

TRAGEDY COMES TO LIGHT MR. J. M. STALEY MURDERED

FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED—WARRANTS ISSUED.

Injured Man Was Unconscious When Found and Did Not Regain Consciousness—Warrants Issued for Jacob Coble and Hiram Coble and a Negro Named Albert Ryan.

Mr. John M. Staley, whose home was about one half mile from Julian, was taken to Greensboro last Thursday afternoon and placed in St. Leo's Hospital, where he died Friday morning. Mr. Staley was an unmarried man and lived with his brother's family. He was a painter by trade and his age was 50 years.

He left home Saturday night and was found at the home of Jacob Coble, a short distance from Julian, Sunday afternoon. When found he was unconscious, his skull having been horribly crushed by some sort of blunt instrument. His brother learned of the wounded man's presence at Coble's home by the fact that Coble had sent one of his children after a physician to attend him. He did not regain consciousness. When placed in the hospital an operation was performed on his head in the hope of saving his life, but to no avail.

Foul play is suspected and warrants were issued in Guilford county for the arrest of Jacob Coble and his son, Hiram Coble, and a negro named Albert Ryan. According to the officers they went to Coble's home about three miles from Julian, Friday and interviewed Mrs. Coble. She stated that she and her husband heard a noise on their porch Sunday night and on getting up found Staley in an unconscious condition. They did what they could to relieve his sufferings. Later they left and going to Ryan's home several hundred yards distant secreted themselves upstairs. Soon Mrs. Coble came in and she and the negro discussed the whole affair. According to the conversation the affair was about like this. Staley, her husband and son, and possibly others were at her home Sunday afternoon drinking and carousing. A dispute arose and Hiram Coble struck Staley across the head. Staley was then carried to a point in the woods nearby by the two Cobles and Ryan and then brought back to the house.

On last Saturday Messrs. Jacob Coble and Albert Ryan, a colored man, were lodged in jail to await their trial to be held yesterday afternoon for the murder of J. M. Staley. It is stated that Wade Coble, the husband of the woman, was the one who struck the blow which killed Staley.

Albert Ryan, at the coroner's inquest, said substantially: Sunday night about 10 o'clock Wade Coble came to my house and asked me to come and help him carry a man home who was hurt. I left with him immediately, and on the way to the spot he told me that he and John Staley had been in the woods gambling all Sunday afternoon; that Staley was \$9 winner and wanted to quit, and they had a fuss about it, Wade accusing Staley of being a "quitter." They fussed for awhile and then started to the Coble home, but on the way renewed the quarrel and Staley attempted to cut Wade with a knife, whereupon Wade hit him with a bottle, which was wrapped up in a sack, and knocked him down, also smashing the bottle. We reached the spot where Staley lay, continued Ryan, and Mrs. Coble was sitting by him with a lantern. Ryan explained this by stating that on the way Coble had told him that the old man (Jacob Coble) wouldn't come to help carry the body home when he went for help, and that Mrs. Coble came along to hold the light, but when they arrived they found Staley was hurt worse than they thought, so had to get more help.

Continuing, he said they carried him to the Coble home and he heard little more about it until Monday afternoon, when he was told the doctor had been there and said it was doubtful if Staley recovered.

Another version of the tragedy also names Coble as the murderer, but puts the matter in a different light. This version is that on Sunday afternoon Wade Coble and John Staley, in company with some eight or ten others, were in the woods gambling, drinking and carousing, that a dispute arose about a "pot,"

and Wade Coble struck Staley in the head with a bottle, the crowd dispersing to the four winds. This version, which it is said is given by a man who will swear to it at the preliminary hearing, states further that Wade Coble went home, got his father, mother and the negro Ryan and went back to see how Staley was getting along. Seeing that he was badly hurt, they decided to carry him to the house and put up the tale that he came in some time during the night.

At this writing, Wade Coble and his father are still at large. J. M. Staley lived in Liberty township in this county. The murder occurred just across Guilford line in Clay township.

The deceased is a brother of Dr. A. P. Staley, of High Point and has several brothers in this county.

The Neighborhood.

The neighborhood in which the tragedy occurred has borne a bad reputation for some time, for while there are a number of good citizens residing throughout the district, it is said they are afraid to report any lawlessness or even testify against the bad element of the citizenship when placed on the stand in court. It is said by a resident of Clay township that the Coble's neighborhood has been a rendezvous for drinkers and gamblers for several years and that drunken carousals on Sundays are regular occurrences. It is about 10 miles from the place where Mrs. Lydia Newman was foully murdered about eight months ago and about eight miles from the scene of the murder of Simpson Coble about four months ago. One gentleman from the neighborhood sized the situation up in the following manner: "There are two bad gangs; one afraid of the other and the better class of citizens afraid of both, hence nothing has ever been done to stop the lawlessness."

A Buxom Woman.

Mrs. Jacob Coble, who is in jail charged with complicity in the murder, refuses to talk of the affair, though the officers admit that she was overheard to say that Wade Coble struck the fatal blow. She is a striking woman, appears to be about 45 years old and has an unusually pleasant face, though her eyes have a doubtful appearance. She is said to be a "terror" in the neighborhood.

Another Version.

Another version of the tragedy also names Coble as the murderer, but puts the matter in a different light. This version is that on Sunday afternoon Wade Coble and John Staley, in company with some eight or ten others, were in the woods gambling, drinking and carousing, that a dispute arose about a "pot,"

MURDERS CHILD AND MOTHER-IN-LAW—COMMITTS SUICIDE.

Also Fires Upon His Wife—Family Troubles The Cause.

Had Only Recently Been United After Separation of Months—Son of Clerk of Court and Member Prominent McDowell Family.

At the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Lucy Bird, in McDowell county on last Thursday, Charlie Morris shot and instantly killed Mrs. Bird and his own 2-year-old child and then walked about half a mile and shot himself, dying in thirty minutes.

The Morris has been married about three years, separating several months ago, but had lived together again for four weeks. On the day before the tragedy Mrs. Morris wanted to go and spend the night with her mother, who was ill and who lived a mile away. Her husband objected at first, then agreed, but that she must not take the child. Mrs. Morris finally persuaded him to let her take the child and left her husband in apparently good humor.

Next morning Morris appeared at the Bird home and seeing his wife first, without saying a word, knocked her down and fired two or three shots from his pistol at her. He went into his mother in law's room, fired five shots into her body, killing her instantly, then picked up the child, who was the only one in the room with its grandmother, carried it into an adjoining room, laid it on the floor and fired three shots, each bullet going entirely through the child's body and into the floor.

Morris then, after loading his pistol, walked down the public road in the direction of his own home. When he had gone about half the distance between the Bird home and his own, he met two men in a buggy. He said to the men that everything he owned now belonged to his uncle, stepped a few feet away, took the pistol out of his pocket and before the men realized his intentions, shot himself one time through the head, dying in thirty minutes without regaining consciousness.

When Morris knocked his wife down and shot at her, he, of course, thought she was dead, but none of the shots took effect. Mrs. Morris however, was stunned by the blow on her head. As soon as she recovered she ran for assistance, realizing at once that her husband intended to kill her mother and child, but before she could find anyone he had finished his work and gone away. Mr. Bird was not at home at the time.

All parties are prominent and well-to-do, Morris being a nephew of Clerk of the Superior Court, Thomas Morris, of Marion. No cause other than jealousy of his wife's people is known for the act.

MR. PARKER TO FARMERS.

Speech of Much Merit During the Noon Recess of Court Last Tuesday.

One of the best speeches of an agricultural nature ever made in the county was delivered last Tuesday in the courthouse during the noon intermission of court by Capt. T. B. Parker, Chief Farm Demonstrator, of North Carolina. Capt. Parker is a speaker of real ability, and his effort showed that he knows his subject well. The farmers of the county have been fortunate recently in having some of the best talent in the State to tell them more about good farming, and if they do not improve the opportunity, they are in fault themselves.

Capt. Parker discussed, in a general way, better farming by men and also the introduction of better methods to boys. This, he said, should be done by the organization of boys' corn clubs. Better preparation of the soil, and better seed selection, with the proper fertilization of the land, were the principal topics of the address.

Capt. Parker has charge of the institute work in the State. Among other things he promised the president of the local organization of Farmers' Institute that he would arrange for Randolph to have three institutes this year instead of one, as has been the case.

Special Term of Court for Davidson County.

There will be a special term of court for the trial of criminal cases for Davidson county beginning April 18th, Judge E. B. Jones presiding.

The annual meeting of the State Laundry Men was held at Greensboro last week.

THE MARCH CLOSING

There is only one more week in this month for you to work for one of the March special prizes. The vote for the entire month has been small and any one of the contestants may, by just one week's hard work, secure one of these monthly prizes. Start today and mail your list with remittance on March 31st.

LIST OF CONTESTANTS.

Mrs. A. B. Coltrane, Glenola	53,265
Miss Moleta Tow, Central Falls	51,017
Miss Mary White, Glenola	24,584
Miss Lizzie Cameron, Liberty	12,565
Miss Betty Shamburger, Hills Store	8,475
Miss Nellie Jordan, Trinity	7,731
Miss Beatie Farmer, Randleman	7,122
Miss Maud Curtis, Ramseur	6,601
Miss Effie Pressell, Michfield	6,519
Miss Lena Cole, Dewey	6,151
Miss Emma Pierce, Seagrave	4,976
Miss Alice Byrnes, Ramseur	2,200
Miss Bertha Lock, Seagrave, Route 2	3,501
Miss Maud Miller, Fulcrs, Route 1	2,550
Miss Maud Foushee, Staley	2,200
Miss Stella Kell, Troy	2,200
Miss Maggie Albertson, Trinity	2,020
Miss Ida Cox, Raleigh	2,000
Miss Effie Harvell, Abner	2,343
Miss Mary Stuart, Franklinville	1,800
Miss Cora Vancannon, Seagrave	1,502
Miss Ida Cox, Raleigh	1,901
Miss Mollie Prater, Franklinville	951
Miss Myrtle Pugh, Asheboro, Route 1	800
Miss Lydia Lassiter, Lenoir	416
Miss Linnie Dorsett, Farmer	416
Miss Nannie Hill, Rachel	400
Miss Lola Traylor, Asheboro, Route 1	404
Miss Mamie Ella, Millboro	404

SEED CORN DAYS.

Meeting at Farmer Next Saturday, March 26th, and a Second Meeting at Flint Hill, Saturday April 2nd, 1910.

Two more seed corn meetings have been arranged for the county. The first will be held at Farmer next Saturday afternoon, March 26th. This meeting will be open to all the people in the southwestern part of the county. A large attendance is desired. The meeting will be open at one o'clock in the afternoon.

The second meeting will be held at Flint Hill on the following Saturday, April 2nd. All people in the northwestern part of the county are invited. A particular invitation is extended to the people in Back Creek and Tabernacle townships. Farmers, their wives, and the boys and girls should be present. This meeting will open at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

Prof. I. O. Schaub, of Raleigh, has been invited to come and present the work of young people's clubs. Mr. Schaub is an authority on the selection of seed corn. At present he is engaged in organizing boys' clubs in various parts of the State.

Such questions as the preparation of the soil, the selection of seed, and the cultivation of the crop will be presented. Also there will be a practical seed-corn test. Farmers should bring 10 or 15 ears of corn in order to show the test thoroughly. The county farm demonstrator and the county superintendent of schools will be present. Other speakers also have been invited.

C. R. Thomas Loses Suit.

At last August term of Davidson Superior Court C. R. Thomas, a Thomasville druggist, was fined by Judge Long \$75 and costs in three cases against him for selling cocaine to Anson county negroes, who ordered the drug by mail.

The State Board of Pharmacy, acting under a refection of the law providing for it, revoked the license of Mr. Thomas as a pharmacist.

Mr. Thomas recently brought mandamus proceedings to compel the State Board of Pharmacy to grant him druggist's license. After hearing argument last week Judge Biggs dismissed the proceedings.

Death of S. M. Hornady.

Mr. S. M. Hornady, a prominent citizen of Alamance county, died at his home in Burlington last Sunday night, aged 45 years. The cause of Mr. Hornady's death was pneumonia. He is survived by the widow, formerly Mrs. Emma Pugh, of Greensboro, one daughter and three sons.

Birthday Celebration.

The children, grandchildren, relatives and a number of friends met at Mr. S. F. Pugh's home at Millboro on Wednesday, March the 9th to celebrate Mrs. Pugh's sixty-seventh birthday. A number were present and all thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Murder at Lexington.

Henry Moore, a barber at Lexington, and who lived in Asheboro for a few months less than a year ago and was engaged as a barber by Ray Edmundson while here, shot and killed Henry Hawkins, another negro at Lexington on Monday of this week.

INTEREST IN AGRICULTURE AND IN DOMESTIC SCIENCE.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CLUBS WELL ORGANIZED.

Over 100 Boys in Boys' Corn Contest—Numbers of Girls Being Enrolled in Girls' Home Culture Clubs—Valuable Prizes to be Given—Boys and Girls Under 20 Allowed to Enter.

The boys and girls of Randolph County are becoming intensely interested in young people's club-work as proposed by the State Department of Education and as being organized by the County Superintendent of Schools. Already 125 boys have joined the corn clubs and about 25 girls have entered the girls' clubs. Randolph boys and girls are awaking to the best things and in this instance their progressive spirit is being shown.

This contest is open to boys and girls under twenty years of age. It makes no difference where a boy or girl lives, just so the residence be in the county, he or she is eligible to enter the contest and compete for the prizes that have been offered. That the people are interested in the boys and girls is evidenced by the valuable gifts that have already been arranged. The merchants of Asheboro, and also those of Liberty have been liberal and a fine array of prizes has been offered. In the meetings last week in Coleridge and Richland, valuable township prizes were raised.

Some of The Prizes Already Arranged.

The prizes for boys have already been published. It might be well to repeat that to the boy under twenty years old who makes the highest yield of corn on an acre of land a prize of \$25.00 will be given. The second highest yield will warrant a prize of \$15.00; and the third highest, a prize of \$10. A prize of \$25.00 will also be given to the boy in the county who makes the greatest profit on an acre of land in corn. This is done in order to encourage boys to grow corn at the lowest possible cost. Prizes have already been announced for boys living within ten miles of Liberty. In another column, under another head, will appear a statement of prizes offered to the boys of Coleridge and Richland Townships.

The Girls' Home Culture Clubs.

This name has been given to the girls' clubs because it is sufficiently comprehensive to include all that is to be done by girls contest. The work is more varied than that of boys' clubs. Contests have been arranged in Poultry, Canning, Sewing and Cooking. A running statement of each appears below.

Whenever a girl signifies her intention of entertaining the club, she may participate in any or all of these contests, and win prizes in any or all. To illustrate: a girl may enter the club and compete for poultry prizes and also for canning and sewing and even cooking prizes; or she may not engage in any other contest than the one she prefers to work in.

Poultry Clubs.

Girls who enter the poultry clubs will be expected to take a setting of eggs (12) and with the one hen get the best results obtainable. She will be expected to begin the work not later than May 10th and the results will be recorded October 25th. The prizes will be awarded on the merits of the records kept, the breed of fowl, the total weight of flock on October 25th, and the condition of fowls on exhibit. The girl making the best showing will be awarded a prize of \$15.00. The second best will receive a prize of \$8.00; and the third best, a prize of \$4.00. More complete details concerning poultry clubs will be furnished on application to the office of the County Superintendent.

Canning Clubs.

A prize of \$10.00 will be given for the best exhibit of canned goods. This exhibit will consist of every variety of canning products. A prize of \$5.00 will be given for second best exhibit. The prizes will be awarded on the basis of the largest exhibit of different canned products, the neatness of the work, and other points of excellence necessary to come in a case of this kind.

Sewing Clubs.

A prize of \$3.00 will be awarded for the best collection of the following articles: (Best plain handkerchief, best laundry bag, best fancy apron and best gingham sofa pillow.

For the second best exhibit of these same articles a prize of \$2.00 will be given.

Prizes of \$1.00 will be given for the best exhibit, in each case, of the following articles:

- (1) Best large table napkin.
- (2) Best pair pillow cases, hem-stitched.
- (3) Best large gingham sleeved apron.
- (4) Best pair hemmed linen towels.

Cooking Clubs.

A prize of \$3.00 will be given for the best loaf of bread baked by directions to be submitted later. A second prize of \$2.00 will be given for the second best exhibit of bread. More complete directions as to making bread will be issued later.

A prize of \$1.00 will be given in each case for the best half dozen sugar cookies and also for the best molasses cookies. Prizes of 50 cents will be given in each case for the second best exhibit of cookies. In this case more complete directions will be issued later. Also some other contests may be arranged.

Plan For County Exhibit In Fall.

It is the generally accepted idea that in order to carry this work forward as a part of the work of the schools, it is necessary to have an annual exhibit of the work that may be done. Therefore, arrangements are being made for a county exhibit of the articles prepared by the girls, of the poultry and canning, and also of specimens of the corn grown by the boys. This exhibit will be in Asheboro about the middle of November.

Young People Urged to Enter The Contest.

It has been stated above that boys and girls under twenty years old will be allowed to enter these clubs. We have a good number now, but we want, and confidently expect, twice as many in the county. All boys and girls who enter will have an opportunity of winning prizes, but of far greater worth will be the actual experience in doing this kind of work. Parents are requested to arrange for their boys and girls to enter. Send the names and addresses to me and full particulars will be furnished. Just write me a card and state the name and address and also the club one desires to enter. This contest for boys will be closed May 10th. The contest for girls will be open later. It is a good plan to send names early, in order that directions may be furnished and also that the names may be put on the mailing list for the government bulletins and other publications which will be furnished absolutely without cost to all young people who enter the clubs.

The Work of The School.

There are those who doubt the propriety of this work. Some have even ventured to suggest that this is no part of the work of a school man. The answer is to be found in the work being done in other places. Boys all over North Carolina are entering the corn contests, and in every case, they are being organized by the school men. So far as I know no other county has taken the work among the girls. But the school men of the Middle West have these clubs for girls, and they are sure to come to the South. Why not Randolph lead the way? Why should we wait when we see a good thing? We are crying out for a more practical form of education, and this is the only form in which we are able to manage the system now. Let us begin the work, even on a small scale, and the time will soon come when we have these things in our high schools first and then a little later the system will be worked out for the ordinary elementary rural schools. These things must come if the schools are to meet the needs and conditions of the people. Let us have another 100 boys and also another 100 girls to join the clubs. Send the names early.

E. J. COLTRANE,
County Supt. of Schools.