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THE ROBESONIAN

WATCH YOUR LABEL ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DISCONTINUED WHEN THEY EXPIRE

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LUMBERTON, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 12TH, 1923

COUNTRY, GOD AND TRUTH.

ESTABLISHED 1876. PRICE FIVE CENTS. \$2.00 A YEAR, DUE IN ADVANCE.

Shepard Murder Trial Will Begin Some Time Friday

Trial of Braxton Purdie for Murder of Metco Horn Begins This Afternoon—Case of Jesse and Dock Oxendine for Murder of Vick Bullard in Hands of Jury—Trial of Luke Britt for Murder of E. R. Shepard Moved Up a Day.

Argument of counsel in the case of Jesse and Dock Oxendine, Indians on the charge of killing Vick Bullard near Buie on March 4, 1922, concluded by Solicitor T. A. McNeill just before court adjourned for dinner at 1 o'clock. Judge Sinclair deferred his charge to the jury until after the afternoon session began at 2:30. A verdict of second degree murder is asked. The jury in case is composed of: Boyd Adams, I. J. Williams, E. G. Floyd, H. R. West, E. H. Britt, J. C. Smith, W. L. McIntyre, H. H. Stanly, A. A. Crump, J. A. Herring, J. B. Clark and A. E. McCormick.

It was in evidence that the defendant, Jesse Oxendine, had threatened to kill Vick Bullard on several occasions, and that he had made these threats following a shooting affair in which Jesse was shot by an unknown party. He had claimed that Bullard did the shooting and that his wife was the cause of it all. All this was denied by the defendant. Dock Oxendine was heard to say on the night of the murder that he had known a week that Bullard was going to be at the place where the killing took place. It was shown that Jesse and Dock live near each other. Several witnesses stated that they heard someone running around the edge of the field after the shooting, and that they saw the tracks next morning, describing them as ones made by a man running, wearing shoes about the size of a number 7 or 8, and the right shoe worn down at the heel.

The whereabouts of the man just prior to the shooting could not be definitely shown. Jesse claimed that he went home a little after dusk, ate supper, washed his feet and went to bed. A little later his brothers came to the house and woke him, telling him that Vick Bullard had been shot. He got up, put on his clothes and went with them down to where the crowd had gathered.

Before adjourning court yesterday afternoon, Judge Sinclair dismissed the case against Dock Oxendine and told the jury that he would submit the case of Jesse to them this morning.

A point that was stressed by the prosecution was the fact that blood was found on the barrel of Jesse's gun the next morning. When testifying in his own behalf, Jesse said he knew nothing of the blood on the gun, but that he went rabbit-hunting the morning before the murder and it was possible that the blood was that of a rabbit.

The house in which Jesse lived was a small house and half of one window was broken out. His wife testified that she had placed a raincoat over the place and that when she returned the next morning after having spent the night with Jesse's father, the raincoat was torn down and lying on the floor.

Horn Murder Trial Begins. The trial of Braxton Purdie, colored, for the murder of Metco Horn, in Saddlecreek township, last February 13, will begin this afternoon after the charge to the jury in the Oxendine case. Jurors for this trial, drawn yesterday from a special venire of 50 men, are: W. T. Covington, W. F. Adams, J. W. McPhail, C. W. Sessions, Oscar Blackburn, K. Atkinson, B. G. Glass, A. G. Mitchell, M. W. Hedgpeth, H. R. Britt, Von Walters and J. F. Chepherd.

Mr. T. L. Johnson and Recorder W. B. Ivey were appointed by the court to defend Purdie.

Shepard Murder Trial Friday. The trial of Luke Britt, charged with the murder of E. R. Shepard on April 1, 1922, in a true bill returned by the grand jury Monday, will not begin until Friday morning, owing to the fact that the trial of Braxton Purdie, colored, for the murder of Metco Horn, set for yesterday, was not reached until today and will not be completed until tomorrow morning, or later. Judge Sinclair this morning allowed the special venire of 100 summoned for the Shepard case this morning to return home and to report tomorrow morning. The law firms of McLean, Varner, McLean & Stacy and E. J. & L. J. Britt represent Luke Britt and the firm of Johnson & Johnson will assist Solicitor T. A. McNeill in the prosecution. F. M. Huggins, against whom a true bill was found in the same case, is represented by McIntyre, Lawrence & Proctor, and Dock Rozier, colored, also charged with murder in this case, is represented by the last-named firm and Britt & Britt.

Mrs. Shepard and son, Master Jack, and Mrs. H. M. Broach, all of Putney, Ga., and Mr. J. B. Shepard of Doerun, Ga., wife, son, sister and brother, respectively, of the murdered man, and the wife and son, Master Kirk, of the last-named are here for the trial.

John Little, colored, who was found guilty in recorder's court at Fair-

Bill For Burglary In First Degree In Flogging Case

Grand Jury Returns True Bill Against B. M. Lawson, Jule Brogden and John Hedgpeth in Case Involving Whipping of Women—Date for Trial Has Not Been Set But Case Will Not Be Reached Until Next Week.

A bill charging first-degree burglary, secret assault and kidnaping was returned by the grand jury yesterday against B. M. Lawson, chief of police of Fairmont, Jule Brogden and John Hedgpeth of Proctorville, alleged leaders of a band of 18 masked and robed men, who claimed themselves Ku Klux, who took Mrs. Hattie Purvis and Mrs. Mary Watson from the home of the former at Proctorville on the night of the 14th of April last, carried them to a near-by negro church, turned a spot-light upon them and whipped them cruelly on their naked flesh.

These men will be arraigned as soon as the case can be reached. One murder trial begins this afternoon, as stated elsewhere in this issue, and another is scheduled to begin tomorrow, so it is not thought to be possible to reach this trial before the first of next week.

Dr. Beaman Called to Rocky Mount to Assist in a Funeral.

Dr. R. C. Beaman, pastor of Chestnut Street Methodist church, went yesterday to Rocky Mount to assist in conducting the funeral of Mr. J. C. Braswell Jr., who was drowned at Marble Head, Mass., Sunday. Mr. Braswell, member of a prominent family of Rocky Mount, was graduated with honor at the university of North Carolina last year and had just finished a year in law at Harvard university. He was a young man of great promise. Dr. Beaman was pastor of the young man's mother in Durham some years ago and Dr. Harry North, pastor of the church of which his parents are members, called him over the phone Tuesday and told him the family wanted him to assist in conducting the funeral.

mont of having liquor in his possession and sentenced to 9 months on the roads, from which sentence he appealed, appeared before Judge Sinclair Wednesday morning. His attorney, Mr. T. L. Johnson, asked for leniency on account of the fact that a letter had been written to him by Mr. W. T. Slodge, of the Beaufort County Lumber company, for whom Little had worked for the past fifteen years, stating that he would like to have Little cleared of the charge as he did not think he intended to break the law and that he had a good character.

After hearing the evidence of Chief of Police B. M. Lawson of Fairmont, and the recommendations of Mr. Johnson, Judge Sinclair upheld the sentence imposed by the recorder, unless the defendant pay a fine of \$150 and costs and give a bond in the sum of \$200 for his appearance at each term of Superior court for the next two years, and show that he had not violated any of the liquor laws.

E. S. Walters, charged with violating the stock law, was found guilty in three cases fined \$100 each in two of them, and prayer for judgment was continued until next term of court upon payment of costs.

The grand jury returned true bills Tuesday in the cases against the following: Jesse Sellers, Charlie Raleigh, J. D. Wilkins, Don Yates, Early McNeil, F. M. Gibson, Charlie Davis (alias Pugh), James Locklear, Will Warwick and Will Fred Locklear.

Many who had been waiting to hear the case against H. L. Talarferro, charged with tampering with state's witnesses, left the court house this morning after it was learned that he, in company with V. W. Keith an attorney of Fairmont, left on the morning Seaboard train for Wilmington.

Jesse Sellers Submits; Sentence Not Yet Passed.

Jesse Sellers, charged with assault with deadly weapon and trespass, submitted to the charges before Judge Sinclair Monday, but sentence had not been passed at noon today. Sellers was arrested last April following a shooting affair at the home of Mr. Jasper Britt in which Mrs. Wincie Bass was seriously wounded. He admitted the shooting at the time he was arrested by Rural Policeman D. C. Ratley, stating that he did not intend shooting Mrs. Bass, who is his mother-in-law, but intended the shot for Jasper Bass, his brother-in-law.

Mrs. Bass went on the stand and testified that she heard Jesse whipping his wife (her daughter), and that she tried to get to them. Upon opening the door Jesse shot her in the leg, which showed that it was still in a serious condition. Dr. Holmes of Fairmont testified that he had treated Mrs. Bass and stated that the wound would probably result in a permanent affliction.

Further evidence was offered by the state and showed that Sellers had been tried and convicted numbers of times before and had served a term on the chain gang for shooting Sheriff R. E. Lewis testified that Sellers was a good, law-abiding citizen except when he was under the influence of whiskey.

Thief Got Away With About \$200

Broke Open Building and Safe of Coca Cola Bottling Co.—Thief Supposed to Have Gotten Away on Freight.

Approximately \$200 in cash, greenbacks and silver was stolen from the Lumberton Coca Cola Bottling Co's safe Monday night after the thieves had broken into the building and broken open the safe with tools which were stolen from a tool house belonging to the Virginia & Carolina Southern Ry. Co. Checks totalling nearly \$200 were left in the safe unharmed.

Entrance to the building was made by breaking a latch on the back door of the building. A large hammer, a pick and a piece of iron were the tools used in getting the safe open, the door of which was practically ruined. The inside door to the money drawer was left a total wreck.

The robbery was discovered Tuesday morning by workmen in the plant when they arrived about 6:45. Officers were notified and Chief of Police D. M. Barker and Officer Ed. Glover went to the scene, where they traced the tracks of one man as he entered the building and left. It is thought by the officers that the thief caught a freight train near the plant, as they were unable to locate any more tracks.

MR. ERWIN T. WILLIAMS ADMITTED TO THE BAR.

In Congratulating Young Attorney Judge Sinclair Says Robeson County Bar Has for Several Generations Ranked as One of Best in State.

Mr. Erwin T. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Q. T. Williams of Lumberton, was admitted to the bar before Judge N. A. Sinclair when court opened Tuesday morning. Mr. Stephen McIntyre of the Lumberton bar reading the oath.

Mr. Williams is only about two months past the minimum age at which attorneys will be admitted to practice, having reached his 21st birthday only last May. He passed the examination before the Supreme court last January 29, before he attained his majority. He was graduated at Wake Forest college at the first commencement.

In congratulating the young man upon entering the profession, Judge Sinclair said that he wanted especially to congratulate him upon becoming a member of the Robeson County bar, which for several generations has ranked as one of the best in the State, giving him a high standard to live up to.

Mr. Williams has not decided whether or not he will locate in Lumberton and has announced no plans for the immediate future.

LIKE DAYS WHEN 250 CASES ON DOCKET WAS REGULAR THING

Crowd at Court Monday: Reminded Judge Sinclair of His First Days as Solicitor When There Were Always About 250 Cases on the Docket—Orders Folks Not to Shut Off the Air.

Judge N. A. Sinclair, presiding at Superior court here, remarked in private conversation Monday that the large crowd that had packed the court room all day reminded him of the first courts he appeared in here as solicitor, nearly 20 years ago, when there were always 250 cases on the docket. Tuesday morning when court convened he commented upon the way fresh air was being shut out by people standing in front of the windows and ordered the sheriff to arrest any man who disregarded the order as then made for everybody to keep away from the windows and let fresh air in. With a court room full of people and the windows blocked by people, he said, the air in the room became too close for comfort or safety.

Same as in Hell With a Pocket Full of Powder.

A little knot of people were talking about the boll weevil yesterday afternoon at the court house—usually where two or three are gathered together anywhere in Robeson now there is some talk about the weevil, you know—and Mr. J. A. Johnson of St. Paul said the weevils were not as much in evidence about St. Paul now as they were some time ago. Sheriff E. E. Lewis said and remarked that this hot weather is fine on the weevils, that when they get down in the hot sand it just naturally roasts the asperity off 'em same as if they were in hell with a pocket full of powder.

Mrs. D. E. Shaw and daughter, Miss Elizabeth, left yesterday for Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach where they will spend several days with friends. They were accompanied by Miss Audrey Williford of Wilmington, who spent 10 days here a guest of Miss Elizabeth Shaw.

CARS WASHED, POLISHED AND GREASED.

TIRES, TUBES, ACCESSORIES

GASOLINE 25 CENTS

JNO. C. FULLER

Tax Rate 94 Cents On \$100 Valuation

Increase of 23 Cents—Will Raise \$600,000 to \$700,000 on Valuation of \$43,000,000 With Special School, Road Bonds and Other Special Taxes—90 Special School Tax Districts, and 20 Townships Have Voted Bonds for Roads.

INCREASE COMES IN TAXES FOR SCHOOLS AND ROADS

The tax rate for Robeson county for the present year was fixed at 94 cents on the \$100 valuation by the county examiners Tuesday, when they finished their work of the equalization of assessments of townships. This increases the rate 23 cents from what it was last year. Between \$600,000 and \$700,000 is to be raised from this rate on an assessed valuation of \$43,000,000, together with special school taxes, road bond taxes and other special taxes.

The division of the general county rate this year as compared with last year is as follows:

	1922	1923
General county fund	12	12
General school fund	45	60
School deficit fund	03	03
Road fund	07	12
Bridge fund	03	03
Pension fund	02	02
Court house bonds	02	02
	71	94

As the above will show the increase in the rate is caused by school and road funds, the general school fund increasing 15 cents, with an additional 3 cents for the purpose of taking care of a deficit which has been accumulating.

Robeson county now has 90 special school tax districts. Twenty townships out of the 26 have voted bonds for good roads, which is paid in addition to the regular township tax.

Parkton Letter

Members of Co. L Leave for Camp—Gospel Tabernacle Meeting Draws Large Crowds—A Great Choir—First Cantaloupe of the Season—Personal.

By C. D. Williamson. Parkton, July 10—Co. L, N. C. N. G., left Sunday morning for Meigshead City for their annual encampment. We are unable to give the exact number, but a large percent will advise later.

Mr. A. F. Hughes was taken suddenly ill early Sunday morning and was taken to the Pittman Gaimley hospital about noon and was operated on for appendicitis. Her many friends will be glad to know she is getting along nicely.

Mrs. Sallie Cashwell of Roslin spent the week-end with Mrs. Lon Lancaster.

Mrs. S. Jones and two daughters, Misses Hattie and Edith, of the Ten Mile section, spent Sunday visiting Mrs. Lon Lancaster.

Notwithstanding the downpour of rain Sunday there was a large crowd attended all three services at the Union Gospel Tabernacle, and at night a large number from Fayetteville attended, including an orchestra which furnished music for the Hem-Ramsay revival while in Fayetteville.

The service Sunday night was quite interesting. Rev. Mr. Layman's subject was "The Signs of the Times", and he held his large congregation with the closest attention.

There was no preaching last night as Monday night is understood as rest-night for the evangelist.

Rev. W. L. Maness and wife and one of their children, of Haymount, Fayetteville, attended the tabernacle meeting here last night.

Mr. W. J. Ramsay arrived Saturday and he has already proved to be a great choir leader, and has a large choir going well and it is a treat to hear the singing, which is a feature of the campaign.

Mr. Z. Vance Tolar of Tar Heel and small son spent the Fourth in our town and at Midway. We are all very glad to see him and talk of the fond memories of the past. He is rural letter-carrier at Tar Heel. His family will probably move to our town before the fall school term.

Miss Margaret Wilkerson of Laurinburg, N. C., on a visit to Miss Henrietta McMillan.

Miss Annie McCormick of Manchester is visiting at the home of Mr. J. B. McCormick.

Miss Mamma of Raleigh is visiting her brother Rev. R. F. Munns.

The writer enjoyed his first cantaloupe this morning and it is fine. No watermelons on the local market.

Recorder's Court.

David Britt and Chess Perry were before Recorder W. B. Ivey yesterday to answer a charge of using profane language on the streets of Lumberton, and for an affray. They were found guilty and taxed with the costs.

J. C. Clements of Dillon, S. C., a peddler of medicines, was found guilty of being drunk and left town after the trial in compliance with the judgment of the court.

St. Paul News

Missionary Basket Meeting at Home of Mrs. P. J. Caudell Friday—Sudden Death of Mr. Frank Covington of Lumber Bridge Was a Great Shock—A Variety of Items.

By Bessie G. Johnson.

St. Paul, July 10—Mr. Albert Guiton, who holds a very responsible position with the Hale Drug Co. in Charlotte, returned this morning to his post of duty after a very pleasant vacation of a week's duration which he spent at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Guiton.

Two more little tots on the honor roll this week for St. Pauls. A son, arrived Sunday afternoon to make his abode at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John McArthur, near St. Paul, while another arrived Monday morning at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Cox. Both "youngsters" being the "first boys" were doubtless very warmly welcomed in their respective homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie A. McEachern of Fayetteville motored over for a brief visit to relatives on the afternoon of Thursday last week, to the delight of friends.

Mrs. L. I. Grantham and little daughter, Sarah, returned Thursday from a pleasant visit among relatives at Raeford.

Miss Edith Bethune of Ten Mile spent from Monday until Thursday as guest in the home of Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Poole. Mrs. Poole accompanied Miss Bethune home, returning Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion McNeill and brother, D. C. McNeill, of Laurinburg, spent Wednesday night at the home of Mrs. McNeill's mother, Mrs. T. L. Northrop. Accompanied by the latter, and her two children, Laura and Dan. The entire bunch enjoyed a motor trip to White Lake Thursday where they spent the day. The Messrs. McNeill returned home following their return, while Mrs. McNeill remained over for several days' visit in the Northrop home, to the delight of her friends here.

Mr. Neill A. McEachern went to Fayetteville Sunday morning where he is undergoing treatment at Highsmith hospital. He was accompanied to Fayetteville by his brother Duncan, who spent the day between intervals with him. Mrs. McEachern, who was in Sanford at the time on a visit to her mother, Mrs. J. M. Wick, came to Fayetteville Sunday afternoon upon being advised of his condition. He will probably be able to return home in a few days.

Mrs. S. M. Davis and daughter, Mrs. Paul N. Montague, spent Monday afternoon among relatives at Lumber Bridge. Mr. Montague, who is taking a course in law at the university at Chapel Hill, spent the week-end with his family here, returning Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Langston and small child, who reside in Macon, Ga., arrived last Sunday night for a few days' visit in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Teague, Mrs. Langston being a niece of Mr. Teague. They will return home via Wilmington, where they will visit in the home of other relatives and friends, after leaving here.

On Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock the "missionary basket" meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. P. J. Caudell.

Miss Ruth Hancock of Fayetteville, who spent a couple of days in town guest of Misses Christine and Macy Guiton, returned to Fayetteville Monday night.

Miss Annie Louise Fisher is expected home this afternoon from White Lake, where she has been since Friday of last week.

Mr. J. W. C. Stuart and family of Laurinburg spent the Fourth in the home of Mr. J. F. Lockey and family here. Their little daughter, Virginia, who accompanied Mrs. Lockey home on her recent trip to Laurinburg that turned home with her parents that afternoon.

Mrs. L. M. Biggs and children spent last Friday with relatives in Dillon. Her mother, Mrs. E. McRaney of Rockingham, came over to St. Paul on Friday night of last week where she is this week a guest in the Biggs home.

In the absence of the pastor, Rev. E. C. Murray, who is taking a vacation, the Presbyterian congregation were quite fortunate in having Mr. J. P. Russell of Lumberton, a layman, make an address Sunday morning which was very highly commended.

A bunch of the juvenile set of the town, including some 12 or more, motored over to Wagram for a picnic outing last Wednesday afternoon, where they enjoyed a very delightful "few hours" returning to St. Paul about 9 that evening.

Dr. Claud T. Poole, was joined in Lumberton last Tuesday by his brother Supt. J. E. Poole, spending the 4th among their people at Rockingham.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Lindsay and 3 children, Mary, Gene and Calvin, Jr., spent Sunday at Rockfish.

Messdames Stevens and Todd, mother and grandmother, respectively, of Mrs. D. C. Cox, spent Monday and Tuesday in the latter's home here.

Mrs. E. J. Martin, who spent a few days with her son, Grover, who is undergoing treatment in the orthopedic hospital at Gastonia, where he was taken several weeks ago, returned home last Thursday night. She reports her son, altho, a bit

Cotton Market

Reported by J. H. Barrington. Middling cotton is quoted on the local market today at 24 cents the pound.

Items of Local News

—Saturday is the last day to pay light and water bills.

—Dr. G. Blair Jennings, chiropractor, moved his offices Tuesday from the Lumberton Cotton Mill building to the Freeman building on Fifth street.

—Mrs. J. K. Britt of Lumberton R. 4, underwent an operation yesterday at the Thompson hospital for appendicitis. Her condition today is reported as very favorable.

—The Business & Professional unit of the Woman's club will meet at the tea room tonight at 8 o'clock. All members are urged to be present.

—Miss Ada Gibson was able to return to her home in Abbottsburg Tuesday after having undergone an operation for appendicitis at the Baker sanatorium several days ago.

—Special communication of St. Alban's lodge No. 114 A. F. & A. M. tonight at 8 o'clock for the purpose of examining the officers of the lodge recently organized at Bladenboro.

—During the month of June, Register of Deeds M. W. Floyd issued a total of 19 marriage licenses, of which 15 were for white people and 4 for colored, none being issued for Indians.

—Miss Ruby Thompson leaves today for Raeford, where she will join a party of friends and accompany them to Jackson Springs and Lakeview, where a house party will be held for a week.

—Mr. McAdoo Bullock, son of Mr. A. R. Bullock of Fairmont, who has been a patient at the Baker sanatorium for the past several weeks with a severe case of typhoid fever, was able to leave the sanatorium Tuesday greatly improved.

—Mr. E. O. Goodyear of Hoke county, R. 3 from Lumber Bridge, is a Lumberton visitor today. He is the father of Messrs. Rufus and Elbert Goodyear, clerks in R. D. Caldwell & Son's store. Mr. Goodyear says they had no rain in his section since May 10th until recently, and then barely enough to make the ground moist.

—Mrs. Edith Vanderbilt of Blommere, accompanied by her secretary, passed through Lumberton yesterday afternoon about 3 o'clock en route to Wilmington where she will make an address on the state fair. A series of these addresses will be given at Wilmington, New Bern, Kinston, Goldsboro and Wilson.

—Miss Julia Webster of Red Springs, who underwent an operation several days ago at the Baker sanatorium for acute appendicitis, was able to return to her home Tuesday. Mr. Lucius McRae, who has also been taking treatment at the sanatorium for several days, was able to return to his home near Red Springs Tuesday.

BOY CAME NEAR DRAWING JURORS FOR TRIAL OF FATHER'S SLAYER.

As Sheriff R. E. Lewis was hunting the court house for a young boy to draw names from the hat for jurors to serve on the jury in the case against Braxton Purdie for killing Metco Horn, he ran across a bright looking youngster in the hall and brought him to the court room. Deputy Sheriff A. H. Frevatt recognized the boy as a son of the deceased man and immediately told the sheriff, who had to look for another.

homesick, is getting on as nicely as can be expected. It is hoped he will soon return very much improved.

Messdames Joe Butler, G. R. Thagard and D. B. Lancaster spent Monday afternoon in Fayetteville with the former's mother, Mrs. J. E. Fletcher, who was taken to Pittman hospital for treatment one week ago. Her friends will be glad to note she is convalescing nicely and was to return to her home, McColl, S. C., today.

The Mason Stock company, which has played in Lumberton the past 10 days, is expected to show here next week, beginning Monday.

On account of the unexpected death of Mr. Henry Covington of near Lumber Bridge, who dropped dead while fishing last Friday, the musical concert which Mr. M. H. Schubert and Messes Murphy Hall and Flora Belle McGoogan were to give at that town last Friday evening was postponed until tonight. The concert will be given here on Thursday evening of this week we are advised.

Young Covington's death was indeed sad, as he was in the prime of promising young manhood. He leaves a devoted mother, a brother and several sisters, Mrs. Edwin Smith of St. Paul, who prior to her marriage was Miss Flora Covington, being among the number. Their many friends extend sympathy to the bereaved family in the loss of their beloved son and brother.