

# Sylvan Valley News

ONLY NEWSPAPER IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

A HOME PAPER FOR HOME PEOPLE—ALL HOME PRINT

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## MUCH EXCITEMENT IN TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY

### POLITICAL POT BOILS OVER INTO THE FIRE

#### Prominent Republican Makes Some Pertinent Remarks on Situation.

As there is much being said concerning the sheriff of Transylvania county not being in his office on Tuesday, April 30, and Wednesday, May 1, 1912, so as to receive and receipt for poll tax money from the people who desired to pay their poll tax on or before May 1, 1912, I consider it my duty to the tax payers of Transylvania county, regardless of political affiliations, to state all facts that I may know in reference thereto, and add a few remarks.

Early on Tuesday morning, April 30, 1912, I saw Sheriff Shuford (who by virtue of his office as sheriff is tax collector for Transylvania county) pass back of my home in Brevard, driving in his buggy towards East Main street. Afterwards I went to my office to work and up in the day I went to the court house to look up some records and I noticed Orange Mooney, a colored man, and J. M. Marcum and two other white men sitting at the court house door, and I jocularly remarked to them: "What are you fellows laying around here for?" or words to that effect, and they informed me that they were waiting for the sheriff to come to his office to pay their taxes.

Later in the day, seeing them still waiting, I, simply as a matter of accommodation, told some of them that if it would be any accommodation to them they could leave their money with me, with a written authority to pay their taxes and when the sheriff returned I would pay their taxes and send them the receipts, and they afterwards came to my office and left their money with written authority for me to pay it over to the sheriff. Time after time that afternoon I went to the sheriff's office and each time found it closed and locked, and on inquiry failed to locate the sheriff or his deputy. I saw E. A. Heath of Cedar Mountain who said that "He had met the sheriff on Mill Hill going towards South Carolina, and that B. E. Paxton, his deputy, was with him and that they said they were going after a colored man who some two months before had escaped from Transylvania's county jail," or words to that effect; and I was also informed at the same time, either by Heath or some one else, that V. B. McGaha, who was at the time in Brevard, had also met the sheriff at about the same time and place, and that McGaha had told the sheriff that he had started to Brevard to pay his poll tax, and that the sheriff told him (McGaha) to leave the money with a certain person in Brevard, and that he would on his return issue him a receipt as of that date.

Man after man came to Brevard on April 30 to pay their taxes but failed to find the sheriff or any one else to take their money and give them a receipt for same. Some of them came to me and some to others, and left their money with written authority to pay their tax, a list of whom is hereinafter set out. April 30 passed and no sheriff or tax collector showed up, and it began to be talked that it was a trick, but I persistently told them that I could not believe Sheriff Shuford would enter into such a trick. May the first came and more men came to pay their taxes, but still no sheriff or tax collector; and that day passed with the sheriff's office still closed and locked.

I went to the register of deeds and asked him if he could not take the money for the sheriff so that

the tax payers could get their receipts dated on or before May 1, 1912, so they would not be disfranchised, but he stated that he could not accept it. The most diligent inquiry failed to locate the sheriff or any deputy except, I learned, that J. A. Galloway, the jailor, was a sworn deputy, and I went to him on May 1 and tendered to him, as deputy, the money that had been left with me, so that the sheriff on his return, even if the deputy could not write me the receipts, could write them and date them on the day the money was tendered, I still believing at that time that the sheriff would do the straight thing about the matter, the tender being made, so that the sheriff in making out his certified list would not have to certify to something false, the tender being made within the time.

I understand a report is being circulated that the money I had was furnished this county by Mr. Grant or Mr. Pearson for a fund to pay poll taxes, and I desire to say that these statements have no foundation in fact, as the following facts will show:

Following is the list of those who left money with me and the amounts left, viz.: Orange Mooney, \$1.45 to pay balance on tax of Ida Sandford (or Ida Summerfield); \$3.83 left by J. M. Marcum; \$8.00 left by Horace McCall; \$1.03 left by John W. Jones; W. E. Lyday, \$17.00 left by J. A. Drake; \$3.05 left by Walter Welt; Erwin West, \$2.90; Oscar Galloway, \$2.00; J. L. Kilpatrick \$3.00; F. L. Fowler, \$2.90; J. B. Kilpatrick, \$3.00, all turned over to me by O. W. Clayton; \$3.05 left by C. M. Doyle; W. L. Pierson left with me \$3.37; Hilliard Bracken left with me \$6.10 to pay his own and his brother Eugene's tax; Dr. English left with me \$3.05 check to pay William Winn's tax; Horace Kitchen, a twelve or fourteen-year-old boy left with me \$3.75 for J. C. Owen; W. F. Hollingsworth \$2.50, left with me by Davis Glazener, who issued his own check payable to F. E. Shuford; F. M. King \$2.15, left with me by his father-in-law, J. B. Perry; T. C. Galloway \$3.00, left by himself; G. W. Whitmore left with me \$15.00 to pay his own tax, and \$17.00 to pay the taxes of J. B. Davis, T. H. Melton, H. H. Nelson, C. P. Hogsed and J. B. McCall; T. H. Hampton \$6.10, to pay tax of C. E. Hampton and Thos. Dodsworth; W. H. Harris, \$3.05 to pay his own tax; Fred L. Smith left with me \$3.05 to pay his own tax; Whit Henderson left with T. T. Loftis \$3.00 to pay his tax. This party is a candidate for the democratic nomination for treasurer, and it is now said that his taxes were paid but he today stated to me that he had not paid them nor authorized any one to pay them for him; that he does not approve of the methods that have been employed in this matter, and that he is still a candidate for the nomination and asks the support of all good, honest democrats.

I tendered this money to J. A. Galloway, who refused it by written statement as follows:

I, the undersigned, refuse to take the money tendered as to each person named on the two sheets hereto attached for the reason I have no blank receipts, and was not directed by the sheriff to receive the same, and have no access to the tax books, same being locked up.

J. A. GALLOWAY.

This May 1st, 1912.

In justice to Mr. Galloway I desire to say that I do not believe he knew one thing about the scheme that was being worked.

The morning of the 2nd came and the sheriff and his office deputy came, and I at once took the money above set out and mentioned and went to the sheriff's office and told him I had the money, and to be in time I had the day previous tendered it to his sworn deputy, J. A. Galloway, so that he could date the receipts as of that day, or the day the money was tendered, and he at once refused to accept the money and give the receipts, but stated that he would accept it and give me receipts dated May 2. I informed him that I must have the receipts

dated the day the money was tendered, and again took each man's money, except in two or three cases, where they had given checks, just as the money and checks had been turned over to me as above stated, and tendered same to him and he refused the tender, as tendered.

Then it was that I was brought to the plain knowledge that it was a scheme or previously concocted plan, entered into to disfranchise the voters. I do not yet believe the sheriff within his own judgment would have so acted, but the bosses had unquestionably been at work. The sheriff also had mail that had come to him the two days he had been away and I asked him if he was going to date those tax receipts for the money that came before the time expired in accordance therewith and he informed me that they would be dated at the time he called at the office and got his mail.

Mr. Sheriff, it is up to you to tell the honest, liberty loving men of Transylvania county, regardless of political faith, where you were gone on April 30 and May 1, 1912, and what for? Did you and your deputy bring that colored man back with you? If you did, where is he? Tell the people why you went away from your office, but left it closed and locked? Tell them why you could not date these tax receipts on the day the money was tendered to your sworn deputy. Do you think that would have caused you to state a falsehood in certifying the list of paid polls? Tell the people whether or not you wrote out and dated tax receipts before you went away, on which the money had not been paid, and whether or not these are included in the certified list you are required to file on or before May 10th. Why didn't you have manhood enough to tell the bosses you would not do their bidding?

Now, Mr. Sheriff, I desire to say that I know of several men who sent the money or came to pay their taxes while you were away whose names do not appear upon your certified list of unpaid polls, and must be on the certified list of paid polls.

If you could issue receipts and date them before you went away, when they (the tax payers) had not paid the money, who paid it, or has it been paid?

My friend, you have plainly and apparently intentionally violated the law, and the matter shall be brought to the attention of the solicitor of this district, and also to the attention of the next judge of the superior court that comes to this county, just as the facts are, and they shall do what they shall deem proper.

If a single man who has tendered his money within the time allowed by law in which to pay same to entitle him to vote is refused a vote next November on account of your acts that matter shall be called to the attention of the U. S. District Attorney, with all the facts, and he shall do as he may deem proper.

I appeal to the good people of Transylvania county, not as a republican, but as a citizen, to give us a sheriff and tax collector in whose hands all the voters most sacred liberty—the right of franchise—is safe! Suppose for an instance a republican sheriff had been a party to what has occurred, I ask you, my fellow citizens, would he have survived?

Respectfully submitted to all the people. This May 4, 1912.

D. L. ENGLISH.

#### A Trifle Caustic.

A man who is the manager of a store in the shopping district is noted for his sarcasm. The other day he observed one of his salesmen gazing abstractedly out of the front window at a passing pretty girl.

"Guess I'll change you to the flower department," said the manager, crossing over.

"Why?" was the query. "And stand you," continued the boss, not heeding the interruption—"and stand you with the other rubber plants."—Philadelphia Times.

## REPUBLICANS WANT TO NOMINATE T. R.

### COUNTY CONVENTION INSTRUCTS FOR TEDDY

#### Also Pass Resolutions that Denounce and Condemn the Sheriff's Actions.

Pursuant to the call of M. L. Hamilton, county chairman, the republicans held a county convention in the court house Saturday afternoon. About twenty-five delegates were in attendance. The meeting was for the purpose of electing delegates to the state, congressional, judicial and senatorial conventions.

The delegates to the state convention were instructed solidly for Roosevelt, every delegate voting for the instructions.

The following delegates were elected to the state and congressional conventions: S. T. Everett, W. H. Faulkner, H. P. Moore, W. J. Raines, W. L. Pierson, W. L. Talley and J. H. Pickelsimer.

The following delegates were elected to the judicial and senatorial conventions: D. L. English, Robert Orr, H. A. Orr, G. E. McGaha, Judson Corn, O. W. Clayton and T. H. Hampton.

The meeting was presided over by M. L. Hamilton, and O. W. Clayton was elected secretary.

The following resolutions were read and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, our state constitution and election law requires all electors under 50 years of age to pay their poll tax on or before the first day of May of the year in which the elector proposes to vote in an election;

And whereas, the same law makes it the duty of the sheriff or tax collector to issue receipts to all who pay their poll tax, on the date the same is paid, and also by inference makes it the duty of the said sheriff or tax collector as the case may be, to stay at his office in person or by deputy, on the last poll tax paying days for the purpose of issuing receipts to the voters; and whereas, it is a known fact that the sheriff of Transylvania county has issued poll tax receipts dated prior to the first day of May, 1912, to various tax payers of Transylvania county, who have not to this time paid the sheriff the money therefor, and from whom he, said sheriff, has not yet received the money for said taxes, thereby violating the criminal laws of the state; and whereas, the said sheriff, presumably to defraud some electors of their right of franchise, did on the morning of April 30, 1912, leave the county and the state and go to South Carolina, and take with him his office deputy, leaving his said office closed and locked, and remained out of his said office and so far as this convention knows, remained out of the state the last two poll tax paying days; and whereas, during said time, to wit: April 30 and May 1, 1912, various and sundry taxpayers came to Brevard to pay their taxes during said days, and within the time allowed by law to pay same, and by written authority tendered their money to a sworn deputy sheriff, who could not receive and receipt for same, the books being locked up in the office of the sheriff, to which the said deputy had no means of access; and whereas, the said sheriff on his return refused to accept said money, both for property and poll tax, and issue receipts as of the date same was tendered to his said deputy; and whereas, on said two days while said sheriff was away, and no one in his said office, other tax payers came to pay their tax, and were told by some of the bosses to go back home and they would be taken care of; and whereas, it now appears that said persons have

been taken care of as to the issue of their poll tax receipts, same being dated on or previous to the first day of May, 1912, in the issue of which receipts discrimination has been plainly practiced, and the law plainly violated; and whereas, it is a known fact that this fraudulent attempt to disfranchise the white men of Transylvania county is despised and condemned by all the good and honest democrats of the county, and was altogether devised and executed by a few designing bosses, who made the sheriff their willing tool;

Therefore be it resolved by the republicans of Transylvania county, in open convention assembled, that they as citizens, tax payers and liberty-loving men denounce and condemn the said sheriff and his few political bosses for the unlawful and wrongful acts hereinbefore set out, and request all good citizens, regardless of their political faith, to unite and assist in nominating and electing good honest men to fill our county offices.

Resolved further, that a copy of these resolutions be published in the Sylvan Valley News, so that the true facts of this matter may be made known to all the people, and also a copy filed for future reference.

Read and unanimously adopted in open convention May 4, 1912.

## TAR HEELS IN WASHINGTON

The News has begun to make its regular weekly visits to our home here. Only those who have been for some time away from those scenes and friends held most dear can understand how much we appreciate its visits. We read every word that has reference to local affairs and people—even the ads. and notices.

But some times we wonder if this state should not be called the western-most county of North Carolina. In every place I have been here I have found people from the home state. In some places more than half the population are Tar Heels. In one village—Oak Point—among others there are T. C. Galloway, Joe Teague, Jacob Miller, Will Hamlin, W. M. Breedlove, T. H. Owen, Manning Moore, Warren and Wilbern Lowe and their families, Thos. Powell, Chas. Davis, Mr. Smathers, Robt. Crawford and others. And there are other communities where one from "Down Home" feels equally at ease.

And these brothers of ours are generally doing well. One of them owns more property here than he and all his family owned in the old home. All are doing well except those who would not behave themselves and work. And they are doing well morally and religiously, as a general rule. One who laid no claim to either religion or morality at home is now a licensed minister and the leader of the moral forces of his community.

But we all long for home. We rejoice in every evidence of the prosperity of the home county and state, and when the news comes of the death of good friends our hearts grieve. To some of us Brevard will be much poorer without C. M. Gallimore and Asheville without J. H. Tucker. We all look forward to the day when we shall be able to come home. In behalf of a host of exiled Tar Heels I salute you.

Yours sincerely,

J. C. OWEN.

Tacoma, Wash.

#### An Achievement.

"I don't see why you should be so proud of winning that case," said the intimate friend. "You were plainly in the wrong."

"You don't understand these things at all," answered the lawyer. "That's the very thing that makes me so proud."—Exchange.

#### Faith and Works.

Faith without works is like a bird without wings, who, though she may hop with her companions here on earth, yet, if she live till the world's end, she will never fly to heaven.—Owen Felt-ham.