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MULATTO CHARGED WITH WRECKING OF LEXINGTON HOME

Editor Varner Files Suit Against R. Baxter McRary, Head of Negro Order

SUIT FOR DIVORCE ALSO FILED BY NEWSPAPER MAN

While Plaintiff in Case Away On Business in New York, Citizens of Town Claim They Found Prominent Negro Leader in Basement of Editor's Home There.

Lexington, Aug. 14.—Suit for \$100,000 damages has been filed in Superior Court here against R. Baxter McRary, a mulatto, with large holdings here and elsewhere, who for years has posed as a moral uplifter of his race and who has been for a number of years Grand Master of the negro Masonic Lodge. The ground of complaint is that McRary deliberately sought to and succeeded in wrecking the domestic life of H. E. Varner, the plaintiff, by a negro woman, McRary's home during his absence. Attachment has been run against all tangible holdings of the defendant that can be discovered.

While Mr. Varner was in New York Monday night as one of a committee of nine representing the motion picture exhibition of the nation in an important conference with large motion picture producers, McRary was taken from underneath the floor of the Varner home between 12:30 and 1 o'clock Tuesday morning. Being informed that McRary had entered his home by stealth on previous occasions while the husband was away, a number of citizens set a watch and saw McRary enter the premises about 10 o'clock.

Order Mulatto to Leave Guards were placed around the lot and a search made of the house with nobody found. Some of the citizens remained and continued the search, a spotlight locating McRary, who had evidently entered the basement upon hearing the first alarm, crawled out of the basement and made his way under the floor toward the front of the house. The merchant was taken from his hiding place and gladly took advantage of an opportunity to spend the night in jail.

Most of those who knew of the original search had gone home and but a few were present when McRary was found. Early Tuesday morning prominent citizens were called to the scene to bear the mulatto a message that if he valued his personal safety he had better leave town without delay, and further that if he returned it would be at his peril. Where he has gone is not definitely known here but it is believed he is now at a long distance from this place.

Mr. Varner was requested to return immediately from New York and upon arrival here he was acquainted by his friends with the situation of which he was totally unaware. Upon arrival he went to a hotel and conducted a searching investigation. Following this he remained at the hotel until after his wife, who is a native of Kentucky, had left Thursday evening to join her mother.

Suit for absolute divorce has been begun by Mr. Varner. It will be alleged in the complaint that on the occasions while Mr. Varner was away from his home at nights his wife's companion was a negro woman, servant about 65 years old, rather dark of hearing. It will also be alleged that this servant's room was upstairs and she was accustomed to retire early and usually slept soundly.

Incident Stirs Town Nothing that has occurred in this town and county, when mutual acquaintances are rather frequent, has so stirred the people here as this. Expressions of loyalty and sympathy from hundreds have poured in on Mr. Varner since his return home regardless of previous factional differences. Crushed by the deplorable occurrence that has suddenly rendered a home of about twenty years, he has stated to friends that he will continue to devote his time to his newspaper and business interests and his duties as chairman of the State prison and in various official capacities in connection with the motion picture exhibiting industry.

Premier George Refers to Possibility of War London, Aug. 12.—A significant reference to the present crisis was made by Premier Lloyd George in addressing a meeting of coalition liberals today. After expressing fervent hope for co-operation between England and France which he said had been "sanctified by the common sacrifice," the Premier continued, apparently alluding to the possibility of war with Russia: "When the terrible question of peace or war has to be decided our first duty as a government is to the people, who trust us not to commit their treasure to any unjustifiable adventure. Nothing but the most imperative call of national safety and national freedom can justify war. Before this country is committed to it, even in the most limited form, we must be satisfied these are in peril."

Harnett's Towns Show Big Increase in Population

Growth in population of Harnett County towns during the decade ending in January of this year was sixty and two tenths per cent, according to figures just released by the Census Bureau. Of this, Coats shows the largest percentage of growth with 52.8, since it was not among those present when the census man made his visits ten years ago. Both Angier and Lillington were ahead of Dunn in the matter of percentage, but far behind in numbers. Angier's per cent of increase was .09 Lillington's was .08. Dunn's was close to .46. Buies Creek had the lowest with 21 per cent.

Figures for the five towns are as follows: Dunn 1920 1910 2,806 1,823 Lillington 583 380 Coats 528 346 Angier 376 221 Buies Creek 291 241 Dunn's figures will prove disappointing to those who have not already taken time to prove an alibi. Like all other towns whose folk have been claiming thousands in growth, Dunn's people plead that its larger growth has been in the suburbs. This, of course, is true, says Uncle Sam—but it is equally true of practically every other town in the country that has experienced any growth at all. It is a matter of pride, however, to the people of all of Harnett's towns that they have gotten their increased population from other sections of the State and not at the expense of the rural sections surrounding them. Figures for the rural parts of the county are not yet available, but it is predicted that they will show almost as large a per cent off growth as did those for the town's.

THREE MARYLAND KIDS RIDE WITH MR. WILSON

Just Out of a Swimming Hole, They Are Picked Up By President And Ride 48 Minutes Washington, Aug. 14.—Three kids, just out of a swimming hole in Rock Creek park, were picked up today by President Wilson, treated to a 45-minute motor ride and dropped out at their homes in town so proud the folks there could not hold them with a rope. The trio had just come from a dip in one of the park's streams and were hiking along the roadway when they saw the White House and recognized the President. Off came their caps and as Mr. Wilson

"Hop in," said the President, and they hopped. All along the ride they kept their eyes on the president and Mrs. Wilson and answered more questions than they asked. Water from tumbled heads trickled over the suburbs' faces and dripped on the president's shoes. One youngster ducked to save the president's shoe and apologized when it was told not to worry. Coming down Connecticut avenue the youngest of the trio, a thin, frail lad, barely eight years old, spied a man he knew and called to him by name. The youngster in the street dropped a loaf of bread and gasped. When the kids got out all three shook hands with the president and his wife.

BARBERS SUE FOR ONE WEEK'S SALARY

Newton, Johnson And Patterson Win Fight in Magistrate Wiggins' Court

Judgments were rendered against George E. Hall in Magistrate Wiggins' court on Tuesday in favor of Messrs. Newton, Johnson and Patterson, who were barbers in the Lafayette barber shop. R. H. Dye was attorney for the defendant while W. C. Downing appeared for the plaintiffs.

According to the evidence as given in court by the three men, a petition was gotten up and signed by the barbers asking for a raise in pay, asking for an increase from 85 to 70 per cent of receipts. When they presented the petition they were told that they would not receive the increase and furthermore their services would not be wanted any longer. They were told to get out. The petition was presented last Friday and they all agreed to work out their time of a week, but on Monday morning when Mr. Faircloth appeared in the shop he was told he need not take off his hat and coat as he could not work at all and he got out. Newton, Johnson and Patterson worked on until about 11 o'clock on Monday without being paid off for the past week's work and they asked about their pay. When told they would not get it now they proceeded to walk out. Faircloth was not a party to the suit as he was paid by the three barbers immediately brought suit individually before Magistrate Wiggins for their pay.

N. C. COUNTIES SHOW BIG POPULATION GAINS

Washington, Aug. 12.—Census of North Carolina counties: Cleveland, 34,275, increase, 4,778 or 16.2 per cent; Gaston, 51,242, increase, 14,179 or 27.7 per cent; Harnett, 28,318, increase 6,139 or 21.7 per cent.

FARMERS BUSY IN GATHERING CROPS

Great Scarcity of Labor And Continuous Rain Cause Considerable Delay

Fuquay Springs, Aug. 15.—The farmers of this section are overwhelmed with work at the present time taking in the finest crop of tobacco ever grown in this community and adjacent territory to the Fuquay market. Owing to the weather conditions, having had rain almost continuously since the curing season opened, and the exceeding scarcity of labor together with prohibitive prices the farmers have to pay in order to secure it is making the crop one of the most expensive ever grown, but the outlook for handsome returns is good which will in a way, offset the present necessity heavy expenses incident to housing the crop. Big preparations are being made to handle the crop and the warehousemen will be ready to handle it in the usual creditable manner.

Messrs. Wheeler and Watkins of Oxford are here moving the large prize houses from their present site to a more convenient place on the tracks of the Norfolk Southern railroad, which will greatly facilitate the handling and marketing of the crops as well as a great saving to the buyers here. The hotels and boarding houses are all crowded to their capacity with summer guests who are here for rest and recuperation and more primarily for the purpose of getting the benefit of the spring water with its healing qualities. The biggest need of the town is more houses or at least a first class modern hotel to take care of the transients. News has been received here of the serious illness of a former townsman and ex-mayor, E. J. Ragdale, at Vass. Mr. Ragdale is located at Vass operating a large tobacco warehouse at that point during the season. Mr. Ragdale was stricken with paralysis in the right side last Sunday and his condition is grave. Mr. A. F. Smith, one of the oldest merchants of the town, who has been in feeble health for some months, is much improved, and is again able to attend to his business. The handsome department store recently completed by Mr. K. B. Johnson, is now occupied by Mr. Harry Isaacson, an enterprising and industrious young merchant of this place.

ATLANTIC COAST LINE TO IMPROVE ROAD BED

Washington, Aug. 13.—Officials of the Atlantic Coast Line are planning to improve the road bed of the rolling stock of the road. The company has purchased 40 locomotives, 28 passenger train cars, 600 ventilated box cars, 400 coal cars, and 100 phosphate cars. Some of this equipment including 20 of the Pacific type locomotives is already in commission, taking care of the increased transportation, and business of the company. The road bed of the line is also being put into first class condition. Since the termination of Federal control of railways the Atlantic Coast Line officials have inaugurated a policy which will bring the railway service to a maximum of efficiency.

HENDERSON, LA GRANGE AND PIKEVILLE ALL SHOW GAINS

Washington, Aug. 11.—Population figures for three North Carolina towns—Henderson, Pikeville and La Grange—all showing increases over 1910, were announced today by the census bureau. Henderson, present population, 5,267, compared with 4,508 in 1910 an increase of 17 per cent. Pikeville, present population, 333, compared with 210 in 1910, an increase of 58.6 per cent. La Grange, present population, 1,399, compared with 1,007 in 1910, an increase of 38 per cent. The census bureau is expected to release this week the population of several North Carolina counties.

SURELY COMING—THE RHODA ROYAL R. SHOWS

Every man, woman and child who knows anything about circuses, and who ever saw the Rhoda Royal Enormous R. Shows, will be delighted to know that the big shows, in all their magnificent and exalted grandeur, will surely exhibit at Dunn on August 19th, and precede both exhibitions with the grandest morning street parade ever seen since parades were first exploited. In the great shows will be seen several new features which cannot be seen elsewhere, very much pronounced if the greatest, the strangest and most unique marvel to which the deep ocean ever gave birth. The shaggy, fierce though beautiful, horse-riding lion, "Wallace," is part excellence the premier quadruped performer. The baby lions, four of a kind, infants of the forest, are a strange and lovely sight. The Roman hippodrome, an exact reproduction of the Course of Ancient Rome, and the modern races attached to it, are at once exciting, exhilarating, and in all things equal to the best races run on a modern race course. The circus, which consists of one hundred and fifty superior acts, given by fifty superior artists, requires three full hours in which to give them. The manager will be a delightful study for all, because it comprises more wild, tame and strange beasts than our people have ever before had an opportunity to see. The show is great in everything and small in nothing.—Prass Agent.

A home built in 1683 of heavy oak timbers with a field stone foundation is still in excellent condition in Lopsfield, Massachusetts. It has been taken over by an historical society.

POPULATION OF HARNETT COUNTY

Table with 2 columns: Year, Population. Rows include Harnett Co., Anderson Co., Averasboro, Barbecue, Black River, Buckhorn, Duke, Grove, Hectors Creek, Johnsonville, Lillington Tn., Neils Creek, Stewarts Cr., U. Little R.

ANOTHER INVASION DUE IN SEPTEMBER

Ravaging Army Worm Preparing For Invasion of Offenses in Weeks

The fecundity and troublesome army worm, with its general and no board of strategy, and its destructive appetite for grain and succulent corn is preparing for another offensive against the crops that have ever been raised in North Carolina, according to Prof. J. S. Sherman, entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, in a statement issued yesterday giving methods by which the creatures may be stopped. Treaches are common. The army worm moves on a march, preferably over smooth ground. If it comes to a deep furrow it will fall into new objects, such as the furrow and the ditches. He is unable to crawl but he and he starves to death in the plain view of the green fields. He has set out to capture. A two-foot hole is the only trenching tool needed, and the furrow turned away from the objective. Just now the army worms are such have of the growing crops of the State. The army worms are drawn from Mecklenburg and Anderson, in Vance county. The ground, preparing to be cut out of the field, and the army worms are ready to be cut out of the field. The only way to get them up to the top of the August crop is to cut them up. The path of the army worm is to be cut out of the field.

WIRELESS DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW SAYS POLONIA IS MOVING SEAT OF GOVERNMENT FROM DANGER ZONE

London, Aug. 9.—The Polish government is leaving Warsaw its capital; it is asserted in a wireless dispatch from Moscow received here this afternoon. The place to which the government is being removed, the message says, is in a safe zone. The place to which the government is being removed, the message says, is in a safe zone. The place to which the government is being removed, the message says, is in a safe zone.

DR. STUART McGUIRE NOTED BURGEON UNDERGOES OPERATION

Richmond, Va., Aug. 11.—Dr. Stuart McGuire, one of the best known surgeons in this section of the country, is reported in a favorable condition today in Rochester, Minn., where he underwent an operation yesterday.

25 HUMAN SKELETONS FOUND BY CONTRACTORS

Cooper's Creek, Texas, Aug. 11.—Twenty-five human skeletons have been found 14 miles south of here on the west bank of the Laguna Madre by Thomas Stee and C. B. Atwood, local contractors. Indications point to the fact that they had been covered by earth for many years and it is thought that the storm of September last brought them to view. The teeth of all indicated men of about 40 years of age and old timers recall the sinking of a Spanish treasure ship in the early forties near this place and suggest that this is the crew. No articles of identification have been found.

Apocryphal to Water

All hail to the drink of drink—to water, the daily need of every living thing! It ascends from the earth in obedience to the summons of the sun, and descends in showers of blessing. It gives forth its sparkling beauty to the fragrant flower; its slumberous tranquility base into golden grain; it is the radiant star upon which the fingers of the Infinite trace the rainbow of promise. It is the bower that refreshes and bridges no sorrow with it, Jehovah looked upon it at creation's dawn and said "It is good."—W. J. Bryson.

TREND IN COTTON TO LOWER LEVELS

New Orleans Market Closes Week at Net Losses of 65 To 120 Points

New Orleans, Aug. 15.—Although net advances were made in the early sessions last week in the cotton market, the trend was toward lower levels in the later trading and the market finally closed at net losses of 65 to 120 points, October making the widest decline and closing at the lowest quotation of the week, 29.70. In the spot department, prices lost 175 points on middling, which closed at \$2.00. At the highest in the contract market, prices were 49 to 71 points and at the lowest they were 74 to 120 under. The market moved over an extreme range of 129 to 176 points. Much of the selling of the week was done on the unfavorable political news, although there were periods such as followed the rumors that Russia and Poland had agreed to an armistice, when political news caused sharp bulges. Crop news was badly mixed, one element claiming August rains were beneficial, while another claimed they were detrimental. Two mid-month condition reports were issued by private bureaus, one placing the percentage at 75.8, a loss of only three-tenths of a point since the end of the July period, while the other made the percentage 72.4, a loss of 3.1 points. Private reports told of considerable deterioration and of insect damage, as the result of daily showers and cool nights, but the official reports were more favorable than otherwise, and pointed to continued crop progress over the greater portion of the belt.

This week the market probably will set the week to get very far away from the big factors, the state of the world, and the state of things in Europe. If it proved most susceptible for foreign news, but is as easily moved by unfavorable reports as by favorable reports. So far as crop news is concerned, it is likely continued rainy weather would have a bullish effect on prices, because it is believed that the deterioration will be at hand and the majority of traders are ready to believe that insect damage will increase materially if the rains and cool weather continue. Light and wet weather would probably cause heavy selling, and lead to renewed talk of a large yield.

Kinston, Aug. 14.—The annual State conference of the Free Will Baptist church will be held at Kinston, N. C., on September 14 to 16. The location is between Kinston and Princeton, on the Atlantic Coast Line and Southern Railway respectively. Good roads connect from both places. The church at Kinston is a fine building, and the school at Princeton is a fine building. The church at Kinston is a fine building, and the school at Princeton is a fine building.

VILLA GIVEN BIG ESTATE

San Pedro, Coshuila, Mexico, Aug. 7.—Under terms of his unconditional surrender, Francisco Villa, bandit leader, will get a huge estate at Canutillo, Durango, where he will be guarded for the remainder of his life by fifty of his trusted followers, who will be paid by the government, it was learned here today. Villa's surrender to the Mexican government \$2,000,000 gold, according to estimates. Villa, with 500 officers and men, is en route over the desert to an Pedro from Quatro Ciencas for final arrangements for his surrender and disarming of his forces. He will reach here Monday and then march to Gomez Palacio, where his men will be paid prior to being given farms where the men themselves designate throughout Mexico. Part of them will be in the northern tier of states. Villa has spies in every Mexican town and hamlet and these also are en route to Gomez Palacio to share in the surrender terms. The personal guard of fifty men Villa will select, it is presumed, from among his most trusted officers, thus keeping a nucleus for another revolutionary army if he becomes disarmed.

THE RURAL COMMUNITY CENTER

A number of agencies have been responsible for the origin, growth and development of the rural community center. Perhaps the most obvious is the automobile, because it has enabled farm people to gather much more easily than they could in the old days. It's a matter of a very short run from the farm to the center, and it's easy to get to evening meetings of one kind and another. The state agricultural colleges have done much to advance this work, by arranging for evening meetings, furnishing speakers and giving all the assistance in their power. One other thing has been particularly helpful in this respect and that is the farm electric light and power plant introduced within the last few years. Many a rural schoolhouse that formerly held its evening meetings with the aid of dim and smoky oil lamps or held no meetings at all, now shows a blaze of bright electric light from every window on one or more evenings of each week. In the first place electric light makes good cheer, as compared with the old methods. It is an easy thing, too, to arrange the electric lights just where they will do the most good. But perhaps the greatest advantage of electricity for the rural community center is the fact that it makes possible the use of steroptic and motion pictures. For real entertainment and for educational work there are few things as good as the motion picture. It speaks a universal language. With its aid one can travel to the four corners of the world in the short length of an evening. Its straight educational value is tremendous. A good film showing the latest and best way of carrying on various kinds of agricultural work can make clear in a moment what a speaker might have trouble in explaining at all. With all these agencies working in its favor, not the least of which is electricity, the rural community center is an assured success.

An egg 1.4 inches long was laid by a hen in Oakshoek, Wisconsin.

Falcon's Camp Meeting Will Open Next Thursday

Falcon's annual camp meeting will open Thursday. Directors of the occasion have issued the following statement:

"For twenty years this Camp Meeting has continued steadfastly in the apostolic doctrine, and has proved a blessing to thousands of people; the approval of God has been upon it during all the years, it has surmounted every obstacle and difficulty that has come in its way, and, regardless of individual opinions, it commands the respect and admiration of every thoughtful and fairminded person that has acquainted himself with its spirit and work. The regularly engaged preachers for this year are Rev. G. Deaver, of Ontario, Canada; and Rev. S. A. Bishop, of Birmingham, Ala., and in addition to his, we will have some of the best of our own local preachers of various denominations, who will preach and lend their efforts and influence otherwise to the success of the meetings. Representing the mission field, we expect to have the following missionaries with us: Rev. J. O. Lehman, of South Africa; Rev. Robert Atchison, of Japan, and Miss Anna Deane Cole, from China, who will bring us news fresh from the distant lands. Buy your ticket and have your baggage checked to Godwin, N. C., at station on the A. C. L. Railroad, between Fayetteville and Wilson. Godwin is about three miles west of Falcon, but there will be ample automobile service at reasonable rates for both passenger and baggage. During the past we have furnished free wagon for the transfer of baggage, but so many people now come here on automobiles that the service does not justify the expense of providing it. However, a truck will be operated by a private party who will transfer baggage at reasonable rates. The school dormitory, with room all furnished, at \$1.50 per day, and many private families give the same accommodations for about this price, and perhaps less. There is a good restaurant on the grounds, and we again have Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Johnson in charge, who have given us a

good cook stove upon the grounds for the free use of the campers who desire to bring provisions and do their own cooking. Also the stores keep many kinds of canned goods, crackers, cakes and cheese, which can be purchased reasonably. We have no hesitancy in stating that the boarding and rooming accommodations will be good, as considerable expense has been incurred in making preparation for the comfort of those who attend his Camp.

Those who do not obtain board which includes furnished room, car, secure sleeping rooms, with clean and rooming accommodations, will be charged \$2.50 for the entire meeting (payable tri-weekly in advance), those rooms being large enough for several persons which makes the cost very cheap to each individual. Furthermore, in order for us to fully protect those who come for good, we reserve the right to refuse these rooms to any one whom we have any reason to believe would be objectionable to our good friends who occupy adjacent rooms."

EGGMAN GET \$28,000 IN CURRENCY AT FAIRMONT

Crack Safe in Postoffice and Hold Crows Away at Point of Gun

Lumberton, Aug. 11.—Yeggman robbed the post office at Fairmont, Robeson county, last night of \$28,000 in currency and several hundred dollars worth of postage stamps. The money belonged to the Bank of Fairmont, having been sent there by insured mail. The building was entered by prying open a door and the safe was blown open. People living near by the building were awakened by the explosion and when they ran out upon the street one of the robbers fired a pistol several times and ordered them to retreat which they did. The robbers left the scene in an auto stolen from a garage near the post office but abandoned the car a mile from town. There is no clue as to the guilty parties.

OLDEST MASONIC HALL STILL IN USE

Down on Franklin street, between Eighth and Nineteenth, is one of the most famous shrines of the American Free Masonry—the oldest Masons' hall in continuous use in the United States. In the laying of the cornerstone of this structure on October 25, 1788, James Mercer, the grand master of the Grand Lodge and others of distinction had a part. In the raising of funds to complete the building, one was more unwearied than was John Marshall. Despite the extreme financial repression and the biting poverty of the times, the hall was completed in 1787—the year of the Philadelphia convention that drafted the Constitution of the United States. Since that date, without interruption of a single year, the walls of the building have echoed the ritual of the Masons. Complete records of the Lodges from the opening of the hall are preserved in the vault of a Richmond bank. In these records appears the signature of LaFayette, who was admitted to membership in one of the first lodges in the country. One of the most notable gatherings in Masons' hall was held in 1807 in honor of Leonard G. Roberts, master of St. John's, Boston, the oldest of American lodges, established in 1733. On that occasion many of the Masons appeared in Colonial costume. Fires were lighted on the hearth of the lodge. One of the old platters formerly used at Masonic suppers was brought down from the Valentine Museum and was adorned with a fat opossum prepared by Ben P. Owen, Judge D. G. Richardson, during the evening, delivered a memorial address on the history of the lodge.—Richmond News-Leader.

The following announcement has been made public: Mr. and Mrs. John C. Adams announce the engagement of their daughter, Cora Estelle, to Mr. Walter Leon Sutton of Lillington. The wedding will take place some time in October, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adams in Linden.