

United States Supreme Court Hands Down Most Important Decision in Many Years

NEGRO EXCLUSION AMENDMENT LOST

Supreme Court Holds "Grandfather" Clause Is Not Constitutional.

In probably one of the most important race decisions in its history, the United States Supreme Court annulled as unconstitutional the Oklahoma constitutional amendment and the Annapolis, Md., voters' qualification law restricting the suffrage rights of those who could not vote or whose ancestors could not vote prior to the ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Federal Constitution.

Chief Justice White, a native of the South, and a former Confederate soldier, announced the court's decision, which was unanimous except that Justice McReynolds took no part in the case.

By holding that conditions that existed before the fifteenth amendment, which provides that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude could not be brought over to the present day in disregard of this self-executing amendment, it is generally believed that the court went a long way toward invalidating much of the so-called "grandfather clause" legislation of Southern States.

The immediate effect of the court's decision was to uphold the conviction of two Oklahoma election officials who denied negroes the right to vote in a congressional election and to award three Maryland negroes damages from election officials in Annapolis who refused to register them. The court held that these election officials could not ignore the potency of the fifteenth amendment in wiping out of State constitutions the word "white," as a qualification for voting. In the Maryland case, the court's decision established the point that the fifteenth amendment applies alike to municipal as well as to Federal elections.

The Medical Society at Greensboro.

Editor Hickory Democrat:

While the attendance at the Annual State Medical Society Meeting, just closed at Greensboro, was (as the wheat crop) a bumper, close to five hundred, near to one hundred more than any former attendance, with doctors from every nook and corner of the state, I noticed the absence of quite a number of our Catawba and Caldwell doctors.

One has missed a great treat by not attending those meetings. Laying aside the social functions, the free and welcome entertainments, the renewing of former acquaintances, etc., they are increasing in interest and real value to all who attend and apply themselves closely, to the valuable papers read. The specially good feature of the recent meeting was the reading of paper on such subject as tuberculosis, typhoid, pneumonia, fever, and dysentery, the prevalence of, and serious effect of the various contagious diseases, with others of the every day troubles, that the doctor has to contend with today, all of which show thorough study, combined with the discussion, make the attendance on those sessions as good as a short post graduate course.

One, on returning from one of the meetings, feels more able to grapple with the every day problems of curing the sick. Hence we would advise and insist on every M. D., (not Mad Dog but Medical Doctor) attending the annual meetings.

Respectfully, G. E. FLOWERS, Hickory, June 21, 1915.

NORTH CAROLINA LAW WON'T BE DISTURBED

Marion Butler Thinks "Grandfather" Decision Will Not Affect This State.

Washington, June 21.—North Carolina's election laws are not affected by today's decision of the Supreme court of the United States which declared the "grandfather clause" of the Oklahoma and Maryland laws null and void, in the opinion of former Senator Marion M. Butler.

The former North Carolina senator, after reading today's opinion declared that in view of the fact that the North Carolina law had stood for so long without being contested, and, the further fact that the law was only operative for eight years, and that there could not now be any question of its constitutionality.

Mr. Butler pointed out that as the state law now stands it applies to both races alike. The law was intended, he said, to establish a roll. That roll has now been established and operates upon equality to both races.—Parker R. Anderson.

First Methodist Church Baraca-Philathea Notes.

On Friday night the executive committee met in the Philathea room and appointed the following young ladies to help our Captains on the most interesting part of our programme, committee being as follows: Social, Misses Lula Lee Wolfe, Pinky Waugh and Katherine Clement; Membership Committee, Misses Estelle Wolfe, Annie Reinhardt and Marjorie Whitener; Charity Committee, Misses Erroll Bolch, Myrtle Taylor, Maggie Byers, Cora McKillop and Annie Deal.

The new Secretary's Board is quite an improvement to our room as well as to being beneficial in two ways; it does away with the old method of roll calling and the taking up of the collection, which gives us more time on our lesson, then another addition to our room is the Vacation Register and Post Card Receiver, enabling us to keep in contact with our absent members.

Our pastor has organized a Pocket Testament League and we are glad to say thirty-six of our class have already joined.

We had two new members and five visitors, and hope each Sunday we will continue to add more to our list.

Misses Mamie Sue and Effie Johnson have moved to Morganton. We regret very much to give them up for they have been such faithful members and earnest workers. We hope they will like their new home and that we may have them as visitors real often.

On June 20, the regular meeting of the young men's Baraca class of the First Methodist Church was given over to the election of officers and transaction of other business. The following officers were elected: P. A. Setzer was re-elected teacher for the coming quarter, L. H. Leslie, president; Joseph Hoffman, vice president; Arthur Bradford, secretary; Frank Johnston, treasurer and Burgan Witherspoon, class reporter.

Under the efficient leadership of our teacher, Mr. Setzer our class has more than doubled its membership in the past year, now having an enrollment of about sixty members.

We have a nice large class room capable of seating many new members and visitors. We extend a cordial invitation

GERMANY BEGINS TO DRAFT ANSWER

Effort Will Be Made To Definite Reply To Request of Wilson.

Berlin, via London.—Foreign office experts have commenced consideration of the German answer to the American note concerning submarine warfare and the first draft presumably will be finished by the end of the week. As the reply will be submitted to Emperor William at headquarters after it is thrashed out between the departments concerned, it probably will not be ready for transmission before the middle, or the end of next week.

No clear indication of the probable nature of the note is obtainable. From the emphasis naval writers continue to lay on the alleged British practice of flying neutral flags and encouraging merchantment to attack submarines and the impossibility of submarines to observe the regulations concerning visitation and search under these conditions, it might be anticipated that this argument would be the kernel of the reply. But at the foreign office there seems to be an impression that this point will appear only as a subordinate part of the reply, if at all, and that an attempt will be made to give a definite answer to President Wilson's request one way or another.

The alleged armament of the Lusitania probably will not figure prominently in the note. Considerable testimony has been assembled regarding the presence of guns aboard the Lusitania, but it all refers to voyages prior to the one on which the Lusitania was sunk, some after war began.

A German sailor named Emil Grabe deposes in an affidavit published here that he sailed for four years on British ships including the Lusitania and Mauritania. He avers that he made three trips on the Lusitania and that she, like the Mauritania, carried five or six 12 centimeter guns—two on her after deck, two amidships and one or two forward.

"Grabe testified that he personally watched naval reservists in the crew of the Lusitania exercising with these guns.

Higher business influences continue to be exerted in favor of a peaceful settlement with the United States. A number of industrial and commercial leaders have appeared in Berlin during the last few days to use their influence personally to this end.

No further details regarding the manner of the destruction of Capt. Otto Weddigen's submarine, the U-29, are obtainable here. The admiralty says that all the information in its possession was contained in its announcement of last Friday, that the underwater boat had been rammed and sunk by a tank steamer after the tanker had been ordered to stop.

Notice. Subscribers in the city, who fail to get their paper on Tuesdays and Fridays will please let us know at once. It will take our carrier boys some time to learn where each subscriber lives and we are very anxious to get the paper to each and every one. Don't fail to call our attention to any irregularities in delivery.

to all young men of Hickory to visit our class. We assure you that the lesson as explained by our teacher, are both interesting and instructive.

If you will read the ads in The Democrat you will see it will be worth your time. Go to the merchants and tell them you saw their ad in the Democrat and that you want some of those bargains he is advertising.

NEWS OF THE WEEK FROM WEST HICKORY

Many Persons Coming and Going, a Few on the Sick List and One Death Reported.

West Hickory, June 23.—The fine season which we have had for the past several weeks has caused vegetables to get cheap. Beans, potatoes and other garden vegetables are plentiful and the price low.

Mr. Geo. Hendrick and family moved from here to Newton Saturday.

Mrs. M. J. Lowman visited friends at Morganton several days last week.

Mrs. Margaret Smith and daughter, Jessie, of Chesnee, S. C., have gone to Caroleen after spending several weeks with Mrs. Smith's daughter, Mrs. R. F. Hicks.

Misses Ella Jones and Minnie Marie of Brookford, spent Saturday and Sunday here with Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Byers and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lowman have moved to Rhodhis.

Mrs. Henry Price and daughter, Edith, of Albemarle, spent a few days here with Mrs. Price's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Burch.

Miss Edna Burch has gone to Albemarle to spend several weeks visiting her sister.

Mrs. W. K. Cline and son, Ernest, are visiting relatives at High Shoals.

Prof. G. C. Cook of Mortimer, spent Saturday and Sunday here.

The Ladies' Aid Society met with Mrs. John Freeman Tuesday night.

Little Miss Catherine Jones has been quite sick for the past week.

Willie Wilson and Joseph Hawkins stopped over here one day last week. They were on their way to Post, Texas.

Mrs. Robert Carlton of Lenoir, is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Childers.

Miss Margaret Milton is visiting friends and relatives at Caroleen, Greenville, S. C., and Toccoa, Ga.

Mrs. B. Reep is very sick at present. She has typhoid fever.

Mrs. A. J. Drum is on the sick list.

Miss Lane of Morganton, spent a few days here with her sister, Mrs. John Miller.

Mr. John Robinson, and aged citizen of West Hickory, died very suddenly last Monday. He had started to visit his son at Valdese and died on his way as he was nearing Valdese. He was buried at Connelly Springs.

Children's Day exercises were held at the Methodist Church here Sunday evening. There was a large attendance and the children delivered their songs, recitations, etc., in a splendid manner. Everybody present thoroughly enjoyed the services.

Messrs. Ed. Barger and E. C. Leonard went to Charlotte Saturday.

Deeds Recorded.

W. J. Stirewalt of New Market, Va., to Quincy Y. Stroup of this city, for \$2,250, a lot on College and Charity avenues, Hickory.

B. C. Shuford to Mary E. Abee, for \$1,500, lot in this city.

Additional Train Service Sunday

Beginning Sunday morning, June 27, trains Nos. 15 and 16 will resume their regular run between here and Salisbury with a slight change in the schedule of No. 15, which will arrive here about 8 o'clock. There will be no change in the schedule of No. 16.

Mrs. W. H. Barkley was called to Charlotte Friday, to be at the bedside of her sister, Miss Hazel Moser, who had just undergone a serious operation for acute appendicitis.

Governor Slaton of Georgia Commutes Frank's Sentence to Life Imprisonment Monday

Atlanta, Ga.—Leo M. Frank's sentence Monday was commuted to life imprisonment by Governor Slaton. Frank was secretly taken to the state prison farm at Milledgeville. He was to be hanged Tuesday for the murder of Mary Phagan in April, 1913. Governor Slaton was still at his country home when he announced his decision to the press. In making this announcement the Governor dictated the following statement:

"All that I ask is that the people of Georgia read my statement why I commuted Leo M. Frank's life sentence before they pass judgment.

"Feeling as I do about this case I would be a murderer if I allowed this man to hang. It may mean that I must live in obscurity the rest of my days but I would rather be plowing in a field than to feel for the rest of my life that I had that man's blood on my hands."

Early extra editions stated unofficially that Frank's sentence had been commuted and early in the morning crowds began to gather on street corners. The arrest of a man who attempted to dismount a policeman by grabbing the horse's reins stirred the crowd at Forsythe and Walton streets and they followed the officer to the city hall, a block away where they took the prisoners, pending arrival of a patrol wagon.

Speakers started to harangue the crowd from the city hall steps but were stopped by an extra force of police. It was stated that a delegation was coming from Marietta, the home of Mary Phagan.

Frank's removal from the jail here was carefully planned and the officers were able to elude newspaper men and others who might recognize the prisoner. Leaving the jail by a rear door shortly before midnight they went in an automobile to the terminal station where a deputy purchased tickets for the party to Macon. Frank was not handcuffed and did not wear the heavy spectacles he generally wore. A black slouch hat was pulled down over his face. The few persons in the station failed to recognize him and it was over an hour after midnight before the report was circulated that he had been removed from the jail.

When the train reached Macon several persons saw the sheriff and his prisoner alight and Frank was positively identified. The party immediately started for Milledgeville in an automobile. They arrived there at 4:30 Monday morning.

At the Georgia prison farm, dressed in stripes, denoting the lowest grade of prisoner, Leo M. Frank again protested his innocence of the murder of Mary Phagan and expressed a "conviction that the day was not far distant when I will be exonerated." Frank will be known as convict "No. 965."

The following is the complete chronology of the Leo M. Frank case:

April 26, 1913, Mary Phagan was murdered in the National Pencil factory, Atlanta.

April 27, 1913, her body was found in the basement of factory.

April 29, 1913, Leo M. Frank placed under arrest.

April 30, 1913, Frank accused of knowledge of the murder.

May 1, 1913, Jim Conley, negro sweeper in factory, arrested.

May 24, 1913, Frank indicted on murder charge, on Conley's testimony.

July 28, 1913, Frank's trial begun in Fulton county superior court, Atlanta.

August 23, 1913, Jury finds verdict of guilty.

August 26, 1913, Frank's sentence to hang October 10. Motion

filed for new trial. October 31, 1913, new trial denied by superior court.

February 17, 1914, Georgia supreme court affirms conviction.

March 7, 1914, Frank resented to hang on April 17.

April 16, 1914, another motion for a new trial filed, staying execution.

April 25, 1914, Frank's sanity examined, found to be normal.

June 6, 1914, new trial again denied.

November 14, 1914, Georgia supreme court sustains denial of petition for new trial.

November 21, 1914, Frank's attorneys seek writ of error from Justice Lamar, of United States supreme court.

November 23, 1914, Justice Lamar refuses writ.

November 25, 1914, Justice Holmes, of United States supreme court also refuses writ.

December 7, 1914, full bench of United States supreme court refuses writ of error.

December 9, 1914, Frank resented to hang January 22.

December 21, 1914, United States District Judge W. Newman refuses application for writ of habeas corpus.

December 24, 1914, Frank's attorneys apply to Justice Lamar for a certificate of reasonable doubt and appeal.

December 28, 1914, Justice Lamar grants appeal and certificate of reasonable doubt.

February 25, 1915, Frank's case argued before full bench of United States supreme court.

April 19, 1915, supreme court, with Justices Holmes and Hughes dissenting, dismiss plea for writ of habeas corpus.

April 22, 1915, plea for commutation to life imprisonment filed with Georgia prison commission.

June 9, 1915, Georgia prison commission refuses plea.

June 10, 1915, plea for commutation to life imprisonment filed with Governor John M. Slaton.

June 21, 1915, Frank's sentence commuted.

LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. J. L. Yount spent Sunday with relatives in Conover.

Prof. W. H. Little is taking graduate work at the University of Wisconsin this summer.

Miss Anna Hemmster of Conover, is visiting Mrs. M. J. Heinicke.

Mrs. Harriet Huffman spent Sunday with her sister, Miss Mattie Miller at Conover.

On last Monday afternoon the chimney in the home of Mr. C. W. Ellington was struck by lightning. Mr. Ellington says there was not much damage done.

Gastonia Gazette: Miss Margaret Council of Salisbury, will arrive this afternoon to spend a few days with her cousin, Mrs. J. M. Holland. She and Miss Margaret Taylor of Hickory, who has been Mrs. Holland's guest for several days, will leave Saturday for Salisbury.

Picnic time has come again and the children are looking forward with much pleasure to the time when they will have their annual picnic. A large crowd attended the Reformed Church picnic held at Catawba Springs Wednesday. They report a most enjoyable time as the weather was fine and everything passed off nicely.

Mr. H. K. Foster, who recently gave up his work as government farm demonstrator in this county, has accepted a similar position in West Virginia at an increase in salary. His new home will be in Mason county and his post office will be Mt. Pleasant. He will leave with his family for their new home about July 1.

LARGE DISTILLERIES FOUND IN CALDWELL

Sheriff Triplett Locates and Destroys One Saturday and One Sunday.

Two illicit distilleries of large capacity were seized and destroyed by Sheriff J. A. Triplett and his deputies Saturday and Sunday, on the top of Green mountain, some four or five miles from Lenoir. The operators were on the lookout and made good their escape as the officers approached.

The still seized and destroyed Saturday was estimated to be of 90 gallon capacity and was running in full swing, when the officers located it. The equipment was first class in every respect and everything tended to show that the big plant had been run for some time. Sentinels had been placed by the operators to give warning of the approach of any legal guardians and consequently as the sheriff and his posse were going along as unostentatious as possible, of course, suddenly there rang out the sound of several shots, and in a little while the noise of what might have been a small herd of buffaloes passing through and over the underbrush were heard by them.

About 1,200 gallons of singlings were found by the officers in three large vats and in a few hours more this would have been passing through the worm as distilled spirits only to emerge as first class Western North Carolina "moonshine liquor". All this was frustrated by the officers.

Not satisfied with his Saturday catch, the sheriff again Sunday made a further visit to the same territory and located a second distillery within less than a mile of the one destroyed on Saturday. This one was of a smaller capacity, being only a 60 gallon one and was perhaps erected to take care of the increasing and overflow business of the "daddy" plant. This one was not being operated at the time but the cistern was full of singlings, containing several hundred gallons and everything was being made ready for a run. After emptying the vat and cutting it to pieces the still was brought to Lenoir by Sheriff Triplett and his men.

War Losses in Men is Now 8,331,000

Figures on the losses of the principal powers engaged in the war, furnished by the Red Cross and made public by Dr. K. Ziegler, Imperial German Consul, in Denver, Col., illustrate the immensity of the conflict now raging in Europe, Asia and Africa. These figures constitute the first authentic information regarding losses sustained by the powers since the beginning of hostilities. The total killed in the first six months of fighting was 2,146,000, divided as follows:

Germany, 482,000; Austria, 341,000; France, 464,000; Great Britain, 116,000; Russia, 733,000.

The losses of the Belgians, Serbians, Montenegrins, Turks and Japanese are not included in the summary, exact figures not being obtainable.

The Red Cross records show that every day of the war up to March 1, the losses of all the countries engaged averaged 41,300, divided as follows: Dead, 10,140; wounded, 23,000; prisoners, 8,300. The total losses of the Allies averaged 28,900 daily, while those of the central powers, Germany and Austria-Hungary, averaged 13,300 a day.

Lightning Strikes Residence.

During the rain and electric storm here Monday morning lightning struck the residence of Mr. Henry Wagner near Lenoir College. However, little damage was done and no one was hurt. The lightning also struck a transformer at Martin Furniture Company and burned it out.