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WHOLE NO 2879

PREVATT GETS 15 YEARS; VERDICT 2D DEGREE MURDER

Slayer of Emory McNeill Goes to State Penitentiary for 15 Years—Sentence Reduced From 21 Years—Jury Out 3 Hours—Hard-Fought Case in Which There Was Intense Interest.

After three hours deliberation the jury in the case of Barfield Prevatt, who shot and fatally wounded Emory McNeill in Lumberton on the night of March 29 last, returned a verdict Saturday afternoon of murder in the second degree and Judge C. C. Lyon sentenced the prisoner to 15 years service in the State penitentiary at Raleigh. Judge Lyon first passed sentence of 21 years in prison, but later yielded to earnest pleading of counsel for the prisoner and reduced the sentence.

This brought to a close one of the hardest-fought cases ever tried in Robeson county and one in which more interest was manifested than in any other case tried in the county in many years.

Argument of lawyers and the judge's charge occupied the time Friday morning until Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, including a session Friday night. Argument for the prosecution was opened Friday morning by District Attorney H. F. Seawell of Carthage and was closed Saturday about noon by Solicitor N. A. Sinclair. Others who argued the case for the State were, in the order in which they spoke, Messrs. T. L. Johnson, H. E. Stacy and E. J. Britt. Messrs. S. McIntyre, A. W. McLean, R. E. Lee and L. R. Varner spoke for the defense.

The case was given to the jury at 1:30 Saturday afternoon and when at 4:30 o'clock, three hours later, the ringing of the court house bell indicated that the jury was ready to render its verdict, people hastened from all directions to the court room, which was filled to standing-room capacity before the prisoner was brought from the jail. After the verdict was rendered counsel for the defense asked for time in which to go over some matters before sentence was passed and Judge Lyon agreed to hold the matter open till 6:30 o'clock, when sentence was passed.

The verdict and sentence were received by the prisoner with Indian stoicism, his nerve, which had not failed him once during the trial, sustaining him apparently unmoved through the final ordeal. Considering the fact that a number of women of the families of the deceased and the prisoner were in the court room all during the trial it is rather remarkable that not more than once, and that during the argument of one of the counsel, was a tear shed.

Barfield Prevatt is 23 years old and is one of 14 living children of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Prevatt, who live three miles from Lumberton on the Carthage road.

A report of the proceedings of the trial since The Robesonian went to press Thursday follows:

Reported for The Robesonian.

The session of court Thursday afternoon was largely taken up in proving the character of both deceased and defendant. The first witness placed on stand was Needham Conoly of East Lumberton, who swore that he had known McNeill for 8 or 9 years and that his general reputation in the community for danger and violence was bad. In the cross examination of Conoly the fact was brought out that two years ago he and deceased had some altercation.

Mr. F. J. Thomas, agent for the Southern Express Company at Lumberton, was placed on the stand to prove that on the night of the homicide there was delivered to McNeill a package of whiskey. The records of the company were produced in court and showed that after the arrival of the V. & C. S. train at 6:30 p. m. there was delivered to the deceased 2 gallons of spiritous liquor. As to the hour of the delivery, Mr. Thomas stated that he left his office at 7:00 o'clock and went to his supper and that the package was delivered by one of his clerks after he had gone.

Mr. J. G. Stephens of Boardman stated that he knew deceased, saw him evening of homicide between 5 and 6 o'clock and that McNeill gave him a drink.

J. A. Spivey of Lumberton stated that he knew deceased and that his reputation for drinking and fighting was bad. Asked as to the character of the defendant, he stated that it was bad.

B. B. Warwick testified that he was in Lumberton a week prior to killing. Saw defendant on Main street.

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NO SIGNS OF PEACE.

Balkan States Appear to be Again in Melting Pot—Greece and Servia Decline to Agree to Armistice.

London Dispatch, 13th.

The Balkan States appear to be again in the melting pot. There is no sign of peace at present. Greece and Servia have declined to agree to an armistice. The Turkish army is advancing by forced marches from Tchatalja and Bulair apparently with the consent of Greece and Servia to attempt the recapture of Adrianople and Thrace.

Rumania is said to be preparing to occupy a much larger extent of Bulgarian territory than she previously claimed, and Greece is burning to avenge the Bulgarian massacres, concerning which horrifying details continually appear in official reports issued from Athens and Saloniki. According to this report ears and fingers of Greek women still bearing ear rings and rings were found in the pocket of Bulgarian prisoners.

There still is talk of Russia interfering and it is reported from St. Petersburg that the Powers in concert have notified the Sublime Porte they will not permit military operations beyond the Enos-Midia line fixed by the London conference.

No fresh fighting is reported and it appears that rumors regarding a revolution in Sofia are without foundation.

The Bulgarian government accuses Greece of circulating false accounts of Bulgarian atrocities with a view of preparing the ground for future territorial claims and expresses itself as willing to submit the whole matter to an international investigation. In Bulgarian official circles in London it is announced that an agreement has been reached with Turkey to regard the Enos-Midia line as a provisional frontier pending final delimitation by the international commission.

BULGARIAN ATROCITIES.

King Constantine Protests to Civilized World—Last Hope of Arbitration Destroyed.

London Dispatch, 12th.

King Constantine's protest to the civilized world against Bulgarian atrocities destroys the last hope that Russia would succeed in inducing the belligerents to accept arbitration. The atrocities destroys the last hope that spectators of the struggle have been confident throughout that Servia would be amenable to the counsels of moderation in view of the appalling losses she sustained in ejecting the Bulgarians from Macedonia, but were less hopeful that Greece would listen to reason, as her people and army were obviously intoxicated by the victories over the dreaded Bulgars.

In his protest, the Greek King declares:

"I see myself compelled to wreak vengeance in order to inspire these monsters with terror and make them reflect before committing more outrages of this sort."

The strength of King Constantine's language and dispatches from Constantinople late tonight indicate that Bulgaria may not merely be stripped of the fruits of her victory over the Turks but possibly may have to submit to diminution of her own territory for Rumania is credited with the intention of annexing a larger strip than she at first proclaimed, while Turkey is joining hands with Servia and Greece and has already ordered her troops to advance.

Beyond briefly chronicling the unopposed advances of the Rumanians, Sofia maintains a significant silence regarding the operations of the Servians and Greeks.

Athens, July 12.—From King Constantine, the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs has received the following message:

"The commander of the Sixth Division reports that Bulgarian soldiers carrying out the orders of their captain, gathered together in the courtyard of the school at Demirhisar two priests and over 100 notables, whom they massacred. The bodies have been disinterred in order to prove the crime. Bulgarian soldiers, outraged girls, one of whom resisting was cut to pieces.

"Protest in my name to the representatives of the civilized Powers against the acts of these monsters in human form. Protest also to the entire civilized world and say that, to my regret I see myself compelled to wreak vengeance in order to inspire these monsters with terror and make them reflect before committing more outrages of this sort."

"The Bulgarians have surpassed all

GREAT PROGRESS.

Some Wonderful Changes That Have Taken Place in Robeson Within Ten Years.

Written for The Robesonian.

In September 1897 we taught our first school. A good fortune placed us at Rozier, where we were most pleasantly domiciled in the ever-hospitable home of Dr. and Mrs. S. B. Rozier. The nearest railroad points were Rennett on the A. C. L., Lumberton, on the S. A. L. Agriculture was at low ebb, the best farmers not raising more than a bale to every three acres, and lands were worth about ten dollars per acre. The roads leading to Lumberton were miserable. A few days ago we made our first trip from Lumberton to Rozier in more than a dozen years and we hardly knew where we were. The road is now a boulevard bordered on either side by broad and fertile acres which have taken the place of the forest. If there is to be found anywhere a more modern and up-to-date farm than that of Sheriff Lewis, we would like to see it. Why, in these years that have passed he has produced order out of chaos; and we want to say right here, by way of parenthesis, that there is not a better fellow anywhere than Bob Lewis.

At Rozier we missed the once familiar faces of Dr. and Mrs. Rozier, Mrs. Rozier having several years ago been gathered to her fathers. However, the head of the house is still Dr. Rozier (Dr. R. G.), and he is not only a successful physician, but a model farmer. If any Robesonian reader wants to see the finest stock of every variety, visit Dr. Rozier. We were sorry to have missed seeing Mrs. Rozier, who was visiting relatives at Lillington, but we are going again.

In those days of the now long ago, Prof. Poole was teaching at Barker's and the schools of Robeson were at a low ebb. Now Robeson stands in class number one along educational lines, and Poole is considered one of the old North State's best superintendents.

Lumberton was then a village. Now she is a city and growing every day, and no one can foretell her future. We thought that if the next ten years produced as many changes as the last ten along all lines that Robeson will have even a greater record of which to boast, for within the next two years she will furnish the State her Governor.

F. B.

Ex-Sheriff McNeill Returns From a Visit to Texas.

Ex-Sheriff E. C. McNeill of Rowland is in town today. He returned Saturday from a trip to Texas, where he spent about six weeks visiting relatives. He spent a few days at Cleburne, Texas, with his brother-in-law Judge McKay, and from there he went to Sylvester, Texas, to see his son Mr. Jno. Duncan McNeill, and thence to Groverton, Texas, to see another son, Mr. Austin McNeill. Sheriff McNeill's daughter went with him, but did not return. She has accepted a position to teach in the graded school at Sylvester, and will hardly come home before next summer.

Sheriff McNeill says that the crop prospects, especially cotton, are good in Texas. He says cotton is practically made. He brought several full grown cotton bolls home with him, and says the first bale of new cotton was sold at Houston last Wednesday, the 9th. He says it is certainly a fine country. He came over from Rowland this morning and will probably return this afternoon or tomorrow.

the horrors of barbaric times and have proved that they no longer have a right to be reckoned among civilized people."

The Commander of the Seventh Division reports that the town of Seres has been burned with the exception of the Jewish and Mussulman quarters. Many men, women and children were found murdered or burned in the homes. Twenty thousand persons are without shelter.

A long statement issued by the Minister of War gives details of crimes alleged to have been committed by the Bulgarian troops while fleeing from the Greek Army.

"Priests, old men, women and children," says the statement, "suffered martyrdom after being subjected to unspeakable treatment. Incendiarism was the order of the day. Not a single church was respected and the savings of many people were stolen by Bulgarian officers and soldiers."

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HONOR MEMORY OF "O. HENRY."

Memorial Association Formed to Raise Funds for Memorial in Raleigh.

Greensboro Dispatch, 11th.

"O. Henry Memorial Association" was an organization perfected here last night by a number of patriotic men and women, many of whom knew personally O. Henry in his youth. Dr. W. P. Beall, a leading physician and once an intimate friend of the youth, was elected president, and Miss Emma King, of the faculty of the State Normal and Industrial College, was chosen secretary. The purpose of the organization is to complete the raising of funds for the O. Henry memorial to be placed at Raleigh. Leading in this movement is Dr. Archibald Henderson of the University of North Carolina. It was by his efforts that the organization here was formed. About \$1500 for this purpose has been obtained and about this much more is needed.

William Sidney Porter, known as O. Henry, was born and reared in Greensboro. He has relatives still living here. His father was a druggist here in the days when Greensboro was scarcely more than a village and for several years young Porter worked in the drug store now known as the Fariss-Klutz Drug Company. Even then he exhibited great literary activity, though he did more drawing than writing in those times. He left here when a youth and spent many years on the plains, engaging in newspaper work and writing some for the larger papers and magazines. He finally landed in New York City where his best known stories were written. The widow of the famous short story writer now lives in Asheville, which was her home before the marriage.

The work of raising the funds for a memorial has so far advanced that it is now assured. It will be placed in Raleigh, where visitors to the State Capitol may see it and be constantly reminded of North Carolina's greatest gift to literature and one of the first fiction writers of his age.

Good Prices for Tobacco.

Mr. E. Nye of Orrum was among the business visitors in town Saturday. He told a Robesonian reporter about selling some tobacco last Thursday at Fairmont. He sold his sandlugs, the first barn, for 10 cents per pound, and said that he considered that he would have been doing well to have gotten 5 cents per pound for this tobacco. His brother sold for even a better price. The highest price paid on the opening day was 21 1/4 cents. Mr. Nye says the prices are best he ever knew for the opening of the tobacco season.

Mr. J. S. Oliver of Marietta was in town Saturday and said that one of his tenants sold his sandlugs last week at Fair Bluff and got 15 cents per pound. Mr. Oliver thinks this is doing fine. He says the tobacco men at Fair Bluff had a big opening last week.

It is understood that over \$10,000 were paid out Thursday for tobacco at Fairmont and the sales were also good Friday and Saturday.

Examination of Public School Teachers.

County Superintendent J. R. Poole held examinations for public school teachers at the court house Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week. Thursday 37 white teachers—30 women and 7 men—stood the examination for public school teachers and four men and one woman stood the examination for high school certificates. There were no applicants for 5 year certificates or for the entrance examination to the A. and M. College at Raleigh. Friday 26 colored teachers—23 women and 3 men—and Saturday 16 Indian teachers—7 women and 9 men—stood examination. The Indian teachers are finishing up today.

At Work on Auditor's Books.

Mr. J. D. Hightower, an expert accountant of Greensboro, is assisting County Auditor J. M. McCallum in straightening out the records of the county so as to check in the new auditor with a clean slate. The work probably will be completed within a week or ten days.

For Cuts, Burns and Bruises

In every home there should be a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, ready to apply in every case of burns, cuts, wounds or scalds. J. H. Polanco, Delvalle, Tex., R. No. 2, writes: "Bucklen's Arnica Salve saved my little girl's cut foot. No one believed it could be cured. The world's best salve. Only 25c. Recommended by all druggists."

MUCH BUILDING GOING ON.

Mr. J. P. Russell will Build Residence—Mr. G. E. Rancke Tearing Down and Re-building—Work on Bank Building Resumed—New Brick Building Nearing Completion.

Mr. J. P. Russell will build a home in Lumberton. He purchased last week from Mr. Sandy McLeod a lot adjoining the McLeod old home on the East side. The lot is on the corner of Walnut street and Elizabeth road. It is just across the road to the north of Mr. A. E. White's residence. Mr. Russell's son Mr. James Russell is drawing the plans for the house and it is expected that work will be started at once. Mr. Russell says that he hopes to be able to move into the home by the first of January, 1914. It will be a modern two-story residence. The house on Elm street, where Mr. Russell and family are now living is owned by Mr. R. R. Carlyle and Mr. Russell says that he has received notice to vacate the house by August 1st, but so far he has been unable to find a vacant house in town that he can get until he builds his house.

Mr. G. E. Rancke, Sr., is having his old house on East Seventh street torn down and will erect a nice two-story house. He moved last week to the Carlyle old house, Walnut street, where he will reside until his new home is completed.

Work on the Farmers and Merchants Bank building, Chestnut and Fourth streets, which was started about a month ago and stopped about two weeks ago on account of the failure of some material to arrive, was resumed this morning. Practically all of the material has arrived and it is expected that the work will be pushed forward until this handsome new building is completed.

The work on Mr. Saloom Saleeby's new brick building, Elm street, is moving along nicely and it is expected that it will soon be completed. All the brick work has been finished and the carpenters are now on the wood work.

NOW POSTMASTER FRENCH

Lumberton Postoffice Now in Charge of Democrat for First Time in 14 Years.

Mr. D. D. French, recently appointed postmaster by President Wilson, took charge of the Lumberton office yesterday. This is the first time a Democrat has had charge of the local postoffice in nearly 14 years. The late Dr. R. M. Norment served in that capacity for 13 years and since his death his widow, Mrs. Maggie Norment, served as acting postmistress for 11 months.

Mr. French had practically no opposition and everybody is satisfied with his appointment. That he will fill the office to the satisfaction of all none who knows him doubts.

Mr. Ira Mullis Goes to Yancey County.

Mr. Ira B. Mullis, civil engineer, who for two or three years has had an office in Lumberton expects leave tomorrow afternoon for Burnsville, where he will have charge of the road engineering for the Yancey county road commission. Mr. Mullis says that he likes Lumberton and its people fine and he hates to leave. The financial consideration is the thing that is carrying him away. Mr. Mullis has a host of friends here who will regret to learn of his intention to leave. Mr. E. C. Derby of Fairmont, who for several months has been surveying for the Beaufort County Lumber Company, has accepted a position as assistant engineer to Mr. Mullis. He will leave for Burnsville one day this week.

Bleasé Makes Up With War Department.

Washington Dispatch, 10th.

Relations between the War Department and the militia of South Carolina, broken off recently because Governor Bleasé refused to comply with the Federal regulations, were resumed today, when Secretary Garrison received a telegram from the Governor announcing his intentions to co-operate with the Federal authorities in every way. Secretary Garrison immediately telegraphed Governor Bleasé that he had issued orders for the continuance of Federal aid to the militia of South Carolina, and also had revoked a former army order which would have prevented the attendance of the regular army officers at the forthcoming State encampment.

Cures Old Sores, Other Remedies Won't Cure The worst cases, no matter how long standing, are cured by the wonderful, old reliable Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil. It relieves Pain and Heals at the same time. 25c, 50c, \$1.00.

BRIEF LOCAL NEWS ITEMS.

—Cotton today, 12 cents.

—The county commissioners are holding a special session today to receive the tax books.

—"The Penalty Paid," Pathe Western, and "Flaming Forge," Selig, will be the two interesting pictures shown at the Pastime theatre this evening.

—Mr. and Mrs. E. R. McIntyre began housekeeping last week on East Fifth street, between Walnut and Pine, in a house belonging to Mrs. Nannie Stephens.

—An interesting account from Red Springs of a baseball game between that town and Laurinburg finds its way into the waste basket because the writer failed to assume responsibility for his article.

—Maxton Scottish Chief, 11th: The excessive heat last week caused the death of one mule belonging to Mr. Chanler and one to Mr. James McBryde on the McKay place. Others belonging to the United Lumber Company were in a bad way. We have not been informed whether or not they recovered.

—Mr. G. P. Higley had the misfortune yesterday afternoon about three o'clock at his home in the eastern part of town of getting his left arm broken just above the wrist. He was sitting on the edge of his porch and started to move and in some way tripped himself and fell to the ground, catching on his left hand.

—Gen. and Mrs. F. A. Bond of Hunters' Lodge, near Lowe, are now sojourning at Portland, Me. Gen. Bond, who recently underwent an operation for a wound he received during the Civil War, writes: "I am doing well. I was at Gettysburg celebration. It was a great show and all the boys in blue were especially kind to 'weuns.' I could not find any one from our State that I knew."

—Mr. L. R. Varner and family moved last week into their new home on East Fifth street—formerly the Baptist parsonage, which Mr. Varner has remodeled and practically made new since he purchased it some months ago. It is understood that Prof. R. E. Sentelle, superintendent of the Lumberton graded school, and family will this fall move into the house vacated by Mr. and Mrs. Varner, Walnut and Sixth streets.

Among the Sick.

Mrs. D. B. Lewis of Burnsville is undergoing treatment at the Thompson hospital. Her condition has improved since she entered the hospital last Wednesday. Mrs. Lewis is a daughter of Mr. Owen Ward who lives near Burnsville and who was in town Friday.

Mr. Mack Oliver of Marietta, who entered the Thompson hospital ten days ago for treatment for malarial fever, left last night for Baltimore to have his eyes examined by an eye specialist. He was accompanied by Mr. T. C. Johnson.

Mr. Raymond Reynolds who has been at the hospital since Friday for treatment for stomach trouble. His condition is improved.

Mrs. Geo. B. McLeod, who for a week or more has been sick at her home, Elm and Fifth streets, is no better. Mrs. Alf H. McLeod has been sick for several days at her home, Elm and Tenth street, but her condition today is thought to be much better. The condition of Isabel McLeod, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alf H. McLeod, who for about three weeks has been sick at the home of her parents with typhoid fever, is about the same. Her condition is possibly somewhat improved. Miss Myrtle Barnes, daughter of Mr. K. M. Barnes, Pine and Third streets, has been sick for several days with fever, but her condition today is thought to be somewhat better. The condition of Miss Mary C. McNeill who for several days has been sick at her home in eastern part of town with typhoid fever, is without much change. Mrs. Mattie Smith, trained nurse of Red Springs, arrived last week to be with Miss McNeill.

Capt. L. R. Breese, who suffered a stroke of paralysis some weeks ago, remains confined to his bed at his home on the corner of Walnut and Fourth streets.

Town Board Makes Paving Order.

At a called meeting of the town commissioners Thursday night it was ordered that the sidewalks on Fourth street between Elm and Water be paved, also the south side of Third street between Elm and Mr. C. M. Parker's residence. This will give pavement on the south side of Third from Elm to Water, the walk in front of Mr. W. I. Linkhaw's residence having already been paved.