

# The Chatham Record

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## MITCHELL'S TRUTHFULNESS CLINCHES DEATH PENALTY

Pardon Commissioner Admits Negro's Case a Most Puzzling One, and States That Mitchell's Own Admissions to Him Determined the Issue.

MITCHELL DIED LAST FRIDAY MORNING  
Coolly and Calmly Went to The Chair — Died Without a Struggle—Carried Home For Burial.

Pearle Mitchell has paid the price for the murder of William Fogleman at Ore Hill last January. He went to the chair Friday morning at ten-thirty, as coolly as if he were going to breakfast, and in three or four minutes the thing was over. His body was brought back to Chatham for burial.

Mitchell was convicted of the murder a week and an hour after the commission of the crime. He was sentenced by Judge Harris to die in the chair, but his attorneys, Messrs. Horton and Dixon, secured an appeal, which delayed the execution till after the hearing by the supreme court. The appeal was denied three or four weeks ago, and the execution date became Friday, June 10th.

Attorney Horton, who had spent much time and considerable money in defending the friendless and penniless negro, still believed that Pearl was not guilty of first-degree murder, and, therefore, at further expenditure of time and money, sought a stay of execution till the pardon commissioner could come to Chatham and investigate the case. The record of the trial was put into Mr. Bridges's hands Tuesday of last week, and that capable gentleman gave real attention to the case. He not only studied the testimony, but visited Mitchell himself, and it seems that Mitchell's candor clinched his own doom, since Mr. Bridges was sorely puzzled as to what to do till Mitchell's candid answers settled the matter and fully determined the pardon commissioner not to interfere. Mitchell calmly received the decision, and said that he was glad that he had told the truth.

### Mr. Bridges' Letter.

As known by readers of the Record, the editor of this paper advocated a review of the case by the Pardon Commissioner, in view of the state of public sentiment at the time of the trial, and because of the inadequacy of the time given his attorneys to prepare his defense. The writer confesses that he was in doubt as to the crime's being a first-degree murder, and it turns out that the Pardon Commissioner could not determine the matter readily till Mitchell's own honest confessions had solved the puzzle. The editor had not had the advantage of talking with Mitchell himself, as did the pardon commissioner, and, accordingly seems fully justified in advocating a review of the case. He secured what he sought, and everybody can be better satisfied that the culprit did not die for a higher degree of crime than he was guilty of. The following letter was received by the editor of the Record a few hours before the execution:

"Raleigh, June 9, 1927.

"Dear Mr. Peterson:

"I have read your fine and logical editorial in regard to Pearl Mitchell.

"I confess to you that this case has been the most puzzling one upon which to make a decision that I have yet had. I have spent a great deal of time, both at night and during the day, carefully analyzing the evidence and I have talked the situation over with Pearl Mitchell, the prisoner. His truthfulness in answering all of the questions propounded to him made me feel that I would like to find some grounds for the record upon which I could base a recommendation for the commutation of this prisoner's sentence. However, I have found that here was premeditation prior to the actual firing of the pistol from which death resulted. The negro's answers to my questions brought me to this

conclusion more than the actual court records. I therefore could not conscientiously recommend that this prisoner's sentence be commuted to life imprisonment and at a later date refuse to recommend commutation for others who are sentenced by a judge and jury to death.

"I thank you for the interest and help that you have rendered me in the investigation of this case by your careful analysis of the facts, and I assure you that it is with deep regret that I cannot conscientiously recommend commutation to life imprisonment.

"Yours very truly,  
EDWIN B. BRIDGES,  
"Commissioner of Pardons."

### SETTLE WITH CO-OPS.

Messrs. Jones and Mann, representing the Cotton Cooperative Association, were here Monday with checks for about \$5,000 for Chatham members in full settlement of the 1925 account. Many checks had to be mailed as the members were not present.

### SALE OF VALUABLE FARM PROPERTY

Under and by virtue of authority conferred upon us in a deed of trust executed by Sam Harrington and wife, Hannah Harrington, on the 18th day of April, 1925, and recorded in book A. C. page 3, we will on Saturday, the 25th of June 1927, at twelve o'clock noon, at the court house door in Pittsboro, sell at public auction for cash to the highest bidder the following land; to-wit:

Two certain tracts or parcels of land, lying and being in Cape Fear Township, Chatham county, North Carolina, bounded as follows:

First Tract: Beginning at the creek, Jerry Harrington's corner and running thence south 0 west 30.87 chains to center of road; thence south 1245 west 4.90 chains to a stake; thence south 0 30 west 19.60 chains to a stake and pointers; thence south 85 east 37 chains to Dickens corner thence north 3.30 east 50.95 chains to Arch Ragland's corner in Marks' line; thence north 80 west 23.05 chains to a stake and pointers, Ragland's corner; thence north 3 30 east 6.50 chains; thence north 80 west 4 chains to the creek; thence down said creek to the beginning, containing 174 1-2 acres, more or less, and being a part of that tract of land conveyed to C. P. Sellars by W. E. Reece and wife by deed recorded in book E. X. page 3, in the office of Register of Deeds for Chatham county.

Second tract: Adjoining the first tract above described, beginning at a stake, east of the creek, a corner in Jerry Harrington's line of 45 acres; thence south 75 east 17.10 chains to a stake in the line of the Sam Harrington 174 1-2 acre tract; thence north 3 east as said line 28 chains to a stake in the creek, corner of said 174 1-2 acre and 87 1-2 acre tract thence down the creek its various courses 30 1-2 chains to a stake, corner of Otis Cotton and Jerry Harrington; thence east 7 chains to a stake in the line of Jerry Harrington; thence south 2.60 chains to the beginning point, containing 42 acres, more or less.

This sale is made by reason of failure of Sam Harrington and wife, Hannah Harrington, to pay off and discharge the indebtedness secured by said deed of trust to the North Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank of Durham.

This the 16th day of May, 1927.  
FIRST NATIONAL COMPANY,  
INC., Trustee, formerly First National Trust Co., Durham, N. C.

## Got Three Men And Copped Still

Deputy F. C. Straughan, accompanied by Deputies Desern, Johnson, and Policeman Brady of Bennett, Rommy Dowd, and Crutchfield Webster, made a successful raid Tuesday of last week. They captured a copper still and three men, three miles south of Harper's Cross Roads, in Bear Creek township.

Within seven minutes of the approach to the still the officers had hte three men, two of them being chased down and one pulled by Officer Straughan from under a brush heap. Eugene Straughan ran down Will Langley, white, and Rommy Dowd and Crutchfield Webster ran down John White, black. The third man was J. W. Elkins, white.

They were brought to Pittsboro and lodged in jail till they succeeded in giving bond. A true bill was found against them Monday morning, and it is expected that they will have been tried before this is read and have their dose.

A large quantity of mash was destroyed.

### WES CARROLL TRIES TO GET RELEASE

Durham attorneys for Wes Carroll secured a writ of habeas corpus from Justice Bridgen and Carroll was given a hearing at Raleigh Monday. Solicitor Williams went over to look after the state's interest. Carroll's contention, the Solicitor tells the Record, is that he cannot be legally fined and sent to the roads too for his offense. He paid a fine in January, \$250, and was given a suspended sentence to the roads, with the understanding that he was to stay out of Chatham and adjoining counties for two years. He was caught in Durham with 45 gallons of liquor, tried there and sentenced to the roads, but was getting out on appeal when the Chatham officers went for him to serve the suspended sentence.

Solicitor Williams argues that the grounds were untenable; that Carroll submitted to the three charges of making liquor, selling liquor, and carrying a concealed weapon, and the two of these charges permit both a fine and a road sentence.

Deputy Burns brought Carroll back and placed him in jail to await the decision of Justice Brogden.

Attorneys Seawell, Hoyle, and Gavin, of Sanford, were court attendants Tuesday.

### RESALE OF LAND

By virtue of a deed of trust made and executed to the undersigned on the 22nd day of December by Efland Garner and wife, which deed of trust is recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Chatham county in book GH of deeds, at page 558, the undersigned will on

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1927.

at twelve o'clock, noon, at the court house door in Pittsboro, Chatham county, sell at public auction for cash,

A certain tract of land in Oakland Township, Chatham county, North Carolina, beginning at a pine on the south side of Rocky river, running south 40 poles to a white oak; thence south east 210 poles to a post oak Deep river; thence down the same to the mouth of the Rocky river; thence up the same to the beginning corner, containing one hundred and twenty acres, more or less, and being the same land formerly owned by John A. Williams, and deeded to the grantors herein by Wade Barber, Commissioner of deed recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Chatham county in book of deeds GK at page 149.

The sale is for the purpose of satisfying the note secured by the said deed of trust, default having been made in the payment thereof, and demand having been made on the undersigned trustee to foreclose the same.

This June 4, 1927.  
C. E. UPCHURCH,  
Sanford, N. C. Trustee.

### CEMETERY BEAUTIFIED.

The Episcopal church yard, where lie buried many of the prominent pioneers of this section, also Governor Owen of Bladen, who died while summing in Pittsboro, is being much beautified under the auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary of the church. This is the most interesting spot in the environs of the town and it is most fitting that it be kept a beauty spot as well.

### ROUND OUT FIFTY YEARS WITH S. A. L. R. R.

W. F. Williams, superintendent of telegraph for S.A.L. system, was given a banquet in Savannah a few days ago on the completion of his fiftieth year of service with the that system and its predecessor. Mr. Williams, during his period of service, has seen the Seaboard extend from its limited mileage in North Carolina to its present system of 4,200 miles. The road had 50 years ago 241 miles of telegraph; it now has 12,000 miles, while Mr. Williams was responsible for the introduction of the telephone for dispatching trains, the S. A. L. being the pioneer road of the country in using the telephone for that purpose. The 150 miles of lines of 1908 has grown to 5,000 miles.

Mr. Williams is an uncle of Mrs. O. J. Peterson, and was taught telegraphy and the rudiments of rail-roading by her father, his elder brother, who died while superintendent of a Mexican railroad and is buried at San Luis Potosi. The third of the brothers was also prominent in railroad and telegraph business.

### AGED CITIZEN PASSES.

Mr. W. L. Brasington, of the Mount Gilead community of Baldwin township, was found dead in bed at about three o'clock last Thursday morning. He had been in good health, and his wife said that he was well at ten o'clock that night. About three o'clock she woke up and found him cold in death.

Mr. Brasington was above seventy years of age. He was born in this county, but we are told that his father moved south and after his parents' death the boy returned to Chatham. He was married twice, his first wife being a Miss Williams, and his second, a Mrs. Holt, of Durham. There was no child by his first wife, but one or two by his second, who with the mother are bereaved by the unexpected death of the father and husband.

Mr. Brasington was a devoted member of Mount Gilead church, and the funeral was preached by his pastor, Rev. R. R. Gordon.

### NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received by the Board of County Commissioners in care of the undersigned at their office in Pittsboro, N. C., until twelve o'clock noon, June 22, 1927, for \$50,000. Funding Bonds of Chatham county, N. C., dated April 1, 1927, bearing interest at the rate of 5 percent per annum, and maturing annually April 1st, \$1,000, 1928 to 1937, inclusive, and \$2,000, 1928 to 1957, inclusive, without option of prior payment.

Denomination \$1,000, coupon bonds, not registerable as to interest nor principal, interest A. and N. 1, payable in gold in New York City; general county obligations; unlimited tax; delivery at place of purchaser's choice. The bonds will be awarded at the highest price offered, the amount of premium to determine the award. The purchaser to pay for bond forms, and Attorney's fees.

Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "Proposal for Bonds" and be accompanied by a certified check for \$1,000. (or cash) payable to the order of the county treasurer and drawn upon an incorporated bank or trust company. The right is reserved to reject all bids.

C. C. POE,  
Clerk, Board of County Commissioners.

## Cars Smashed But No Lives Lost

By a miracle it would seem there was no life lost Sunday afternoon when two cars were smashed in an automobile collision on the bridge just beyond the northern limits of Pittsboro.

Two Fords and a long string of the protecting fencing along the bridge and embankment smashed and eight negroes hurt, and one in jail is the apparent consequence of the collision.

Sandy Rogers, a colored youth of sixteen or less, is the fellow jailed for reckless driving. Lucy Lee, wife of Richard Lee, is the most seriously hurt. Her injuries are internal but not considered dangerous. Her baby is also among the injured. Others hurt are Elizabeth Lee, Doretha Lee, Will Leach, Richard Lee, Sandy Rogers, Taylor, but none dangerously injured.

Sandy Rogers, accompanied by Taylor and —, were driving stripped Ford and undertook to pass the car driven by Richard Lee on the bridge. It seems that the passing car caught the front wheel of Lee's car and drove it into the railing and forward. Rail after rail of the fence was broken before the Lee car left the embankment beyond the bridge upon which the collision occurred. The wreck of cars and fence was an almost complete one.

Dr. Chapin gave attention to the injured. Sandy Rogers was arrested immediately after the wreck and lodged in jail.

### HURT BY AUTOMOBILE

Mr. Ed. Bryant was knocked down and rather shaken up when hit by a car Saturday evening. He had started across from the post-office to the Griffin hardware store when he was hit by a car approaching from the north. The driver of the car, a stranger, had thrown on brakes and turned to the left in an attempt to avoid hitting Mr. Bryant, but the side of the car hit him. Fortunately, the injury is not serious, though Mr. Bryant was somewhat bruised up and put out of commission for a few days. He does not blame the driver, who stopped and rendered aid. The wheel marks showed that the car slid a considerable distance when breaks were thrown on.

### MARRIAGE LICENSE

The following couples have got marriage licenses the past ten days: White—L. E. Sturdivant and Annie Mann, Kenneth Mace of Sanford, and Dora Yow of Bennett. Colored—Henry Harris and Cora Gunter, New Hill, Rt. 1; John Sanders, Apex, Rt. 3, and Laura Taylor, Pittsboro, B. J. Peoples and Jessie Steele, Pittsboro; David Cheek and Dora May Teague, Pittsboro.

### NOTICE OF LAND SALE

By virtue of the powers contained in a certain mortgage deed, executed on the 13th, day of January, 1925, by John Bynum, to W. G. Fields, the same being recorded in the office of the register of deeds for Chatham county, in book FX, page 189, and default having been made in the payment of the bond secured therein, I will on,

TUESDAY, JULY 5TH, 1927,  
at the court house door in Pittsboro, sell for cash to the highest bidder the following described tract of land in Hadley Township, Chatham county, North Carolina, being more fully described as follows:

Beginning at stake and pointers, Justice line, thence North about 3\* east 110 poles to oak and pointers; thence East 71 poles to branch, stone and pointers, Durham's line; thence as the Hugh Crutchfield line to pointers; thence west 89 poles to the first station, containing 74 3-4 acres more or less, the same being lot No. 3, in the subdivision of the Hugh Crutchfield farm.

Time of sale twelve o'clock, noon. This June the 4th, 1927.  
W. G. FIELDS, Mortgagee.  
A. C. Ray, Attorney.

## Court In Session; Few Criminal Cases

The regular June term of court convened last Monday, Judge W. C. Harris is presiding. Solicitor Williams was absent the larger part of Monday, being called to Raleigh to represent the state in the habeas corpus hearing in the case of Wes Carroll, but considerable work was done that day despite the enforcing absence of the Solicitor.

The grand jury went ahead and completed the comparatively small amount of work before it. They acted upon a few bills and visited the jail, the county home, and the county offices, finding everything in good shape. The grand jury was composed of the following named citizens:

R. R. Seagrave, foreman; W. C. Gunter, A. D. Coggins, W. B. Moore, C. E. Hackney, Gwennell Farrell, A. E. Cox, E. P. Smith, J. A. Welsh, G. D. Harris, P. D. Farrell, A. G. Thomas, J. C. Lindley, T. P. Fox, D. L. Carroll, J. T. White, Wilson Burns, N. E. Thompson.

### Cases Disposed of

The following cases were disposed of:

Henry Hearne and Will Basington for assault on Carey Thomas were let off with costs. Hearne was given a road sentence, suspended on condition that he refrain from threats and assaults against Thomas for two years.

Willie Marsh was let off with costs and \$10 fine for disturbing public meeting at colored school house at Siler City.

W. E. Langley, J. W. Elkins, and John White entered a nol contender. After hearing the state's evidence, Langley was let off with costs, and Elkins and White were given an eight-months road term to begin Nov. 1. Judge Harris recognized Langley as a former member of the Raleigh police force. It developed that he married a niece of Elkins and had spent the night at the Elkins house and gone over to the still with Elkins and White to get a drink of beer. He was on his way to Aberdeen to accept a job. Elkins and White were old offenders. They live in Moore county.

D. D. Elkins waived bill and was fined \$50 and costs and forbidden to drive a car in six months.

Jim Johnson, \$50 fine and forbidden to drive car for one year.

Paul Hooper, for driving car under the influence of liquor, received suspended sentence on condition that he pay cost and not drive a car for two years, also keep the peace.

The most important case of the term was that of Pauline Palmer, colored, who killed her sister in April. The state asked for only a second degree murder verdict or for manslaughter. The evidence all had to come from the family except a mere nothing from another colored girl who was at the Palmer house when the shooting occurred. Messrs. Siler and Barber represented the defence and contended that the shooting was accidental. The most important witness was a little sister who hardly was intellectual enough to make a good witness, but who nevertheless told her story pretty straight.

This was the last case on the criminal docket likely to be tried. Some civil cases were set for trial, but it is hardly likely that the court will continue throughout the week.

### TO THE ESTATE OF MRS. W. D. HOOKER:

This is to notify you that 116 acres of land located in Hickory Mountain Township, Chatham county, North Carolina, listed in your name, was sold for taxes for the year 1924 at the court house door in Pittsboro on September 6th, 1926, when the undersigned became the purchaser thereof and holds receipt therefor. Unless such taxes, cost and interest, as by law provided, be paid to me, I will as soon hereafter, as by law permitted to do, apply to the Sheriff of Chatham County for a deed therefor.

This May the 12th, 1927.  
A. D. DORSETT.  
June 2, 4tc.

## MONCURE NEWS

The Girl Scouts, under the supervision of Mesdames J. V. Davernport and T. R. Wilkie, gave a play entitled, "Aunt Jerushy on the War Path," last Friday evening at the school auditorium. It was amusing all through and each character presented her part well. On account of the storm that evening, many stayed at home, but twenty dollars was realized. They have been asked to put it on here again in the near future. They are also planning to give it at Deep River school in about three weeks.

"Mrs. Tubbs Does Her Bit of Shanty Town" is the name of the play that will be given by the B. Y.P.U. at the school auditorium next Friday evening, June 17th. Everybody is cordially invited. The proceeds will be for the benefit of the Baptist church. This play will be under the supervision of Miss Lillie Hackney.

Miss Virginia Cathell left today for Fredericksburg, Va., where she will attend the summer school at the State Teachers' College.

We are glad the college girls and boys have come home for the summer.

Misses Catherine Thomas, Pauline Ray and Catherine Hackney reached home last Tuesday from the State Teachers' College, Fredericksburg, Va. They stopped over at Washington, D. C., Monday.

Miss Ruth Kennedy, who was a student at Salem College, Winston-Salem last year, received a beautiful gold bar-pin for being the neatest, most obedient and best all-round student at that college last year. She is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Kennedy.

Miss Christine Lassiter, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. S. Lassiter, spent Monday at Aberdeen with Miss Elizabeth Farrell who has a position with The Page-Trust Company.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Thomas and daughter, Miss Catherine, spent Sunday at Apex visiting Mrs. Tom Womble. They went to hear Cyclone Mack last Sunday evening where 2000 people had gathered for the evening service.

Mrs. Ella Speed will leave tomorrow for Washington, D. C., where she will spend a few days with her sister, Grace, who lives there.

Miss Mary Clegg who taught last year and for the last four years in the High Point graded schools is now with her brother, Mr. A. B. Clegg, while her sister, Mrs. Speed, is visiting in Washington.

Mr. W. C. Farrell, the carrier of Rt. 1, has been taking his vacation for the past twelve days. Mr. J. Lee Harmon has been substituting for him.

Moncure seems to be a boom again. Much traffic Main street. Steel and other gravel and dirt are being hauled for the new bridge, one over Haw River and one over Deep river. Many new men have arrived to work on the bridges. Mr. Clifton Currin of Southern Pines and others came in this week.

Masters Sam and John Womble, Herbert Hilliard and Mack Womble were taken to Hamlet last Friday where Dr. James removed their tonsils. They returned Sunday and are getting on nicely.

Rev. C. M. Lance preached the good sermons at the Methodist church last Sunday. His subject for the morning was "Christian Education," and his subject for the evening service was "The Rules of the Church."

The Epworth League held regular meeting last Sunday evening. The president, Miss Ann Lambeth was present and also secretary, Miss Lois Ray.

Misses Annie Lambeth and Cile Brady are planning to give "The Epworth League" at Louisburg, June 25th and 26th. The subject for the evening was, "Poems that speak to the Soul." Several members of the league were on the program and responded with poems and psalms.

(Continued on page 3)