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JAMES A. THOMAS, EDITOR. VOL. XXXVII.

THE COUNTY, THE STATE, THE UNION. DUNSMOOR, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1907. NUMBER 24

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TOM UPCHURCH CHEATS GALLOWS

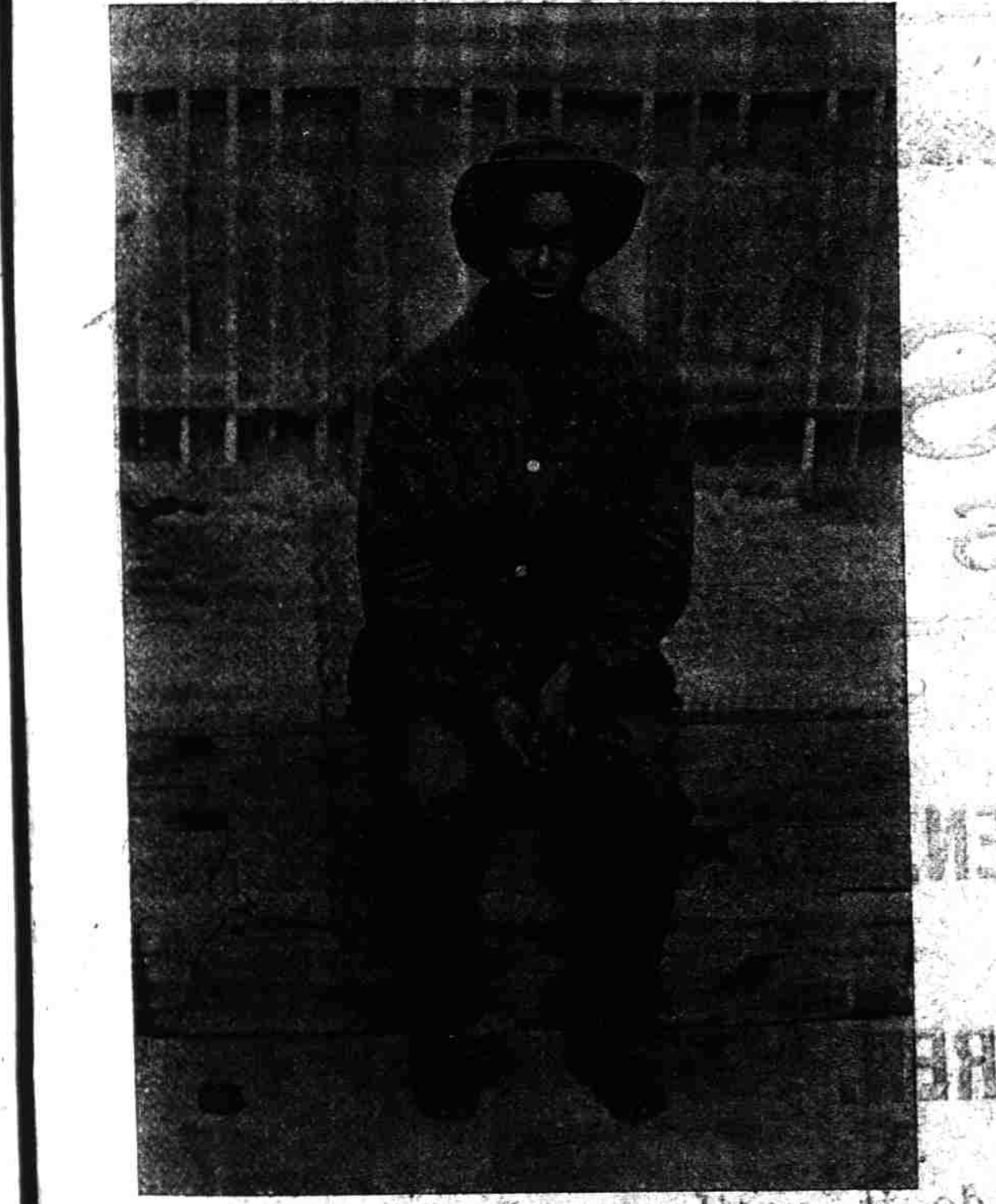
Hangs Himself in His Cell With a Small Wire.

HIS SELF-DESTRUCTION WAS ACCOMPLISHED AFTER TEN O'CLOCK SATURDAY NIGHT.

Discovery Made by Jailer D. C. High When He Went in to Give the Prisoners their Breakfast on Sunday Morning.—He Had Been dead for Several Hours—Examination Made by Coroner R. P. Taylor.

Yesterday morning about half past 8 o'clock when Jailer D. C. High went to the jail to give the prisoners their breakfast he made a horrible discovery. Upon reaching the cell occupied by Thomas Upchurch, the negro who was condemned to be hanged next Wednesday, he called to him but received no answer. This rather startled the Jailer and looking through the holes in the steel cell he discovered that the body of Upchurch was dangling between the top and floor of his cell, having hung himself during the night. Jailer High came "rapidly" out of the jail and gave the alarm, when several citizens went to the prison and assisted in

sleep Saturday night just before 10 o'clock Tom was blowing his harp, and said nothing about hanging himself. His struggles did not awaken them and they say that they had no idea Tom was dead until Chief High came in and made the awful discovery. They couldn't see Tom from their cell. Jailer High said that he made a thorough examination of Tom's cell Saturday morning, and found a short piece of rope and two small pieces of wire. He couldn't imagine how he got the piece of wire with which he hung himself, which was about two and a half feet long. The news of the tragedy soon



THOMAS UPCHURCH, The Rapist. taking down the body. Life was extinct, and upon examination Dr. Yarborough gave it as his opinion that the negro had been dead for several hours. Death was caused from strangulation, and Tom had hanged himself by means of a small wire, the size of which comes around baled hay, which he had fastened to the top of the cell and then around his neck. It is supposed that he stood on his bunk or in a chair which was in his cell, and after fastening the wire around his neck stepped off. This gave him a drop of about one foot. His toes were just touching the floor. There were two other negro prisoners in an adjoining cell, and in answer to questions by a Times reporter they said that when they went to

explain themselves, were had Sunday evening: In Re Inquest of Thomas Upchurch, Deceased. D. C. High, the regular appointed Jailer for Franklin County being duly sworn, says that he is the Keeper of the County Jail of Franklin County, North Carolina, and that at 8:45 p. m. on the 20th day of October, 1907, he went to the Jail to feed the prisoners confined in said Jail, and that Thomas Upchurch, who was confined in said Jail, under sentence of death, was found by him hanging by a wire suspended from the top of his cell which he occupied, dead.

D. C. High, Jailer for Franklin County. Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 20th day of October, 1907. J. J. BARROW, Clerk Superior Court.

North Carolina—Franklin County. In Re Inquest of Thomas Upchurch, Deceased.

To R. P. Taylor, the duly elected and qualified Coroner for Franklin County—Greeting. Whereas it has been made to appear to the undersigned that Thomas Upchurch, prisoner in the County Jail of Franklin County, who was under the sentence of death, was found dead in said Jail on October the 20th, 1907. Now therefore you are hereby commanded to repair to the County Jail of Franklin County and proceed to examine the body of the said Thomas Upchurch and report your proceedings under your hand and seal to this Court, and if you find an inquest necessary, you will have summoned six good and lawful men, who shall act as Jurors at said inquest and report your proceedings under your hand and seal, and under the hands and seals of the said six jurors. Witness my hand this 20th day of October, 1907. J. J. BARROW, Clerk Superior Court.

North Carolina—Franklin County. In Re Inquest of Thomas Upchurch, Deceased.

I, R. P. Taylor, Coroner of Franklin County, do hereby certify, that on Sunday, October the 20th, 1907, at 3:30 o'clock p. m., in pursuance of an order of J. J. Barrow, Clerk of the Superior Court of said County, and in the common Jail of Franklin County I did personally see and inspect the corpse or remains of an adult negro, who was committed to the said Jail at the Special September Term, 1907 of the Superior Court of said County, under sentence of death, by and under the name of Thomas Upchurch. And I do further certify that said adult male negro so committed under the name of Thomas Upchurch, was at the time of my said inspection, dead, and that he came to his death at his own hands by strangulation, caused by a piece of wire by him suspended from the ceiling of his cell. I further certify that I have not deemed it necessary to empanel a jury of inquest, as the manner and cause of decedent's death were plainly apparent.

Witness my hand and private seal this October the 20th, 1907. R. P. TAYLOR, Coroner for Franklin County.

As is well known by the readers of the TIMES, Thomas Upchurch was tried and convicted at the Special term of Franklin Superior Court held September 23rd, for committing an assault upon Miss Elizabeth Perry, at her home in Harris township, on the night of August 31st. He was sentenced by Judge W. H. Neal to be hanged October 23rd. He was about 20 years of age. Quite a large number reviewed the remains which were laid out in the jail. The family of Tom did not desire his body, and, in accordance with law Sheriff Kearney, on Mon-

day, shipped it to the undertaking establishment of John W. Brown, at Raleigh, where it was embalmed and sent to the medical department of the State University.

Tobacco Notes. The report that the A. T. Co. buyer had been taken off the market was all a mistake. He is still buying the weed, whenever the other buyers will let him have a slice.

A. W. H. Arnold, one of the county's industrious farmers, was praising the high prices he received at the Riverside this week, and in looking over his bill we found that he had a right to feel good. He sold five grades for which he received 11.50, 15.75, 21, 22 and 40.

The breaks were good yesterday and the farmers seemed well pleased. Among those who made good sales at the Riverside we note the following: E. D. Tippet, five lots at 9.75, 15.75, 17.25, 23, 32.25. H. A. Ethebridge, twelve lots at 11, 14.75, 16, 16.25, 17, 18, 25, 25, 25, 25, 40, 35, 40. Percy S. Martin, twelve lots at 9, 10, 10.25, 11, 12, 14.25, 15, 15.75, 20, 22, 24, 40.

W. W. KITCHEN SPEAKS.

HE IS A CANDIDATE FOR NOMINATION FOR GOVERNOR.

He Made a Clear Cut and Forceful Speech—Alludes to His Opponents in a Pleasant Manner—Pleads for Harmony.

According to announcement the able Congressman of the 6th district, spoke in the court house in Louisburg on last Monday, to about one hundred and fifty representative citizens of this county.

He is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor which comes off next year, and he was here on this occasion to announce his candidacy. Mr. Kitchen is an able and pleasant speaker, and his hearers were very well pleased with his speech. He said that he was not here to stir up the people by appealing to their prejudices, and referred to his opponents for the nomination for Governor in a most pleasant manner. He was a great believer in organization, and therefore had no criticisms to make of any local or factional differences. He referred to the fact that he was being opposed for the nomination by several newspapers of the State that were hostile to him, notably the Charlotte Observer and Wilmington Messenger, and said that he was also being opposed by the Southern Railway and the American Tobacco Co. As an excuse for coming before the people thus early he said that he had no great daily newspapers to espouse his cause and was therefore forced to come in person. "And since coming to Franklin," said he, "I understand that I haven't even a weekly paper in Franklin, as I learn that one of the papers is for one of my opponents, and the other is for another of my opponents." He hit the trusts and monopolies some hard blows and wound up by saying that he would be glad to get a good share of the vote of Franklin county in a State Convention. He made a very favorable impression upon those who heard him.

LAUREL ITEMS. The Mt. Zion Academy has been completed and looks real pretty. Boys, remember to take off your hats when you go in the church. Some of our people attended the fair and report "just a grand time."

Messrs. Ben and Arch Griffin visited this place last week on business. The squirrels have been doing pretty common since Mr. P. L. Gorton's return from Mapleville.

We are glad to say our Sunday school hasn't stopped and we cordially invite everybody to attend. Mrs. George Carroll, who has been visiting at the home of Mr. B. L. Carroll, has returned to her home near Epsom.

Mr. Ballard Egerton, the former man of Mr. J. B. Jones' work is very sick. It is hoped however that he will recover soon.

Mrs. Stewart Beck with left Monday for her home in Hyde county. She has been spending sometime with her mother, Mrs. M. D. Speed.

Mr. J. M. Gorton spent a short while Monday evening with Mr. T. J. Ricks who has been confined to his room for sometime with rheumatism.

Mr. W. T. Johnson of Louisburg spent Saturday and Sunday with his people. On his way back to town he happened to lose his way and when he found himself he was at Mountain of course, and was directed the way by the "magic tongue."

U. & I. BUNN ITEMS. Mr. Johnnia Wiggs is clerking for Ed Pippin in Wakefield. Mr. John Odum and wife have moved back to Spring Hope.

Mr. Gus A. Alford is clerking in the racket store at Spring Hope. Mrs. Sam Perry spent last Sunday with her son Mr. J. N. Perry, of Bunn.

Miss Ella Pippin, of Jonesboro, is visiting her brother, Mr. C. C. Pippin, of Bunn. Miss Tena White spent a part

of last week with her uncle, Mr. Bob Jones, of Katesville.

This week makes Bunn a desirable place for residence. People desiring school advantages should come to Bunn. Land may be bought here in lots or in a tract.

Mrs. G. T. Dickie, of Epsom, spent last week with her sister, Mrs. J. H. Weathers, of Bunn. Mrs. W. N. Johnson, of Louisiana, together with her three daughters, Fog, Gladys and Bruce are spending a month with Mrs. Weathers who is her sister.

Bunn High School has a larger enrollment than it had at this date last year and new students continue to come. The public high school will go into operation next week. When everything is taken into consideration, Bunn bids fair to become the educational center of Southern Franklin.

There was a large crowd at the services at Rock Spring last Sunday. The sermon by the pastor, Rev. E. D. Poe, was on "Building for Heaven." It was searching, encouraging, inspiring and most forcefully and earnestly delivered. The church is active and progressive there having been a number of additions to the church recently.

With best wishes for Taxpayers. W. D. P.

SANDY CREEK ITEMS.

W. L. Besley has received a full supply of free school books, so that everybody can get what the children need.

It is said that the "special tax" asked for in behalf of the "Fuller School" will be carried by a large majority.

It looks like that there will be right much moving this fall, in consequence of which many of us will have new neighbors.

"Bob White" writing from Sandy Creek sends the Times the following items: (They were received however, too late for last week's issue.)

A petition is being circulated for a "special tax" election for Mount Zion Academy, and we feel sure that there will a large majority in favor of the same. Sandy Creek does not propose to be in the "back ground" on public education, and our people are becoming aroused on the subject.

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THE MOVING PEOPLE.

THEIR MOVEMENTS IN AND OUT OF TOWN.

and Those Who Come and Go, Some for Pleasure, Some for Business and a Large Number Because They Like It.

Mr. Seaman Scott, of Windsor, was a guest of Dr. S. P. Hart this week.

Mrs. B. H. Massenberg left last week to visit her daughter, Mrs. Carroll, at Warsaw.

Ex-Judge Timberlake, who is now postmaster at Wake Forest, remained here this week.

Mr. R. G. Allen and wife left Tuesday to spend a few days at the Jamestown Exposition.

Mr. J. G. Earp and sister Miss Ella, visited their brother Mr. C. E. Earp here this week.

Mrs. Geo. A. Regalade left this week to visit friends in Roanoke Rapids and Greenville.

Mrs. Mattie Williams and children and Mr. A. W. Alston's children went to the Exposition this week.

Mrs. M. S. Davis is visiting relatives in Warsaw and Mr. Stuart Davis is taking in the Jamestown Exposition.

Mr. Jack Winston and wife, and Mr. S. E. Pearce and wife, of Youngsville, were in Louisburg, shopping on Tuesday.

Messrs. J. C. Winston, I. W. Mitchell, C. E. Timberlake and H. A. Timberlake, of Youngsville, were here Tuesday.

Miss Urtia Hawson, one of the popular teachers of the Graded School was summoned by wire, to the sick bed of her mother at Littleton, this week.

Mr. E. S. Green spent last Sunday and Monday with his son, Dr. E. S. Green, at Monroe. He enjoyed his visit very much, and says that the Doctor is doing well.

Mrs. J. A. Taylor left Tuesday for Raleigh, where she will spend a few days and from there she will go to Atlanta to join her husband on his regular trip through the fall.

Dr. C. D. H. Fort, of Oxford, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Mary, came over last Saturday and spent Sunday in Louisburg. The Doctor returned home Monday, but Miss Mary remained over to spend a few days with friends.

His friends were glad to see Terry Gray King, in town this week. He had been on a visit to his farm near Catalina, and was on his way back to Raleigh, where he is filling the position of principal of one of the graded schools in that city.

Judge C. M. Cooke, accompanied by his wife, arrived home on Monday afternoon, and was heartily welcomed by his host at friends. He will return to the western part of the State next week, where his judicial duties will hold him for several months yet before he will hold any of the eastern courts.

Another Small Fire. The fire alarm was sounded Monday about 1 o'clock, being caused by the burning of the kitchen of Mr. F. Besley. As usual the fire dies were promptly sprung, and a very short while after the alarm they had a stream turned on the fire, which succeeded in extinguishing the fire after it had burned for some time in the kitchen. It is thought that the fire was started by a candle which was scorched and had fallen on the floor but was promptly extinguished.

Mr. Besley's wife and children were in the kitchen at the time the fire broke out, and were directed the way by the "magic tongue."

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Advertisement for PINEURIN, a medicine for various ailments.