

THE ASHEVILLE DEMOCRAT.

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WHEN YOU ARE IN ASHEVILLE VISIT

LAW'S THREE STORES,

NOS. 57, 59 AND 61 SOUTH MAIN STREET.

A BLOODY MURDER.

Two Men Knocked on the Head at Midnight—One Killed Outright—The Other Still Lives, But With a Broken Skull—The Murderer Escapes.

Stunning blows, delivered with all the frenzied strength of a madman—once—twice—thrice—with a solid piece of timber large and heavy enough to fell an ox, upon the heads of two defenceless men at midnight. Crash! crash! crash! and both men fall—one dead, the other to all appearances in the same condition.

This is what occurred in Asheville on Saturday night last. That night James Dougherty and William A. Torrence had been drinking rather freely, and between 12 and 1 o'clock Sunday morning were on Smith's bridge, which spans the French Broad near the old depot, both astride one horse, Torrence behind Dougherty, riding back and forth across the bridge. The horse had belonged to Dougherty's brother, who recently died. The two men were in their cups, but doing no damage.

The mis-use of the horse angered Robert Dougherty, a younger brother of James. Robert had also been drinking, and with a friend was standing near by. Robert told that friend that he intended to knock the men off the horse, and picking up a large piece of wood he followed the unsuspecting men on to the bridge, and when near its centre came up with them. The two riders had met and were talking to a friend or acquaintance. Robert Dougherty approached his brother and Torrence, raised his bludgeon and dealt Torrence a terrific blow on the back of the head. Torrence did not fall and the blow was repeated with increased force. Torrence fell to the bridge, limp and lifeless.

Again the murderous piece of wood was raised and again a great blow was given, which struck James Dougherty, Robert's brother, on the side of the head, and he, too, fell prone upon the bridge.

Without even a glance at the prostrate men, Robert Dougherty walked away, and told his friend what he had done, with a request that he go and see if the men were hurt. Later he left home, and has not since been seen or heard of. Dr. E. C. Starnes, who lives near by, was summoned, and with others went down to the bridge to make an examination. Torrence was found lying where he had fallen—on his face—dead. James Dougherty had crawled to the porch of a store at the west end of the bridge, and was there found, insensible, but alive. He was removed to his home for treatment.

At daybreak, the coroner, Dr. L. A. McBrayer, was summoned. Torrence's body was taken from where it had lain all night to Fairchild's store, where the coroner and Dr. E. C. Starnes made a thorough examination. His skull was fractured in two places, but there were no other marks of violence on his person, save a bruise on his nose caused by the fall to the bridge.

A jury was summoned and an inquest held at the store. Only three witnesses were examined, their evidence was corroborative, and the jury quickly agreed on a verdict, fixing the guilt on Bob Dougherty.

The following account of the inquest we take from our neighbor, the Daily Citizen:

Charles Lineberry was first sworn: "I had been fox hunting with Millard Triplett and came on west end of bridge. Saw two men coming from east end, both on horse. When we met recognized both on horse. When we met recognized James Dougherty, who said: 'Hello, James Dougherty, on across bridge. Saw Bob Dougherty with stick 4 or 5 feet long and 2 1/2 or 3 inches square. Heard no blows. Saw Bob catch horse and take it home, on Roberts street. Bob said he thought he had killed two

men, and said one was James Dougherty and didn't know the other man. Asked me to go back and see if they were hurt. I went to Mr. Triplett's and together with G. W. Triplett, Dr. Starnes, Joe Aiken and Willard Triplett went to bridge. Saw Jim on porch of store. Other man was lying on bridge, on his face. Saw Bob later and he asked if men were hurt. Told him I thought they were killed. He said 'good-bye, boys,' and went down Roberts street towards depot."

J. F. Aiken was next sworn: "Know Bob Dougherty. He and I were standing near M. M. Dougherty's gate, and saw men on horse. Knew James, but didn't know other man. After they passed Bob said I'm going to knock that off of there. Watch me." He picked up a stick at a wood pile that looked like half of a fence rail. Watched him until he got to Baker's store, where Roberts street runs into Haywood street. Half an hour later Bob came into my room at Mr. Triplett's and said, 'Joe, you know what I told you I was going to do?' I said yes and he said, 'I've done it.' Saw Bob later near the factory, but don't know where he went. Bob had been drinking. Didn't see him take any liquor, but smelled it on his breath."

Millard Triplett, of the firm of Triplett Bros., was the last witness sworn: "Charles Lineberry and I had been hunting. Between 12 and 1 o'clock we came on west end of bridge, and saw two men on one horse come on east end of bridge. Saw man walking behind. Recognized James Dougherty on horse, but didn't know the other. James was riding in front. James said 'Hello, Triplett, that you?' About the time I answered I reigned up horse and saw Bob Dougherty strike man behind with piece of 'cane' or rail. Were about twenty feet before me. Horse was frightened and they passed me. As they passed, heard James say 'You don't know who you are hitting, do you?' Bob replied, but didn't understand what he said. Saw Bob striking man on behind fell off. I started off, and heard another lick, and heard sound as of body falling. The horse they had been riding followed me across bridge. When near railroad crossing Bob walked up to me and said 'Let me have the horse and you go back and see if men are hurt.' I got off and started back but didn't go more than 20 steps until I turned back and went home. When near home saw Bob standing at his father's gate. Asked me if I had gone back and I told him I hadn't. He said 'I'll go out home with you and get some of our folks to go and see.' On way to house Bob asked me if I thought he had killed anybody. Told him thought he had. Didn't see Bob after that. Went back to bridge with Aiken, Lineberry and Doctor Starnes. Found man dying on bridge. Was at same place I saw him fall. Found James on porch of store. Went back to dead man and stayed with him until 3 o'clock. I had heard something of difficulty between James and Bob two or three months ago. When Bob came up to me after the affray he didn't have stick."

This closed the evidence and the jury found as follows: We the undersigned jurors find that W. A. Torrence came to his death on the morning of the 31st by a blow with a cudgel in the hands of Robert Dougherty. This was signed by J. M. Green, W. P. Pegram, T. W. Triplett, John H. Farrell and I. B. Sam.

James Dougherty is single man, about thirty five years of age, and well known in Asheville as a drayman. His left temple is crushed in by the cruel blow dealt by his own brother. He is alive, but in a very critical—though not utterly hopeless—condition.

W. A. Torrence was a native of Mecklenburg county, this State; was about fifty-five years of age and leaves a wife, a most excellent woman, who has the sympathy of the entire community in her great misfortune. Torrence was a stone-mason by trade and a good workman. He was an inoffensive man whose good nature was proverbial. He was a gallant Confederate Soldier, serving throughout the four years of the civil war, participating with his regiment—the 4th N. C. S. T. we think—in all the important battles in Virginia. He was well connected in the Piedmont section of this State.

His remains were buried at Balm

Grove Church on Sunday afternoon by a large concourse of friends.

Robert Dougherty, the murderer, is about twenty-two years of age, single man, and is an engine r by profession. He is five feet six inches high, weighs about 160 pounds. Is smooth shaven, light complexion and light hair.

Telegrams have been sent out in all directions for his apprehension.

The County Commissioners. The county commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 1, continued June 2.

The election on the question of the subscription to the Atlanta, Asheville and Baltimore railroad, was ordered held on Monday, July 20. The following registrars and judges were appointed for the townships in which the election will be held.

Ivy—Registrar, J. H. Woodward; judges, W. Greenwood, J. M. Whittemore, J. J. Greenwood, J. A. Carter.

Flat Creek—Registrar, H. C. Blackstock; judges, J. H. Sams, Erwin J. Clarke, W. J. Beachboard, B. F. Buckner. Reem Creek—Registrar, R. V. Williams; judges, J. A. Reagan, F. P. Roberts, J. G. Chambers, C. P. Weaver.

Registrars for Asheville township—Beaverdam, H. L. King; Haw Creek, A. F. Walton; Biltmore, W. D. Patton; Hazel, D. J. McLellan; East Asheville, J. M. Israel; West Asheville, S. Bulow Erwin.

Sheriff D. L. Reynold's appeared before the board and asked to be relieved of the tax books, the business of the office having increased so within the past twelve months that he thought a tax collector should be appointed. The board complied with the sheriff's request and elected Mr. Frank M. Weaver tax collector for the county.

Three gentlemen were candidates for the office of supervisor of county roads—Captain Dubose, J. G. Chambers and Erwin Patton. Mr. Patton was elected.

The following gentlemen were elected township supervisors: Avery's Creek, T. J. Carland; Lower Hominy, A. H. Felmet; Upper Hominy, Lafayette Clarke; Leicester, W. P. Cole; Sancy Mush, W. J. Lee; Limestone, W. Leveret; Fairview, J. Will Jones; Swananoa, R. L. Patton; Black Mountain, J. H. Embler; Reem's Creek, J. K. Chambers; French Broad, W. H. Hunter; Flat Creek, Erwin Clarke; Ivy, J. B. Whittemore; Asheville, B. W. Morris.

A good many bills were added and ordered paid.

Death of A. C. Melke, Esq.

At the Winyah Sanitarium, at 12 o'clock on June 1st, died Mr. A. C. Melke, in the 38th year of his age, a German gentleman, who had long been a citizen of North Carolina. He came to Lumberton soon after the civil war and engaged in merchandising and distilling turpentine. At this he was eminently successful. Suffering from ill health he came with his family to Asheville, purchased property and built a fine house. About two years ago his wife died, since which time Mr. Melke has only spent a part of his time in Asheville. He was a member of the Baptist church and a man of deep religious convictions. He was buried on Wednesday at Riverside cemetery.

General Vance at Salem.

The Winston-Salem papers speak in high terms of Gen. R. B. Vance's address before the graduating class at the Salem High School. The subject was "Woman," and they say the General handled it well, as he is entirely capable of doing.

Have you read the directions wrapped around Sugar Coated Yeast?

MEETING OF MAGISTRATES.

Criminal Court Officers Elected—Other Business Done.

Buncombe county's magistrates met in the court house on Monday last for the purpose of electing Criminal Court officers and fixing the rate of taxes for the ensuing year.

There was only one candidate for judge—H. B. Carter, Esq., and he was unanimously chosen.

J. R. Patterson, the present incumbent, and H. C. Jones were the only candidates for Clerk. Mr. Patterson received 44 votes to Mr. Jones' 39, and was re-elected. There being no opposition to Mr. E. D. Carter for Solicitor, he was also re-elected.

Mr. H. Bascombe Carter, the newly elected Judge, is a native of Buncombe county, and is one of a family of the county's most substantial and influential citizens. He received his education chiefly in the county, read law in Asheville, and was admitted to the bar in 1878. He was elected Solicitor of the Criminal Court in 1882, a position he held for two terms, declining a re-election for a third term. He married Miss Laura K. Baird, of Asheville, a niece of Gov. Vance.

For several years he has been engaged in the practice of law, being associated with H. A. Gudger, Julius C. Martin becoming a member of the firm later.

He has served as chairman of the county democratic executive committee, and held other honorable positions in the party.

He has come to the bench young, being in his 35th year, but well equipped, both by practice and study, for its duties.

Judge Chas. A. Moore retires from the bench of his own choice, leaving behind him a reputation for impartiality and fearlessness; and carries with him the best wishes of both the general public and the local bar.

At the joint meeting of the magistrates and county commissioners Monday afternoon, the tax levy for the ensuing year was fixed at 90 cents on the \$100 valuation, giving the county commissioners power to lower it in the future, should they deem it wise to do so.

\$1,000 was appropriated for our exhibit at the State Exposition in Raleigh this fall, and for the county display at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893. The county was authorized to borrow \$10,000 if deemed necessary.

Money to build three county bridges was also appropriated.

The Chronicle to Change Hands.

The Chronicle is to undergo another change.

It has been rumored around for some time past that a deal was under head way but the truth could not be gotten at fully until to day. Mr. David Vance, of the Asheville Democrat, has been in the city for some days past and it is understood that he has either an option or has secured control of a majority of the stock of the paper. Mr. Vance will have entire control of the policy of the paper as the News understands. He will have as his associate Mr. Robert Hayden, former editor of the Chronicle, but at present of the Journal of Commerce of Baltimore. Mr. Hayden will have charge of the business department of the paper but nothing whatever to do with the editorial management. It is understood that the new management will take charge as soon as possible which will probably be about the 10th of June.—Charlotte News.

Money to Loan.

See advertisement on page 5, A. F. Shults & Co., State Agents, Room 42, Grand Central Hotel.

J. S. Grant, Ph. G.

(Of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.)

Apothecary, 24 South Main St.

If your prescriptions are prepared at Grant's Pharmacy you can positively depend upon these facts: First, that only the purest and best drugs and chemicals will be used; second, they will be compounded carefully and accurately by an experienced Prescriptionist, and third, you will not be charged an exorbitant price. You will receive the best goods at a very reasonable profit. Don't forget the place—Grant's Pharmacy, 24 South Main street.

Prescriptions filled at all hours, night or day, and delivered free of charge to any part of the city. The night bell will be answered promptly. Grant's Pharmacy, 24 South Main street.

At Grant's Pharmacy you can buy any Patent Medicine at the lowest price quoted by any other drug house in the city. We are determined to sell as low as the lowest even if we have to lose money by so doing. We will sell all Patent Medicines at first cost, and below that if necessary, to meet the price of any competitor.

We have the largest assortment of Chamotte Skins in Asheville. Over 300 skins, all sizes, at the lowest prices.

We are agents for Humphrey's Homoeopathic Medicines. A full supply of his goods always on hand.

Use Buncombe Liver Pills, the best in the world for liver complaint, indigestion, etc. A thoroughly reliable remedy for all blood diseases is Buncombe Sarsaparilla. Try a bottle and you will take no other.

J. S. GRANT, Ph. G., Pharmacist,
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