

H. CLAY GRUBB SHOT AND KILLED BY HIS WIFE. Mrs. Grubb Had Been Terribly Beaten Before She Killed Him—Three Shots Fired—Grubb Asleep or Just Waking When First Shot Was Fired.

or detail of the affair that was not touched by other witnesses but was corroborated by Mrs. Grubb in her statement to the jury later. She said that her father, after beating her mother for some time, seized her by her hair and dragged her out of her room, through the living room and around to the automobile shed at the back of the house, where he secured his pistol and then, dragging her by the hair, took her back into the living room and threw her down on the dav-

DEED JUSTIFIABLE. The coroner's jury found that Mrs. Grubb shot in self defense—Killing took place in Boone Township—The Evidence of Zeb Grubb and Misses Bulah and Edna Grubb in Detail—Mrs. Grubb Was Very Badly Hurt—Funeral Sunday Drew Record-Breaking Crowd From All Over this Section—Grubb Was a Man of Considerable Wealth.

The evidence in the case. The coroner's jury was composed of the following citizens: John W. Lambeth, S. W. Finch, Dermot Shewell, George F. Morefield, J. F. Hodrick, Charles Swicegood. The first witness examined was Zeb Grubb, the 15-year old son of the dead man, who told of his father coming home on Friday evening, slightly intoxicated. He was not sure that he had been drinking at all but thought he had and after coming home he continued to drink. About ten o'clock he became violent about the abusive and went into Mrs. Grubb's room. She had lain down. He began to curse and abuse her and from that to beat her. The boy begged his father to let his mother alone but to no avail. He ran the boy away. The beating and abuse continued for some time, the boy did not know how long. Finally he came to the door, lay down on a davenport close to the door. About 30 minutes later, according to the boy, his mother entered and shot his father, while he was yet asleep or just as he was waking up. He did not know which and could not tell whether his father was awake when the first shot was fired or not. Grubb was on his feet and going to help his wife when the other two shots were fired.

MISS BULAH GRUBB ON THE STAND. Miss Bulah Grubb, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Grubb, was the next witness. She said that when her father became boisterous and started cursing she went to her room upstairs. She heard her mother's cries and screams and heard the blows. About 11 o'clock she thinks it was, her father called her to come down stairs and she and her sister, Miss Edna, went down. She found that her mother had been terribly beaten. Her face was bleeding and blood was oozing from her shoes and she was barely able to move. Her father continued to beat her mother over the head, hand and telling her that he was going to kill her, and all of the family, including Lester Davis, Mrs. Grubb's brother.

TESTIMONY OF MISS EDNA GRUBB. Miss Edna Grubb, another daughter, was the third witness. She told practically the same story as that told by her older sister, but added a few details. She said that at one time she thought that her mother was dead. Her father struck her over the head with his pistol with such violence that she was almost unconscious. Mrs. Grubb tried to get away from Mrs. Grubb and asked to be allowed to get her a drink on the back porch. He followed her, holding on to her skirt and saying that he was not going to let her get away and go to her brother Lester Davis, but was going to keep her right there and kill her and all the rest of the family, after which he would settle with Lester. He brought her back into the davenport and pushed her down on the other end of it, telling her that when he rested he was going to kill her. He fell asleep and she dragged herself into her room. Zeb went for her pistol. Miss Edna crept around the back way to her mother's window and asked her why she did not run away. Mrs. Grubb told her that it could be impossible for her to go anywhere, she was hurt so bad, but asked to be helped from the room. Miss Edna pulled her through the window and the two sat down by the door to await further developments. Suddenly Mr. Grubb moved. His daughter thought he was getting up. Mrs. Grubb was screaming very loudly. She fired three times, killing her husband almost instantly.

THE JURY'S VERDICT. After hearing the statement of Mrs. Grubb the jury retired and in a few minutes returned with the following verdict: "We find that the deceased, H. Clay Grubb, came to his death from a gunshot wound inflicted by the hand of his wife, Emma F. Grubb, in self defense, and she was justifiable in her act."

WHAT THE NEIGHBORS SAID. The place was overrun with people. All of the neighbors were there and they heard the evidence with no little interest, and nearly all had stories to tell. As one man expressed, Mr. Grubb's friends had been knowing all along that his family was in danger but they wouldn't say anything about it. His enemies were afraid to say anything, but they had expected that when the outbreak did come that it would be some member of his family that would suffer. Others told of nights when Grubb would run his family from home and make them sleep outdoors and a Mr. Barnhardt, who lives on the place, told that about four weeks ago he saw Grubb chasing his wife, who was screaming and begging for mercy, with a pitchfork.

MANY REDEEMING QUALITIES. And the talk of the neighbors was not all to his hurt. Many told of his fine work of recent years toward the upbuilding of the community and his willingness to help every worthy cause. He was a big-hearted, good-natured man, when not under the influence of liquor and numbered his friends in the county by the score. His neighbors say that to him largely the credit for the fine roads that are to be found in all parts of Boone township.

THE CORN CONTESTANTS. Sixty-Seven Men Are Trying to Beat All Records for Corn Growing in This County. The Davidson County Agricultural Association held an interesting meeting Saturday afternoon in the grand jury room at the courthouse. It was decided to go to work on the premium list at once and the complete list of contestants was prepared for publication. The contestants are as follows: Lexington township—W. C. Wilson, A. C. Tussey, John T. Jenkins, D. D. Smith and D. H. Black.

NO LIFE INSURANCE. It was rumored here Saturday morning that Mr. Grubb carried about \$100,000 in life insurance but this is not true. A man who was close to him in business affairs, told The Dispatch man that he did not believe that Mr. Grubb carried any insurance at all. He used to carry heavy life insurance but of late years had lost faith in life insurance and had dropped all of it, and had advised this friend to drop his.

THE FUNERAL. The body of H. Clay Grubb was laid to rest Sunday afternoon in the Grubb burying ground near his home. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. V. E. Swalm and it is estimated that fully 3,000 gathered to look for the last time upon his face. There was some drunkenness and disorder around the outskirts of the big crowd but in the main the great throng was orderly and subdued. Mrs. Grubb was greatly annoyed by the morbidly curious who crowded around her door and peered in at the windows.

Liquor. Did the people of North Carolina make any mistake in outlawing the liquor traffic? Perhaps the best answer to that question may be found in Davidson county's tragedy of Saturday, when a wife and mother, bruised and bleeding, and driven to desperation, thrice shot through the heart the man who had sworn to love, cherish and protect her.

George Benson, of Greensboro, Drowned. George Benson, a private in the Guilford Grays, Greensboro's military company, was drowned at Fort Casswell Thursday afternoon. Young Benson was the son of Mr. John C. Benson, of Greensboro, was 17 years of age, and was an employee of the Greensboro News office, where he was the following particulars:

Senator Johnston Dead. The slender democratic majority in the United States senate was further cut down last week by the death of Senator Johnston, of Alabama. It was stated last week that 49 democratic senators would support the pending tariff bill in its entirety. With Johnston out of the senate, the line up will be 48 democrats to 47 republicans, a majority entirely too small for comfort.

Cotton in Warehouse Fired by Lighting. Fire, started by lightning in the Bloomfield Manufacturing Company's cotton warehouse at Bloomfield, near Statesville, during the severe storm which passed over that section early Tuesday night, did damage to the extent of several thousand dollars. One half of the warehouse, which is divided by a heavy brick wall, was gutted by the flames and 156 bales of cotton stored in the house, the property of the Palo Cotton Mill, was burned over and badly damaged.

Atlanta Woman Drowns at Wrightsville. Within four hours of her arrival to spend a 10 days' vacation with a party of friends at Wrightsville Beach, Miss Ethel Edmondson, 24 years old, a stenographer of Atlanta, was drowned Friday, Roy Wallraven, her companion, also of Atlanta had a close call from a similar fate, both having been brought ashore by a life-saver at one of the local hotels. Heroic measures were employed for four hours to resuscitate Miss Edmondson, but without avail.

Hard to Get the Right One. A convict from the state camp located in Greensboro some years ago, escaped. He was blind in the left eye, walked with a "drop" step and was five feet four in height. Desperately hungry, he became very noisy in the town with the result that four eyes were caught, all blind in the left eye and of the right height, but neither was the right man.—Raleigh Times.

Found \$1,263.04 Worth of Stamps in His Tobacco Barn. A dispatch from Kernersville, published in Saturday's daily papers, says: Henry Gordon while cleaning a tobacco barn preparatory to curing tobacco on the farm of W. S. Linville late yesterday afternoon was showered with postage stamps. He had finished cleaning the ground floor and begun to take tobacco sticks from off the poles where they had been stored for the winter and put them on the outside of the barn. Suddenly he was showered with postage stamps. He called a number of fellow workmen and Mr. Linville to the barn to see the stamps. Mr. Linville immediately telephoned to his son Ed. M. Linville who is the local postmaster to come and see if the stamps were the ones that were stolen from his office when it was burglarized June 7 last. The barn is only situated about three quarters of a mile from the postoffice and soon the postmaster was on the ground. Instantly he identified them as the ones stolen from his office. He brought them back to the postoffice and made an inventory of them and found their value to be \$1,263.04. From one of the sheets which had never been broken there was one 10 cent stamp gone, which was evidently lost in handling. Counting this stamp it is the exact amount stolen from his office.

Senator Johnson's Death. One of the senators from other states who were born in North Carolina died in Washington Friday. Joseph Forney Johnston did credit to his native and to his adopted state. Going to Selma, Alabama, shortly after the civil war, in which he had served with the gallantry he later became a successful banker and iron and steel manufacturer at Birmingham, Governor of Alabama, and Senator. His older brother, Robert D. Johnston, followed him (from Charlotte) to Birmingham in the eighties and won almost equal success. Senator Johnston's death at this juncture apparently increased the senatorial chances of Representative Richmond Pearson Hobson, avowed candidate for his seat, the vacancy arising in a term which would have expired year after next.—Charlotte Observer.

Only One in Captivity. They say there is a man in Wake county who opposes good roads because the work of road building would take the labor off of the farms. We bet there is not another county in the state that has an match him, for we are sure he is the only one in captivity.—Raleigh Times.

Business News Notes. Messrs. R. L. Green & O. A. Rothrock, of the Superior Tailoring Co., have an interesting ad in this issue. Hunt it up. They are "Royal" tailors. The J. B. Smith Company has a warning in its ad that all should heed. Read it now.

Old Man's Body on a Fish Trap. Mr. Hiram Henderson, aged about seventy, was missed from his home in Hadesville Sunday night, and a search being made his body was found on Darr's fish trap whither it had been washed from the log crossing on Dry Creek about a mile above. The creek was very high and it is supposed that he was on the footlog and losing his balance was drowned.—Siler City Crit.

Rev. C. H. Durham never left the state and there is hardly a man in demand or who occupies so large a place in the denominational life. And yet someone who have wandered away give as an excuse for leaving that our boys are not appreciated at home. A good deal depends on the boy.—Charlotte and Children.

LEE FORD IS SANE—SO SAYS THE JURY. Jurors Were Out Eighteen Hours Before Bringing in Verdict—Trial of Case Consumed Entire Week—Great Speeches Made on Both Sides.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS. What Has Been Accomplished in Davidson County During the Past Six Years. If Davidson county accomplishes as much during the next six years along educational lines as it has in the past six, it will rank among the best in the state in 1919. Below are given some facts and figures, clipped from the big educational edition of the News & Observer, which appeared last Sunday. These statistics are for a period of six years, covering the administration of County Superintendent P. S. Vann. The first figures in each case are for 1907 and the second for 1913. Read them carefully. They will make you proud of your county.

ASK A NEW TRIAL. Defense Claimed That Jurors Were Influenced in Their Verdict by News of the Killing of H. Clay Grubb by His Wife Which Reached Them Saturday Morning—Judge Shaw Continued Motion of Defense to Set Verdict Aside Until Next Term of Court—Will Announce His Decision Soon—Ford Showed No Emotion When Verdict Was Brought In.

Number rural libraries in schools, 8; 52. Spent for rural libraries, \$30; \$71.28. Number special school tax districts, 0; 13. Amount raised in special school tax districts, 0; \$132.95. Value rural school property, \$14,660; \$52,400. Number log schoolhouses (three of these colored), 14; 4. Number painted schoolhouses, 18; 55.

Number houses having large school bells, 18; 32. Number houses having home-made desks, 50; 75. Number schoolhouses having porches, 34; 58. Number schoolhouses furnished with patent desks, 9; 25. Number new schoolhouses built in last six years, 48. Spent for new schoolhouses, repairs and sites, \$881.65; \$3606.68. Number hyloplate blackboards in schoolhouses, 0; 55. Number teachers employed, 136; 173. Number schools having assistant teachers, 4; 38. Number teachers having normal training, 10; 53. Number teachers taking the reading course, 0; 130. Amount paid to teachers, \$13210.10; \$25312.28.

Number children enrolled in schools, 5283; 3775. Average attendance in school, 3433; 4065. Number children receiving certificates of graduation in seventh grade at county commencement, 0; 104. Number high schools established (five more applied for), 0; 2. Spent for county high schools, 0; \$1500. Amount fines and forfeitures collected, \$408.08; \$2408.68.

in attempting to prove Lee Ford insane his attorneys relied mainly on the evidence of Dr. M. Taylor, of the Western North Carolina Hospital for the Insane at Morganton, who swore positively that Ford is a paranoiac, Dr. E. J. Buchanan, of this county, who swore to the same thing, Dr. J. R. Terry, Mrs. Lee Ford, the prisoner's wife, Mr. Will Ford, of Texas, and other members of his family, who testified to conduct indicating an unbalanced mind, extending over a period of six years.

AS TO THE AFFIDAVITS. Nothing that has been sprung in court circles in Davidson county in several years has brought on quite as much talk as the affidavits filed by the state when the motion to draw a jury from another county was made. An error crept into the report which was due to a statement made by Ford's attorneys in open court, and it came about in this way. When the state's formidable array of affidavits was presented, Judge Shaw asked the defense if they had counter affidavits to file and one of the attorneys for Ford rose and said that they desired to file but one and that one directed toward clearing the county commissioners of any possible connection with, or knowledge of corruption of the jury box. He said that he expected to file an affidavit from Chairman Siscoff, of the board of county commissioners, to the effect that if there are any corrupt men in the jury box, the commissioners did not know them to be corrupt when their names were placed in the box. Chairman Siscoff asks The Dispatch to say that he made no such affidavit; that the affidavit referred to by Ford's attorney was drawn up and presented to him but he refused absolutely to sign it.

When the verdict was announced Mr. J. R. McCrary, of counsel for the defense, moved to set it aside on the ground that while at breakfast Saturday morning members of the jury heard of the killing of H. Clay Grubb by his wife and that this influenced them in reaching a verdict. Being questioned, members of the jury stated that they stood 9 to 3 in favor of a verdict of insanity at the last ballot taken Friday night and Saturday morning, without much delay, they all came to the decision that the defendant is sane. Being questioned singly the jurors declared that they had not been influenced in the slightest by news of the Grubb tragedy, with the exception of one man who stated that it might have had some influence on him. The motion was argued earnestly for some time and Judge Shaw finally continued the motion till next term of court, which is in November, but gave attorneys on both sides notice that he would render a decision in a short time, so that they may know how to proceed with their prosecution or defense.

Lawyers for both sides made fine speeches. For the state appeared Judge E. B. Jones, of Winston-Salem, Mr. George Garland of Colorado, Wallace E. Walser and J. F. Spruill of the local bar, all assisting Solicitor Bowser. Messrs. Jones, J. I. Walser, Bowser and Spruill made speeches. For the defense appeared McCrary & McCrary, Wade H. Phillips and Hon. E. J. Justice, of Greensboro. Messrs. Ray McCrary, Wade Phillips and E. J. Justice made speeches.