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## EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S LEADING PAPER.

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ELIZABETH CITY, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1903.

No. 42.

### Wilcox Now Being Tried the Second Time For His Life.

#### JURORS SELECTED.

Great Crowds in Perquimans Capital.

WILCOX IN GOOD CONDITION.

Citizens Flee From Sheriff and Deputies to Escape Jury--A List of the Jurors--Dr. Wood the First Witness.



JAMES WILCOX.



ELLA MAUD CROPSEY.

Hertford, N. C., Jan. 16th. There is a growing sentiment here that Wilcox will be acquitted. There are general expressions concerning the great expense to Pasquotank County. A prominent citizen said it would probably reach \$3000.

Hertford, N. C. Jan. 15, 1903. The new trial granted James E. Wilcox by the supreme court and moved to this city is now on. A repetition of the greatest battle ever waged in North Carolina's legal arena is now the scene in the court house in this quaint old town. The change of scene in this great trial has loaned additional interest and phenomenally large are the crowds in attendance—and interest and attendance increase as the trial advances. So large was the crowd in and around the court room this afternoon that when court adjourned and the prisoner was remanded to jail his keepers were compelled to take him from the court room by way of a rear window, through which he leaped with the agility of a cat. There has been much delay this week. The trial was to have begun Monday but Judge W. B. Council, of Hickory, who is ordered to conduct the hearing, failed to arrive until that night. Court convened Tuesday morning at ten o'clock. The session was a short one; lasting only an hour. During this time a special venire of one hundred men was drawn and writ of summons ordered issued. Sheriff Winslow and his deputies scoured the country and its every nook and corner in issuing the summons and Tuesday morning the effectiveness of their work was shown by the appearance of most of the venire men. A few of these were missing—among them some of Hertford's most prominent men. Learning that they were included in the special venire a member of men left the state to escape the process of the court. Some of these have not been heard from. Mr. T. C. Blanchard, a prominent merchant departed unknown to his family and they yet have no trace of his whereabouts. Wednesday's session was largely attended. The court hour has a seating capacity of only 500 people yet there was fully seven hundred men struggling for standing room. The building was packed from floor to ceiling and the aisle was barely traversable. Every window was besieged

by a mob of eager sight-seers. Attorney Bond of the defence was taken ill Tuesday and among the first things of Wednesday's session was Lawyer Aydtles' appeal for a continuance. A zephyr of dissent stole through the court room but was substituted a few minutes later by a wave of satisfaction and relief that literally swept through the sea of expectant faces that stretched from the bar to the entrance. The prosecution said that enough time had been consumed in trying this case already; that people were anxious to have done with it; public necessity and the public demand that the case continue uninterrupted. Judge Council ruled in favor of the prosecution. The motion for continuance was denied. The balance of Wednesday, was consumed in selecting a jury. When court adjourned Wednesday afternoon eleven jurors were in the box and the special venire of one hundred exhausted. It was ordered by the court that an additional venire of thirty men be drawn from which the one juror, was to be selected. Court then adjourned until yesterday morning. The closing words of Judge Council were: "I understand that a member of yesterday's veniremen left the state to escape the process of the court. A repetition of this contempt of court." Yesterday morning court again convened at ten o'clock. The court room crowded to its utmost capacity. To the right of the bar sat the attorneys for prosecution Heywood Sawyer, Roscoe Turner and the Solicitor. Seated with these was the court stenographer W. A. Worth, of Elizabeth City. To the right of these sat the jurors in whom the fate of James E. Wilcox is entrusted. To the left of the bar sat attorneys Aydtles, Bond and Leary of the defence. Seated at Aydtles' elbow was the prisoner, James Wilcox and his parents. It was Mrs. Wilcox' first appear-

ance at court. She is laboring under greatest mental anguish and scarce dares rest her eyes upon the boy for fear of breaking completely down. The Cropsey family, with the exception of the mother and younger children, were present and seated on the same side of the bar as Wilcox. In addition to these a coterie of representatives of every newspaper in the East, North and South were seated with sharpened quills and fresh pads ready to chronicle the happenings for millions of interested readers. On the bench sat Judge Council; a man of fine physique and stern though kindly bearing. The work of selecting the remaining juror was immediately taken up. After nearly an hour and a half he was selected and the jury complete. The bill of indictment was read and the important events of the trial were in progress. The names of the jurors who will decide the fate of James Wilcox are; M. L. Dail, J. M. Turner, Stephen Elliott, W. O. Reed, J. E. Davidson, R. E. Stallings, Lewis D. Felton (colored), J. D. Winslow, S. S. Williams, W. F. Madre, D. B. Rogerson, W. H. Bright. Dr. J. E. Wood was the first witness placed upon the stand. He testified to the finding of the body and related its condition as found at the autopsy. He told of the absence of water in the heart and lungs and explained that there were no symptoms of drowning. He testified to the chastity of Nellie Cropsey. Further on he related the decomposed condition of the brain and attributed it to a blow, the signs of which were shown by a dark bruise on left temple. The examination of Dr. Wood consumed the morning session. The defence objected to the prosecution asking witness how, in his opinion was the wound produced. The objection was overruled. Dr. Wood continued by saying that the blow was, in his opinion, struck with a covered weapon; probably a black jack.

He has filled many important charges during his ministry of fifteen years and the Wadesboro papers give an extended report of his resignation, reciting the great love and esteem in which he is held in that town. The Messenger-Intelligencer of Wadesboro, last week contained the following: After telling his congregation how painful it was to speak the words which he now felt it was his duty to say—words which had cost him a month of pain, anxiety and honest effort—Mr. Love said, in conclusion: "So far as I can recall there has not been, these two and a half years, one unpleasant word between any member of this church and myself or family to mar the sweet relationship; and I am grateful for the many assurances you have given me that there is not one disaffected member in all the membership nor an unfriendly citizen in the town. For myself, and on behalf of my family, I wish to express to you our deathless love and to all classes of the community our deathless friendship. My thoughts will often turn to Wadesboro as the happiest home my family has ever had, to my pastorate of this church as the most congenial and delightful in my ministry to the present time; and my heart will turn to you, brethren and sisters composing the membership of this church as the most loyal and the most dearly beloved of those whom I have served in the bonds of the gospel."

**MR. LOVE RETIRES.**  
Has Conducted Business Here Thirty Years.  
Mr. W. T. Love, the retiring member of the late firm of Love, Evans & Co. has formed no definite plans as to the future. For the present he will conduct his market business, a business in which he has been engaged for more than thirty years. He is the oldest butcher in this city, having succeeded his father who conducted a well established business for many years. It is safe to say that there is not a better or more popular man in the business circles of this city than W. T. Love. He is a man who commands the confidence of every man, woman and child who knows him. Honesty is the word he conjures by, and any intimation that he would leave this city would be universally regretted. Mr. Love says that he will give his attention to the business which he will conduct in the city market and his gratitude for past patronage will be manifested by a determination to excel any achievement of the past.

**Mr. Weisel's Leave Taking.**  
Mr. Moses Weisels and family left Wednesday for Norfolk where they will reside in the future. This mere statement chronicles the departure of a man who for a quarter of a century has been engaged in the mercantile business in this city, and it is safe to say that no man here was more highly esteemed and certainly none were more reliable in all transactions than Moses Weisel. From a boy in father's store he gained the confidence and respect of the people throughout the section and he has retained and merited this sentiment in his business career. Mr. Love is a native of this city and a brother of Mr. W. T. Love.

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#### CHAMBER MEETS

Chamber of Commerce Elects Officers for Ensuing Year.

AN INTERESTING MEETING.

Committee Rebukes Local Papers. Movement Towards Improvement of public roads. Committee to draft suitable Bill.

The Chamber of Commerce met in regular monthly session Monday night and as usual transacted some important business. It was the occasion of the annual election of officers and the old officers were re-elected as follows: President Chas. H. Robinson; Vice-President, Dr. A. L. Pendleton; secretary, H. T. Greenleaf Jr. Messrs M. Wescott, C. L. Whitehurst and H. C. Tunis were added to the membership. The roll now includes a large majority of the city's progressive business men. The committee on postal telegraphs and express reported that they had secured double daily mail over the Norfolk and Southern railroad. H. T. Greenleaf reported for the special committee on the entertainment of the congressional delegation as follows: To the President and Members of the Chamber of Commerce: We, your committee appointed by the Board of Directors to entertain the visiting members of the House Committee on Public Building Sites and Grounds from the U. S. Congress, do hereby beg leave to report that the Committee visited our City accompanied with Hon. Jno. H. Small, our Congressman, and were shown over the city and they were also shown the present site as well as the proposed new sites for the public building to be erected in our city, and after giving these gentlemen a dinner at the "Arlington" Hotel they were escorted to the train and seen on their return to Washington, D. C. The Committee hereby desire to thank Mrs. C. H. Robinson and the ladies who kindly assisted her to entertain the ladies, who accompanied the party here. We desire to say that we have incurred bills for the transportation of this Committee from Washington, D. C. and return and their entertainment here: which filed with the Secretary of the Chamber to provide payment. We desire to thank Callahan, Gen. Mc & Washington and M. K. King, N. & S. R. F. extended transport. At Mr. Love's retirement, the Chamber of Commerce met in regular monthly session Monday night and as usual transacted some important business. It was the occasion of the annual election of officers and the old officers were re-elected as follows: President Chas. H. Robinson; Vice-President, Dr. A. L. Pendleton; secretary, H. T. Greenleaf Jr. Messrs M. Wescott, C. L. Whitehurst and H. C. Tunis were added to the membership. The roll now includes a large majority of the city's progressive business men. The committee on postal telegraphs and express reported that they had secured double daily mail over the Norfolk and Southern railroad. H. T. Greenleaf reported for the special committee on the entertainment of the congressional delegation as follows: To the President and Members of the Chamber of Commerce: We, your committee appointed by the Board of Directors to entertain the visiting members of the House Committee on Public Building Sites and Grounds from the U. S. Congress, do hereby beg leave to report that the Committee visited our City accompanied with Hon. Jno. H. Small, our Congressman, and were shown over the city and they were also shown the present site as well as the proposed new sites for the public building to be erected in our city, and after giving these gentlemen a dinner at the "Arlington" Hotel they were escorted to the train and seen on their return to Washington, D. C. The Committee hereby desire to thank Mrs. C. H. Robinson and the ladies who kindly assisted her to entertain the ladies, who accompanied the party here. We desire to say that we have incurred bills for the transportation of this Committee from Washington, D. C. and return and their entertainment here: which filed with the Secretary of the Chamber to provide payment. We desire to thank Callahan, Gen. Mc & Washington and M. K. King, N. & S. R. F. extended transport. At

tribing on the Government any property for the public building site and we are willing to leave that with themselves to settle in their own way. That it is entirely untrue that any amount was asked over the option price on the Albemarle House square properties and the Government can have these properties and the options at the option price. That the Committee is surprised that such severe and unwarranted charges as were made by the "Carolinian" and we desire to say to the Chamber that there was never any grounds for the ill-tempered and exceedingly unkind article written by this paper, especially as two of its staff members of this Chamber. (H. T. GREENLEAF, Signed: E. F. AYDTLES, J. H. LEROY, Committee- The Albemarle Fire Company kindly rendered the Chamber the use of their room in which to hold its sessions. The courtesy was recognized and the secretary was instructed to transmit to the fire company the expression of thanks on the part of the Chamber. Mr. A. C. Hathaway for the special committee to look into the feasibility of raising tobacco in this section reported progress and that it was the general opinion of tobacco raisers that the staple could be successfully produced here. The committee was instructed to select subscriptions with which to secure a competent tobacco farmer to come here and instruct our farmers how to raise it. W. L. Cohoon moved the appointment of a committee, looking to suitable legislation which would effect better public roads. W. L. Cohoon and P. H. Williams were appointed a committee and instructed to act at once. The Chamber adjourned to meet on the second Monday night in February. The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Brothers, departed this life Tuesday. It suffered from croup. A visitor to Elizabeth City should not fail to see Eur in Elizabeth City. You nicely the property straight the street look down the with shade easily it's nice rest water from ne