

THE DANBURY REPORTER.

VOLUME XXXIII.

DANBURY, N. C., APRIL 23, 1908.

No. 1884

SMITH ACQUITTED OF CONSPIRACY

But Under Other Charges Is Sentenced to Four Years in the Penitentiary and Fined \$300---Other Sentences Passed On the Smithtown Men By Judge Boyd---Close Of the Most Sensational Trial Of Moonshiners In the State's History---Ceph Nelson and Frank Smith Not Yet Captured.

The trial of the Smithtown men, for illicit stilling of liquor, for concealing, removing and retailing, and for conspiracy leading to murder of Revenue Officer Hendrix on the 20th of December, 1907, has at last ended in the Federal Court at Greensboro, and the sentences have been passed on the criminals by Judge Boyd.

James P. Smith was found guilty of distilling, removing and concealing, but the jury after long deliberation, acquitted him of the charge of conspiracy against the life of Hendrix. For removing, Smith was sentenced to three years in the prison at Atlanta, and to pay a fine of \$200.00. On the charge of distilling, he was sentenced to one year in the prison, to begin at the expiration of the 3-year sentence, and to pay a fine of \$100.00. In the case charging him with concealing, prayer for judgment was continued.

John Hill was sentenced to 18 months in the penitentiary, and fined \$100.00.

Oscar Sisk was sentenced to the penitentiary for three years and fined \$200.00.

Fletcher Smith was given six months in jail and fined \$100.00.

Frank Smith was sentenced to a 3-months term in jail and to pay a fine of \$100.00.

Henry Harber was given 3 months in jail and fined \$100.00.

Joe Bateman was given 15 months in the penitentiary and fined \$100.00.

Thus ended the most famous trials of moonshiners in the history of the State. The first big raid on Smithtown was made by 25 revenue officers on the 19th of June, 1907. About two hundred shots were fired, twelve stills captured and about a dozen men arrested. On the 24th of July, 1907, another raid was made, and a number of men taken, besides the capture of several stills. On December 20th, 1907, the third raid of the year was effected, two or three stills were cut up, and Revenue Officer Hendrix was killed. As a result of the storming of the stronghold of the block-aders, about 18 men are now in the Federal prison, and several others are fugitives from justice.

Ceph Nelson and Frank Smith, charged with conspiracy leading to the murder of Hendrix, fled when the news reached them that they would be charged with conspiracy, and have not been arrested, though rewards have been offered for them by the government.

Considerable change has taken place in the opinion of the people as to who killed Hendrix. It is now doubted whether Jim Smith killed the officer, and suspicion is resting strongly upon Ceph Nelson, who ran away a few weeks ago. The government worked up its case against Smith well, but could not secure evidence to convict. Neither could the facts be obtained against Oscar Sisk. It will possibly never be known who killed Walter Hendrix.

Mr. J. E. Simmons, of Wade Macium, was in town Thursday last week.

TELEPHONE LINE FROM SANDY RIDGE TO DILLARD.

Mr. J. M. Mabe Falls and Hurts Himself--Mr. W. E. Lasley Ill--Some Other Items of Interest.

Dillard, April 21.--Uncle Gid was here yesterday.

Mr. Davidson went fishing yesterday and caught several about three inches long.

Mrs. C. A. Mitchell is visiting her mother and father in Rockingham this week.

Mr. J. M. Mabe fell from the second tier of a barn a few days ago and painfully hurt himself.

Misses Mary Sue and Helen Willis were among the visitors here Monday.

Miss Ruth Lasley has returned home from Greensboro, where she has been teaching for some time.

Dr. J. H. Ellington informs us that he will open up the telephone line from here to Sandy Ridge soon.

Miss Jessie Webster is visiting relatives and friends here today.

We regret to learn that Mr. W. E. Lasley, one of Stokes' former citizens, who moved to Winston some time ago, is quite low with rheumatism.

Mr. Chas. McAnally, of Saxon, has returned home from Atlanta, where he has been taking a course in dentistry at the Southern Dental College.

In Memoriam.

Entered into life eternal the latter part of March, Virginia Irene Tatum, the three-year-old daughter of James and Nora Tatum, of Mayodan, N. C. Dear little Virginia was a faithful member of the Episcopal Sunday School at Mayodan, and by Holy Baptism a member of Christ, a child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven. Her death was particularly sad and a great shock to the many friends of the Tatums. While standing near a fire her clothing ignited and she was so badly burned that she died in a few hours. Notwithstanding her severe burns her death was sweet and patient, as she really seemed to suffer very little. Just before she died a smile was upon her face, and she "wanted to get up and play with papa," and while her precious soul was being wafted into Paradise, earnest prayers were being offered to God by Rev. A. R. Berkley, of the Episcopal Church, who, with others, was by her side when she died. Virginia is sadly missed from home, Sunday School and Church, but all gladly submit to the will of Divine Providence, and our prayer is that light perpetual may shine upon her, and that she may be numbered with the saints of God in glory everlasting. The beautiful funeral service was conducted from the Episcopal Church, and the little body taken to the village cemetery and laid tenderly to rest, while children's voices sent heavenward many bright and sweet songs of cheer and comfort.

A FRIEND.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Isom, of Gideon, visited in Danbury Tuesday.

OYSTER LUNCHEON.

Pleasant Event Saturday Night In Honor of the Forty-fourth Birthday of Mr. J. Spot Taylor.

Apropos of the birthday of Mr. J. Spot Taylor on last Saturday, April 18, Mrs. Taylor tendered an oyster luncheon to a party of Mr. Taylor's friends in the hotel parlor at 7:30 o'clock.

The dinner, which was very elaborate, was served in four courses. Mrs. Taylor was assisted in receiving and serving by Miss Jessie Pepper. The invited guests were as follows: Rev. D. A. Binkley, Dr. W. V. McCanness, Dr. W. L. McCanness, Prof. J. T. Smith, Prof. M. T. Chilton; Messrs. A. H. Joyce, W. W. King, N. O. Petree, J. D. Humphreys, R. H. R. Blair, J. W. Hall, N. E. Pepper, C. M. Jones, N. A. Martin, E. P. Pepper, A. W. Davis.

After the luncheon, several interesting contest games were introduced by the hostess. One of these was entitled "Commonwealth Characteristics." Each guest was furnished with a card on which well known characteristics of eight different States of the Union were written. For instance the most "Egotistical State" was "Me.," the most "Maidenly State" was "Miss." And so on, the abbreviations of the States furnishing the answers. The prize which was offered the most correct list of answers, a very pretty black leather bill and card case combined, was awarded to Rev. D. A. Binkley. Another contest was of a Biblical nature. It was a card on which the Ten Commandments were arranged in confusion, and the player was to number them in the order in which they appear in the Scriptures. On account of his familiarity with the Bible, the Rev. Mr. Binkley was barred from this contest. Mr. N. O. Petree, having the greater number correct, won the prize, an exquisitely bound copy of the New Testament.

One of the most interesting incidents of the occasion was a board on which 44 lighted wax candles were fastened. The unmarried guests were invited to see how many of them could be extinguished at one "blow," the result to determine the period of celibacy yet to be suffered by the contestant. Mr. J. W. Hall took a turn, and it was found that this young man has yet 37 years to endure before he can take unto himself a life partner. One of the editors of the Reporter came within about six of blowing out the whole cluster, and he thinks he did not get a fair chance at that.

Toward the close of the evening the arrival of a number of the ladies of Danbury, both married and unmarried, proved a very pleasant surprise which had been arranged by the hostess as the climax of the evening's enjoyments.

After this, selections on the piano, both instrumental and vocal, rendered by Miss Dora DeShazo and by Miss Mary Joyce, were highly enjoyed. Deserving of especial mention was a quartet sung by Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Davis, Rev. D. A. Binkley and Miss Mary Joyce. Mr. H. M. Joyce's solo entitled "John Dobbins He Dreamt That His Daddy Was Dead, And His Daddy He Dreamt That John Dobbins Was Dead," was very touching.

The guests, leaving at 11, voted the evening one of rare enjoyment, and Mrs. Taylor was sincerely thanked for her charming hospitality, while Mr. Taylor, on whom the occasion had been sprung as a surprise, was congratulated, and felicitated.

THE NEWS AT GANN'S.

Measles In Several Families--Tobacco Plants Plentiful -- Show At Madison On the 25th.

Gann's, April 20.--The people are so busy just now preparing for their crops that they are not talking much, therefore news is at a low ebb here.

Tobacco plants are plentiful with everybody we believe in this section, doing as well for those that did not burn as for those that did burn.

D. M. Gann and C. W. Joyce, who are attending school at New Bethel Academy, visited their parents here Friday evening, returning today. They seem to be making good progress in their studies.

J. L. Ferguson has been in bad for ten days with measles and has been quite sick, but is improving, we are glad to know.

Mr. Riley Shaffer's wife is ill with indigestion.

Mr. G. M. Shaffer and two of his children are quite sick with measles.

Mrs. J. T. Ratledge is visiting her mother, Mrs. Ruth Dalton, at present. She seemed to enjoy meeting her many friends and former pupils in both day and sabbath school at the Easter entertainment at the school house yesterday. She is one of the best women that we ever had the pleasure of knowing. She has spent her life so far doing good for others and is doing what she can to advance the prohibition cause.

We are sorry that we meet so many that do not know what is contained in the prohibition bill to be voted on May 26th.

We attended a singing at Mrs. Ruth Dalton's last night. Good crowd present and good singing, and we believe every man there is in favor of prohibition.

A good crowd was present at the Easter entertainment yesterday and well behaved.

The school acquitted itself well considering the weather. Last week they could not get together to be trained.

The first showman of the season was here today advertising for a show at Madison May 25.

We had a maddog scare a few days since. Much talk of them now-a-days.

The people generally are taking Easter today. We haven't heard a whistle blow.

Tobacco Plants Looking Well In the Brownville Section--Other Items.

Brownville, April 20.--Farmers are glad to see the land dry again so they can go to plowing.

We are glad to say that tobacco plants are looking well in this vicinity. Think most of the people are expecting to plant a large crop this time.

A crowd of young people met Monday morning and went to the river fishing. Think they had a good time, but don't think they caught many fish.

Miss Lelia Joyce was expecting Miss Lucy and Mr. Lee Aldredge Sunday. She stayed at home all day looking for them, but they failed to come, but it didn't keep Mr. Martin from coming.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Nelson and little son, Frank, spent the day at Mr. J. W. Joyce's Sunday.

Mr. J. R. Morefield called to see Misses Alice and Minnie Tudor Sunday. He reports a fine time.

Mr. W. G. Nelson called to see Miss Florence Hill Sunday, and also went with her fishing Monday.

Miss Annie Anglin is visiting her sister at Brownville now.

Mr. G. T. Brown, daughter and son, Alpha and Ralph, spent the evening at Mr. J. W. Joyce's last Sunday.

A BLUE EYED GIRL.

OSCAR TUTTLE KILLS HIS SISTER

The Germanton Section Horrified By the Ruthless Murder Of a Half-Witted Woman By Her Idiot Brother Sunday---The Girl Fired Upon With a Breech-Loading Shot Gun While Making-Up a Bed---Death Instantaneous---Murderer Arrested and Brought to Jail By Sheriff Petree.

On last Sunday near Germanton about 1 o'clock P. M., Mollie Tuttle, an unmarried woman 28 years old, was shot and instantly killed by her brother, Oscar Tuttle, 25 years of age. Tuttle is an idiot, and the murdered woman was also half-witted. The act was ruthless, and without provocation. Shortly after the crime was committed the maniac was arrested and kept under confinement until Monday morning, when he was brought to jail here by Sheriff R. J. Petree, near whose home the murder occurred.

The parties to the sad affair are the son and the daughter of Mr. John Henry Tuttle. Both have always been of deformed intellect, and the young man who killed his sister has been considered dangerous. Sunday afternoon, the father, while at the stable feeding his stock, heard the report of a gun, and remembering that he had left his gun at home, though he thought unloaded, went to the house and inquired of his son, whom he found standing in the yard, who had fired the shot. The boy said he did not know. Mr. Tuttle then asked of the whereabouts of the daughter, and the half witted fellow gave the same answer. The father then went into the house and was horrified to find the woman lying in the floor, near the bed, dead. She had been in the act of making up the bed, when shot.

The weapon used was a single-barrel breech loading shot gun. The entire load took effect in her body, entering the left side of the back, and severing the vital parts of the abdomen. Death must have been instantaneous. The father quickly gave the alarm, and the country was aroused. The boy denied that he knew anything about the murder. Sheriff Petree asked him why he killed his sister. He would not give any intelligible answer. The Sheriff then asked him where he got the shell for the gun. The idiot quickly replied: "In the trunk." Mr. Tuttle, the father, then remembered that there had been seven shells in the trunk, which were kept hidden from the lunatic, and on going to the chest, he found only six, one being missing. After further questioning, the boy replied on being asked why he shot the woman, replied, "I just pulled the trigger."

Young Tuttle, the murderer, will be tried at the term of Superior Court which convenes here week after next, and will no doubt be convicted of murder, and sentenced to the criminal insane department of the State prison.

Mr. Alex Southern, Jr., Breaks His Collar Bone.

Mr. Alex Southern, Jr., a good citizen of Germanton Route 1, happened to the misfortune of getting his collar bone broken Sunday. Mr. Southern and Ringo White, one of his near neighbors, were wrestling out in the yard when the accident occurred. He suffered considerably from the hurt for a few hours after it was done, but is getting on very nicely now and hopes to be out again in two or three weeks.

BAPTISING NEXT SUNDAY.

Mr. Jim Corn's Family Confined With Measles--Mr. W. C. Moore Favors Prohibition--Some Other News.

Campbell, April 21.--We are having fine weather now for the farmers.

Mr. Drue Rhodes and family, of Della, Va., visited their relatives at Campbell last week.

It looks right strange at Dr. Pringle's now as Mr. Charlie Hylton hasn't been there lately. I guess he got afraid he would fall in the well.

Mrs. John Lackey will be baptised in the mountain branch near her home April 26th by Elder Jas. A. Fagg.

Mr. W. C. Moore, the owner of two large orchards, one containing about fifteen hundred trees, the other a great many also, is highly in favor of prohibition.

Mr. Jim Corn's family is confined with measles. Hope they will soon be out again.

Mr. Gabe Hylton started to see his best girl Sunday. He was so bashful that he had to go a right smart out of his way to get somebody to go with him, but I think he got there about sundown and found that some one had cut him out, so he didn't stay long, and I don't think he will go any more soon.

Mr. Harvie Smith called on Miss Zelve Rhodes soon Sunday morning and carried her home with him to spend Easter, I guess.

Mr. Wesley Pringle went over in Virginia courting Sunday.

Misses Ruth, Sadie and Mary Pringle spent Easter Sunday with Miss Roxie Taylor. Guess they had a good time.

Mrs. Minn Lawson and Mrs. Gallie Sheppard were visitors of Mrs. W. C. Moore Sunday evening.

Mr. Zeb Rhodes started a well and dug it 40 feet and struck a hard rock, so they will have to stop digging till next fall on account of warm weather and gas from dynamite.

NO MOORE.

Team Ran Away Down the Hill.

Last Thursday a team of horses hitched to a hack ran down the hill just east of town beyond the river, almost demolishing the vehicle, throwing out the driver, who was first thought to be seriously hurt, but later he recovered. The man, whose name could not be learned, was said to be drunk. He was on his way to Pilot Mt. from Leaksville, where he had bought a new Hampton hack. The accident was said to have been caused by a pin breaking, which allowed the tongue of the conveyance to drop, frightening the horses.

Prominent Society Young Man Charged With Stealing Diamond Ring.

Eugene G. Blackburn, of Winston-Salem, was arrested at Greensboro Saturday on the charge of stealing a diamond ring from the jewelry store of R. C. Bernan. The young man was held on a bond of \$400 which was given by relatives in Winston.