

## THE PAPER OF THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE AND WITH THE PEOPLE.

### MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE.

#### Suit of Clothes Found Along a Creek Where is the Owner?

Saturday afternoon as Section-master Graves, of the Linwood section, was returning to Linwood he met a fairly well-dressed young man right at the place where Buffalo Bill's circus train was wrecked some time ago. The man was walking fast, going towards Lexington and carried a small black valise. He was smooth-shaven, would weigh possibly 145 pounds and was about five feet, four inches high and looked to be about twenty-one years of age. The time of this meeting was 5.10 o'clock.

Monday morning when Mr. Graves started out to work and when about a half mile this side of the meeting place of Saturday afternoon he saw a black valise and a lot of clothes lying between the railroad and the creek, which is about twenty feet from the track. A little investigation disclosed the fact that the valise was the same as carried by the stranger of Saturday afternoon and that the clothes were the ones he wore at that time. A coat, pair of pants, top shirt and under clothes were all there, but the shoes and hat were missing. A few feet from where these articles were found is a deep hole where the boys in that section are accustomed to go in swimming. Mr. Graves thought possibly the man had been drowned and sent word to Lexington to the officers here. Sheriff Dorsett went to the place Monday afternoon and the hole was searched as well as it could be, but the heavy rain of Sunday night had so swollen the creek that a thorough search was impossible, and nothing was found. The clothes are of fairly good quality and there was not a hole in any of the garments. A couple scraps of paper were found in the pockets and one of these scraps was a little writing, but the rains had made the words illegible.

The entire affair is at present a mystery. Mr. Graves is of the opinion that the man did not have an extra suit of clothes in the valise; says he had it under his arm and that it was so crushed in that it showed there was nothing much in it. On the other hand, if the man went in swimming and was drowned, what became of his hat and shoes? Some think he pulled off his clothes a few feet from the creek, then walked down to the stream in his shoes, pulling them off there and leaving them on the bank; that he was drowned and that the rains of Sunday night caused the creek to rise over the shoes and hat and carry them down stream. This is merely conjecture, of course. If the waters are down sufficiently, a thorough search of the creek will be made today, though the parties who made the search Monday say the rains of Sunday night have caused several feet of sand to accumulate and it is possible that if the man was drowned his body is beneath this sand.

#### Won a \$50 Prize.

Some time ago the grand regent of the State Council Royal Arcanum offered a prize of \$50 to each and every subordinate council in the State showing a net gain in membership of not less than 25 for the term ending June 30th. The local lodge here Hope well Council No. 1758, entered this contest and Secretary Owen received a letter last week in which a check for \$50 was enclosed, informing him that this council was one of three in the State which had won like prizes. Salisbury and Winston were the other two to which prizes were awarded, Salisbury showing a gain of 29, while Winston and Lexington were neck and neck, each having gained 27 new members. The council here is in splendid condition and now has a total membership of eighty-two.

The Victor Brick Co., have purchased ten acres of land from Capt. F. C. Robbins, near Holt's cotton mills, and will move their brick making plant from its present location to the new site.

### TRAIN WRECKER CAPTURED.

#### Geo. Warford, Who Tried to Wreck a Passenger Train, Arrested Here Monday.

George Warford, a white man, was arrested here Monday and is now in jail, charged with attempting to wreck No. 7, a south-bound local passenger train. The crime with which Warford is charged was committed near Smith Green's mill, a few miles north of Lexington, and the time was shortly after the wreck of No. 97, the fast mail. A few days after this wreck No. 7 ran over a pile of rocks placed on the track near the scene of the mail wreck. The engine was slightly damaged but did not leave the track. Later a young son of Jim Crofts told that George Warford had placed these rocks on the track and that he and Warford had laid out in a field nearby to watch the wreck.

The Crofts boy is only 10 or 12 years old. He claims Warford forced him to go along and help place the rocks on the track; further that after they had placed several thereon that he, Crofts, knocked some of them off.

Warford disappeared immediately after the attempt to wreck the train. Officers had heard the boy's story and have been keeping a watchout for Warford. A true bill was found against the latter at our last term of court. Monday Warford made his appearance near town, and it was learned that he was trying to find out if the grand jury had found a bill against him. Deputy Sheriff Lindsay heard of him being here, traced him up and made the arrest Monday. Warford is now in jail.

He has served a term in the penitentiary for breaking in a store and is generally regarded as a bad character. At the time he is alleged to have attempted to wreck the train he was an inmate of the county home, having been a sufferer from rheumatism for several years.

### DAVIDSON TAXABLES.

#### The Figures Show an Increase in the County of \$695,514.

Through the courtesy of Register of Deeds S. L. Owen, The Dispatch this week publishes a compilation of the taxables of Davidson county, as reported by the list takers of the various townships. The figures show an increase over 1902 of \$695,514 and are as follows:

349,248 acres land	\$2,131,242
1,136 town lots	738,303
3,809 horses	176,398
1,800 mules	84,412
17 jacks	840
58 goats	57
7,086 cattle	88,606
11,368 hogs	39,139
2,589 sheep	2,647
250 bicycles	1,537
Farming utensils	61,815
Mechanics tools	3,975
Household and kitchen furniture	78,888
Provisions	41,611
Fire arms	6,841
Scientific instruments	1,515
Money on hand	134,709
Solvent credits	597,855
Stocks, bond, &c.	13,353
Cotton seed and lint	15,573
Tobacco	17,120
Whiskey	87
Musical Instruments	19,989
Plated and silverware	2,508
Jewelry	11,665
Goods, wares, merchandise	145,587
All other personal property	279,351
Income	18,880
Railroad, telegraph and telephones	764,148
Bank stock	152,903
Excess	18,450
Total	\$5,547,809

About 30 years ago W. A. Corbett, of Buncombe county, quarreled with his sweetheart and as a result went to Texas. He married there and a few years ago his wife died. He never forgot the old love, however, and recently he returned to Buncombe to look her up. The lady was Miss Mary Cheek. Corbett met her on the streets of Asheville, they recognized each other and Sunday they were married.

### WAS THIS WILL HARRIS?

#### A Negro Answering Description of the Outlaw is Chased Around Lexington.

Sheriff Dorsett received a message from Rowan county officers early Friday morning saying that Will Harris, Mecklenburg's noted desperado, was on the north-bound local freight then enroute to Lexington. A negro at Spencer who had seen Harris before caught sight of him in the act of boarding the north-bound local freight, in company with another negro named Martin, who had just finished a term on the county roads. He recognized Harris at once and lost no time in communicating the fact to the officers, who at once wired Lexington to arrest the men on the arrival of the train. The sheriff and a posse of officers met the freight and found Martin hid in a box car, but the wily Harris, either because he scented danger, or because he did not wish to take any unnecessary chances, escaped the danger by leaving the train just as it was entering Lexington. Martin was arrested, but released for want of evidence against him.

Later in the day an armed negro who is supposed to have been Harris was seen at different places near the outskirts of Lexington. A number of officers went out to look for the negro but did not succeed in locating him.

### Subscriptions.

New subscriptions and renewals to The Dispatch have been received from the following parties during the past week:

Mrs. W. C. Norman, Albin Hedrick, C. A. Wood, W. A. McVicker, Andrew Sink, Rev. W. S. Adderton, Miss Lula Murphy, W. A. Reed, W. E. Reed, J. E. Crowell, Luther J. Peacock, J. A. Embler, Henry L. Sink, N. H. Slaughter, O. L. Davis, A. A. Sink, W. J. Sechrist, W. M. Koonts, A. L. Koonts, C. G. Koonts, B. C. Gobbie, W. L. Harbin, C. L. Helmstetter, V. Humphrey, W. A. Walker, Jno. R. Cecil, H. L. Conrad, E. H. Sullivan, H. J. Conrad, Mrs. S. J. Sink, W. H. Peace, H. J. Michael, W. J. Shore, J. W. Yarbrough, Mrs. C. E. Ford, A. E. Sheets, I. O. Perryman, C. K. Holmes.

### Hedrick's Grove Church.

Rev. W. H. Causey, the new pastor of Hedrick's Grove reformed church, has taken hold of the work in earnest. Assisted by Rev. J. C. Leonard, of Lexington, he conducted a series of gospel services there for five days, closing Sept. 2nd. The attendance was fine, the church being packed at night. Twenty-eight new members were received into the church. The people of Hedrick's Grove are noted for sterling worth, and their church is in a most prosperous condition.

### Mrs. Redwine's Sister Dead.

Mr. J. D. Redwine received a telegram from his wife Monday morning stating that her sister, Mrs. W. J. Bradshaw, died Sunday night at her home in Wilmington. Mrs. Bradshaw was Miss Catherine McCuiston before her marriage. She had been ill but a short time and Mrs. Redwine had been at her bedside for several days prior to her death. The funeral and burial took place in Wilmington yesterday.

### Mr. Alexander to Wed.

Cards reading as follows were received here last week:

Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Kirkman request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter  
Claydie

Mr. James Houston Alexander Wednesday afternoon, Sept. the 16th nineteen hundred and three at half after one o'clock  
Presbyterian Church  
Mt. Vernon Springs, North Carolina.

Mr. Alexander was formerly secretary and treasurer of the Southern Brass Co., of Lexington, and has many friends here who will be interested in the above announcement.

### CLOSING DAYS OF COURT.

#### But Few Cases Disposed of From Wednesday to Saturday.

At 5:30 o'clock Saturday afternoon Davidson Superior court adjourned, after a two weeks session. But very few cases were disposed of from Wednesday to Saturday, the most important being the case of Jno. M. Burkhardt vs. the American Furniture Co., of Lexington. Burkhardt was an employee of the company and while at work for them got his arm caught in a planer and jointer, badly lacerating his hand causing it to be amputated. He brought suit for \$6,000 damages against the company, alleging negligence on their part. The trial of the case consumed over two days time, and was given to the jury about 12 o'clock Saturday. They returned a verdict in favor of the company late Saturday afternoon, after having been out for several hours.

Six suits for damages against the Postal Telegraph Cable Co. were compromised. These were suits wherein plaintiffs were suing said company for placing poles and stringing wires across lands without permission of said plaintiffs. There were seven of these suits on the docket and six of the seven were compromised, the one of Smith Green being continued.

In the case of Ellis vs. Crofts, it was ordered that Ellis' ferry, on the Yadkin river, be sold, and that out of proceeds costs of action be paid and balance equally divided between plaintiff and defendant.

Only one divorce case was on the docket this term—that of P. A. Lewis vs. Mary Jane Lewis, both of color, and the same was granted.

The jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff in the case of Gordan vs. Hughes.

The Holton case vs. the N. C. Railroad Co., for \$40,000 damages for injuries received by jumping from a runaway engine, was continued.

### Mr. Clemmons to Attend Re-Union.

The Greensboro correspondent of the Charlotte Observer says:

It has been often stated that to J. L. Clemmons, of Lexington, belonged the honor of the discovery of the principle of telegraphy; that he imparted his secret to Morse and that in about three years Morse perfected the system as his own, reaping all the credit and reward. Many people will be surprised to know that Mr. Clemmons is still alive, and well. Some time ago Mr. W. A. Watson, formerly of Lexington, but now a prominent manufacturer of Greensboro, wrote to Mr. Clemmons where he now resides at Louisville, Ky., inviting him to attend the reunion of non-residents of North Carolina to be held here October 12-13. To day Mr. Watson received a long letter from Mr. Clemmons, accepting the invitation. In the letter Mr. Clemmons says he is 91 years old, and has not been sick in bed for 70 years, that he left North Carolina 53 years ago, has been living in Kentucky ever since, and has prospered, that his wife and all his children are dead, and that only a sister is living and he lives with her.

He says he supposes the Clemmons family is extinct in North Carolina, but there are plenty of them in Illinois, Indiana and California. He says that when he left North Carolina there were no railroads in this section, and the raising of tobacco for market was unknown, that Greensboro then was but a small affair, and Winston had not been begun, while now he sees from the papers that they have become two of the most important towns in the State. Mr. Clemmons can rest assured of a royal welcome at the reunion.

Wilford Roseboro, the negro who outraged and killed a lady in Iredell county some time ago, will be hanged at Statesville tomorrow at noon. The execution will be private.

### WOMAN'S HOUSE BURLARIZED.

#### Negro Enters the House of Mrs. Druella Conrad and Steals Money and Clothing.

The residence of Mrs. Druella Conrad, widow of the late A. L. Conrad, was forcibly entered by a negro burglar on Friday afternoon of last week and a sum of money, together with a lot of clothing, a hat and a pair of shoes, stolen. Mrs. Conrad lives near Conrad's siding, this county. She was away from home at the time of the burglary.

Entrance into the house was gained by breaking a pane of glass in a window, reaching in through this broken glass to remove a stick holding down the sash and then raising the window. \$14.34 in money was stolen from a bureau drawer. The burglar also carried off a pair of pants, a hat, a pair of shoes and a shirt, belonging to Mrs. Conrad's son. The lady was in town Saturday and reported her loss to the officers. An unknown negro man was seen going toward the house a short time before the robbery occurred.

### Struck by Lightning.

A severe electrical storm passed over Lexington last night about 8:30 o'clock. Lightning struck Mr. John B. Smith's residence on Main street, tearing off the weather boarding and knocking down the plastering in the room. There was no one in the room at the time. Several trees in and about town were struck, but we have heard of no serious damage being done.

### Negro Woman Leaps to Death.

Winston-Salem, Sept. 4.—Zell Taylor, the colored woman who stabbed Douglas Hairston, colored, to death here Monday night, leaped from one of the windows in the Mayor's court room at 5:30 this afternoon, falling a distance of 30 feet. Her skull was crushed and one hip dislocated. She was unconscious when picked up and the two physicians who were called in say she cannot live. She was removed to the Slater Hospital. New evidence was presented to the mayor this afternoon, indicating that the woman is guilty of murder, and it was ordered the defendant be committed to jail to await trial at the higher court. As soon as this was announced the woman arose and leaped out of the window nearest her, head foremost.

### Kinston Man Kills His Wife.

Kinston, Sept. 4.—A sensational tragedy occurred in this place at 1 o'clock to-day when Emmett Boyett shot and killed his wife, Lena Boyett, on the front porch of her father's house, on Blount street, in the presence of her mother and younger sister. Boyett was evidently under the influence of liquor at the time and the act was one of predilection, as he had shown the pistol, a .38-calibre, to Mr. Walter Fields while on the way to the home of his wife, who has for some time been living with her father, J. C. Chestnut, a saloon-keeper on North street. The incentive was jealousy on the part of the husband, who had been separated from his wife and a suit was pending for divorce.

### Wreck Near Salisbury.

At Majorca, a small station on the Western North Carolina road, six miles west of Salisbury, Thursday night at 9 o'clock, there occurred a head on collision between No. 35, the West-bound passenger train, and No. 78, an East-bound freight. Baggage-master Jones had one of his hands badly broken and Engineer W. S. Taylor was slightly injured. One passenger, a woman, whose name could not be learned, had two teeth knocked out. Twenty head of sheep in a cattle car attached to the freight train were instantly killed, it is thought from the shock. The cause of the collision seems to be with the crew of the freight train. The engine to the freight was not derailed but the passenger engine was knocked in an upright position and was almost straight in the air next morning.

### PERSONAL MENTION.

Master Ed Layden is visiting friends at Raleigh this week.

Miss Louise Hanes spent several days at Cleveland the first of the week.

Mr. Garrell Surratt, of Fairmont, has a position as clerk for Mr. J. W. Finch.

Miss Myrtle Hanes, of Greensboro, is here on a visit to her sister, Mrs. A. L. Sink.

Miss Arline Trice, after a two weeks visit to relatives at Concord, returned home Friday.

Miss Ollie Shore, of near Winston-Salem, is here on a visit to her cousin, Mrs. D. L. Brinkley.

Mr. J. D. Walser, of the Eagle Lumber Co., is at Richfield, Stanly county, this week on business.

Miss Kathleen Smith, after a week's visit to friends at High Point, returned home Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Burkhead and Mr. F. W. Siebert were visitors in Asheville Sunday and Monday.

Rev. W. A. Smith and wife left Saturday morning for Durham where they will visit for a week or ten days.

Mr. W. J. Shore, of Forsyth county, spent Sunday and Monday with his sister, Mrs. D. L. Brinkley.

Mrs. J. S. Delap, of Yadkin College, spent several days with her daughter, Mrs. A. C. Harris, last week.

Mrs. J. A. Poteat, of Raleigh, and Mrs. A. D. Purefoy, of Wake Forest, are the guests of Mrs. S. E. Williams.

Mr. J. C. Durham, of Salisbury, spent Thursday night here with Mr. E. C. Koonts. He was en route to Norfolk.

Mr. Lawrence Grimes left Monday morning for Chapel Hill to attend school at the University of North Carolina.

Miss Margaret Slaughter returned Sunday morning from Montreat, where she has been visiting for the past week.

Mrs. J. E. Sowers, of Spencer, spent several days here last week visiting her sister, Mrs. J. F. Hedrick, and brother, Mr. R. L. McCrary.

Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Hege and little son, Allen, left Friday morning for Moore's Springs. They will be absent for a week or ten days.

Mr. C. L. Everhart, traveling salesman for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., arrived last Wednesday and is visiting his parents at Arnold. He will leave next Monday on a business trip.

Mrs. J. C. Durham, who has been visiting Mrs. F. L. Hedrick, returned to her home in Salisbury Sunday. She was accompanied by Mrs. Hedrick and children, Miss Zula and Master Eccles.

Mr. H. Gould Welborn, of Spartanburg, S. C., was here a few days this week visiting his mother, Mrs. A. F. Welborn. Mr. Welborn is superintendent of the Drayton cotton mills, of Spartanburg.

Capt. F. C. Robbins and family left yesterday afternoon for Moore's Springs, where they will stay about three weeks. Mail directed to Danbury will reach Captain Robbins at the springs.

Mr. Paul D. Howell, of Richmond, spent Sunday here with relatives. He left Monday for his home and was accompanied by his wife and little daughter, who have been visiting Mrs. Walter Mendenhall.

Mr. W. G. Penry left Monday at noon for northern cities. He went via Richmond. Mr. J. F. Ward left Monday night and will meet Mr. Penry in Baltimore and the two gentlemen will then go to New York and other cities to purchase their stock of fall and winter dry goods, clothing, &c. They will be absent from home about ten days.