

THE MORNING STAR.

VOL. LXVII.—NO. 84.

WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1901.

WHOLE NO. 10,411

JOSHUA G. WRIGHT.

Highly Esteemed Citizen of Wilmington Died Sunday at His Home.

THE FUNERAL YESTERDAY.

Succumbed to an illness which had been preying upon his constitution for years—a long and useful business career.

The STAR chronicles this morning with a sincere feeling of the deep loss the city has sustained, the death of Mr. Joshua Grainger Wright, which occurred at his home in Wilmington, corner Eighth and Market streets, Sunday morning at 11 o'clock after a lingering illness brought about by three severe strokes of paralysis suffered at intervals during the past eight years.

The cause of Mr. Wright's immediate death was pneumonia but the effects of paralysis were plainly seen to have contributed largely to his sad demise. He suffered his first stroke about eight years ago and several years ago another, and about a year ago still another. At one time last March his life was despaired of but he rallied and appeared some better. His death Sunday, while not wholly unexpected, nevertheless came as a shock to the family and the community at large.

Mr. Wright was born in Wilmington, April 17th, 1840 and was therefore, in the sixty-first year of his age. His parents were the late lamented Dr. Thos. H. and Mrs. Mary Allan Wright, and he was born at the old family homestead on the southwest corner of Third and Market streets. He was the last of a large family of brothers and sisters, who traced their ancestry to colonial times, Joshua Grainger, one of the founders of Wilmington, having been the head of the family. Deceased was the fifth of the succeeding family which bore the name of his distinguished forefather. When a young man Mr. Wright graduated from the University of North Carolina and upon the breaking out of the Civil War he hastened to join the Confederacy and was made early in the struggle first lieutenant of Company E, First N. C. Regiment. At Chancellorsville, while fighting bravely for his country, he received a wound from which he never fully recovered and was forced to retire from the active service which so conspicuously marked his earlier career.

After the war, Mr. Wright began his career in civil life as agent of the Southern Express Company in this city, but gave that place up to take a position with Messrs. Williams & Marchison, which position he filled with great credit for 18 years. At the end of this period he formed the well known real estate agency which still bears his name and which is now being successfully conducted by his son, Mr. Thomas H. Wright under the firm name of J. G. Wright & Son.

Mr. Wright married Miss Florence Moffitt, a daughter of the late Capt. Thos. N. Moffitt and who preceded him to the grave several years ago. The surviving members of the immediate family are Mr. James A. Wright, Mr. John M. Wright, Mr. Thomas A. Wright, Mrs. R. H. Northrop and Miss Carrie Wright.

The funeral was held at 8:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, from St. James' Episcopal Church of which he was a member and of which parish he was a vestryman for many years. The services were conducted by Rev. Frederick H. T. Horsfield, the pastor, in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives including a delegation of members of Cape Fear Camp, No. 254, U. C. V., of which he was also a member. The interment was at Oakdale cemetery and the following gentlemen acted as pall-bearers: Honorary, Messrs. Samuel Northrop, James Sprunt, Col. Jno. D. Taylor, and Col. Jno. L. Cantwell; active, Messrs. Marsden Bellamy, E. S. Martin, Walker Meares, Wm. Calder, T. O. Banting and Capt. T. C. Lewis.

Deceased was a member of Cornelius Harnett Council, No. 231, Royal Arcanum, and of Carolina Lodge, No. 434, Knights of Honor. In all of his relations with his fellow men he impressed them with his beautiful Christian character and amiable qualities. A friend yesterday paid the following beautiful tribute to the life and character of the deceased:

"Again the silver cord is loosed and the pitcher is broken at the fountain. After weary years of suffering which were lovingly and mercifully mitigated by the ministrations of those who never failed him, Joshua Grainger Wright, the Christian gentleman, the beloved friend, has entered into that rest which remaineth for the people of God. His name and his life are linked with precious memories of one of the sweetest flowers of our country."

Granted liquor licenses. At a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners held yesterday afternoon, at which all the members were present, the liquor licenses recently approved by the Board of Aldermen were ordered issued. As the old licenses of dealers expired yesterday it was necessary to hold the special meeting in order that the sessions might not be closed for want of licenses.

lustre to an honored name, and that he has left us a precious legacy, the example of a Christian life which will abide in the memory of those who loved him."

LOCAL DOITS.

January 1st, 1901—
The *Algonquin* arrived in port yesterday from a short cruise.

The Christmas exercises of the Southside Baptist Sunday school will take place to night.

The STAR is in receipt of a very pretty calendar for the new year from the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company.

The annual holiday entertainment of the Sunday school of the Brooklyn Baptist Church will take place to night.

At a semi-annual meeting of the directors of the Wilmington Savings and Trust Company yesterday the usual dividend of three per cent. was declared.

The regular monthly meeting of the North Carolina Sorosis will be held Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the club room, corner Fifth and Orange streets.

Mr. J. B. Farrar has resigned his position as travelling salesman for Messrs. H. A. Tucker & Bro., and will travel for the New Home Sewing Machine Company.

W. M. Cumming and wife recorded a deed yesterday transferring property on Second street, between Queen and Wooster, to Dan Benton; consideration \$500.

The prayer meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church will be held this evening at 7:30 o'clock, instead of to-morrow evening, as usual. It will be a New Year's service.

Emma Thompson was sent to the county roads by Mayor Waddell yesterday morning for disorderly conduct. She had just served thirty days for a similar offence and was released only Saturday afternoon.

An Associated Press telegram, dated December 30th, says: "The British steamer *Dora*, Captain Golding, from Wilmington, N. C., for Queens-town, has arrived there and reports having propelled injured."

During the past year Register of Deeds Bidle has issued 277 marriage licenses, of which 123 were to white couples and 154 to colored persons. Twenty-five were issued during December—nine to white persons and sixteen to colored.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Margos & Kelley—Special sale. S. W. Sanders—Something new. Mercer & Evans Co.—Our thanks. A. D. Brown—Happy New Year! New Savings Bank—Your attention. W. B. Cooper—Thanks to customers Wilmington Savings & Trust Co.—Legal holiday.

BUSINESS LOCALS.

Lost—Gold breastpin.
Bookkeeper—Work wanted.
For Sale—Horse, buggy, harness.
Wanted—Men to learn barber trade.

OBSEQUES OF J. W. TAYLOR.

Remains Arrived Sunday and Were Laid to Rest in Bellevue Cemetery.

The remains of the late Rev. Joseph W. Taylor, whose death at Habersham, Ga., occurred last Friday, arrived Sunday afternoon on the W. C. and A. train and were carried directly to Bellevue cemetery where they were tenderly laid to rest in the presence of many relatives and friends.

The funeral services were impressively read by Rev. J. W. Potter, of Market Street Methodist Church, and the benediction was pronounced by Rev. J. N. Cole, of Grace M. E. Church.

The following gentlemen were pall-bearers: Messrs. S. G. Hall, H. McL. Green, W. P. Oldham, W. A. French, J. W. Alderman and N. M. McEachern.

Those of the family who came to attend the funeral were Mrs. J. W. Taylor, wife of the deceased, of Habersham, Ga. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Newell and daughter, Miss Calena, of Norfolk; Capt. J. J. Clemmons, wife and children, of Florence, Messrs. Robert and Jesse Taylor, brothers of deceased, of Wilson, and nephew, Mr. Chas. Taylor, also of Wilson.

RECEPTION TO CHINESE STUDENTS.

Mr. W. B. Cooper, Superintendent of Grace M. E. Sunday School, and the teachers of the Chinese classes in that organization gave quite an enjoyable reception and holiday entertainment last night at the residence of Mr. O. M. Pillyaw to the eight Celestials who attend regularly at Grace that branch of the church service. Miss Eva Parmele was mistress of ceremonies and the event was a delightful one for all present. Refreshments were served in great abundance and elegance and upon conclusion of the affair each member of the Chinese classes was presented with a Christmas present as a testimonial of the appreciation of the teachers and the Sunday School generally of his faithful work and punctual attendance during the year.

PORT PARAGRAPHS.

The American barque *Chas. Loring* and schooner *Jno. R. Fell*, which cleared this port last week, passed out at Southport at 10 A. M. yesterday for their respective ports.

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Ushered in With the New Year by Appropriate Ceremonies Last Midnight.

SALUTE BY NAVAL RESERVES

Watch Night Services at Many of the Churches and Numerous Home Gatherings—The Observance As It Will Be To-day.

Last midnight witnessed the closing of the year 1900 and the Nineteenth century, the beginning of the new year 1901 and the Twentieth century.

The occasion was celebrated in Wilmington by the firing of salutes, the ringing of church bells, the singing of anthems and the offering up of prayer at several of the churches in the city and the usual other incidents that the more observant citizen considers paramount to the successful "ringing in of the old" and the ringing out of the "new." Upon the whole the occasion in Wilmington was celebrated on a more elaborate scale, perhaps, than in many years. Besides the public observances there were many home gatherings in honor of the event and the city made merry from north to south and from east to west as the big clock in the Court House steeple rang cheerily the hour of midnight.

At Grace Methodist church special watch night services were held, led by the pastor, Rev. J. N. Cole. There was a special programme of music and a large number of people gathered in reverence to celebrate the passing of the old year and century and the ushering in of the new.

Similar services were held at Fifth Street M. E. Church, led by the pastor, Rev. John H. Hall. There, too, a congregation gathered and held appropriate services.

Dr. K. J. Powers, of South Washington, N. C., was a visitor to the city yesterday.

W. J. Davis, ex-State Senator from Brunswick county, was a visitor to the city yesterday.

Miss Sarah Houtt has returned to her home at Greenville after visiting relatives here.

Messrs. W. H. Pyke and J. A. Pullan, of Southport, were arrivals in the city last evening.

J. O. Carr, Esq., of Wilmington and J. A. Carr, of Lacey, Miss., are guests at the Orton.

Mr. Will Atkinson left last night for a few days' visit to Richmond and Washington.

Rev. A. S. Barnes and wife, of Whiteville, are here on a visit to the family of Mr. E. C. Craft.

Mr. Stark S. Batchelor, a popular insurance man of Raleigh, is here for a few days business trip.

Miss May Higgins returned home last evening from Rocky Mount where she has been on a visit.

Mr. Reid French, the "Ivory Star" man, left yesterday, after spending the holidays at home.

Mr. Burgess Marshall returned to Washington last night after spending the holidays at home.

Prof. John Jay Blair has returned from Rocky Point, where he spent Christmas with his mother.

Mr. Wilkes Morris, who has been quite sick, the STAR is glad to learn, was much better yesterday.

Mr. V. T. Brantley, operator at the S. A. L., office, is spending a few days at his home at Cheraw, S. C.

Mr. J. J. McCurry, of Charlotte, and M. C. Ficke, of Newbern, were arrivals at the Orton yesterday.

Messrs. J. Holmes Davis, W. S. Register and H. W. Nash left last evening to spend New Year's at Charleston.

Mrs. John W. Hinsdale, of Raleigh, after a visit to her sister, Mrs. Sam T. Ashe returned home yesterday.

Mr. W. H. Cooper and wife, of Nashville, Tenn., are visiting in the city the guests of Mr. Cooper's brother, Mr. W. B. Cooper.

Miss Mamie Rourk, of Shalotte, N. C., passed through the city yesterday en route to Savannah, Ga., to visit her brother, Mr. John W. Rourk.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Mr. S. A. Schloss is in Philadelphia.

Mr. John Giles returned to Chapel Hill yesterday.

Mr. Chas. Elliott returned to Washington last night.

Capt. C. P. Bolles left last night, returning to Washington.

Mrs. E. R. Wooten returned yesterday to Rocky Mount.

Mr. Dawson Latham arrived last night from Rocky Mount.

Mr. Almon Elliott has returned to the University of Virginia.

Mr. N. M. Alston, of Goldsboro, arrived in the city yesterday.

Mr. Forest Hyman is the guest of his friend, Mr. D. Archie Bulluck.

Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Wilder returned yesterday from St. Stephen's, S. C.

Mr. Geo. G. Thomas, Jr., has returned from a short visit to Baltimore.

Mr. Peter Rourk, of Brunswick, was a Wilmington visitor yesterday.

Mr. W. R. Newbury, of Magnolia, was a visitor to Wilmington yesterday.

Miss Lina McCauslin went up to Atkinson yesterday to spend New Year's.

Mr. H. C. McQueen and Miss Sue McQueen arrived last night from New York.

Trainmaster Charles L. Porter, of Florence, was a visitor to the city Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Woodward have returned from Rocky Mount.

Col. A. H. Slocumb, of Fayetteville, was among Sunday's arrivals in the city.

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THE FIRE YESTERDAY

Early Morning Blaze in Department Store of Mercer & Evans Company.

THE DAMAGE ABOUT \$5,000.

Damage to Mr. W. Van Hardin's Saloon Adjoining—Rats and Matches Were Likely the Cause of the Conflagration—Insurance.

A destructive fire occurred yesterday morning about 1:30 o'clock in the department stores of the Mercer & Evans Company, Nos. 115 and 117 Princess street, and an estimated damage of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 was wrought. The fire was confined to the third floor of the building where it originated, very near the partition dividing a storage room for food wares and a room in which was kept the wholesale shoe and the surplus retail shoe stock of the firm.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been "rats and matches" and this theory is pretty well substantiated by the fact that only last Wednesday Mr. B. B. Jackson, a salesman in the store, found a box of matches very near the spot at which the fire originated with the case gnawed open and some of the matches spilled about the place.

The general retail stock of dry goods, notions, etc., on both second floors of the building were smoked, scorched, and to a small extent damaged by water. The goods in the two salerooms on the first floor were also slightly damaged.

Mr. Mercer, president of the company, places the value of the stock on all the floors at \$14,700, upon which was carried \$12,000 insurance, distributed between the several local companies, as follows: J. H. Boatwright & Son, \$2,500; Willard & Giles, \$1,500; J. Van B. Metts, \$2,000; Dr. W. W. Harris, \$500; Col. Walker Taylor, \$4,500, and W. W. Hodges, \$1,000. It is impossible, of course, to estimate the damage to the stock yet, but the fire department places it at between \$2,500 and \$4,000, while others claim it will exceed that amount.

The damage to the buildings will aggregate about \$800. No. 115 is owned by Mrs. A. J. Mercer and is insured for \$1,000 with Willard & Giles; \$1,000 with J. H. Boatwright & Son and \$300 with Col. Walker Taylor. No. 117 is owned by Mr. A. H. Evans and is insured for \$500 with Willard & Giles; \$1,500 with J. H. Boatwright & Son and \$700 with Col. Walker Taylor.

The store No. 119 in the same building, occupied by Mr. W. Van Hardin as a saloon, was also damaged to some extent by smoke and water. The building is owned by Mr. T. S. Evans and the loss is covered by insurance. The stock and fixtures of Mr. Hardin are also covered by insurance with J. Van B. Metts and Col. Walker Taylor.

Mr. Mercer asks the STAR to return thanks to Chief Schnibben, Assistant Chief Monroe and the firemen generally, who prevented a more serious conflagration by diligent and skillful work.

Chief Schnibben also asks the STAR to thank Mr. Andrew Smith for refreshments served the firemen, and also to Mr. Mercer and Mr. Hardin for like courtesies.

The stores of the Mercer & Evans Company will be closed for several days until the losses are adjusted.

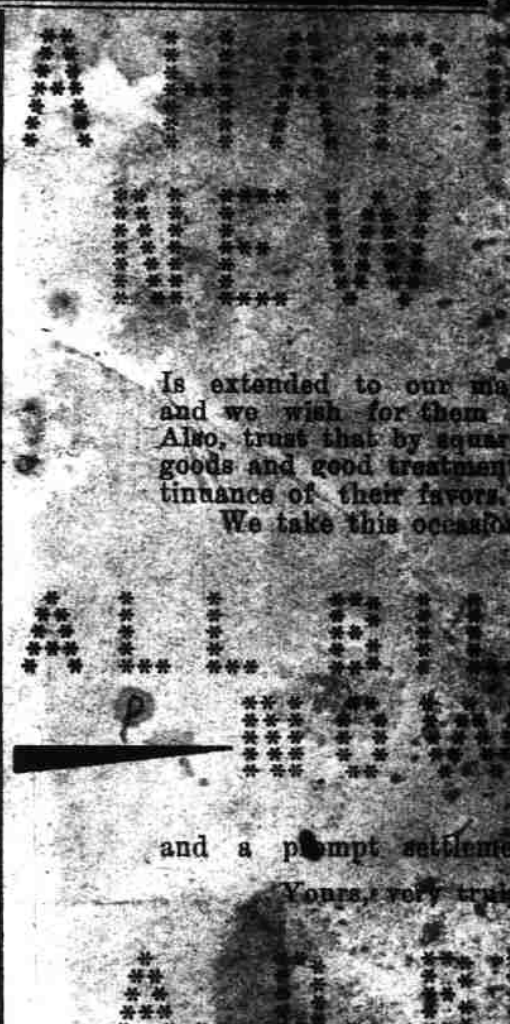
Changes at the Court House.

Mr. Owen Fennell takes charge today of the office of clerk to the finance committee of the Board of County Commissioners, succeeding Capt. W. P. Oldham, who will go into other business. Mr. Fennell was elected to the position at the first meeting of the fiscal year in December. County Standard Keeper Geo. T. Bland yesterday turned over the effects of his office to his successor, Mr. G. O. Simmons, who was also elected at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

The commissioners will meet Monday for the choosing of other elective officers by the board who were not decided upon at the December meeting.

Mr. O. H. Page Promoted.

Mr. Owen H. Page, who has for some time most acceptably filled a position in the office of Mr. E. Borden, superintendent of transportation of the Atlantic Coast Line, has been promoted to the position of lost car agent to succeed Capt. J. P. Russell, who has accepted a position in the General Manager's office. Mr. Page's promotion is a just reward for his efficiency and thorough capability. He went out on the road yesterday to begin his new duties.



is extended to our many readers and we wish for them to know that by square dealing goods and good treatment to all with the assistance of their favor. We take this occasion to say that

Your Attention is Called

THE GUARDIAN SECURITY, TRUST AND DEPOSIT COMPANY

TAX ASSESSMENT CASES.

Another Day of the Hearing Before Judge Shepherd is Without Interest—The Schedule for To-day.

The hearing in the railway tax assessment cases before Judge James B. Shepherd in the U. S. court room here was again devoid of interest yesterday. The court convened at 10 o'clock and continued for the morning session until noon when a recess was taken for consultation of attorneys with witnesses and for dinner.

George Rountree, Esq., assisted by E. G. Grady and T. W. Davis, Esq., conducted the examination for the railroads and Col. Hinsdale and Jno. H. Gore, Jr., Esq., were present for the Corporation Commission. Judge Connor officiated for the Corporation Commission, spent Sunday at his home at Wilson and was not present during the day but arrived last evening to resume his duties. Capt. Charles Price, attorney for the Southern Railway, who left Saturday, is expected to return to-day at noon from his home at Salisbury.

Only two witnesses were examined during the morning session. They were Mr. H. C. Moffitt, clerk of the Superior Court of Columbus county and Mr. Alexander T. Council, an assessor in Bladen county. A large number of these was substantially the same as that given during preceding days of the hearing here and the developments came from the cross examination. It was shown from Mr. Moffitt's testimony that there was a difference in favor of the operation of the railroads in cash sales of tracting lands around Chadbourne but no re-direct examination of the witness distributed the sales at a greater value than tax valuation to the benefit of most of the purchasers were men attracted to Columbus county by the re-direct examination of the witness. Mr. Council's testimony was to the effect that the lands were sold to the railroads without any conditions and prior to the re-direct examination of the witness. Mr. Council's testimony was to the effect that the lands were sold to the railroads without any conditions and prior to the re-direct examination of the witness.

The list of Columbus county witnesses was not completed upon adjournment yesterday but will be taken up again to-day. It is likely that it will require the whole day to finish with them and therefore, New Hanover witnesses will be called. Attorneys for the Corporation Commission however, will be witnesses from the city, will appear to-morrow if they are not here to-day and that evidence will be taken to-morrow.

Something New, Nothing Better

We thank each customer

We desire to express our sincere thanks

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