

Jury Likely To Get Champion Case Thursday Morning

Judge Hamilton Prepares To Make Charge To Jury

Testimony Concluded in Half Hour at Morning Session; Defendant Gives Lengthy Testimony in Afternoon of Tuesday.

Arguments by counsel were nearing conclusion. This afternoon, as Judge Luther Hamilton prepared to deliver his charge to the thirty-man jury in the case of J. C. Champion, former ABC enforcement officer of Vance county charged with the slaying of Police Sergeant W. M. Reid in the Cooper Grill late in the evening of last December 19, the aged probate judge Hamilton would defer his charge to the jury until tomorrow morning.

Testimony was completed in less than half an hour after court convened at 9:30 a.m. following which arguments were begun. The arguments for the prosecution and for the defense one by Maine Trial G. Starn of Oxford, of the public prosecution, to be followed by J. M. Pease for the defense. In other there were B. S. Rogers also of Oxford, and of the private prosecution, A. A. Burn and W. H. Yarbrough, the latter of Lumberton, both for the defense, and Senator E. K. Tyler closing for the State.

Each side had two hours for argument. Judge Hamilton expected to speak at least an hour or more in making his argument.

Four witnesses were offered by the State during the first half hour of today's session, three of whom was cross-examined by the defense. Their testimony was in the nature of corroboration or relating to the reputation of the defendant, or to identification of garments.

The defendant's testimony, both direct and cross-examination given at the day afternoon's session, was less than spot of the man Champion to recessed incidents of the fightings and admitted under cross-examination by Senator Tyler that he had suffered two other men besides Reid all in self-defense and in addition had at different times shot several other men, these also in self-defense, he said.

Asked by his own attorney about the Reid slaying, he said that I shot William Reid because he was a dangerous and violent man and I was afraid he would kill me." He also testified that Reid struck him four or five times before he shot him and was shooting. His reasoning on the incidents of the shooting was substantially the same as that given by other witnesses.

Former Sheriff J. E. Hamlett around whom much of the argument at the time of the shooting centered, testified that he attempted to get Champion's pistol away from him before the first shot was fired. He did not remember Reid striking Champion more than once, and said he never saw Reid reach for his pistol.

The State's final witness before the jury was concluded early in the forenoon were Mrs. Reid, widow of the slain officer; J. L. Cash, brother of Mr. R. E. A. Coffey, at the time a deputy sheriff, and Stephen Greenway, a farmer, who said he had known Champion for thirty years and his reputation was "bad."

The defense offered no testimony.

Political Notices

VOTE FOR
William "Bill" Hester
Candidate for
CONSTABLE

HENDERSON TOWNSHIP
Subject to the Democratic Primary,
May 30, 1942.

A Life Long Resident of Henderson
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He identified his own pistol in the solicitor's hands. He did not know where the bullets struck Reid, and admitted using the "God damn lie" to Reed about his charge.

Champion told the solicitor that he "locked me by my sweater and pulled me up by it and hit me four or five times." Champion said he had idea Reid was going to fight when he challenged the witness to take off his pistol.

In addition to admitting to killing two men, Champion said he had received \$25 and costs for attacking a man in a Raleigh hotel room two or three years ago, but the man attacked him first. He also admitted to shooting a Negro several years ago, and many years ago had shot Bill Bailey in the eye and hand. All were self-defense, he said. He said Bailey was a desperate man and was trying to kill him. "I would never have shot Reid if I had not been afraid he was going to kill me," he said. Reid was not hitting or attempting to hit him when he fired on the officer, he said.

"I am not the only officer who has shotned that man," Champion said, referring to Reid. He said he knew Reid had a wound received in the World War, and that Hamlett was a friend of Reid and him.

Coffey, who lived many years in Henderson, and was at Oxford during a period of seven years a deputy sheriff, constable and police chief there, now a post office agent in Oxford. He said Reid was his brother-in-law, and was about five feet ten inches tall, weighed about 180 pounds. He also said Reid helped him get the job he had. He had never been arrested before.

Former Sheriff Hamlett was recalled by the State attorney at the time that when by Reid at the known shooting.

Sheriff Tyler had Champion put on Reid's car when the night of the shooting, but made no reference to it otherwise.

Champion admitted he had with him Mayor S. B. Rogers while the latter was the city's chief executive and Champion was chief of police.

On re-direct examination, the witness told of shooting at a man named Ball, a soldier, during the last war, at North Henderson, after he had been summoned to arrest the man, and killed him only after he had shot Ball in the foot, leg and hip and fatally wounded the man after he had stabbed him with a bayonet and ripped a lung mesh in his coat. He killed a man near Madison some time later. In both instances he was exonerated by coroner's inquest and condemned in his jobs.

Sheriff Belvin of Durham county, in whose custody Champion was while in the Durham jail, observed a wound on Champion's face, which wound was swollen. He said Champion had told him of the shooting.

Chief of Detectives King of Durham, and acting chief of police told of seeing the bullet on Champion's face. Both said they had known Champion for years as an officer with a good reputation.

Character witnesses who testified for the defendant included Jasper B. Hicks, D. P. McFarland, B. H. Peay and G. Kittrell, all local attorneys; Sheriff Pinnell of Warren, George A. Rose, Sr., T. W. Ellis, S. J. Latte, M. Y. Cooper, S. B. Rogers, M. F. Leng, W. D. Musser, Recorder R. E. Clements. Some of them also gave Reid a good reputation. Others included W. A. Hunt, R. M. Hester and L. A. Jackson, who was ABC officer with Champion for several years.

C. C. Finch of the police force, said Reid had a reputation as a dangerous and violent man. J. D. Peck, at the time also a policeman, and now ABC enforcement officer, testified likewise as to Reid, but said he had heard Reid make no threat against Champion. R. B. Powell reviewed events of the shooting as told him by Champion. Winifred Langston, a woman, said Champion often said he had to do it, but wouldn't have done it for \$10,000.

On cross-examination by Senator Tyler, Champion said he did not see Reid's pistol, but saw him reach for

They Endorse Service Letters



MAYOR HENRY T. POWELL
City of Henderson



S. B. ROGERS, Chairman
Vance County Board of
Commissioners.

Grand Jury's Report Brief On Tuesday

The grand jury's report at the general term of Vance Superior Court was presented to Judge Luther Hamilton late Tuesday afternoon and was very brief. It was read in open court by Sheriff Court E. C. Coffey.

All nine members were present upon the principal issue being the indictment under indictment of Prosecutor Wilkerson, charged, for slaying of Ed Glover, also ordered, about a month ago, an examination and trial upon the charge of his killing Glover in an automobile accident.

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Service Letters Week To Be Observed May 17-23

40 Births, 12 Deaths Reported

Mayor Henry T. Powell and Chairman S. B. Rogers Give Endorsements; Ministers Asked With Announcement Sunday.

One of the main objectives of Vance County Standardization, which opened April 1st, will be to observe Service Letters Week during which time each person in Vance County will be asked to write a letter to someone in the armed services of the United States whenever service, in any past and wherever he may be.

Next to food, a service man is a letter from home, officers say. Ministers of the various churches in the county are urged to compile a list of their members now in service and read them from their pulpits on the week as may be fit.

J. R. Tongue, postmaster, has pledged the full cooperation of his office in the dispatch of letters to service men during this week and all other times.

Service Letters Week has been established in Vance County as the extra effort to be made to bring writing closer to the hearts of the men in whose hands our dollars have placed cold steel. These men have gone from their homes, and are anxious to have letters bringing them the news of their families and friends.

The committee in charge of this event urges that every person make a special effort, if it takes, to write some service man, during this week, then keep up the correspondence that the man's spirit may be carried to a higher pitch and will bring to him a renewed determination to stamp out the evils that are threatening his home.

AIR WARDENS CLASS TO MEET TOMORROW

The second class in a school to train air raid wardens will be held tomorrow night at 8 o'clock in the courtroom of the courthouse, it was announced today by Mayor Henry T. Powell, who is conducting the school.

High explosives and incendiaries will be discussed by the class.



TWO CHARGES HEARD BEFORE RECORDER

Two charges were before Recorder R. E. Clements today in court.

Willard Milton Jones, Negro, was guilty of carelessness and reckless driving, and was given 60 days suspended upon payment of \$5 and costs of court.

Frederick Clements, Negro, charged with assault, was found guilty, and prayer for judgment was continued upon payment of \$5 and costs of court.

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