

## BEACON FLASHES.

Miss Gladys Hornthal spent Tuesday in Roper.

Bill Hilliard made a joyful trip to Raleigh the past week-end.

Mr. Van B. Martin has moved his law office into the new Harney Building.

Misses Ruth Ayers and Sadie Ausbon are visiting relatives and friends in Kinston this week.

Messrs. Brownie Dixon and Wigg Watts attended a dance at Rocky Mount last Friday night.

Mrs. W. B. Watts is visiting relatives and friends in Raleigh, Rocky Mount and Williamston.

Mrs. D. S. Jones and son, Master Lawrence, are spending some time with friends in Norfolk.

Mrs. C. D. Carstarphen of Williamston, has been visiting Mrs. L. P. Hornthal here this week.

Mrs. G. S. Swain of Suffolk, Va., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Norman, on Third St.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sheffield of Raleigh are visiting Mrs. Sheffield's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Norman.

Mr. W. B. Watts left Monday for Raleigh. He will leave there for Asheville to attend the annual Bankers' Convention.

Clyde Cahoon, D. E. Woodley, Plymouth Garage and Motor Co. and L. P. Pinkham have very attractive advertisements in this issue. Be sure to read them.

Mr. Robert Ausbon with his two sons, Willie and Robert, of Hobgood, motored down and spent a few days with relatives and friends here the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Harrison, Mrs. D. O. Brinkley, Mr. Moye Spruill and Mr. and Mrs. C. V. W. Ausbon spent the day last Sunday in Belhaven with friends.

Special attention is called to the adv. of The Washington County Bank in this issue, in reference to the special arrangements they have made to make loans to our farmers.

Mr. C. Latham left Monday for Waynesville to attend the annual meeting of the Knights of Pythias. He will also attend the Convention of the Bankers which meets at Asheville this year.

Messrs. W. B. Watts and L. W. Gaylord motored to Greenville Saturday last to make an important business transaction. They were accompanied by Messrs. Lloyd Horton and C. S. Ausbon.

Sheriff J. E. Reid, assisted by deputies W. J. Starr and L. L. Ghesson, left yesterday morning for Raleigh, where they went to take John Savage, for electrocution; Will Savage, Mary Savage, Chas. Spruill and Jim Smith to the penitentiary.

While the criminal side of the docket in the Superior Court just ended has been the most strenuous and costly, possibly the county has ever experienced, owing to the great number of capital and serious offenses tried, yet it has given the greatest satisfaction to the general public.

On the last page of this issue we are carrying a special article on the work of the town officials, and on the same page appears a complete account of the financial affairs of the city. Pay marked attention to each and learn something of the condition of Plymouth.

### A Card of Thanks.

We take this method of expressing, as best we can, our grateful thanks to our friends and the public generally for their kind offices performed and outspoken expressions of sympathy for us, and belief in the innocence of our son and brother in our late days of sore trial.

Words cannot express our gratitude to you, but our sincere prayer is that none of you may ever be subjected to the anxiety and heartache that has so unjustly, we feel, fallen upon us.

Yours sincerely,  
J. M. BOWEN and  
FAMILY.

# A Sensational Term of Court.

## SAVAGE TRIO GET JUSTICE.

JOHN SAVAGE SENTENCED TO ELECTRIC CHAIR; WILL SAVAGE THIRTY YEARS OF PENAL SERVITUDE, AND MARY SAVAGE TO BE IMPRISONED FOR TWENTY YEARS FOR THE MURDER OF MR. GEO. H. BOWEN.

From Friday night until Monday noon Sheriff Reid and his deputies were all over the county summoning a special venire of one hundred and fifty men, from whom were to be selected the jury for the trial of John, Mary and Will Savage, who, on the 19th day of March cruelly and unmercifully beat Mr. Geo. H. Bowen and his daughter, Miss Claudia. Mr. Bowen died from the wounds inflicted on him by these brutes on the 21st day of April.

It seems that John Savage had been working around the Bowen home off and on for several years, and was familiar with the conditions and surroundings of the home. He learned that Mr. Bowen had a sum of money in his home, and becoming covetous, enlisted the aid of his wife Mary, and son Will, and then went to the Bowen home with the purpose of obtaining this money. Mary stated that John forced her and Will to accompany him on this mission against their will. She stated that she and her son stoutly maintained a desire to be excused from this visit, but were quickly overruled by the older Savage.

During or immediately after the process of unlawfully getting this money, one of the victims screamed, and was heard by Mr. Charlie Bowen, son of the deceased, who lives just across the road from the scene of the depredation. He immediately went over to find what the trouble was, and on entering the house he found his sister in a most critical shape, she being beaten into insensibility by the fiends. No trace of his father could be found, and after searching for some time he came to town in quest of the sheriff and a physician.

After the sheriff and his deputies reached the scene of the crime they began a more careful search for the missing man, who was finally found stowed away in a small closet, totally oblivious to everything. Then an investigation was made and several tracks were found. Mr. J. W. Shores and his bloodhounds at E. City were telegraphed for, and upon their arrival the dogs were put on the trail and took a round-about course to the home of Savage.

Savage, his wife and son were arrested as suspects, although they stoutly denied any knowledge whatever of the crime, and after a preliminary hearing before Recorder L. W. Gaylord they were held without bail to await trial at June Term of the Superior Court. The local jail being crowded by the road crew and deemed insecure, the prisoners were taken to Edgecombe County jail for safe keeping.

While Judge Allen was passing sentence upon the condemned man he stood there as nonchalantly as if he was hearing the latest gossip, and after the Judge's admonition he sat down with a mirthless chuckle. It seemed as if he could not grasp a comprehensive idea as to what is in store for him.

The jury sitting on this case were: C. E. Marriner, J. B. Ambrose, A. B. Ambrose, Z. T. Tarkenton, O. R. Armstrong, Z. H. Phelps, B. M. Snell, H.

## JAMES BOWEN EXONERATED.

JURY RETURNS VERDICT OF NOT GUILTY IN CASE OF STATE VS. JAMES O. BOWEN, CHARGED WITH HAVING CREMATED HIS WIFE; MYSTERY REMAINS UNSOLVED, HOWEVER, GREAT NUMBER OF WITNESSES.

The Court House was a seething mass of humanity from Tuesday afternoon last until Friday night at 7:30. People from all over the county were here to witness the elucidation of the mystery case of James O. Bowen, who was tried for burning his wife to death here on November 20, 1915. After a conference of about 30 minutes the jury returned a verdict completely exonerating the defendant of the crime. No evidence came out at the trial which was considered a logical solution of the strange manner of her death.

Throughout the trial Mr. Bowen sat with an impassive expression on his face. He seemed to be bewildered by the circumstances of her death which caused some to suspect him of a terrible crime. The jury says that Jim Bowen is not guilty of such a savage crime. Jim Bowen has suffered the loss of a wife he loved; and then to add to his torture he was arrested for having murdered her in a most brutal manner. We have heard no person say that Jim Bowen bears malice for his prosecution, nor that he feels unfriendly toward anybody who appeared against him in the trial.

### History of the Case.

On Monday morning of November 20th, 1915 our entire community was electrified by hearing that Mrs. James O. Bowen had been totally cremated during the night before.

At first some people took it to be an idle rumor. Mrs. Bowen lived just outside the limits of the town and had there been a fire of any size most people would have known it. However, a good many people immediately betook themselves to the scene of the tragedy, and there it was that the rumor was affirmed.

On the morning of the tragedy Mr. Henry L. Lassiter, who married a sister of the deceased was at work on the kitchen of the house in which Mr. and Mrs. Bowen lived. He went to his work at about 6:50, and at 10:30 his wife came over to bring him water. While there Mrs. Lassiter went into the house to inquire as to how her sister was feeling (Mrs. Bowen had been in ill health for several years, she being afflicted with heart disease.) On entering the house she failed to find her sister, and on going to the bed-room door she found it fastened, and the knob was very warm. She immediately called to her husband, thinking that the house was afire. The door, which was thumb-bolted, but not locked, was forced open. On gaining entrance to this room they found the floor to be burning slightly in front of the fireplace. A hole was burned in the floor about 24 by 20 inches.

Mrs. Lassiter called to her sister, and receiving no response, she made a hurried search, but no trace of her could be found. She then ran out into the yard and called to her mother, Mrs. H. Gurkin, who lives just across the road. She then reentered the house with Mr. Lassiter.

Chesson, Jr., T. E. Ainsley, G. A. Overton, G. W. Craddock and J. Adam Furlough.

John Savage is sentenced to be electrocuted July 18th.

who had armed himself with a bucket of water, and in extinguishing the fire, they discovered the charred remains of Mrs. Bowen, who had fallen through the burned hole in the floor.

One of Mrs. Bowen's arms was found on the hearth, and one foot was found burned off just above the ankle. The foot was encased in a shoe which had not suffered from the fire.

On Tuesday before the tragedy Mrs. Bowen was in town shopping, and she stated to some of our merchants that she would have been in on Monday had she not been suffering from an attack of heart disease.

The burned woman's husband, Mr. James O. Bowen, who is employed at the Wilts Veneer Company's plant here, was sent for just as soon as the condition was realized.

Before the interment, which was made on the following day, Mr. Bowen requested that a coroner's inquest be held, but this request was immediately overruled by Mr. H. Gurkin, father of the deceased, who, in his grief, felt that such a procedure was unnecessary and uncalled for.

After the excitement of her sudden death, and the first sharp agonies of grief had abated, many rumors and suspicions were circulated. These suspicions were going the rounds vigorously, and the strange case furnished food for many arguments.

On the 9th of December, just 19 days after the tragedy, an investigation was begun. A coroner's inquest was held, and the verdict was that Mrs. Bowen came to death at the hands of some person unknown to them.

At the January term of Superior Court the grand jury returned a bill of indictment against James O. Bowen for the murder of his wife. A capias was issued and Mr. Bowen was arrested, and placed under a bond of two thousand dollars for his appearance at the June term of

Superior Court.

Both defense and prosecution were represented by powerful legal talent, Attys. H. S. Ward, of Washington, Van B. Martin and W. M. Bond appearing for the defense and Attys. Geo. W. Ward and J. C. E. Ehringhaus of E. City, for the prosecution. Both sides put up able and forceful arguments.

The jury which decided the future of Jim Bowen were Messrs. L. W. Bateman, J. H. Oliver, W. M. Oliver, T. E. Furlough, G. W. Biggs, Nathan Ol-

var, D. B. Harrison, Geo. Whit G. W. Spruill, Carney Spruill, H. Gurganus and J. H. Patrie.

## ANOTHER PEANUT PROBLEM SOLVED.

With the "Tom Huston" Peanut Shelter. Wonderful weighs only twenty pounds, shells two bushels hour. Don't jure the nuts. Absolutely guaranteed. Convert your idle time into cash introducing this in your locality. Price only \$4.50. State variety wish to shell. I more than one variety, extra helling plates \$1.00 each. Thomas Huston, Henderson, Texas.

## "I TOLD YOU NOT TO ORDER ANYTHING FROM A CATALOGUE HOUSE"



HAVE YOU EVER GOT ANYTHING FROM US THAT WENT WRONG ON WHICH WE DID NOT MAKE GOOD? NOT ON YOUR SWEET LIFE.

WHEN WE SELL YOU, YOU SEE WHAT YOU BUY BEFORE YOU BUY IT; YOU KNOW IT SUITS YOU; YOU HAVE NO HIGH FREIGHT TO PAY; YOU GET IT THE DAY YOU WANT IT.

DON'T BUY FROM US "TO KEEP OUR MONEY AT HOME," BUT BECAUSE YOU CAN BUY BETTER STUFF FOR LESS MONEY THAN BY SENDING AWAY.

**Cahoon's,**  
PLYMOUTH'S SHOPPING CENTER.

# Abe Adler

THE PLACE WHERE YOUR DOLLAR DOES ITS DUTY

Plymouth's Underselling Store.

## The School Year Has Closed.

Some are preparing for the Summer trip, some are preparing to enter Training Schools. A visit to our store to look over our mammoth stock of good, clean, seasonable wearing apparel will convince you that we are prepared to furnish you with anything you need in our line. Below we mention a few items:

**Lingerie Waists, Wash Skirts, Silk Hosiery, Silk Gloves, Cuff and Collar Sets, Silk Sweaters, Silk Parasols, Leather Hand Bags, Talcum and Face Powder, White Outing Shoes, White Sailor Hats, Corsets.** FULL LINE OF READY MADE UNDERWEAR, Dainty Handkerchiefs, Waist Pins, Kid Belts, Ribbons, Gauze Vests and Union Suits.

# ADLER'S.