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A DASTARDLY MURDER

Citizens Were So Dazed Negro Was Allowed to Escape

ARMED MEN SEARCHING

C. H. Whichard Killed While Standing at His Meat Block---Three Shots Fired But Only One Took Effect---Remains Taken to Beaufort

Robersonville, Thursday, Aug. 13. A peaceful citizen, while at his work, is shot three times and instantly killed by a worthless brute. Mr. C. H. Whichard, our very efficient marketman, was killed Wednesday by Robert Roberson, colored. About ten o'clock Roberson went to Mr. Whichard's market to demand pay for work that he had not done. While Mr. Whichard was bending over his meat block with the top of his head toward the negro, the latter whipped out his pistol and shot out his brains. He fired three times, but only one shot took effect. Two colored men just across the street saw Roberson as he was firing. Whichard raised himself up and fell over backwards, senseless. He lived about four hours after receiving the wound, but he never spoke.

The coroner was soon here from Williamston and held an inquest over the deceased. The jury, consisting of Messrs. A. S. Roberson, R. L. Smith, J. B. Barnhill, W. S. Barnhill, W. W. Keel, and W. H. Holiday, rendered a verdict that the deceased came to his death by a pistol wound from Robert Roberson.

The citizens were so dazed that the darkey was allowed to escape right before their eyes. He was seen by several as he left for the woods. He was chased some distance by J. H. Smith, but made good his escape. The sheriff was summoned from Williamston, blood hounds obtained from Tarboro and the negro was given chase. The sheriff was once within 75 yards of the criminal and fired at him, but without effect. The dogs failed entirely to run the trail. Later in the day Thomas Carson and John Taylor, of Bethel, caught sight of the murderer, and each took three shots at long range with rifles. Again he disappeared in the woods. At one time the posse thought they had him surrounded in a 5 acre piece of woods, but the darkey was not there.

Guards were placed at important points during the night, and the sheriff is making every effort to capture the murderer. It is truly hoped that he will soon be taken, and that the strong arm of the law will mete swift justice to so foul a criminal.

Mr. Whichard leaves a wife and five children, who were dependent upon him for support. Mrs. Whichard at once telegraphed her father and received a message from him at Highland, N. J., that he would come at once. She has the sympathy of the entire community.

The remains of Mr. Whichard will be interred at the family burying ground at Beaufort. He also leaves a sister and many friends to mourn their loss.

Another Report of the Tragedy

The most cold blooded and dastardly murder in the history of Martin County was committed Wednesday morning at ten o'clock when Robert Roberson, a negro, deliberately shot Charles H. Whichard, a white man, in the latter's market house. The negro at once made his escape to the woods and has not been caught though more than 200 men, accompanied by Chief of Police Pulley of Tarboro and his blood hound, Sheriff J. C. Crawford and Constable Joseph Bullock scoured the country that morning from 11 o'clock till 3 o'clock yesterday morning. At that hour, the rumor that Roberson had crossed over into Edgecombe county having been verified, Sheriff Crawford told the boys that they had better return home and get some rest. He picked several men from the crowd to stay with him and take a further look over the field before going to rest himself.

The negro was hired by Whichard to pull fodder for him on contract, but, the negro quit before finishing the work and demanded his pay, and Whichard refused to pay him until he had finished the job. From current rumors it is gathered that the negro told Whichard that he had to pay him or he would kill him before 12 o'clock. The negro went off and secured a pistol, going back to the market house he hung around waiting a chance to shoot. When everyone, except Whichard, had left the market the negro shot three times, but only one ball struck him, from that wound Mr. Whichard died that afternoon at three o'clock.

The crowd that left Robersonville Wednesday morning before the arrival of Sheriff Crawford went in search of the negro with the intention of lynching him if he was caught. And it is still talked that if the negro is caught he will be lynched. Murders by negroes in this section are getting entirely too numerous, and are committed without the slightest provocation. The people here want to make an example of some of these dastardly criminals, and they think that it might as well be Roberson as to wait for another murder to be committed.

At one time Wednesday night it was thought that the negro was surrounded in a piece of woods near Parmele, and it was thought by some that he had been wounded, as some of the party had shot at him with Winchester rifles.

The negro evidently used something to kill his trail, as the hound only trailed him for about two hundred yards, the balance of the time the dog was listless, and would not

take the trail when he was put on the negro's tracks.

At one time Wednesday night it was estimated that the crowd that was hunting for the negro numbered between 400 and 500 men, all armed and ready to kill the negro on sight. Citizens from all the neighboring towns, and farmers all along the line of hunt joined the posse.

Thursday morning early Sheriff Crawford was out and phoning for information and putting his guards on the lookout for the negro. Chief of Police Page from Williamston went to Bethel to join the sheriff, and from there they will take up the hunt. Two more determined men never followed a criminal's track. If the negro can be caught they will catch him.

Latest Information

Sheriff Crawford and Chief of Police Page returned to Williamston about half past one o'clock this morning after having spent all of yesterday trying to pick up the trail of the negro. The report that Roberson went through the county gate into Edgecombe county Wednesday evening proved to be a false trail, as they found out who the negro was that passed the line at that time. Absolutely nothing has been seen of the negro since he was run into the woods about half past six Wednesday evening.

The police at all the nearby towns have been notified to be on the look out for the negro, and it is still thought that he will be apprehended.

NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

The Coming and Going of People in Everetts and Hassell---Baseball and Social News from Hamilton.

HAMILTON ITEMS

At the home of their father, Mr. C. H. Baker, Misses Maud and Lillie Way Baker delightfully entertained the Y. P. Club. A contest of the cities of Europe was entered upon. Miss Fannie Matthews winning the first prize and Miss Mary Pender Gladstone won the second. After the contest ice cream and cake were served upon a plate containing a beautiful bunch of flowers.

Among these present were: Misses Fannie Matthews, Martha Council, Cassine Purvis, Mary Pender Gladstone, Carrie Sherrod, Helen and Rachel Edmondson, Bettie Lawrence. The only visitor was Miss Marie Hyman of Newport News, Va.

Miss M. B. Purvis delightfully entertained the Hamilton Book Club Tuesday evening. There was an exciting contest entered upon of the Bible. Mrs. R. W. Salisbury won first prize while Mrs. W. E. Gladstone won the second. Among those present were: Mesdames B. B. Sherrod, R. W. Salisbury, D. C. Jones, W. L. Sherrod, W. E. Gladstone, J. B. Williams and M. I. Fleming. The only visitor was Mrs. E. B. Norman of Plymouth. After the contest was over delightful refreshments were served.

HAMILTON VS ROBERSONVILLE

Hamilton and Robersonville crossed bats on the latter's home ground Tuesday of last week in a one-sided game of ball, the score being 10 to 1 in favor of Hamilton.

R R R
Hamilton, 423000010 10 12 2
Robersonville, 00000010 1 3 8
Batteries: Holmes and Lawrence; Whitfield, Norman and Bullock. Two base hits: Lawrence, Darden

THE YEARLY MEETING

Elder C. J. Farncombe Preached at Skewarkey Saturday and Sunday---Visiting Elders Present.

Last Sunday Elder Farncombe, a strict Baptist of London, England, delivered an able and forceful sermon on the text: 'Ye must be born again', at Skewarkey Church, which is situated about one mile from Williamston.

The weather was very fine and the large congregation seemed to enjoy his sermon very much. He treated his text in a full and logical manner and according to the beliefs of the Primitive Baptist of the United States, having discussed every phase of it in a period of forty minutes. He spoke in a pleasing conversational tone which connected with his excellent reasoning was most convincing.

The Strict Baptist of England believe in practically the same thing as do the Primitive Baptist here. Their beliefs do not vary in questions of vital importance. The members thought that Elder Farncombe's sermon on Sunday was strictly coincident with their own views.

Elder George Roberson of Robersonville, Elder Charles Meads of Elizabeth City and Elder Harrison of Plymouth were the visiting ministers.

Elder Roberson drove Elder Farncombe to Robersonville on Sunday afternoon, where he spoke that night.

ROBERSONVILLE NEWS

VERY BUSY WEEK

Elder C. J. Farncombe, of England, Preached Sunday Night.

BASEBALL ENTHUSIASTS KEPT VERY BUSY

Visitors Coming and Going--An Unusual Sight--Dinner to Friends--Mr. Bunting, Hurt--Good on the Tobacco Market.

By JOHN D. EVERETT

Tuesday, Aug. 11 1908

Elder C. J. Farncombe, of London, England, was the guest of Elder G. D. Roberson Thursday night. In spite of the rain a goodly number was out to hear Mr. Farncombe preach at night. Those present enjoyed a rare treat and a bountiful spiritual feast. Even though space permitted to make a full report of the sermon, it would be impossible to convey in writing the greatness of the discourse; for the personality of the man preached more eloquently than it is possible for the printed page to do. It is my purpose to give a mere outline of the sermon.

Using for his text Rom. 8:14, 'For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God,' Mr. Farncombe gave seven evidences by which one might know that he is led by the spirit of God. It is necessary, he said, that we have these Bible evidences; for all Christians still have their conflicts, doubts, and groanings.

The first evidence is that we are reconciled to God's appointed ways. A person led of the Spirit will say thy will be done. The unregenerate soul is at enmity with God, it acknowledges no kingship; it is not God's son.

The next evidence of the Holy Spirit's leading is spiritual appetite. There is a desire to read God's Word, to feed on his promises; to go to the house of worship.

The third is the principle of love. The Spirit of God leads men to love. Love is paramount in the Christian's experience. It is God's test. It is the fulfilling of the law. Jesus loved the sinful world and we to be like Christ must love as he loved.

Another evidence is the spirit of prayer. 'The prayerless soul is a Christless soul.' The Lord taught his disciples to pray and the Spirit teaches every Christian to pray.

The next is the spirit of truth. The child of God wants to know the truth; the truth about himself, his true condition, and the truth about Jesus, who is the Truth.

The sixth evidence of being led by the Spirit of God is the spirit of wisdom. The Christian does not believe without knowledge. He can not believe on him of whom he has not heard; of whom he has not learned.

The last evidence mentioned is that he is led of the Holy Spirit. He is led from the vile, low, and sordid things of life to the pure, lofty, and beautiful things of the soul. It leads from the world to the company of God's people. It is perfect leading; he wholly led, so that he shall not want. Being the sons of God, we are supplied with all the real necessities. We will be led from earth to heaven, prepared by Jesus Christ for his own.

Elder Farncombe preached at Flat Swamp Friday, and in town again Sunday night. The town and community were greatly honored to have the privilege of hearing so eminent a divine. He is well educated, cultured, and spiritual.

ROBERSONVILLE VS. TURKEY SWAMP
Ball Game at Robersonville Thursday, Aug. 6.

Umpire Mr. W. Z. Morton, Game called 3:30 p. m. with Robersonville at bat. The game started with eight scores for the home boys in the first inning. This so discouraged the Turkeys that when they came to the bat our twirler struck them out in one, two, three order. The second time up a bad throw from short allowed Turkeys three scores. While the game was in full blast it had to be called on account of rain, Robersonville having scored 15 times and Turkey Swamp 5. The feature of the game was the sensational work done by our third baseman Richard Martin.

ROBERSONVILLE VS. ROANOKE

Robersonville vs. Roanoke August 7. Game was called by the umpire J. C. Smith at 3:00 p. m. After six innings of hard work the boys from the river left the field with sad expressions on their heretofore smiling faces. They allowed the home boys to cross the plate 13 times while they scored three. The sensational hit of the game was when our "wrap 'em around the neck" pitcher, Norman, drove a liner through the hands of Roanoke's pitcher, Gaylor, against his head, and then with a glance against the umpire. Drs. Ward and Nelson attended the wounded, and they will soon be in good shape again. (Ball games reported by J. H. Everett.)

It is unusual for two "Autos" to be seen in our town in one day. Monday one came from Tarboro in which were Mr. T. W. Thrash and party, and one from Rocky Mount carrying Messrs. Charlie Rawls, Exum Keel, and John Blount. It is evident that electricity is to play a larger part in human affairs as its power and advantages become known.

Tom Bunting, while loading a log cart, was struck with the lever on the head and knocked down. He did not sustain serious injuries.

Mr. J. H. Whitfield's baby fell from the porch last week and received an ugly gash on its head, requiring the services of the doctor's needle.

Mr. J. C. Robertson gave a dining to some of his friends last week. Those present were his mother, Mrs. Julia Robertson, Prof. and Mrs. Outterbridge, Mrs. Bettie Whitley of Washington, Mrs. Jennie Everett, Mrs. G. D. Roberson, Mrs. Nancy James and Misses Lillie Bunting and Emma Robertson.

Mrs. Piney Bell, her daughter Pearl, and her granddaughter Vernice, arrived from Arkansas Monday to visit Mrs. S. W. Outterbridge and other relatives. Mrs. Bell is Mrs. Outterbridge's oldest sister.

Misses Lillian Smith, Maree Roberson and Isolan Brown were the guests of Miss Emma Robertson Saturday night.

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