

THE DURHAM RECORDER.

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A FOUL MURDER COMMITTED

Jack Roberson, of East Durham Found Dead Saturday Morning.

WESLEY BATES, A NEGRO ARRESTED.

The Negro Had Threatened to "Get Even," and the Evidence Against Him Is Bad—Coroner's Inquest.

Durham awoke Saturday morning to find that during the night a murder had been committed, and that Jack Roberson, a faithful watchman for the Carrington Lumber Company at East Durham, had been killed and that Wesley Bates, a negro that had threatened Roberson, was in jail awaiting the action of the coroner's jury.

About four o'clock Saturday morning Sheriff Harward received a phone message from Mr. W. E. Young, of East Durham that the watchman at the Carrington Lumber company had been found dead and for him to come at once, which he did. Upon reaching the scene of the crime Sheriff Harward found the body of Mr. Roberson lying face up with hands stretched above his head and his shot gun being near the left hand. It was found that one barrel had been discharged and the other had been snapped. Investigation showed that the load took effect in a pile of lumber near by. A blue serge cap with patent leather trim was also found near the dead man.

With this information the sheriff began to make inquiries and found that a negro by the name of Wesley Bates, who formerly worked for the Carrington company, had threatened to get even with the watchman for reporting the fact that he had taken some posts from the yard and for which the negro had to pay. Further investigation led the sheriff to go to the home of Bates for the purpose of arresting him.

Upon arriving at the home of Bates he was told by Bates' wife that no one but herself and her little children were at home, but she did not satisfy the sheriff so he finally succeeded in getting the woman to open the door and he went in leaving Sergeant Aldridge at the back door. He found two beds in the room and Wesley Bates was lying upon the bed, or pretending to be. He asked Bates and told him that he must come and go with him. The negro did not ask the reason and was disturbed at that time. He might not why the sheriff had come, and when told by the sheriff that Mr. Roberson had been killed and that he was wanted for the crime began to say that he could prove that he had been at home all night, that he had never had any difference with the watchman and had made no threats.

From various persons there was obtained testimony, a number of the cap and others of which Ransom Davis testified that he saw the fellow who had the place last night at 9 o'clock. There was a man that he was seen some time a cap, at the time he was wearing a white hat. The sheriff's opinion was perhaps the most convincing guilt enough to follow over to court. Frank Maddy heard the man with a jury and in a few minutes it concluded that Roberson had been

killed by a pistol shot and the evidence was strong enough to bind the prisoner over.

Mr. Roberson was about 58 years old and leaves a wife and three children. He was a Granville county man and came here several years ago to live. He was very generally liked and a most acceptable watchman. His catching the negro some time ago when Bates was employed as fireman at the Carrington yard caused him to quit work and he went over to the Chatham Lumber Company's plant as night fireman. It was yesterday afternoon late when he called for his time and money. The negro had said often that he never went about the Carrington premises and his being there last night is a damaging circumstance. The case is one of unusual atrocity, but there was no feeling shown against the man who is under arrest.

REMAINS CARRIED TO GRANVILLE. Sunday the remains of Jack R. Roberson were taken to Lyons, Granville county, his old home, where the interment took place in family burying ground.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB ORGANIZED.

Quite a Number of Democrats Met at the Court House Last Friday Night

Durham city Democrats met at the court house last Friday night for the purpose of organizing a Democratic club, and the meeting was well attended for the initial session, and enthusiasm ran high with many.

Chairman S. C. Brawley called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Victor S. Bryant to state the purpose of the meeting. This Mr. Bryant did in a brief speech. He was followed by Solicitor Jones Fuller, who spoke principally regarding the election of Mr. Bryant.

Hon. H. A. Foushee then moved that the organization of a club be gone into. This was opposed and advocated by some present, but finally the motion was carried and a club was organized with the following officers:

R. H. Sykes, president; D. W. Sorrell, secretary.

Precinct vice-presidents were chosen, one from each voting precinct. Paul C. Hutchins was named as treasurer and W. C. Lindsey as assisted recording secretary.

The following resolution was introduced by Mr. D. W. Sorrell and unanimously adopted.

"We, the members of the Durham Democratic Club, hail with joy the advent of the campaign for the triumph of genuine Democratic principles, under the matchless leadership of William J. Bryan, whose spotless christian character, great heart, wonderful courage and unselfish love of the plain people, have put in fear the agencies of evil and command the admiration of all nations.

We are proud that in our State, the virtues and the purpose of the great Commoner find their counterpart in our true, courages and ever victorious standard-bearer, the Hon. W. W. Kitchin, and that in the State and nation we have a cause that appeals to the minds and hearts of men; Therefore be it

Resolved, that we pledge ourselves to be active and diligent in daily efforts, that on the 3rd day of November a glorious victory may be won, and the same just and economical administration that has characterized our State government under Democratic rule, be vouchsafed to our nation."

BROOKS OPENS CAMPAIGN

County Candidates at Mangum's Store Monday.

WOODS SHELLED AT EAST DURHAM.

Solicitor Brooks and County Candidates Begin the Work of the Campaign in Dead Earnest.

The county, Congressional and State senatorial campaign was begun in Durham yesterday by the opening speech being delivered at Mangum's store by Mr. Brooks, nominee for Congress, and the real work of the campaign was begun by most of the county candidates being present and shaking hands and telling why the Democratic ticket would and should be elected.

A good number of voters were out at Mangum's Store to hear the speeches that were delivered. At 8 o'clock Monday night Mr. Brooks spoke in East Durham to a large crowd. Much enthusiasm was manifest and Mr. Brooks made a good speech.

COUNTY AFFAIRS.

Democrats are sure of getting every man on their ticket, but some are willing to concede that the ticket for the Legislature will be the closest of any. There is no doubt expressed as to whether Hon. J. S. Manning will be elected Senator from this district, and as for Congressman Brooks and Solicitor Fuller, you rarely hear their names mentioned as they are so sure of election. However, Republicans are claiming that they expect to make big gains and hope in many places where the Democrats think they have their fences well fixed, to break over and cause trouble.

The principal point that is hoped for the Republicans in electing their man to the legislature, so far as we have heard, is the fact that he waged such a war in the recent prohibition campaign and came out so victorious that those that helped in that will give him a chance to ask for their suffrage in this election. This position is creating more talk than any other office in the county. There is little doubt expressed anywhere about the result of the election in other county officers, but the work of both goes on just the same as if the Democrats expected it to be close and the Republicans hoped to elect their men.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS.

These be stirring times in national political affairs. Every politician, big and small is exerting himself to become a leader and puller of votes for his choice of party, whether for the hope of reward or for the love of the party remains to be seen after the battle is over and the distribution of public office is begun.

The indications are from Associated press reports that Bryan would be elected if the election should be held at once, and if the tide does not change its course he will receive a larger majority than was at first conceded to the Republicans. Press reports say that Taft and his forces are on the run and that the only chance they now have is to have something occur that will cause public sentiment to greatly change in their favor. It remains to be seen whether such predictions are merely talk or whether they have good ground for such a forecast.

One thing they say is helping along the Democratic forces and

that is the fact that Senator Foraker has acknowledged his connection with the Standard Oil Company, that he received money from the company for legal services, and the consequent withdrawal from appearing in the campaign in the interest of the Republican National ticket. This indeed looks bad for the Republicans that have just affected a reconciliation between the presidential candidate and the Senator from Ohio.

Others, Democratic leaders, have been charged with being connected with this monster trust in the same manner, but emphatically deny that such is the case, and the result of their denial will be watched with interest.

On every hand Democrats are jubilant over what they are claiming will be a great victory for them in November and Republicans smile and say they will come out all right. Only six weeks remains for the battle to be fought and the campaign will naturally get warmer until the end.

NEGROES FIGHT OVER A BET.

Tom Green Stabs Emmet West.—Green a Witness for Wesley Bates

Two negroes, Tom Green and Emmet West got into a fight Sunday afternoon, and Green claims that West attempted to shoot him and he at once used his knife. The result is that Green is now in jail and West is at the hospital, where he is receiving medical attention.

The fracas occurred, so it is said, over the fact that the two negroes bet \$1 over the name of a hat and became involved in a dispute over deciding which had won the money.

Green did a good job of carving and the result might have been worse had he not broken his knife and left part of the blade in the hip of his antagonist.

When the officers went to arrest Green he tried to escape and one of the officers used his gun, which caused the negro to stop. He was shot in the calf of the leg, and the wound is not a serious nature.

IMPLICATED IN MURDER.

Green was tried before the mayor Monday on the charge of assaulting West and was bound over to court under a bond of \$150, which he could not give and was sent to jail. Among other things about Green he is believed to be a partner in the murder of Jack Roberson, although no positive proof has been ascertained. He was designated by Bates as a witness by whom he hoped to prove an alibi, and his testimony will be brought out at the proper time. However, there is talk that he was connected with the murder of Roberson and not only knew of it, but that he aided Bates in the deed.

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