

# Sylvan Valley News

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

J. J. MINER, OWNER AND MANAGER

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

VOLUME XV

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NUMBER 52

## BROTHERS HAVE A FATAL DIFFICULTY

### Duel to the Death Over Gray Mule.

#### SHOCKING ALABAMA TRAGEDY

John and Will Benefield Quarreled Over Mule—White Benefield Tried to Make Peace in Vain, and Then Shooting Began.

As the result of a quarrel over the ownership of a small gray mule, Will Benefield, John Benefield and White Benefield, brothers and well-to-do farmers, who reside near Hopewell, Ala., just across the Georgia line, engaged in a duel with revolvers and all three were killed.

During the fight, the mule, which was the innocent cause of the fight, was also killed. It seems that the mule was in the possession of John Benefield, but Will Benefield claimed to be the owner, and had demanded the return of the animal. John Benefield refused to surrender the mule, alleging that his brother's claim was unjust.

A bitter quarrel between Will and John Benefield followed, and White Benefield, the older brother, tried to act as peacemaker and have the ownership of the mule submitted to arbitration.

John Benefield was willing, but Will Benefield said the mule was his property and he intended to have the animal.

Will Benefield tried to lead the mule away, and was warned to stop by his brother John. There was another exchange of bitter words, and then both John and Will Benefield drew their revolvers and began firing at each other at close range. Both men emptied their revolvers, every shot taking effect.

When the smoke cleared away, John and Will Benefield and the mule were dead, and White Benefield, who had tried to stop the quarrel, was dying. He lived only a few minutes.

All three brothers were prominent in their section, and each of them leaves a wife and children.

While the dispute over the mule was the immediate cause of the tragedy, it is said that the real bitterness between John and Will Benefield was due to an alleged insult which Will Benefield is said to have offered John's wife.

#### HEAVY VERDICT.

Pennsylvania Roads and Steel Co. Convicted on Rebating Charge.

The United States district court at Philadelphia has refused to grant a new trial to the Philadelphia and Reading railway, the Lehigh Valley railroad and the Bethlehem Steel Company, recently convicted on charges of rebating.

There are a large number of counts in the indictments against the three companies, and if the maximum penalty were imposed against each defendant, the Bethlehem Steel Company would have to pay a fine of \$3,200,000, the Lehigh Valley railroad \$2,500,000 and the Reading railway \$1,740,000. The jury, in rendering its verdict of guilty, however, recommended the companies to the mercy of the court.

#### FAMINE IN CHINA.

Roadways Are Said to Be Dotted With the Dead.

The throne has issued an edict refusing to create a constitutional cabinet in compliance with a memorial recently presented by the national assembly and also declining to accept the resignations of the grand councilors. The imperial senate also adopted a resolution, praying for the immediate creation of a cabinet and it was believed that the throne had decided to accede to the demand. The national assembly will meet, when the whole question will come up for discussion.

Winter is intensifying the famine in the Yangtsekiang district. The authorities are endeavoring to suppress the sale of children, which is estimated at over 1,000,000. The majority of these are girls. The roadways are dotted with starving and dead. The relief committee is now making appeals abroad for aid.

#### CLEMENTS SUCCEEDS KNAPP.

Georgian May Head Interstate Commerce Commission.

The nominations of the two members of the interstate commerce commission, C. C. McChord and V. H. Meyer, have been confirmed by the senate.

Within the next two or three weeks the commission will organize and the probability is that Judson C. Clements, of Georgia, will be elected chairman of the commission, to succeed Judge Martin S. Knapp, who goes to the new court of commerce.

Judge Clements is now the senior member of the commission and according to usual custom would be the logical chairman. As he is very popular with his associates, his election is considered a foregone conclusion.

#### OFFICERS FIGHT IN DARK.

Federal Officer Is Wounded in Battle With Detectives Near Memphis.

A battle in the dark on a Mississippi river sand bar near Memphis between United States revenue officers and city detectives resulted in the wounding of Deputy Revenue Collector Thomas H. Baker and John Garnett, a 15-year-old boy.

The whole affair was a case of mistaken identity and of the effort of the two posses to capture the occupant of a shanty boat wanted for the violation of both federal and state laws. Baker and several special deputies were on guard about the boat when Detectives Shea and Nolan, on the same mission, ran into their ambush. A general fusillade followed, and before identities were established Baker and the boy had been wounded. Their injuries are not serious.

#### CLASH OF FACTIONS.

Outbreak Is Feared in Town in State of Alabama.

Citizens of Georgiana, Ala., are excited over a mysterious shooting affray in which J. T. Smith, a prominent merchant, was killed by J. C. Brown, who is in the meat market business.

The mystery of the situation has been deepened by the spiriting away of a negro, Sam Singer, to the Greenville jail in order to prevent his being lynched by citizens for a part he is supposed to have played in the shooting.

The shooting occurred in the store of J. T. Smith. It is said that Smith cut Brown's clothing with a knife before he fell to the floor in a dying condition from four bullet wounds.

Both men belong to the most prominent families in this section of the county.

The authorities are making an investigation of the case and will make the facts known in order to prevent an open clash between the two factions.

Brown has been taken to Greenville and is in the hands of the authorities of that city, pending an investigation.

#### TOBACCO GROWERS PLAN POOL.

Burley Growers of Four States Hold Meeting in Lexington, Ky.

The first definite steps were taken in Lexington toward the organization of growers of burley tobacco in this and adjoining states with a view to either rehabilitation of the 1910 pool or the elimination of the 1911 crop.

The call for the meeting of growers was signed by more than sixty men who have heretofore been independent, and the gathering included many also who were identified with the recently collapsed pool of 1909-10.

The burley growers of West Virginia, southern Indiana and southern Ohio were represented in addition to the burley growing belt of Kentucky.

#### FOUND \$4,000.

New Jersey Woman Lifts Boards and Discovers Hidden Treasure.

No one in New Jersey has found house cleaning more profitable than has Miss Ida Simonson, who got \$4,000 as the result of her annual overhauling of her homestead in Vernon, N. J.

While cleaning a closet she lifted a loose board in the floor and brought to light the treasure, \$500 in gold and the remainder in bills of large denomination. The money was probably put there about 40 years ago by a relative who died soon after hiding it.

## FATAL FIRE OCCURS IN PHILADELPHIA

### Burning Wall Collapsed Burying Firemen.

#### POLICE WERE ALSO VICTIMS

Sickening Horror Occurs While Brave Firemen Were Fighting Flames in Five-Story Building—Twelve Lives Were Probably Lost.

Probably twelve firemen lost their lives in a fire which destroyed the five-story brick building of D. Friedlander, leather dealer, 1116-20, inclusive, North Bodine street, Philadelphia.

More than a score of others have been taken to hospitals.

Of those taken to hospitals half a dozen have fractured skulls and are internally injured. Their chances of recovery are slight.

The blaze was first discovered about 10 o'clock at night and in less than half an hour the interior of the building was a seething furnace. Unable to fight the flames from the roof of the doomed structure, the firemen climbed to the roofs of three small dwellings adjoining the building. It was here that a sickening accident occurred.

Scattered about on the three small structures at every vantage point were nearly two score of men, while clinging to their icy ladders, which was leaning against the south wall of the leather factory, were Patrick Carroll, George MacHinsky and John Carroll, all of engine company No. 7.

The men on the houses saw their danger first and yelled a warning to their comrades on the ladder, but so sudden was the collapse of the wall that not a soul was able to escape the terrible rain of bricks and twisted beams and girders. With a terrific roar the five-story mass crumbled like a toy block-house, carrying either death or injury to every man who a moment before had stood ice-covered trying to save adjoining property.

#### SCHOONER CATCHES FIRE.

Two Seamen Killed, Two Injured When Big Drum Explodes.

Two men were killed and two others were seriously injured when a 50-gallon drum of gasoline exploded on the schooner Lillie White, of Key West, at the Gulf Refining Company's docks at Tampa.

The schooner was wrecked and sank to the bottom almost immediately after the explosion. Fortunately for the two injured men, the accident happened at low tide and the vessel was not submerged.

Immediately following the explosion the boat caught fire. There were nearly 200 drums of gasoline aboard, and when the firemen arrived they feared that every moment would bring another explosion. Hearing the cries of the two wounded men, who were lying helpless in the hold of the vessel, Assistant Fire Chief Torres headed a squad of men to the rescue. Both men were dragged out and drums of gasoline in immediate danger of the fire were rolled beyond danger. The flames were quickly extinguished.

#### MARKHAM CHOSEN.

Will Be President of Both Illinois and Georgia Centrals.

The gossip of Wall street, New York, is that Charles H. Markham, formerly of the Southern Pacific, but now engaged in the oil business in Pittsburg, who became successor of J. T. Harahan as president of the Illinois Central railroad, will also succeed the late Major J. F. Hanson as president of the Central of Georgia railway, which is owned by the Illinois Central.

It is a peculiar coincidence that it became necessary to select a new president for each of these companies at the same time.

The retirement of President Harahan, whose resignation becomes effective on his seventieth birthday, January 12, brought about the necessity for the choice of his successor at the same time that the filling of the vacancy in the presidency of the Central of Georgia was under consideration.

**GENERAL NEWS.** An emergency fund of several thousand dollars has been raised among some of the leading Baptist educators of Alabama as the beginning of a sum of money which is to be regularly set aside to aid in eliminating expenses of the Baptist institutions of Alabama. The work is in charge of J. C. Carter, of Roanoke, who is chairman of the educational commission of the Baptist church.

Examination of a dog's head has just been completed in the State Pasteur department, showing that the canine which bit little Jenny Copeland, daughter of Dr. B. A. Copeland, of Birmingham, was afflicted with a bad case of rabies at the time of the accident. The animal bit the little girl on the 12th of December, and died from the effects of the disease on December 18. The little girl has been advised to begin the Pasteur treatment at once.

The senate passed the bill to extend for a term of three years the act providing for the marking of the graves for confederate soldiers and sailors who died in northern prisons. The original act was approved March 9, 1909, and provided that the work should be accomplished within four years. The bill just passed by both houses, extending the term three years, will now go to the president for his signature.

Because the eaves of his house fell on a pedestrian, Julian Horencia, of Mayaguez, Porto Rico, will be required to pay \$9,000 damages as the result of the termination of a case in the supreme court of the United States. In 1907 Felix Gurman was injured by the eaves of a house falling upon him. A local jury awarded him \$9,000 damages.

To hasten the completion of post-offices and other buildings authorized by the public building act passed by congress last June, Chairman Tawney, of the house appropriations committee, offered a resolution asking the secretary of the treasury to submit estimates of the amounts that can be expended upon all buildings to June 30, 1912.

Owen Moran, who recently knocked out "Battling" Nelson, issued a challenge at Boston to Ad Wolgast for the lightweight championship at any time or place the latter may name and offered to place a \$5,000 side bet. Moran says he will give up any or all of his engagements to meet Wolgast.

The Pope has created twenty-four new Knights of the Golden Spur. Among these are the Duke of Orleans, the French Pretender; Marshal Hermez Fonseda, president of Brazil; Senor Franco, ex-premier of Portugal; four Austrian archdukes and six Italian princes.

The calendar year 1910 will be a banner year for the world's international trade, according to the bureau of statistics at Washington. The bureau receives statistics from practically every country and these show that both imports and exports are considerably greater than in 1909.

The American League of Associations, a combination of mercantile houses throughout the country, has started a campaign against the proposed establishment of rural local parcels post service and a fund is said to be available to fight the bill now before congress.

D. B. Johnson, a white man, was terribly mangled in a cotton gin near Claxton, Ga., dying later. One leg was torn from his body. He was married and leaves several children.

Following the fight made by the authorities of New Orleans on the promiscuous sale of cocaine and other habit forming drugs the state board of health has taken the matter up and the crusade will be made statewide.

#### Christmas-New Year Holiday Rates.

The Southern Railway announce the sale of Christmas Holiday round trip tickets at reduced rates, to be sold on the following days: Dec. 15th, 16th, 17th, 21st, 22nd, 23d, 24th, 25th and 31st and Jan. 1st, 1911. Tickets good returning to reach original starting point not later than midnight of January 8, 1911. For further information call on the undersigned.

J. H. Wood, D. P. A., Asheville, N. C.  
E. W. CARTER, T. A., Brevard, N. C.

#### County Government.

Representative—Thos. S. Wood.  
Clark Superior Court—Cos. Paxton.  
Sheriff and Tax Collector—Fred. A. Shuford.  
Treasurer—Z. W. Nichols.  
Register of Deeds—B. A. Gillespie.  
Coroner—Dr. A. E. Lyday.  
Surveyor—J. C. Wike.  
Commissioners—W. L. Brooks, G. T. Lyday, Arthur Miller.  
Superintendent of Schools—T. C. Henderson.  
Physician—Dr. Goode Cheatham.  
Attorney—R. L. Gash.

#### Town Government.

Mayor—W. E. Brees, Jr.  
Board of Aldermen—T. H. Shipman, J. M. Kilpatrick, T. M. Mitchell, F. L. Devane, E. W. Carter.  
Marshal—J. A. Galloway.  
Clerk and Tax Collector—T. H. Galloway.  
Treasurer—T. H. Shipman.  
Health Officer—Dr. C. W. Hunt.  
Regular meetings—First Monday night in each month.

#### Professional Cards.

W. W. ZAGHARY  
Attorney-at-Law  
BREVARD, N. C.

R. L. GASH,  
LAWYER.  
11 and 12 McMinn Building  
Notary Public.

H. G. BAILEY  
Civil and Consulting Engineer  
and Surveyor

CITY ENGINEER HENDERSONVILLE, N. C.

#### NOTICE OF EXECUTRIX.

Having qualified as executrix of the last will and testament of Washington E. Galloway, late of the county of Transylvania, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the said testator, to present their claims to the undersigned on or before the 9th day of July, 1911, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will make immediate settlement. This July 9th, 1910.

SARAH LUCINDA GALLOWAY,  
Wife of Galloway, atty. \*Executrix.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of J. C. McGaha, deceased, late of Transylvania county, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at office of R. L. Gash, Esq., Brevard, N. C., on or before the 27th day of May, 1911, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

This 20th day of May, 1910.  
V. B. MCGAHA,  
Adm'r estate of J. C. McGaha, deceased

#### Entry No. 2568.

W. J. Owen enters and claims six hundred and forty (640) acres of land, lying in Hogback Township, on the waters of Indian creek. Beginning on a white oak, E. D. Owen's corner, and runs thence north 66 deg. east sixty (60) poles to a hickory stump on top of the Blue Ridge; thence south 24 degrees east with S. A. Owen's line to a stone, S. A. Owen's corner, on top of the Blue Ridge; thence south with the top of the Blue Ridge to a black oak, John Kizer's corner; thence west, running so as to include all the vacant land on Indian creek.  
B. A. GILLESPIE,  
Entry Taker.

#### Executrix Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed Executrix of the last will and testament of W. B. Duckworth, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified that they must present same before the 25th day of November, 1911, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons owing said estate are required to make immediate payment.  
MRS. ELLA F. DUCKWORTH.

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