

# THE ROWAN RECORD.

VOL. 3. CHINA GROVE, N. C., DECEMBER 15TH, 1911. THE FLOWERS COLLECTION NO. 48.

### LOCAL NEWS MATTERS.

**Short Items Concerning our People and Their Doings.**

F. A. Setzer went up to Salisbury yesterday to see Dr. H. T. Trantham. He will probably have a slight operation performed.

Thornton Beaver's little child has quite a severe case of diphtheria.

A. W. Winecoff is putting up a new building on his farm, near Sumner, for a tenant.

C. E. Correll was Salisbury Wednesday on business.

M. A. Stirewalt was in Salisbury last Saturday.

Miss Nettie Shepherd, of Statesville, came down to be present at the Sifford-Shepherd nuptials.

Dr. S. P. Purvis, of Salisbury, was a visitor here last Sunday.

Mrs. H. M. Hendrix is spending a few days at Kings Mountain with her parents.

Miss Mary Harris spent Sunday evening with friends here.

Rev. C. A. Brown went to Mt. Pleasant Monday to attend a meeting of the board of the directors of Mont Amosna Seminary.

Miss Mary Miller was here Saturday and Sunday visiting Miss Browne Ritchie.

Elijah Miller was a China Grove visitor yesterday.

L. M. Miller, who has been in Pennsylvania, visited Jas. N. Daywalt Tuesday.

Mrs. L. F. Rogers will visit her son, George Rogers, in High Point, during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. James, of Chester, S. C., are expected to spend a few days here with Mrs. James' parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Holshouser.

M. A. Stirewalt took a trip to the country yesterday morning on business. He denies having been opossum hunting.

Floyd P. Bostian, now working with Stewart & Jones near Gainesville, Ga., will spend a few days here during the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Bostian.

Prof. F. H. Bostian, of Jacksonville, Ala., will visit relatives here during the holidays.

P. B. Gobel had quite a fall Monday evening and barely escaped serious injury. He was working on A. M. Hanna's house, the scaffolding broke and gave him a fifteen foot fall. He was only bruised and jarred and is now about as well as usual.

A. L. Klutts, who has been confined to his bed for several weeks with typhoid fever and kidney trouble, is still in a very serious condition. He now has a trained nurse with him and it is hoped by the careful attention he is receiving, that he will soon be restored to health.

The China Grove central of the Concord Telephone Company has moved into the small brick building recently vacated by Black welder & Ritchie, near their late location. This company has added another section to its switchboard and the service is consequently much improved, besides being in more commodious quarters.

**An X-Ray Machine.**

Dr. A. M. McCauston has just received an X-ray and high frequency apparatus, which is something new for China Grove. The X-ray is valuable in locating foreign objects, such as bullets, in the human body and ascertaining the extent of broken bones and kindred helps in diagnosing. The high frequency electrical battery is useful in the treatment of numerous diseases and is generally of much benefit when properly used.

### MARRIAGE OF POPULAR COUPLE.

**Miss Cora Sifford and Fred R. Shepherd Were Married Yesterday Evening.**

Yesterday evening, at 6 o'clock, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sifford, this county, Miss Cora, their daughter, became the bride of Fred R. Shepherd, of Salisbury. Prior to the ceremony Miss Ada Stirewalt sang in her charming way. "Ab, Promise Me."

To the strains of Lohengrin's wedding march, played by Miss Zelia Corriher, the bridal party entered the parlor and took their places in front of an improvised altar of ferns and potted plants. Misses Browne Ritchie and Nettie Shepherd, sister of the groom, first entered, carrying the white ribbons with which an aisle was formed. Then came little Miss Elizabeth Sifford, the attractive niece of the bride, carrying the wedding ring on a silver waiter, followed by the groom and his best man, Charles Somers, of Statesville. Then the bride entered with her maid of honor, Miss Mary Sifford, and together the bride and groom took their places underneath an archway of ivy, while Rev. W. H. Riser, the bride's pastor, performed the ceremony, using the impressive ring service. Mendelssohn's wedding march was used as a recessional. Following the ceremony an elegant supper was served in the dining room which was decorated in white and green.

Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd left on No. 85 for Statesville where they will spend ten days with the groom's relatives, after which they will make their home in Salisbury. The bride is the younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Sifford and by her charming personality has endeared herself to countless friends. She will be greatly missed in social as well as church circles here.

The groom is an enterprising cotton mill man, being associated with the Keeler Manufacturing Company of Salisbury. The popularity of both bride and groom was attested by the numbers of wedding which they received.

### A CHARMING SOCIAL EVENT.

**The Thursday Afternoon Club Meets With Mrs. DeWitt C. Swarngen.**

Last Thursday afternoon was a typical southern day, so warm and sunny, that one would have thought it Spring time, had it not been for the approaching holiday season so close at hand, as to remind us it was really December, and time to make Christmas presents which no doubt was uppermost in the minds of the stylishly dressed club members carrying their fancy-work bags and wending their way to the attractive home of the president, Mrs. DeWitt C. Swarngen, who proved herself a most gracious hostess on this occasion. She welcomed the guests in her usual pleasant manner and made each one feel that it was indeed a rare pleasure to meet with her.

After a busy hour with "needles and tongues," all were invited into the dining room where they were amazed at the beauty of everything. The whole color scheme being pink and representing a "Pink Tea Party." The room was darkened and pink candles in gold candelabras burned on each end of the table, between which, two pink tea-pots were suspended, from above the center of the table, having pink paper streamers coming out the spouts to represent the continual pouring of pink tea. After all were seated at the table, the first feature was a lively "Brain Tiers" contest, followed by composing and writing "A tongue twisting tale," which was to be composed of a great many words beginning with the letter "t" and finished in five minutes. The contest was an unusually spirited one. Mrs. Hanna was the lucky winner of the first prize, two hand-made tea dories. The consolation, a package of tea, fell to Mrs. Swink.

An elegant salad course was then served, followed by cake and coffee, after which all returned to the parlor to resume where they left off on their work, and social chat, but, finding that the afternoon had been so pleasantly spent that the time for bidding adieu to the charming hostess had arrived all unaware, each one departed feeling that they had had a most delightful time.

Those present on this occasion were: Mesdames W. J. Swink, Luther Gillon, W. C. Sifford, W. H. Riser, McL. Ritchie, Frank M. Thompson, A. M. Hanna and Dewitt C. Swarngen.

The next meeting will be with Mrs. Swink.

### WILL RE-OPEN JANUARY 2ND.

**Action of the Board of Directors of Mont Amosna Seminary.**

Rev. C. A. Brown attended the meeting of the Board of Directors of Mont Amosna Seminary last Tuesday, December 12th.

Following is the action of the board relative to the future work of the Seminary:

Mont Amosna Seminary, located at Mt. Pleasant, N. C., having been totally destroyed by fire on the night of the 80th. of November, 1911, the Board was called by the chairman, Capt. Jonas Cook to meet in extra session in Holy Trinity E. L. Church, Mt. Pleasant, N. C., on Tuesday, December 12th, at 10 o'clock a. m., to consider the future interests of the work of the institution in female education which, under the efficient management of Prof. J. H. C. Fisher has been for a number of years so successfully carried on in the building that is now in ashes.

After thorough investigation and consideration of the circumstances and conditions involving and surrounding the female education of the Synod, the Board feels that it is very important that the work be continued uninterruptedly, and, to this end, unanimously recommends that the N. C. Synod be called in extra session by the President of Synod at as early a date as possible to consider the conditions and devise plans whereby the work of the seminary in female education may be uninterruptedly continued.

The Board heartily and unanimously endorsed the action of Prof. J. H. C. Fisher, the faculty, and the citizens of Mt. Pleasant in their endeavor to continue the school to the close of the session, ending May, 1912. The school will re-open January 2, 1912.

### ANOTHER BONUS OFFER.

**15,000 First, 10,000 Second, 5,000 Third. A Grand Opportunity for Contestants.**

This week we are going to make three bonus offers, one of 15,000, free votes to the lady securing the largest number of subscriptions for week ending December 19th, 10,000 to the one securing the next largest number and 5,000 to the one securing the third largest number. Subscriptions must be in this office by Tuesday, 2 p. m. December 19th.

There is still an excellent chance for any one entering now to win either the first or second prize and we will hold the offer of 1000 votes with nomination open for one more week. Stop a minute and calculate, any one can enter now and with faithful systematic work secure the 15,000 FREE VOTES and thus place herself at once with the leaders.

Now just a word to the contestants, don't underestimate the value of consistent and systematic effort; don't just call on those you know, call on every family you come near, select a section or route and call on every family. A hit and miss plan never won a prize; use system. Remember you are not confined to any territory, subscriptions can be secured any place in the United States and you can get any one to help you who will.

Another word of warning; pay no attention to any rumor regarding the standing of any contestants, just get all the subscriptions you can and you will at the end of the contest, glory in work well done. Start now and endeavor to secure the 15,000 vote bonus.

There is no change in the standing of the contestants this week. Miss Lingle is first, Miss Fesperman is second and Miss Wiley third, and the others have crawled up some too, but the valuable prize is still almost a pick-up for any active person. Think of winning a splendid piano like this in a 30-day dash and think of buying one on the installment plan, with the three-year grind and the collector coming around every week or so. It costs nothing to join and win this instrument and the other way is anything but pleasant.

### DOUBLE MURDER AT SHELBY.

**Farmer and Wife Brutally Slain With an Axe. Negroes Suspected.**

The following from the Charlotte Observer of yesterday gives an account of a horrible murder near Shelby, N. C., which is similar to the Lyerly murder in this county near Barber several years ago.

Shelby, Dec. 18.—A pretty little country home that was yesterday the scene of comfort and happiness and thrift and prosperity was in the early hours of this morning the scene of the most horrible crime in the annals of Cleveland county. Mr. and Mrs. John Dixon were brutally and horribly murdered before daylight in their new home, 10 miles above Shelby, just off of the main road between Fallston and Lawndale, and Hack Ross and John Ross, two negro brothers, are held as suspects of the crime.

A thousand or more people stood about the desolate home today as the coroner's inquest proceeded, hoping that evidence would place the guilt on some party, so that they may avenge the crime. The sentiment is strong against Hack Ross and if the coroner's jury fixes the blame on him, lynching may be expected. Sentiment is at fever heat, but the good citizens are determined to be sure of their move before they take the law in their hands. They know Hack Ross made a threat that there would be "somebody missing in the neighborhood" if they took his meat, and Mr. Dixon had a mortgage on Ross' hog. Ross could not pay for the hog and brought it back to Mr. Dixon Monday, but the sentiment seems to be that this seemingly friendly feeling was feigned to cover up the awful crime he had planned. And, too, Ross lives about a quarter of a mile from Mr. Dixon's and tracks were found by Chief of Police Jetton and Deputy Nelson Lattimore that exactly correspond to the shoe Ross was wearing because of the heavy tracks in the heels.

When neighbors reached the scene this morning young Mr. Dixon, who is only about 30 years old, was lying dead, face downward, at the barn, and his wife, with her twelve-months-old babe by her side, was dead in a bloody bed in their sleeping room. Drs. S. S. Royster and E. A. Houser made the examination of the bodies and testified that the husband came to his death from a blow by a sharp instrument, supposed to be an axe in the left temple. His temple bone was crushed in and a stream of blood three feet long flowed from his body. Mrs. Dixon had a blow from a blunt instrument in the middle of the forehead, a deep gash from the blade of the axe in the same place and a crushed temporal bone at her right eye. An axe covered with blood in the weapon used. Several human hairs corresponding to Mr. Dixon's hair were found on the fatal trusses fit the poll of the axe.

The only evidence bearing on the murder is that of Major Stroud and John Ross, two negro woodchoppers, who passed by about daylight. The road runs close to the house and both testified that Mrs. Dixon beckoned for them to come to the window. They asked what was the matter and she didn't know, but, with her head in her hands and bleeding from a wound in her forehead, she inquired where her husband was. She said two white men had called him out to help get a mule out of a ditch and that he had not come back. Stroud testified that he knew something bad was the matter because her eye was bloodshot and she was nervous. She asked them to go for help, so John Ross started to Thomas D. Dixon's the dead man's father, who lived about a half-mile away, and Stroud started to Dennis Wright's and Fallston for the doctors.

John Ross says he went through the barn, which was on his way, and a white man stepped out of the shack stall and asked him where he was going. His reply was that he was going to cut wood. The strange man asked where John Dixon was and he replied that he did not know. After that another strange man, rather tall and wearing a far cap, came out and two started off together through the woods. John Ross then delivered his message as quickly as possible. He says he did not see the dead body of Mr. Dixon in the barn yard, though he ran within nine yards of it and would have crossed exactly over it had he gone straight.

Little faith is put in this story told by the negroes. Stroud is a reliable colored man of advanced age, but Ross is suspicious and the impression is he he knows more than he told. There is no cause why highwaymen should murder these two happy people, as both were quiet and have no enemies. Mr. Dixon was one of the most prominent farmers in the county and belongs to a leading family while Mrs. Dixon was Miss Clayton Cline of another prominent family. They were thrifty and prosperous and had a sweet little baby girl. The child was found beside its dead mother, when neighbors reached the scene, with its mother's blood on its night clothes. Some thought robbery had prompted strange men to ransack the house and cover up all evidence by killing the husband and wife out, but \$49 which Mr. Dixon was known to have yesterday was undisturbed. Hack Ross, who threatened to kill Mr. Dixon if he took his meat, was not at home this morning when officers went to search. He had gone with his wife to Mr. Mauney's, near Cleveland Mills, to cut wood, and they followed after him when placed under arrest he was intensely nervous and frightened, but made no attempt to get away. A blood spot was on his overalls and when asked to explain to the jury, he told them that he had trapped a muskrat on the creek and got the blood on his pants Monday, when he skinned it. When asked if he got up about 2 o'clock to wait on the baby and he did not retire again but helped his wife churn and get breakfast in order to get an early start. His stepson about 12 years old, added to the suspicion of guilt by his testimony. The tracks that correspond to Ross' No. 10 shoes, freshly made in the ground between the two houses, seems to be the strongest evidence. Ross is about 40 years old, has Indian blood in his veins and a bad character to make the suspicion stronger.

Sheriff D. D. Wilkins and deputies brought John and Hack Ross and Hack's stepson to Shelby, where they were lodged in jail without any demonstration on the part of citizens. The coroner's jury did not return a verdict, but sent the negro suspects to jail to await a more complete examination of witnesses at a preliminary trial Friday. The prisoners are in separate cells and there is a strong belief tonight that Major Stroud will tell the truth and place the blame on John Ross, who could have committed the crime before coming to Stroud's house this morning to sharpen his axe.

There is still a deep mystery to be cleared away.

In an humble home in a suburban street, the bodies of Mrs. Fannie New Pinnix and her husband, William G. Pinnix, Wednesday night lie dead as a result of a dual homicide at 4 o'clock this afternoon committed by the husband. Pinnix, who is a former employer of the freight department of the Southern Railway and member of a prominent North Carolina family left letters and memoranda showing that he had planned the tragedy as long ago as Thanksgiving day.

### Fire at Salisbury.

**The Grace Furniture Company's plant at Salisbury was totally destroyed by fire last night.**

The plant was situated on the south side of Salisbury along the railroad. The fire is thought to have originated in the finishing room on the second floor, but it is not known from what source the fire started. The fire department was summoned and arrived on the scene promptly, but they were unable to fight the fire as no water was close enough to use the hose. For some reason this plant seems to be doomed as this is the second time it has been destroyed by fire in recent years. Part of the loss to the Grace Furniture Company is probably covered by insurance.

Geo. L. Arters and F. L. Lippman who came here from Baltimore a little over a year ago, have had entire charge of the plant, have kept it going pretty regularly and, we understand, were doing a very satisfactory business. It is an incorporated firm and Mr. Arters is president and Mr. Lippman, secretary and treasurer. According to an inventory taken last September the total assets were said to be about \$78,000. The insurance will amount to about \$50,000.

### A Millionaire's Wife Is Sentenced.

**New York, Dec. 12.—Mrs. E. Virginia Evers, wife of Frederick E. Evers, millionaire, was today sentenced to three months in the penitentiary, charged with cruelty in beating Alice Elizabeth Randolph, her pseudo ward.**

The prison officials declare Mrs. Evers is unquestionably the wealthiest woman ever sent to the penitentiary from New York. With many of her society friends at her side Mrs. Evers collapsed when the sentence was pronounced. She will be taken to the penitentiary this afternoon. She pleaded guilty to the charge of beating the child with a riding whip. The girl's body was covered with welts and bruises.

### List of Contestants.

**SALISBURY.**

Miss Mary Ridehour.....  
do Ruth Cornelison.....  
do Margaret Harris.....  
do Jeanie Proctor.....  
do Pearl Wiley.....  
do Roxie Earnhardt.....  
do Jessie Witherspoon.....  
do Eloise McNeal.....  
do Nellie Kesler.....  
do May Outbrell.....  
do Hattie Baker.....  
do Blanche Charles.....  
do Mattie Chilson.....  
do Sallie Canup.....  
do Maggie Julian.....  
do Ida Fesperman.....  
do Daisy Trexler.....  
do Mary Ruffy.....  
do Grace Coggins.....  
do Reta B. Howell.....  
Mrs M S Varner.....

**SPENCER.**

Miss Olive Thomas.....  
do Dolly Webb.....

**BARBER.**

do Mary H Barber.....

**ROCKWELL.**

do Lula Sifford.....  
do Lucy Fesperman.....  
do R C Earnhardt.....

**MOUNT ULLA.**

do Merle Shoaf.....  
do Ruth Arey.....

**RICHFIELD.**

do Ada D Shaver.....  
do Della Wyatt.....  
Mrs O L Basinger.....

**CLEVELAND.**

do Winnie Harris.....  
do Annie Lee Kincaid.....

**GOLD HILL.**

Miss Lucile Shaver.....  
do Ida Morgan.....  
do Hanna Jenkins.....  
do Maud Earnhardt.....

**MOCKSVILLE.**

Miss Belle Fleming.....  
Miss Mary Hobson.....

**COOLEMBEE.**

do Mary Tatum.....

**LANDIS.**

do Esther Fisher.....

**PROVIDENCE.**

do Eleadora Brown.....

**CHINA GROVE.**

do Anna Rose.....  
Mrs Lewis M Holshouser.....

**CRESWENT.**

do Electa Lingle.....

**WILKESBORO.**

do Clara Marlin.....