

# The Smithfield Herald

Price One Dollar Per Year

"TRUE TO OURSELVES, OUR COUNTRY AND OUR GOD."

Single Copy Five Cents

VOL. 27.

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1909.

NO. 50

## YOUNG LADY'S AWFUL DEATH.

Miss Claude Youngblood's Clothing Catches Fire at Her Home in Fayetteville.

Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 1.—Miss Claude Youngblood, the 19-year old daughter of N. E. Youngblood, a railroad engineer of this city, was burned to death yesterday afternoon as a result of her clothing catching fire from an open stove.

The young woman was in the sitting room of her home, in which room her father had just left her a few moments when in some way unknown her clothes caught fire from the stove and on Mr. Youngblood's return he was met at the door by his daughter in a mass of flames.

Physicians were hurriedly summoned and everything possible done for her, but the injuries were so severe that she died late yesterday afternoon.

The funeral was conducted at 4 o'clock this afternoon by the pastor of the First Baptist church.

## Mr. Honeycutt Writes About the Matter.

### TO THE EDITOR:

It is not my purpose in writing this article to indulge in a newspaper controversy with Mr. S. S. Holt or THE HERALD upon the position they take upon the recent act passed for Johnston County. But in justice to the County Officers and "fair play" I feel called upon to correct certain statements made by Mr. Holt and say to him that his misrepresentations shall not go unnoticed. He is not expected to "conceal my movements" in the matter, nor do I apologize to him or any one for going to Raleigh in the interest of this Bill, which he attacks, and leaving my office in charge of my deputy whose capability has never been questioned until this hour.

My record as a County official at his pleasure. I do not fear his political knife, but in defense of my deputy I desire to say that she has proven a most efficient clerk in every way. I ask the people of Johnston county to inspect their records and scrutinize my work and that of my clerk and they will find that the business of the office was not neglected in my absence.

Following the instructions from the County Convention of two years ago, our Representatives reduced the fees of the County Officials in the following manner:

In the Register of Deeds Office fees on deeds were reduced twenty cents and most mortgage deeds twenty-five cents. (Crop liens, chattel mortgages and title notes not being effected by the law.) For issuing County orders the fee was reduced from fifteen to ten cents. For issuing and recording a marriage license the fee of the Register was reduced from one dollar to fifty cents.

In the Clerk's office, the fee for passing upon a probate was reduced from twenty-five to twenty cents and passing upon a probate and privy examination of married women the fee was reduced from fifty to thirty-five cents.

The Sheriff's commission was reduced to three and one half per cent., while the treasurer's commission was reduced to two per cent. on Disbursements and no commission allowed upon receipts. At a glance it can be seen that the repeal of the law restores to the Register of Deeds twenty cents on deeds; five cents on issuing County Orders and returns to him fifty cents on each marriage license issued which was placed in the School fund.

In the repeal of the law as it affects the Clerk, he is placed on an equal footing with the Justices of the Peace and a Notary Public who receive twenty-five and fifty cents for probate and privy examinations. Why discriminate against the Clerk? The Sheriff's commission will be effected not more than one half of one per cent. and the Treasurer, whose commissions have steadily been cut by the removal of the Road Funds of the County from his hands, is placed on a two and one half per cent. commission on disbursements and one half of one per cent. on receipts.

Mr. Holt states that we are going back to the excessive fees of fifteen years ago when the volume of business "amounted to not more than fifty per cent. of what it does at pres-

ent." This is not true. Fifteen years ago and during Allen K. Smith's term of office, he was paid eighty cents for the same class of papers now placed on record for twenty cents, and this class of papers crop liens constitute three fourths of the papers filed in the office. While the volume of business has increased to some extent in the County offices, it does not overcome the cut of sixty cents on each paper and it is well to remember that with an increase of business has come a necessary increase in the expense of the office. On one thousand papers Allen K. Smith received eight hundred dollars, while the present incumbent receives two hundred dollars for the same amount of work.

During the past fifteen years the salaries of nearly every public official in the State and Nation have been increased. Among them the President, Congressmen, Senators, Governors, Judges, Commissioner of Labor and Printing, while in Johnston county the County Commissioners, Jurors and Road Supervisors will receive more for their services. The Superintendent of the County Home and the County Jailor have been forced to ask for increased pay. Personally I feel that the fees of Justices of the Peace should be increased, and if I had it in my power every man who attends Court as a State's witness, would be paid whole fees and not half fees as at the present time.

I favored the repeal of the law because I considered it just and right that Johnston County officials should be placed on a reasonable basis with others, and in the repeal of the law the registration of twenty cents on crop liens, paid mostly by poor men of the County, is not effected in the least.

If the aggregate fees and commissions "collected" by the Sheriff, Clerk, Register of Deeds and Treasurer are excessive and unreasonable, let the political reformer and critic examine ex-Sheriff J. T. Ellington, for so many years the leading sheriff of the State and whose political record and integrity no man questions. Go to W. A. Edgerton, the efficient ex-Register of Deeds, and enquire of him whether a County officer grows rich from the income of his office, and in the writers opinion, the doubtful mind will be satisfied and the prejudiced mind silenced unto the end of time.

At the County Convention of 1908, no resolution was introduced and in nominating the Representatives they were not bound by any former Convention of two or ten years ago.

To Mr. Holt I will say that we have not endeavored to "set at naught" the wishes of nine tenths of the Democracy, but asking for a repeal of a law which would be sanctioned by nine tenths of the conservative men of the County upon an investigation.

The charge of "Breach of Promise" against J. W. Barnes and J. W. Myatt and those favoring the bill cannot be sustained. The editors of THE HERALD have misjudged their men. No truer or more loyal citizens ever represented Johnston county in the General Assembly, and they can be depended upon to do what they conceive to be their duty regardless of the attitude of Beaty, Holt and Lassiter.

A public officer is placed in a peculiar position quite different from the private citizen. He is a member of every church in need in the county; he is always called upon to help the cause of charity and the demands of the unfortunate are ten-fold. At no time is he expected to refuse either church, charity or campaign offerings. And when this agitation subsides, it will be found that the conservative men of the county who fight the battles and furnish the implements of war are with us. It is not a question of politics but right.

SAM T. HONEYCUTT.

### A Mistake.

I saw in the last issue of THE SMITHFIELD HERALD in the Princeton news items a statement, that there would be a box party held in the Baptist church here on the 18th day of February, 1909. Please state in the next issue that there will be no box party in the Princeton Baptist church for the benefit of said church.

W. I. PEARCE,  
Church Clerk.

## WARD TO HANG IN MARCH.

Negro Fiend in Sampson Tried and Convicted in Superior Court at Clinton Monday.

Clinton, N. C., Feb. 2.—The trial of Will Ward for criminal assault upon Mrs. Mollie McLeod began here at 2:30 this afternoon before Judge W. R. Allen and ended at 6:35 when the jury returned a verdict of guilty.

George E. Butler assisted Solicitor Duffy for the State and Henry A. Grady was appointed by the court to represent the defendant, who was without counsel. At the close of the taking of testimony the case was submitted to the jury upon the evidence without argument upon the part of the State or the defense.

Ward assaulted Mrs. McLeod on January 19th and has been in the State penitentiary to prevent his being lynched. He arrived from Raleigh this morning under escort of a detail of the local military company and the entire company is on guard duty tonight.

The prisoner sat through the trial unmoved and presented a spectacle of stolid indifference. When asked if he had anything to say why sentence should not be passed upon him, he stated that he was once injured by a blow on the head which at times affected his mind, especially when he was drinking.

Judge Allen sentenced Ward to be hanged on March 3rd. The trial was witnessed by a packed court house. All disinterested spectators vacated the court room while Mrs. McLeod was on the stand at the request of Judge Allen. The crowd was at all times orderly.

The judge's charge to the grand jury and wise counsel in open court had a good effect and encouraged letting the law take its course in this case. Ward claims to be the son of an Indian mother and to have come from Oklahoma. His appearance indicates a decided trace of Indian blood. He will be taken back to Raleigh probably tomorrow and then return here for execution.

## Mr. Stevens Writes About the Matter.

### TO THE EDITOR:

The people of Johnston County believe in fair dealing and are not willing to single out any one man however humble he may be to discriminate against him. There never has been a time in the history of the county, nor is there a parallel anywhere, but that every officer gets the same fees for the same work, until the Laws of 1907, were enacted. That law singles out the Clerk's office and places him in the singular position of having to do work for 20 cents that every magistrate and notary public and every other officer in the State gets 25 cents for, and to do work for 35 cents that everybody else gets 50 cents for.

There is not a just man living that will say it ought to remain so and will sustain representatives Myatt and Barnes in repealing it, and this is the extent that the Myatt-Barnes act will effect the Clerk's office by putting it back under the general laws and on an equality with the justices of the peace of the County. Every body knows the motives that have prompted the wars that have been made upon the officers of the county.

They first began by demand for rotation and then for salaries that should be less than the fees of the offices, and that the excess should go to run the schools and build the roads of the county, which would make the poor who have to mortgage their crops to feed their families the road builders and school supporters of the county, a deep laid plot by the prime movers, and this was a system advocated by Mr. S. S. Holt and THE HERALD. Mr. Holt had the opportunity to show his friendship for the schools when the Smithfield school tax was voted on, and I am reliably informed that he refused to vote to tax his property to help educate the children of his poor neighbors, and I here and now challenge Mr. Holt and THE HERALD to show a single article in which either of them advocated a reduction of fees. They opposed in open convention the very resolution they are now attempting to uphold.

Mr. Holt issued a circular letter (among the many others circulated) in which he gave warning to his followers that some substitute would

be offered for his salary resolution and asked that it be voted down. Now if the resolution to reduce fees (offered by Mr. Allred, or Mr. Edgerton or whoever it was) was wrong in the eyes of Mr. Holt and THE HERALD two years ago, why this somewhat now about its repeal?

No one impugns Mr. Holt's motives, the veil is too thin to hide the motive, a blind man can see it.

One reason urged against the repeal of this discriminating law was that it was not voted on in last convention; for the very same reason then, to be consistent, the HERALD and Mr. Holt will oppose the bill I drafted and sent up and Representative Myatt and Barnes passed giving to jurors \$2 per day instead of \$1.50 (where they have to pay \$2.00 per day for board and lodging) and giving to the County Commissioners \$3 per day instead of \$2, and the magistrates \$2 per day for holding the February and August meetings required by law, where heretofore they got nothing. Not only has Mr. Holt's sincerity in the matter of educating the children of the land been tested, but his sincerity in the matter of fees has been tested also, as the records and papers in this office show that before Mr. Holt had been a lawyer six months the courts have had to put him under a restraining order keeping him from collecting fees amounting to hundreds of dollars until the same shall be investigated by the court. And if it is allowed it will give him for a few hours work more fees in one case (winding up the affairs of the Neuse Milling Co. without controversy) than I get in about 2½ years by being put back on an equality with the justices of the peace under the general law, and as much as the register of deeds with three or four assistants gets for two or three months laborious work, and as much as the sheriff gets for trudging through sleets and snows, lying out at night and perhaps facing the assassin's bullet (as did the late sheriff of Brunswick county) in serving two hundred rapiaes, and if the court does allow it then, I submit that it will be a proper subject for legislative notice. I shall further challenge the sincerity of Mr. Holt and THE HERALD in the matter of fees if they do not draft a proper bill to that effect and send it to Representatives Myatt and Barnes.

I ask every man to divest himself of all prejudices and judge between the men who are striving honestly to do their duty and our accusers.

W. S. STEVENS.

Feb. 3, 1909.

## BRANDENBURGH JUMPED BOND.

Bail Ammounting to \$1,500 is Forfeited and Bench Warrants for Arrest Are Promptly Issued for Circulation of the "Cleveland" Letter.

New York, Feb. 1.—Broughton Brandenburg, the magazine writer, who was indicted on a charge of grand larceny as a result of his sale to a newspaper of an article, alleged to have been written by Grover Cleveland, failed to appear today before Justice Dowling to answer to the indictment.

His bail of \$1,500, which was given by a bonding company, was forfeited. Bench warrant for Brandenburg's arrest was immediately issued.

Samuel B. Thomas, Brandenburg's attorney, stated he had received no word from his client since last night, when he had a telephone conversation with him, and was in ignorance of the writer's present whereabouts.

The present case against Brandenburg grew out of the selling by him of an article purporting to have been written by the late Grover Cleveland, and representing him as advocating the election of Wm. H. Taft. After the publication the article was widely circulated as campaign literature. The article was brought to the attention of Mrs. Cleveland, who is alleged to have declared it entirely apocryphal and an investigation ensued, which resulted in the indictment of Brandenburg on a charge of grand larceny in the second degree, preferred by the Times.

We are glad to present another letter from Mr. Oscar Rand this week. This letter was written immediately after Christmas from Newquay where he spent his Christmas vacation. Our readers will find much in this letter to entertain them.

## PUT OFFICIALS ON SALARY.

Let the People Come Together and Help for the Salary Plan and Public Schools.

### TO THE EDITOR:

You call on the people of our good old County to help to find a way out of the hole in regard to the fees in the important offices of the county.

I, as a Democrat and citizen of the county, am a volunteer; and I take my pen to help to defend the cause of the people of the county by asking for a united effort on the part of the whole constituency of all of the people of the county to put the officers on a reasonable salary, and give the surplus funds of those offices to the school fund of the county.

In the beginning I will say that I am a friend to the officials of the county and hope they are a friend to me. I wish to also state that I am a friend to the Democratic party and that it has been a friend to me and all of the people of the county. Now I wish all this friendship and love to continue in the future. It is said that love begets love, and now we need a few love seeds sown over the county by the Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee while the political land is in good condition for them to sprout, so that they may come up and grow into a great mass meeting of the county at Smithfield, or at their respective primaries, or perhaps the Executive Committee meeting might cultivate this tree of love in such a way that it would help to give love in return from the people's.

In the Democratic Convention in 1905 I voted for the reduction of fees. I did not do so because I was opposed to an increase of the school fund, but because there was such a heavy plea entered by the opponents of the salary plan, for the poor man who generally paid these fees, either directly or indirectly. It is said that when the blind lead the blind all fall into the ditch together.

We have some very good men in office whose hearts ought to be large enough to hold the interest of all the people of the county and especially those of the little bright faced boys and girls, upon whom the future of the county depends; and I believe they are. And perhaps they themselves are tired of keeping in the ditch with us and have gotten the fees back on the old scale so that there might be enough to pay a reasonable salary and some to give to the bright boys and girls.

To be sure, it is not selfishness of the officials, or at least, I hope it is not. If it is, or is not, I say let the people come together some how and adopt resolutions for salary and school fund and send up to Raleigh and get an enactment by the legislature for salary and school. Of course as Mr. Smith says in your last issue there is more work to be done than there was in years past but it does not take scarcely any more force. It is about as well to wear out as to rust out. Years ago there was not enough work to keep busy all the time. A man or woman either should be rewarded for their labor and there are good men in the offices who would be glad to continue to fill them for a liberal salary, and there are a good many good men who have never held office that would fill them with credit and be more than glad to do it for a reasonable salary.

While the officers have assistants and they are to pay there are a good many school districts in the county that need an assistant teacher and haven't the funds to pay with. I remember very well that the opponents of the salary plan laid special stress on the idea that the public schools run four months in the year and that was as much as was needed and wanted. If the people cannot send any more than four months those four should have enough teachers to give all of the advancement possible in that time. Yes, "right is right and wrong is wrong" and it would be equal rights to all to give the people some of their fees back to them in a school fund. Nearly everybody pays some of the fees in a lifetime in some way or other. A good many districts would be more than glad to have longer terms. As for equal rights of officers the four important ones are no better to work for salary than Commissioners, Board of Education, County Superintendent of Schools, and Jurors. So put all

on reasonable salary from jurors on up.

So if you will give us the salary plan and the surplus to the public schools, Mr. Officer, you will still be helping Mr. Poor Man whom you have led into the ditch.

But my letter is getting too long already. Let the Democrats of Johnston County think of these things. I am only one, but as one I am willing to do my part. When I saw in the paper that the bill to restore the old fees had been introduced, I said to myself, "If that bill passes I am for S. S. Holt's salary plan." The bill has passed and I am ready to work for any plan that will help to strengthen the party and at the same time help to readjust matters and build up our schools. Let's all pull together for reasonable salaries and schools.

Yours respectfully,

P. E. JOHNSON,  
Four Oaks, Jan. 30, 1909.

### He Wants a Convention Called.

### TO THE EDITOR:

The repeal of the "bill reducing fees" has caused some dissatisfaction in my "neck of the woods." The matter ought to be settled officially in some way and I suggest that the best plan would be for the Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee to call a convention of the Democracy of Johnston county and let the matter be settled right. A Democratic convention authorized the passage of the law reducing fees and I feel that the law should never have been repealed except upon demand of the Democracy in convention assembled. I, for one, am for putting the officials on a salary. I think the people have a right to know how much they pay their public servants. The great question is "shall a few men go ahead and repeal a law asked for by a big convention, and especially when the repeal of that law is to the pecuniary advantage of the men asking for its repeal." Are the servants bigger than the people? Give us a convention and let us settle the matter.

J. S. JOHNSON.

Benson, R. F. D. No. 1, Feb. 4.

### For Good Roads.

### EDITOR HERALD:

Man like a current of electricity follows the circuit of least resistance.

In the week before last HERALD we learned that "sections of the law" were going to be applied to the owners and runners of traction engines and heavy wagons, unless they repair the damage they do. If this law is enforced we will all stop hauling heavy loads in this country. This week we are informed through the HERALD that a petition is being circulated to keep these wagons and engines from running on the roads of Smithfield township. It appears to us that this is rather a bad state of affairs that the public highways are not sufficient for the traffic. It seems to us that it is a backward step to compel any one by law or public petition to stop any legal and profitable business, because some of us have scary horses, or because the roads are too weak to sustain the weight of the engines or wagons.

The fact that the roads are so weak, makes it glaringly apparent to us that the roads, not owners of engines and heavy wagons, need the application of "sections of the law" and public "petitions."

We presume though that just as traction engines and heavy wagons were not meant for this part of the world; good roads were designed for other sections of the world also.

The old way is so much easier. The path of least resistance is so cunningly satisfactory. And we feel so poor too. The tax to construct macadamized roads would be too heavy a burden.

We do not believe this to be the sentiment of the majority of the people in the county. We believe that the majority of the people are of the opinion that the day has come for good roads; roads that are macadamized. Johnston County is one of the wealthiest counties in the State. The progress of the times demands good roads.

D. R. WELLONS.

Smithfield, N. C., Feb. 1, 1909.

Mr. J. B. Smith has sold out his grocery business to the City Grocery Co. Mr. J. W. Moore will be manager of the store.