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Varner Offers Testimony Prove Wife's Infidelity

Scores of Witnesses Testify in Behalf of Defendant —Improper Relations Alleged to Have Existed Between Mrs. Varner and Baxter McCrary For Several Years

The suit brought by Mrs. Florence C. Varner against her husband, Mr. H. B. Varner, a prominent newspaper and business man of Lexington, for "reasonable subsistence" from the estate of the defendant, in the United States District Court, is nearing an end. It began Tuesday of last week with Mrs. Varner going on the stand as the first witness in her suit for \$50,000.00 against her husband, whom she alleges, drove her from home a few days after citizens of Lexington had seen Baxter McCrary, a wealthy mulatto, enter Mr. Varner's premises on the night of August 9 of last year, while Mr. Varner was away from home, in New York. Mrs. Varner testified that the negro was a friend of her husband and came to the house often to see him and the old colored cook, 62 years old. She told of her marriage to Mr. Varner more than 20 years ago when she was only 17 years old. She testified that Fred O. Sink, who is connected with Mr. Varner in the newspaper business, and has been with him for more than 15 years, and others, came to her house on the night of August 9th, last, and told her she was in all kinds of trouble and asked her if Baxter McCrary was there. She said she gave them permission to search the house. They searched it but did not find McCrary. He was afterwards found under the house.

She said that Baxter McCrary had written articles for Mr. Varner's paper. She said she wrote various notes to her husband after he came from New York, protesting her innocence and requesting to see him, but that she was told by Major Phillips and others that Mr. Varner would not have any more.

The jury is composed of two citizens from Randolph, E. M. Byrd, of Kemp's Mills, and W. M. Motin, of Erect. After Mrs. Varner had proved good character by George Montcastle, the defendant examined something like 40 or more witnesses, Mr. Varner himself going on the stand and telling how he was wired by his friend, Sink, to come home and that Sink met him at Greensboro and told him about it, whereupon, Varner said to him: "Why did you not bring me a message that she was dead?" After a few days he agreed, with others, that after what had happened, if Mr. Varner wanted a divorce she would not oppose it, and, apparently, agreed to leave. Mr. Varner sent her \$200.00 for expense money to go to Salt Lake City, Utah, to her mother, and \$500.00 besides. This, with more than \$2800.00 Mrs. Varner had in the bank, was what she had to leave on.

O. P. Dickerson testified that on the night of July 21st, 1920, he saw McCrary make a sign to Mrs. Varner in front of the theatre. Afterwards, that night, he saw McCrary enter her premises of the Varner home from the rear, mount the steps at the back, and heard a door open and close. This was about ten o'clock and he remained in waiting until one o'clock in the morning when he saw McCrary leave the house. That the same thing occurred the two following nights and that there was no light in the house on either of the three nights while McCrary was in it. E. H. Holmes corroborated Dickerson as to the signs and motions in front of the theatre. C. P. Caudle saw McCrary, in August 1916, enter the Varner premises at night. Fred Sink told about how he warned Mrs. Varner and Baxter McCrary several years ago that people were talking about them and that McCrary must stay away from Varner's home. Rev. A. W. Plyler, O. V. Woolley, and a number of others testified to the good character of Mr. Varner. Charles Young and others testified about seeing McCrary enter the Varner premises on August 9th and hearing the back door open and shut. E. P. Barnhardt and D. B. Leonard testified much to the same effect.

One sensation after another has occurred in the progress of the defendant's evidence. Several witnesses tell of phone talks between Mrs. Varner and the negro, some of these conversations appearing to be in code form, although Mrs. Varner testified on the stand that she never called him over the phone in her life. Bob Redwin, Paul Grimes, Mrs. Mildred Anderson and Ed Beck were among the telephone operators who were positive as to the identity of Mrs. Varner's and the negro's voices in conversation over the phone. James Hall and others had seen cars late in the night drive up in front of the Varner residence when Mr. Varner was away from home, and a woman, who looked like and about the size of Mrs. Varner, would get out of the cars and go into the dwelling.

George Petty, a reputable citizen of Lexington, testified that he saw Mr. and Mrs. Varner on the night of August 9th, 1920, and that he saw Mrs. Varner talking to a man who he identified as Baxter McCrary.

NEW REVENUE AND FINANCE MEASURED IN LEGISLATURE

The new Finance Act was introduced in the lower house of the general assembly Tuesday night of this week. Somewhat drastic revision of the privilege and franchise sections of the tax levying bill brought the committee yesterday morning to where it was forced to recognize the necessity for a property tax for the equalization of the school fund in the counties. The joint committee underwent no less than a half dozen changes of front on this one issue before final draft of the bill was made.

Doughton is Cautious.

The necessity of a somewhat theoretical handling of the income tax law for the first two years of its operation has handicapped the committee in determining exactly the status of the state's probable revenues from that source. Representative Doughton, unwilling to jeopardize the finances of the state, insisted on a retention of the ad valorem tax until the income tax was definitely worked out on a satisfactory basis.

In brief the bill offered last night provides:

A levy of 50 cent poll tax by the counties for public schools.

A levy of five cents on the \$100 valuation of property to be used as an equalizing fund for weaker counties, to aid state high schools, the training of teachers and the payment of a part of the salaries of superintendents of county schools, and welfare officers.

No property tax is levied by the state for the upkeep of its institutions of higher education, its penal or custodial institutions.

The distinctive feature of the revenue bill is the new income tax law. The old act, taxing incomes from salaries and fees is continued for the year 1921 only, these incomes to be listed with list takers in the counties as heretofore, covering incomes from all sources for the calendar year of 1920. The new law provides for the taxing of incomes on the same basis as the present Federal law, on resident individuals, domestic corporations having a business or agency within the state.

Maximum Three Cents.

The tax on corporations is fixed at a flat rate of 3 per cent net on incomes, from which may be deducted the franchise tax as enacted at the special session, which is continued as the minimum tax.

The rate of tax as to individuals is graduated in regular \$2,500 brackets, from one per cent on the first \$2,500 to 3 per cent on \$10,000 and over, above the exemption, which are the same as for the Federal law, \$1,000 for unmarried and \$2,000 for married individuals, with \$500 additional for each child. The following deductions are allowed:

Taxes for the income year, except taxes on incomes and war profits, and excess profit taxes, and taxes assessed for local benefits tending to increase the value of the property assessed.

Dividends from stocks in any corporation the income from which shall have been assessed and tax on such income paid by the corporation under the provisions of the revenue act, provided that when they are only part of the income of any corporation shall have been assessed under the act only a corresponding part of the dividends received therefrom shall be deducted.

The administrative feature of the bill follows the general scheme of administration of the Federal income tax law on reports and remittances to be made to the State Tax Commission, with authority to appoint such district agents as are necessary for administration.

Soon after she entered the negro, McCrary, followed. Petty followed in a few minutes but was unable to locate them in the apartment house. Police-men W. L. Wray and E. B. Jeffries swore that the building in which Petty says Mrs. Varner entered, had the reputation, in 1915, of being a house of ill fame.

At the close of the defendant's testimony, Mrs. Varner went upon the stand and denied ever having any conversation over the telephone with McCrary and denied having been with him in Greensboro, but admitted seeing him at the station in 1915, when she went to Greensboro to do some shopping and attend to some business.

As The Courier goes to press the attorneys are arguing the case, and it will probably go to the jury this afternoon.

FRANKLINVILLE NEWS

Mr. J. G. Lewis and Miss Mattie M. Black were married last Tuesday evening at the residence of Rev. E. V. Bowen at Greensboro, Mr. Bowen officiating.

Mr. Lewis is engaged in the automobile painting business at Greensboro. Miss Black is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Black, of this place, and was one of our most charming young ladies and has many friends here who wish the happy couple long and useful lives. They will make their home at Greensboro.

Mr. R. D. Garrison went to Greensboro Wednesday, returning Thursday.

Mr. Warren Wright, of near Liberty was down Tuesday making arrangements to have the timber sawed on his land near M. L. Curtis.

Mr. C. S. Laughlin has moved to one of W. A. Grimes' residences near the shuttle block mill.

Mr. C. E. Teague, of Sanford, was up last week in the interest of the Sanford Roller Mill.

Messrs. W. E. Hughes and H. C. Tippet are drilling a well for Ed Williamson at his residence, on Island Ford street.

Mr. B. F. Craven, of Revolution, came down Friday.

Mr. Hazel Pilkenton made a trip to Greensboro Wednesday.

E. G. Price (col.) of Siler City, has put on a new coat of plaster on the walls of the M. E. church which adds very much to the appearance.

Mr. J. C. Marley left Monday morning for Greensboro, where he has accepted a position with Chambers Co.

Mr. H. G. Tippet has moved his family from Kivett residence to Craven residence on Alhred street.

Messrs. Walter McDaniel, Bennie Pilkenton, Frank Way and Hugh Manner made a trip to Greensboro Saturday.

Mr. Alson Woodell has moved to residence of Salem street recently vacated by Mrs. Bertha Poole.

Messrs. David Holladay, J. C. Ashley and Hugh Manner went to Asheville Saturday night.

Mr. Joe Tippet has moved from one of C. H. Hill's residences to E. L. Ellison's residence on north prong of Walnut Creek near northern limits of the city.

The Philathea class of the M. E. church was delightfully entertained by Mrs. Thelma Grimes, secretary of the class, at the home of W. A. Grimes last Monday evening. After business meeting they were invited into the dining room where lots of good things were served which everyone enjoyed to the fullest extent.

Mr. C. F. Moon made a business trip to Greensboro Monday.

EIGHTH DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETS IN ASHEBORO

On Tuesday, February 22, the 8th District Medical Society of North Carolina, met in Asheboro. Dr. T. L. Fox, of Franklinville, is president and Dr. C. A. Hayworth is secretary. About 35 of the physicians throughout the district were present for the meeting. The bad roads, and inclement weather on the day before, prevented many of the physicians from attending the meeting.

A most interesting program was rendered. Rev. Gibbs opened the meeting with prayer. Mr. Spence, on behalf of the town, extended a most cordial address of welcome. Dr. F. E. Asbury, on behalf of the Randolph County Medical Society, welcomed the visitors. Dr. M. A. Royall responded to the addresses of welcome. Dr. W. C. Ashworth, who was born and reared in Randolph county and is now at the Glenwood Sanatorium, Greensboro, had a most interesting paper on Nourishment. A lengthy discussion followed Dr. Ashworth's paper. Dr. C. C. Hubbard, of Farmer, had a paper on Heart Diseases in which he told of a number of cases in a most interesting manner. This paper was followed by discussions from various physicians. Dr. James A. Keizer, of Greensboro, had a paper on Ulcerative Lesions of the Genitalia, Their Significance, Diagnosis and Treatment. Dr. J. W. Long, of Greensboro, was present and read a paper. Dr. Long is also a Randolph county man, having been born and reared in Liberty township. For a number of years Dr. Long practiced in Randleman, before moving to Greensboro.

The physicians went in a body to Memorial hospital. A banquet was given by the Randolph County Medical Society, in honor of the visitors, at the Ashlyn hotel, after which toasts followed. The visitors were invited to the Colonial Tea, which was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ross, by the Randolph County Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, but on account of the lateness of the hour, very few attended.

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE RED CROSS IS ELECTED

Washington, Feb. 21.—Dr. Albert Ross Hill, president of the University of Missouri, has accepted the vice chairmanship of the central committee of the American Red Cross. Dr. Hill, who will enter upon his duties about March 1, will be in charge of foreign operations of the American Red Cross. His appointment fills the

WEEK'S SOCIAL EVENTS

The Do As You Please Club.

The Do as You Please club was delightfully entertained by Miss Mae Fressnell on Saturday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30.

A very interesting hour was spent in sewing, then several piano solos were rendered by Miss Ethel Johnson.

The hostess assisted by Miss Clara Fressnell served ambrosia, cake and hot chocolate.

Friday Afternoon Club.

Mrs. I. C. Moser was hostess to the members of the Friday Afternoon club and a few invited guests at her home on North Fayetteville street. Bridge was played at four tables in the living room which proved unusually interesting. At the conclusion of the games the guests were invited to the dining room which was most tastefully decorated with cut flowers.

The hostess, assisted by Mrs. Charlie Crawford, Mrs. Edwards and Mrs. Joe Lewallen served tomato jelly with asparagus, sandwiches, olives, coffee, salted nuts and mints.

Missionary Society of Baptist Church Meets.

The Woman's Missionary society of the Baptist church held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon, Feb. 17, at the home of Mrs. Joe Betts on Sunset avenue. After a short devotional service the president of the society, Mrs. A. L. Gibson, gave a very interesting talk on "Missions," after which Mrs. John Brittain, Mrs. Betts and Mrs. G. H. Ferris each read a paper fitted to the occasion.

Following a short business session, at the close of the program, a social half hour was pleasantly spent. The hostess served refreshments consisting of hot chocolate and sandwiches.

Next meeting will be held with Mrs. Tom Byrd in March.

COLONIAL TEA AT THE HOME OF MR. AND MRS. ROSS

The United Daughters of the Confederacy.

On Tuesday evening, February 22, a colonial tea was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ross on Sunset avenue. The beautiful home was attractively decorated in flowers and Confederate flags. The entire lower floor was en suite. Miss Hallie Ross, a member of the senior class of Salem College, was at home and greeted the guests, little Misses Betsy Ross and Margaret Moffitt conducting them to the cloak rooms. Misses Lucile Morris and Mary Moffitt presided over the silver bowl which was a receptacle of the silver offerings, which amounted to about \$40.00. Many of the members of the chapter were dressed in colonial costumes. Mesdames Arthur Ross, hostess, and J. V. Hunter, president of the chapter, and W. C. Hammer received in the music room. Mesdames W. C. Hammond and W. A. Underwood conducted the guests into the dining room where tea and margarites were served. The dining room, indeed, presented a most lovely appearance with red and white decorations. The table was beautiful with ebony lace and a large white basket with red and white primroses, and colonial candles placed at each corner. Mesdames E. L. Moffitt and A. E. Hix served tea from either end of the table, while various kinds of margarites were served by Mesdames Ferris, J. O. Redding, Henry Luther and Misses Lillie and Mabel Parrish, Rosa Rush and Esther Ross. As the guests retired from the dining room Mesdames Amos Wainwright and I. C. Moser directed them to the library where Mesdames Annie Robins and Hal Worth received. A delightful musical program had been previously arranged and was thoroughly enjoyed. Colonial songs were sung throughout the evening and special numbers were rendered by Miss May Fressnell, Mr. Sponser, Mrs. W. A. Underwood, Miss Bulla, Mr. J. O. Redding, Mrs. W. H. Moring and others. A large crowd of Asheboro people enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Ross and the Randolph Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

ED WADE CRIMINAL, EXHIBITS HIS PHYSICAL ABILITY

Ed Wade, who broke jail in Lexington last week has proven that he cannot only evade officers and escape from jail but that he is a man of physical strength. He used the railing from an iron cot and prised the east iron cell door from the bottom. There was a small space under the bottom of the door into which he placed the lever using a pipe to act as fulcrum. He then used a stick of wood as a large fulcrum and beat the heavy iron door further. The door was not budged from its hinges. By bending the door upward and outward enough space was provided at the bottom for a man to crawl through next to the floor. After getting into the hall Wade had no trouble in making an opening through the wall of the cell part of the jail, which is very thick.

COUNTRY NOW ON SOUND ECONOMIC BASIS, SAYS COMPTROLLER JOHN S. WILLIAMS

Now Up to The Middlemen to Adjust Profits to the New Prices, He Explains

BANKS REPORTED TO BE IN EXCELLENT SHAPE

Reduced Living Costs Have Not Reached the Ultimate Consumer Fully

Washington, Feb. 21.—The country is now in many respects on a sounder basis, economically, than it has been for years, Comptroller of the Currency John Skelton Williams states in his reports in what he described as his "seventh and last annual report."

Deflation, obviously inevitable a year ago, has come he said and prices of many basic commodities and raw materials have returned to pre-war levels or below.

"It now remains for the middleman," the comptroller declared, "to adjust his profits to the new prices before the ultimate consumer will receive the benefit of the reduced cost of living."

Lower Wages Must Follow.

Labor, however, Mr. Williams said, must soon determine whether a shut down and idleness is preferred to lower wage scales which take into consideration the lower living charges. Mills and factories cannot afford to operate unless they can turn out commodities at prices the public can afford to pay, he asserted, and it is better for the manufacturers to operate and produce goods at cost or at a very narrow margin of profit than to close down entirely. Participation by labor with capital in the profits he suggested as the only principle to restore business.

"When conditions abroad become more settled or stabilized," Comptroller Williams declared in a summary of the present outlook, "and when at home much needed adjustments are effected in the costs to the consumer of steel and iron products, which are still quoted about 200 per cent above pre-war prices, and when coal for which the government itself has paid in recent months as much as four times the pre-war price, and certain other commodities which are now being kept up artificially or as result of monopolistic control far above the pre-war figures, get back to normal level, our country resting on a solid foundation, will be prepared to enter upon a new and, let us hope, long enduring era of prosperity and healthy progress."

Banks in Good Condition.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1920, the comptroller said, there were 8,175 National banks in operation, the highest number ever reported, and despite the difficulties encountered they made the best record in immunity from failure in about 40 years. The percentage of the capital of failed banks to the total capital of all banks, he explained, was about one-thousandths of one per cent, or 16 times better than the average for the entire 57 years since the inauguration of the system.

Combined resources of all banks in the country on June 30, 1920, including National, State and Federal Reserve, the comptroller said, aggregated \$59,153,704,000.

Figures showing for the first time the business of the principal borrowers from National banks were presented by the comptroller. Loans and discounts on November 15, 1920, he said, aggregated \$13,764,000,000 of which loans to farmers and live stock raisers amounted to \$1,988,000,000 or 14 per cent; loans to manufacturing concerns approximated \$2,882,000,000, or 21 per cent; to merchants, mercantile concerns, individuals in the jobbing business and trading wholesale and retail \$3,581,000,000 or 26 per cent. Loans reported to bond and stock brokers and dealers in investment securities aggregating \$664,000,000; to railroads, shipping companies, electric light and power companies \$225,000,000 while the loans to professional men, including doctors, lawyers, teachers, chemists, engineers and clergymen amounted to \$375,000,000. Miscellaneous loans amounted to about \$4,000,000,000 or 30 per cent of the total.

Earn Good Dividends.

Gross earnings of the National banks during the past fiscal year approximated \$1,105,000,000 while their total expenses were \$736,000,000 which \$175,000,000 was for salaries and wages and \$227,000,000 was for interest on deposits. National banks in the city of New York showed earnings on capital stock of 37 1/2 per cent. Philadelphia National banks 33 1/2 per cent; Chicago 34 per cent; Boston 23 per cent; Cleveland 24 1/2 per cent; St. Louis 17 1/2 per cent; Richmond 20 1/2 per cent; Dallas 30 per cent; Kansas City 17 per cent; and San Francisco 18 per cent. Pueblo, Colorado, with 55 per cent reported the largest earnings in any reserve city, Birmingham, Ala., was next with 39 3/4 per cent and Atlanta, Ga., third with 35 3/4 per cent.

During the past fiscal year, the comptroller reported, three President's Bankers and 25 Assistant Bankers were elected.

RAMSEUR NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Craven left Monday for a week's visit to New York City. Mr. Craven has gone on business connected with the Columbia Manufacturing Company of which he is secretary and treasurer.

Mr. W. D. Thornburg and Mr. E. C. Leonard went to Greensboro one day last week where Mr. Thornburg traded for a new Gardner car.

Mrs. Arthur Holt and children, of Greensboro, were visitors here last week.

Mrs. A. A. Gant and a number of her friends surprised Mr. Gant on his birthday a few night ago. Many useful presents were received by the honoree and all enjoyed the evening to the fullest measure. Cream and cake were served by Mrs. Gant.

Mr. C. B. Smith is on the northern markets purchasing goods for the Carter Mercantile Company.

Drs. Tate and Craven attended the District Medical meeting in Asheboro Tuesday.

Miss Rosa Pipkin, of Raleigh, N. C., is visiting her sister, Mrs. C. L. Morris.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Moore went to Thomasville Friday.

Mrs. C. S. Tate, after spending the week with friends in Greensboro, returned home yesterday.

PRESIDENT HARDING COMPLETES CABINET

Edwin Denby for Navy a Surgeon.

President Harding has announced his cabinet to be as follows:

Secretary of State—Charles Evans Hughes, of New York, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and Republican nominee for the presidency.

Secretary of the Treasury—Andrew W. Mellon, of Pennsylvania, a banker and financier, member of a family reputed to be among the wealthiest in the country.

Secretary of War—John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, former United States senator and in 1916 a candidate for the presidential nomination.

Attorney General—Harry H. Doughtery, of Ohio, who managed the pre-convention campaign resulting in Mr. Harding's nomination.

Postmaster General—Will H. Hoge, of Indiana, chairman of the Republican national committee.

Secretary of the Navy—Edwin Denby, of Michigan, a former member of Congress who has served as an enlisted man in both the navy and marine corps.

Secretary of the Interior—Albert B. Fall, of New Mexico, now a United States senator.

Secretary of Agriculture—Henry Wallace, of Iowa, editor of farm publications.

Secretary of Commerce—Herbert Hoover, of California, former food administrator and conspicuous leader in various movements for European relief.

Secretary of Labor—James J. Davis, of Pennsylvania and Illinois, a former union steel worker who has become highest official of the House of Representatives.

C. C. CRANFORD WILL BUILD NEW CHAIR FACTORY

Messrs. C. C. and E. D. Cranford will in the near future begin the construction of a large chair factory, the output of which will be approximately 1,000 chairs per day. They will manufacture double cane chairs and makers of white oak and hickory.

The new company will be known as the Cranford Manufacturing Company.

The main building will be 300x40 feet, brick building; warehouse, 200x40 feet.

Mr. C. C. Cranford has been engaged in manufacturing chairs for the past twelve years being secretary and treasurer of the Randolph Chair Company which was recently organized by Virgil Fressnell. Mr. Cranford is one of Randolph's most successful business men, and his son, Mr. E. D. Cranford, is an enterprising young citizen.

BASKETBALL GAME BETWEEN RAMSEUR AND ASHEBORO

A basketball game of a great deal of interest was staged last Friday afternoon on the graded school grounds when Asheboro and Ramseyur played. A number of the athletes from Ramseyur and Asheboro witnessed the game, the result of which was 23 to 7 in favor of Asheboro.

Five officers of all National banks in the country whose names are on the list of \$20,000,000 and showed the largest salary paid any National bank president in the \$125,000 a year.

During the past fiscal year, the comptroller reported, three President's Bankers and 25 Assistant Bankers were elected.