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INTEREST IN CIVIL CASES

Several Cases Tried Last Week Have Unusual Interest

THREE GOOD MEN DENY SIGNATURES

But Jury Sustains Validity Of Bond to Which Signatures Were Attached.

There is usually very little of interest in the average civil case in court, but three or four cases tried last week possessed marked interest. The court dragged along very slowly, apparently taking all the time anybody wanted for the trial of a case. Only four or five cases of any considerable importance were formally tried, though several others were compromised.

Probably the case arousing greatest interest was that in which R. L. Pugh, S. V. White, and Noah L. Phillips were sued for recovery on a guardianship bond for the shortage in the settlement of T. L. Phillips, guardian of the children of the late Richard T. Smith.

The bond dated back to 1914. The alleged bondsmen absolutely denied that they had ever signed or authorized the signature of the bond. They denied that the signatures on the bond were theirs, though they were attested by the notary seal of Charles Andrews of Bonlee, who could not remember affixing the seal to the paper but identified his seal and his own signature or one very similar to it.

The defense contended that the whole business is a complete forgery. The plaintiffs relied on the prima-facie evidence of the notarial seal and notary's inscription.

Richard T. Smith left a widow and five children. Mrs. Smith's brother, T. L. Phillips, became guardian. That was in 1911. Pugh and White admitted that they signed Mr. Phillips' bond that year.

Noah L. Phillips, a brother of the guardian, would not even admit that he signed that first bond. Pugh became uneasy, he says, because he saw Mr. T. L. Phillips' property being wasted by a foster son of the latter and consulted the then clerk of court, Mr. J. L. Griffin, as to getting release from the bond. Mr. Griffin seems to have told him that there would have to be a new bond when settlement was made with the oldest child and that he would then decline to sign the new bond and thus get the desired relief.

Pugh consented and things ran along. Miss Flossie Smith came of age and full settlement was made with her. Partial settlements were made with the three other girls as they came of age, but when the youngest child, Roland, the only son, became of age in 1925, it was found that the guardian, T. L. Phillips, was bankrupt and that nothing could be secured from him.

A citation was made for the guardian and the bondsmen to appear with the books and papers before Siler & Barber here in Pittsboro. Phillips failed to bring the books or papers and they had to be sent for. Accordingly, the bondsmen were allowed to return home, but they had been at least, according to their testimony, informed that their names appeared as bondsmen. Still they made no move to have the bond annulled as fraudulent.

Finally suit was entered last year against the three men for the sum due Mrs. George McPherson, Ada Smith, Lorene Smith, and Roland Smith, with interest from 1917. The sum of the several principals was about \$2,400.00.

The case came up for trial Thursday. The heirs, who reside in Greensboro, were represented by Garland S. Ferguson, of that city, and by W. P. Horton, of Pittsboro. The defense was represented by Long and Bell.

There were two main contentions: Did the alleged bondsmen actually execute the bonds? and are not the claims of Mrs. McPherson?

Mystery of Life Of Udney Blakely

Article By Newsome in Historical Review Clears Up Mystery of Daughter of Chatham's Early Hero, Johnston Blakely

Chatham county is proud to boast itself as the birthday place of Commander Blakely of the "Wasp," who won everlasting fame during the war of 1812 and who after many startling victories over British ships disappeared, leaving his fate one of the unsolved matters of history. Accordingly, the following article should be of interest to Record readers:

Raleigh, March 27—The mystery surrounding the life of Udney Maria Blakely, daughter of the dashing commander of the sloop-of-war "Wasp" and hero of the War of 1812, is cleared up in the April issue of the North Carolina Historical Review.

An article by A. R. Newsome, secretary of the state historical commission, presents official records in the unusual and little known about case.

Miss Blakely, according to Mr. Newsome, was the recipient of unusual generosity from the state.

Her father, Commander Johnston Blakely, drew the attention of the whole country by his exploits with the "Wasp" before he and his vessel mysteriously dropped from sight.

Congress voted him a medal of honor and the general assembly of North Carolina a superb sword.

When the commander failed to return after an engagement, the general assembly changed the sword into a silver service weighing 352 ounces and presented it to Mrs. Blakely. In addition it provided \$8,000 to care for the expense of rearing the child, Udney Maria.

The case was brought into public light recently by an inquiry from England to Governor McLean asking information about the silver service, now in the possession of an English family.

In looking up records of the silver service, Mr. Newsome stumbled upon the strange story of the sea-fighter's daughter, reared at the expense of the state, but who left it to seek her fortune in a foreign land.

Mrs. W. M. Thomas Dies At Fayetteville

Fayetteville, March 25—Funeral services were held here at 4 o'clock this afternoon for Mrs. W. M. Thomas, who died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. V. H. Crane, on Maple avenue, Haymount, at seventy-three last night. Mrs. Thomas was 78 years of age.

Before her marriage Mrs. Thomas was Miss Amanda Patterson, Chatham county. With her husband and children she removed to Fayetteville about thirty years ago, and they made their homes here after that time. She was a devoted wife and mother and an earnest Christian. She was a member of the Baptist demonstration since her youth.

Three daughters and a son survive her, these being Mrs. D. B. Hedgpeth, Mrs. H. L. Hedgpeth and Mrs. V. H. Crane, of Fayetteville, and Percy A. Thomas. She also leaves a sister, Mrs. Frances Hatch, of Goldston, and a brother, Dr. G. B. Patterson, of this city.

ASBURY NEWS

Messrs. Broughton Johnson and Ray Stedman motored to Greensboro Sunday to visit friends.

Mrs. Q. S. Williams, who has been quite ill, is improving.

Mrs. J. R. Bright and Mrs. F. R. Knight visited Mrs. Carl Honeycutt in Raleigh last week.

Prof. A. V. Nolan of the Pittsboro school will address the Epworth league at Asbury church Sunday evening. It is hoped there will be a good crowd present to hear him.

Fresh land used for poultry runs will reduce losses from internal parasites of the chicks.

Pastor Gordon's Resignation

Rev. R. R. Gordon Resigns Pastorate of Pittsboro Baptist Church

After an exceptionally good sermon Sunday morning, the Baptist congregation was surprised to hear their pastor, Rev. R. R. Gordon, who has served the church acceptably for several years, calmly announce his resignation, to take effect on or before the fourth Sunday in June.

Mr. Gordon is pastor of two or three country churches as well as the Pittsboro church, serving this church only one Sunday a month. It seems that he does not expect to resign the country field but to apply himself entirely to the pastorate of country churches. A year ago he bought a desirable residence site across the street from the Baptist church, clearly looking to the step just taken. Work is begun this week on a residence for him on that site. Accordingly, the resignation does not signify the departure of the good man from Pittsboro, but rather a purpose to make his permanent home here, serving churches in this-section in the old time way, when practically every preacher had his own home. Presumably, Pittsboro might have a share in those ministrations if it desired and the work should be agreeable to the preacher. But the attitude of Mr. Gordon seems to be to give the local church to understand that by erecting him a home and establishing himself at Pittsboro he is not taking it for granted that he is a permanent fixture in the local church.

As the Pittsboro church has not felt itself hitherto able to support a pastor for his whole time, its pastors have served other churches. The location of Mr. Gordon here, however, would make it more difficult for a new pastor to secure the necessary support additional to that of the Pittsboro church.

Mr. Gordon's pastorate has been apparently without friction. He is held in high esteem by the membership and all doubtless wish him well in his new plans. He has been pastor here for four years.

Tobacco Chief Money Crop of This State

Supplants Cotton As The Leading Revenue Producer Of The Farmers

Raleigh, March 14—Tobacco has supplanted cotton as the principal money crop of North Carolina, figures made public today by the cooperative crop reporting service of the North Carolina and United States departments of agriculture revealed.

The values of principal crops: Tobacco \$103,802,000 Cotton 71,875,000 Corn 45,999,000 Wheat 9,013,000 Oats 4,706,000 Peanuts 7,985,000 Irish Potatoes 11,840,000 Sweet Potatoes 7,560,000

Mrs. Madeline Riggsbee Passed Away

MRS. RIGSBEE

Mrs. Madeline Riggsbee, relict of Elbert Riggsbee, died early Friday morning at her home in Bynum.

Mrs. Riggsbee had not been well since she was stricken with paralysis a few years ago, being subject to severe attacks, one of which took her away.

Mrs. Riggsbee was Miss Madeline Williamson before her marriage many years ago. Her husband has been dead nearly a quarter of a century. She was a sister of the late Mrs. Fannie Bland.

She leaves two sons, Mr. Roy Riggsbee and Mr. Talton Riggsbee, and three daughters, Mrs. D. L. Tripp, of Chapel Hill; Mrs. Carney Abernathy of Mebane, and Mrs. Paul Jones of Bynum.

She was a most highly esteemed lady and her death is regretted by many friends and relatives. The funeral services were conducted at the Bynum Methodist Baptist church. The burial was at Lystra Baptist church.

Americans Landed On Chinese Soil

Japanese and British Also Increase Their Defensive Forces As Anti-Foreign Feeling Arises

Washington, March 27—Additional American forces were landed at Shanghai today to aid in protecting the International settlement from threatened mob outbreak.

"The situation in Shanghai is now very tense," Admiral C. S. Williams, commander of the Asiatic fleet, advised the Navy Department, and in expectancy of serious trouble, the Japanese and British also have increased their forces ashore.

Dispatches of the reinforcements followed a demand of the general labor union that all barricades around the settlement be removed. Up to four o'clock this afternoon (Shanghai time), when the message was sent, the demand, along with another that striking public utilities workers be reinstated, has been ignored by the municipal council.

Admiral Williams said the American landing force, from his flagship, the Pittsburgh, was to temporarily strengthen the allied defense. He did not disclose the identity of the number of landing party.

A British regiment has been summoned to Shanghai from Hong Kong and the Japanese are sending the warship Hirado and eight destroyers and have put more than 500 additional men ashore within the barricades.

Joint preparations have been made by the French and the settlement guards to meet any mob attack along the boundary of the French concessions and the international area.

Refusal of the municipal council to demolish the barricades, Admiral Williams reported, resulted in a threat of another general strike. It had not materialized when he sent his message, although he added that "agitators" had arranged for a demonstration at the west gate of the city at two o'clock this afternoon.

Growing acuteness of the situation at Shanghai, place of refuge for Americans and others fleeing from the interior, appeared as a possible complication in plans for the evacuation. Under protection of the guns of British and American men of war, foreigners are being evacuated from Yangtze River points where outbreaks like that at Nanking are feared.

In an earlier dispatch Admiral Williams said "general withdrawal of the Americans along the river is proceeding as rapidly as possible." He summarized conditions at principal points as follows: "Chunking—quiet; complete evacuation of Americans and British planned.

"Hankow—Propaganda visible against foreigners. About 100 Americans, mostly women and children, sailing today for Shanghai, approximately 100 Americans, men, remaining.

"Wuhu—Strong anti-foreign agitation growing; all foreign women and children leaving.

"Kaukiang—All but five Americans have left.

Kiukiang—Quiet; 25 American men sailed today for Shanghai.

"Refugee ships are being accompanied by British and American warships past the Chinkiang forts, which fired on other vessels on Friday and Saturday.

The dispatch confirmed that all Americans have been evacuated from Nanking, where foreigners were attacked by mobs. It confirmed also that Dr. J. E. Williams, American vice president of Nanking University, was the only fatality among the Americans, and that Miss Anna E. Moffet, a mission worker, was shot twice, "seriously wounded, but in no immediate danger."

A marine or blue-jacket named Plumley, who was wounded, and Earl T. Hobart, manager of the Standard Oil plant, who broke his ankle, were the other casualties.

Admiral Williams reported that

Many Changes In State Auto Law

Highway Speed Limit Is Now Forty-Five Miles Per Hour; Effective April 1

Raleigh, March 26—It may or may not be an April Fool's joke if a cop waved you down on the well-known day of pranks. You may have violated a law that wasn't a law last month. Yea, the auto law has been revamped, revised, and re-enacted.

The new version went into effect April 1.

Every car must carry a rear light; speed limit is increased to 45 miles an hour on highways, 20 miles in residential sections, 15 miles in business areas, 15 miles on curves, and in school zones when pupils are about the buildings.

Driving while drunk merits 30 days' sentence to one year, or \$100 to \$1,000 fine, or both fine and imprisonment. Reckless driving merits five to 90 days in jail, or \$25 to \$100 fine, or both fine and imprisonment.

Cars must stop only at crossings designated by the State Highway Commission. Maximum car weight must not exceed nine tons, width 93 inches maximum. Certificate of test of lights must be carried. The highway commission does the testing. Lights must not show a glare above 42 inches at 75 feet.

Drivers must not coast down grade by throwing gears into neutral. Drivers involved in accidents must stop.

Signs, posters, stickers are prohibited on front windshield, side wings, rear or side windows.

On and after July 1 the automobile license plates will remain with the car for a year instead of being transferred in event of sale.

License fees on all automobiles of 25 horse-power or less will be \$12.50 instead of \$20. On June 30 plates will be issued for six months, with extra fee of 25 cents to cover the special issue.

Effective July 1, the registration card must be kept in a container placed on cowl or instrument board and under the law the department is given authority to charge 50 cents for the container.

Girl Returns After Her Supposed Murder

Man Already Serving Sentence For The Crime Never Committed.

Williamsburg, Ky., March 19—A woman scorned, a girl dissatisfied with home and a tight-mouth mountaineer formed the "eternal triangle" in a case which resulted in the mountaineer being sentenced to life imprisonment for "murder" that was never committed.

Two of the three principals today disclosed the circumstances under which Mary Vickery, 16 years old, disappeared; some bones were found later in an abandoned mine shaft, and a woman's revenge sent Conley Oabney, 33, to the Frankfort reformatory under life sentence.

The third, Marie Jackson, 27, was in jail as a sequel.

Mary Vickery appeared at her former home here today after being missing and believed dead since August, 1926, and broke a silence that has kept Dabney in prison for more than a year.

"I disappeared from home because I was not happy with the home life with my father and stepmother," she said. "I had Conley Dabney take me in an automobile to a country railroad station. He left me there and drove away. I took the train to Cincinnati, where I worked in a woolen mill.

"I heard about Dabney being charged with killing me, but I didn't want to be taken back home, so I kept silent and did not reveal that I was still alive. I stood it as long as I could and then decided to make it known that I was alive, so Dabney could be set free. I didn't want to go home, so I came to Williamsburg, where I formerly lived."

From his prison cell in the reformatory Dabney told his story. He did not seem surprised when he

Russian Socialist Is Given a Cool Million

Paid That Sum By Photomat, Incorporated, For Rights To Automatic Camera.

New York, March 27.—A check for a round million dollars was shoved across the polished table of a hotel sitting room today into the hands of a young Russian socialist who in his days of hunger and hardship had invented an automatic camera to enable the public to photograph itself as simply as it buys its chewing gum, and in much the same way.

And the Russian, remembering his socialistic doctrines despite his sudden translation into the capitalistic class, immediately laid plans for sharing his money with the less fortunate.

Transfer of the check marked the entry into the slot machine portrait photograph business of several leaders in the financial world.

Among the men represented in the transaction were Henry Morgenthau, former ambassador to Turkey; James G. Harbord, president of the Radio Corporation of America; John T. Underwood Typewriter company, and Ramond B. Small, former vice president and general manager of the Postum Cereal company.

The syndicate of business men gave the \$1,000,000 check to Anatol Josepho, the Russian, for all his rights in a machine that delivers a strip of eight finished photographs, each two by one and a half inches long and all in different poses, eight minutes after the sitter has dropped a quarter in a slot.

"I believe," said Mr. Morgenthau after the meeting, which closed the deal and marked the formation of Photomat, Inc., a company which will operate a country-wide chain of automatic photography studios but in which no stock will be sold, "that through this invention we can make personal photographs available to the mass of this country. We propose to do in the photographic field what Woolworth has accomplished in novelties and merchandise, Ford in automobiles and the chain store in supplying the necessities and luxuries of life over wide-spread areas."

Josepho, in response, said "I plan to create a trust fund with half of this money, to be devoted to general charity. The other half I plan to administer in the interests of various inventions I consider worthy of development. The average inventor has a hard life and it is a rare instance for him to reap the rewards of his inventions as I have done. I shall dedicate much of my life and new wealth to helping my brother inventors to similar success."

The inventor was born in Omsk, Siberia, 31 years ago, at 20 he had perfected many improvements in photographic processes but the financial return was negligible. Poverty and the unstable condition of his homeland seemed to conspire to hinder his work but always he kept on.

Three years ago he arrived in this country with a million dollar idea but hardly a cent in his pocket. Six months ago the first machines were perfected and an experimental studio was opened on Broadway.

Since then 270,000 persons have paid \$70,000 to photograph themselves in almost two and a quarter million poses.

It's fine to be unselfish if you can keep quiet about it.

was told that his "victim" was alive. The prisoner attributed his predicament to a chance acquaintance with Marie Jackson, chief prosecution witness against him at his trial. He said he was driving a taxicab in Harlan, Ky., and his wife and family were in Coal Creek, Tenn. He had several "dates" with the Jackson woman, he said.

"Marie Jackson swore against me because I would not leave my wife and go with her," he declared, as he recited the story of the girl's disappearance, his arrest and conviction.

MAJOR STEDMAN INVITED HOME

Meeting of U. D. C. With Mrs. Siler Invites Veteran Congressman to Speak Here May 10th.

The Winnie Davis Chapter of the U. D. C., met with Mrs. Walter D. Siler on March 2nd. After preliminary business, Mrs. E. B. Hatch and Miss Irene Sutphin were cordially welcomed as members of the chapter.

The relief committee reported illness of three members: Mesdames Fike, Eubanks, and Miss Fannie Nooe. Regrets were expressed and the committee asked to send them fruit, also to Mr. Clay Clegg, a sick Veteran. The chapter decided to invite Major Stedman the sole Veteran in Congress to make an address here on Memorial Day, the 10th of May.

The Soldiers home was discussed and it was decided to ask Miss Martha Haywood what is most needed in the home or would give greatest pleasure to the inmates. Mrs. Nettie Peoples made a quilt for the children's chapter, to be given to Soldiers' Home in Raleigh. Miss Carrie Jackson stated that \$5.00 would be sent to the home from the Children's Chapter and \$10 for the Bentonville marker.

Mesdames Victor Johnson, Hinton Siler, Hatch and Miss Carrie Jackson read an address on the "Battle of Bentonville," written by Mrs. J. H. Anderson of Fayetteville. On motion, it was decided that we give \$20 to Bentonville marker, which will be unveiled in August, 1927.

We were pleased to have with us Mrs. Nickols of Petersburg, Va., who gave an interesting talk about the Battlefields around Petersburg, and old Blanford church. Mrs. London said we had a North Carolina window in the Blanford church.

Subject for next meeting "Junior Reserves" giving their services from Port Fisher, Averbosboro, Bentonville up to the surrender. Each member is asked to write down notes on this for next meeting.

At the close of the business meeting, delightful refreshments were served, consisting of chicken salad, sandwiches, cheese, wafers and coffee. Those assisting Mrs. Siler in serving were Miss Maggie Horne, Mrs. Ella Jordan and Miss Carrie Jackson.

Fortune Awaiting Wright's Relatives

Man Who Died in Seattle, Washington, Left Estate Valued at \$10,000

Asheville, March 27.—A fortune of \$10,000 awaits relatives of J. W. Wright, 63 years old, who died recently in Seattle, Wash.

A letter has been received here by the police department, stating the belief that the relatives of Mr. Wright live in Western North Carolina. He was the son of Nathan Wright and Laura Wright.

The only Nathan Wright that can be located by the police is one who lived in Haywood county and died a number of years ago. He had a son who was said to have gone to Oklahoma.

Police say the letter was written by Charles S. Baldwin, 10661 Sixty-fourth avenue, South Seattle, Wash., and states that J. W. Wright owned a berry ranch at the time of his death which is valued at \$8,000 as well as other property, making the estate worth more than \$10,000.

If the property is not claimed by relatives soon, it will go to the State of Washington.

JAW-BREAKER JOKING

Blackburn, Eng., March 3.—Miss Agnes Golden, 24, laughed so heartily at a party that she dislocated her jaw. Efforts to relieve her suffering were in vain and she finally was taken to a hospital where doctors helped her straighten her face.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 5)