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No 4

FIRED FATAL SHOT.

Wife Held For Murder Of Husband.

ANTI-MORTEM STATEMENT COMPLICATES CASE.

Mrs. Ethel Barentine Blair Held For
The Murder of Her Husband in Colum-
bia, S. C.

On Thursday of last week Mrs. Ethel Barentine Blair, wife of McCulley Wellons Blair, a conductor running from Laurens to Columbia, S. C., shot and killed her husband in their home in Columbia.

The tragedy has created quite a sensation in Columbia and throughout North and South Carolina. The ante mortem statement of the dying man, who lived only half an hour after the shooting, was that his wife had shot him because he got after her about being too intimate with a passenger conductor by the name of Arms. He said he went into his wife's room on returning from his run in the afternoon and took a seat and commenced to quarrel with her about the alleged intimacy, when she picked up a pistol and shot him. (The pistol was one Mr. Claud West, her nephew, had given her about three years ago.) He said there was no scuffle; they were quarrelling, not fighting.

Mrs. Blair was examined before the coroner's jury, who returned a verdict holding that Mrs. Blair killed her husband. Her statement was a lengthy one, and in it she declares that there was nothing said about any man, but that her husband came home very much intoxicated and began to quarrel with her, as was his custom on many other occasions when he was drunk. She was sustained in part of her statement by her niece, Miss Manning West, who lives with her, while she was sustained in some parts and contradicted in others by Mrs. Neill, a lady boarder in the house. A colored woman who was a cook attempted to corroborate her statements, but was contradicted by the other witnesses whose names are mentioned. Mrs. Blair says her husband cursed and tried to get the pistol to shoot her and she got it before he could; that he was quarrelling with her because she had not paid a bill.

Mrs. Blair's mother, Mrs. Cynthia Blair, who lives in Asheboro and will be 73 years old the 20th of next August, together with Mr. C. A. Blair, of Ramseur, went to Columbia on last Friday and returned with the corpse of the dead man on Saturday afternoon's train. The funeral services were held at the M. E. church on Sunday afternoon at one o'clock, Rev. N. R. Richardson performing the funeral ceremony. Alex. B. Blair, a brother, who married a sister of the woman who was alleged to have done the killing and who is yard conductor of Danville, accompanied the remains from Atlanta; also railroad conductor Claud West, a son of Mrs. Jennie West, another sister who recently died.

Conductor Arms runs on a passenger train from Columbia through North Carolina every day, and was the conductor who took up the ticket of the mother of the deceased when she went to the side of her dead son on last Friday.

The dead man is a son of the late Mr. R. S. Blair and Mrs. Cynthia Blair, and was born and reared eight miles south east of Asheboro near Holly Springs, and was 48 years old. He has been engaged in railroading for 25 years or more. Tom Blair, who was conductor on '97 and killed near Danville three years ago, was one of his brothers; also Alex. B. Blair and C. A. Blair; Mrs. B. L. Mahaley, of Salisbury; Mrs. B. V. Kivett, of Ramseur; Mrs. C. E. Allen, of Empire and Mrs. John C. Ingold, of Asheboro, are his sisters.

The dead man was formerly a passenger conductor in North Carolina running from Charlotte to Washington, and was one of the best known and most popular conductors on the road. Several years ago he married Ethel Barentine who was a sister of his brother Alex's wife and lived with her in Salisbury at that time. She was a beautiful woman and all went well for a while. Finally there was trouble between Mr. and Mrs. Blair which resulted later in their separation. Mrs. Blair lived in Spencer for

several years running a boarding house. Four or five years ago she moved from Spencer to Salisbury. After the trouble with his wife Mr. Blair, it is said, contracted the habit of drinking and lost his job as conductor on the Southern. He went to South Carolina and was employed by another railroad. It is said he would go to Salisbury once a year to see his wife, probably often, and stay a week. During this time his wife did not enjoy the reputation of being an upright woman, and no gentleman who cared for his reputation was ever caught in her company. She is still not an unattractive woman, although she shows some marks of dissipation as she has for many years, it is said, drunk whiskey regularly. For the last three years she and her husband have been living together in Columbia, and she has been keeping boarders. She is a daughter of Rev. Duncan Barentine who was a local minister and lived near the Salisbury road four miles west of Asheboro, and was a member of what is known as the Charlotte M. P. Church between Asheboro and the county home. Mr. and Mrs. Barentine moved from Cheraw, S. C., to Salisbury for several years in this county, but moved 20 years or more ago to Greensboro, where both died leaving three girls.

The parents of the deceased and all the members of his family stand high in the community. He was a mason and belonged to one or more railway brotherhoods.

During the half hour in which he lived after the shooting his mind was perfectly clear and he talked until he reached the hospital and prayed for his wife and children. He left two children, a little girl aged 12 years and a boy aged 9 years. He requested that the song, "Blest be the tie that binds," be sung at his funeral, and it was his request that he be buried in Asheboro.

100TH ANNIVERSARY.

The Randolph Chapter of Daughters of
the Confederacy Observe
Lee's Birth.

The 100th anniversary of the birth of General Robert E. Lee was appropriately celebrated at the academy last Friday night under the auspices of the Randolph Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Col. A. C. McAllister read several tributes to Lee. Among them were Cardinal Woolsey and Benj. H. Hills, the latter considered one of the prettiest tributes ever paid to any man.

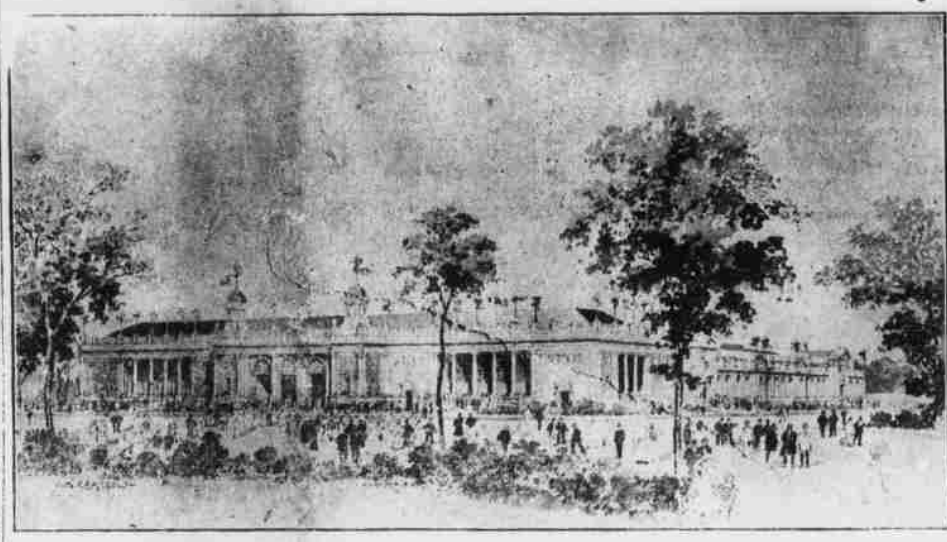
"He was a foe without hate, a friend without treachery, a soldier without cruelty; a victor without oppression, and a victim without murmuring; He was a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile. He was a Caesar without his tyranny; Frederick without his tyranny; Napoleon without his selfishness; and Washington without his reward."

Lee's farewell address to the Confederate army was also read. His favorite hymn, "How Firm a Foundation" was sung by the audience and Mrs. Kephart sang, "Come unto Me." Mr. Archibald Johnson, editor of Charity and Children, was the orator of the occasion, and his address was interesting and instructive. He spoke particularly of Lee as a man, compared him to Washington and held him up as an example for all school children. He urged the parents to teach their children to honor the memory of Lee and all Confederate veterans, and insisted that the Daughters of the Confederacy and the teachers in the schools impress upon the minds of the children the many commendable traits of Robert E. Lee.

There was a large and attentive audience out to participate in this, the first public meeting of the Randolph Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

Asheboro Furniture Company.

The stockholders in the Asheboro Furniture Company held their meeting in the company's office last week. The company did a good business last year and the usual dividend was declared. The directors of the company are Messrs. P. H. Morris, B. Moffitt, Dr. F. E. Asbury, W. F. Redding, and W. J. Scarboro. P. H. Morris is president, W. J. Scarboro, vice president, and J. S. Lewis secretary and treasurer.



State's Exhibit Palace, Jamestown Exposition, Norfolk, Va.

MINING IN RANDOLPH.

Several Machines Recently Installed
Doing Successful Work—Capitalists
Active.

Com. unicated.

There appears to be a general revival in mining in Randolph county and parties from different points of the North are now with us almost continually looking up mining properties.

This is attributed to the success met with at various points, with what is known as the Snodgrass Gold Washing Machine. All ready several machines are now at work with success and several more are now going in as soon as they can be completed. This machine is supplying a long felt want, as Randolph county is noted for its vast bodies of low grade ore.

This machine with a capacity of 200 tons of this soft ore each 24 hours, makes it a paying investment when it is 50 per cent per ton of the gold is saved.

At numerous points in this county there are vast bodies of this low grade ore that will average from \$1.00, \$2.00 to \$3.00 per ton. So you can draw your own conclusions when it is a known fact that from 50 to 75 per cent of the gold can and is being saved.

GOLD AND SILVER.

Iola Mine in Montgomery Supports
State's Output—Most Important in
South.

Director Chas. D. Walcott, of the United States Geological Survey, reports as follows on the production of Gold and Silver in the Southern States:

The Southern Appalachian States, including Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, maintained during 1905 an aggregate output of \$380,500 in gold and of 110,300 fine ounces in silver, valued at \$67,283. The most striking changes from 1904 were an increase in silver from the copper ores of Tennessee and a decrease of gold in South Carolina. Increased activity in quartz mining was noted from Alabama and Maryland. In North Carolina many mines productive in 1904 were closed, but the yield from the Iola mine, in Montgomery county, compensated for this. At present the two most important gold mines in the South are the Hale, of South Carolina, and the Iola, of North Carolina.

W. H. BADGETT DEAD.

Was Grandfather of Mrs. J. T. Wood,
of Asheboro—Aged 90 Years.

Last week Mr. W. H. Badgett, of Jackson Hill, died at his home there. He was in his 90th year. He leaves a wife and one son, Mr. C. L. Badgett, Mrs. H. C. Byrum, Coolmees, and Mr. J. T. Wood, of Asheboro, married a grand daughter of Mr. Badgett. The funeral was conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, at Cool Springs. Mr. Badgett was a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Badgett was one of the best men in Davidson county. In many ways he was a most remarkable man. He was very strong intellectually, and had a fine memory. By profession he was a surveyor.

TWO SPEAKERS ARE INVITED.

J. A. Holmes, State Geologist and
J. Van Lindley of Greensboro.

MAY ADDRESS THE MEETING IN FEBRUARY.

Organization of County Good Roads
Association Perfected—Legislative
Committee Appointed to Draft Bill.

First Monday in February.

This is the date of the next meeting of the Good Roads Association of Randolph county.

At a meeting of the officers of the Association held Monday night in the office of the secretary, the organization was perfected by the election of S. W. Lau hin, first vice president; R. R. Ross, second vice president; G. G. Hendricks, vice president for Asheboro township and W. J. Scarboro, vice president for Asheboro. The other townships left open at the last meeting will be appointed at the February meeting.

A legislative committee has been appointed to draft a bill to be presented to the legislature as follows: Wm. C. Hammer, G. G. Hendricks and H. M. Robins. This bill will be submitted to the February meeting of the Association for ratification.

President McAllister, at the instance of executive committee and officers of the association, has issued an invitation to Prof. J. A. Holmes, State Geologist, and J. Van Lindley, of the Guilford county road commission, to be present on that day and address the public of Randolph.

These gentlemen are probably the best posted in the State on economic road work and will talk interestingly to every one present.

Begin now to talk the meeting at the Courthouse the first Monday in February to your friends and let it develop the largest public assembly of progressive citizens of Randolph ever held. Commercially, agriculturally and for home comfort, this movement means more than all else, and should be heartily supported by every public spirited, progressive citizen of the county.

DEATH AT ARCHDALE.

Mrs. Winston Died Suddenly from acute
Attack of Heart Disease.

Mrs. Winston Blair died suddenly at her home at Archdale Sunday about noon from an attack of acute heart disease. The funeral was conducted Tuesday from the home, the interment being at Springfield.

Mrs. Blair was 53 years old, and a daughter of Mr. Duncan White. She is survived by her husband, a sister in Pennsylvania, and one brother, who resides in Thomasville. She was an estimable woman and had the affection and regard of relatives and friends.

James Hartness, 50 or 60 years old, surrendered to Guilford's sheriff at Greensboro a few days ago, confessing that 10 years ago he stole a horse from Sheriff Wyckoff, of Iredell county. Being of dodging he surrendered himself to the authorities.

FATAL AFFRAY.

Young White Man Stabbed Another At
High Point Saturday.

Walter Hedspech is under arrest at High Point charged with causing the death on Sunday, of James Church. They engaged in a quarrel Saturday morning in the yard of the Tomlinson Chair Co., during which the former stabbed Church with a knife, death following on Sunday at the Junior Order Hospital.

Hedspech was arrested at Kernersville. His brother, William, who, it said, began the quarrel, was arrested at Greensboro, where he had gone to meet his brother, and is being detained as an accessory. The young men were given a hearing yesterday afternoon.

Case Moved to Iredell.

The case against Della Dillingham, Henry Lea, and Geo. Irvin, the three defendants who were not lynched at Salisbury on the night of August 6th, 1906, by consent has been removed from Stanly county to Iredell county, where it will be called for trial on Wednesday, January 31st. At the September term of Rowan Superior Court, the trial of these defendants was on motion of the defendants moved to Stanly county for trial at the January term which convened on Wednesday of last week. As this was only a term of one week and the docket was an unusually large one, it was agreed that the case be removed to Iredell county, where it is more convenient to all parties.

PROGRESSIVE ETHER.

Patrons of Ether Academy Want Special
Tax for Better School.

Prof. J. M. Way delivered an address at Ether Academy last Wednesday night in the interest of a special school tax for that district. The citizens of that section are contemplating this action with a view of making Ether Academy a graded school. Prof. Way spoke of the condition of the school, of which Prof. J. N. Cagle, of Grant township, this county is principal, in glowing terms.

Returning Prof. Way visited the schools in the southern part of the county and report them in a thriving condition.

Subscriptions Paid.

L. P. Craven, M. A. Cagle, R. M. Cox, H. B. Wall, E. B. Johnson, P. M. Julian, G. H. Hardin, James A. Ellis, C. W. Hilliard, Mrs. W. C. York, Robert Hance, D. Amos, John Dickson, A. H. Cox, Edmore Presnell, Ida Corbush, Miss Bertha Burgess, Prof. N. C. English, C. H. Davis, W. E. Branson, Rev. B. F. Hargett, W. O. Hartie, Henry Garner, A. W. Nixon, O. D. Bean, Shabal Farlow, J. W. Luther, R. C. Lambert, C. W. Birkhead, T. J. Steed, W. C. Presnell, Dr. A. H. Caviness, Josiah Frazier, D. W. Mosier, Mrs. Alice Stanley.

Last Sunday at the home of P. A. Routh, in Providence township, Ernest Routh and Miss Annie Linnberry, both of Grace Chapel, were married.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The Busiest Session Ever Known at
Raleigh.

RAILROADS UNDER CONSID- ERATION.

Reduced Rates Met by Strong Opposi-
tion—Anti-Trust Bill in Hands of
Senate Judiciary Committee—
Asylum Case Landed.

Gorman News Bureau,
Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 21, 07.

The third week's work of the General Assembly began today at noon with every prospect of a busy week and the chances are that several of the most important public bills to claim the attention of the lawmakers this session will receive attention in one or the other of the two branches of the legislature.

Among these is the Aycock anti-trust bill is rigid one. The measure will provoke debate in both houses after it leaves the committee room.

The important bills introduced early in the session by Senator Graham and others to regulate railway operation and reduce the rates of transportation and for other purposes will be considered by the senate committee on railroads the latter part of this week and will consume several days of the sittings of that committee before reaching the senate floor. Representatives of the several railway companies will be here from a distance with statistical facts and other figures, access to which is essential to the committee in dealing intelligently and justly with the corporations in perfecting the provisions of the bills.

There appears to be a largely shared disposition among the legislators, so far as the road justment of passenger rates is concerned, to make the first class fare two and a half cents maximum. There is some talk of abolishing the second class coach entirely, but I have noticed that there has developed considerable opposition to this policy within the last week. As some of the lawmakers have stated to me a class of people would take offense if that was done although under the 2-1-2 cent rate they could ride first class for less than they now pay for the inferior second class accommodations. They would demand a second class rate in reduced proportion, say to two cents, and therefore it is altogether probable that the bill when finally passed will contain that provision. Besides, I have heard senators say lately that the second class coach is necessary.

The important bills affecting the life insurance business that have so far been introduced are in the hands of the committees and they will probably not come up in the senate proper this week.

The bills affecting child labor in cotton mills and other factories will also be deferred till later in the session. During the past week and after consuming three days ended Friday night in the adjournal of the assembly charged with the death of the patient Nal. Judge Jones, however, in commenting in open court, stated that while the verdict was in accordance with the evidence, which was not sufficient to convict the indicted men of a murder, the evidence also clearly showed that the treatment which the patient received was "brutal and horrible." That is strong language and Judge Jones is a man that weighs his words. Still the treatment referred to was probably chargeable to the attendants and cannot properly be laid directly at the door of the superintendents and management of the institution. The latter ought, however, in all reason, to draw the check on a little tighter on attendants after this, and that will in all probability be done.

At the Sabbath Observance Convention in Greensboro last week President Kilgus, of Trinity College, delivered a remarkably fine address. Trinity Y. M. C. A., elected officers for the new year with W. V. McKee president.

Stock holders in the Greensboro Loan and Trust Co. held their annual session Thursday. S. Bryant, of Randleman, occupied the chair. The president's report showed the net earnings for 1906 to be 19 per cent. The board of directors was re-elected. Among its members are W. H. Watkins of Ramseur; O. R. Cox, of Asheboro and S. Bryant, of Randleman.