a stake in Hawkin's line, runs North 50 deg. East 20.50 chs. to a stake and pointers, Robert Burrus corner; thence, East 50 deg. S. 14.25 chs. to a stake, Lee A. Burrus corner in Robert Burrus line; thence, S. 17.42 chs. to stake and pointers in Folger's line, thence, West 50 deg. North 11 chs. to a stake and pointers, Folger's corner; thence, South with Folger's line to Hawkin's corner; thence, West with Hawkin's line to beginning, containing 26.42 acres more or less.

Sale made to satisfy debt of Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00), interest and cost to be added.  
C. B. Davis, Trustee.

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