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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

## BEATTIE CONFESSES CRIME.

### Signed Statement Before Going to the Death Chair, After Every Hope Had Been Exhausted.—The Bravado Till the Last.

Beattie, the Virginia wife murderer, whose case has attracted the attention of the whole country, died in the electric chair at Richmond at dawn last Friday morning. After his death the ministers who were his advisers, published the following signed statement, written by Beattie's own hand and kept secret until after his death:

"I, Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., desirous of standing right before God and man, do on this, the twenty-third day of November, 1911, confess my guilt of the crime charged against me. Much that was published concerning the details was not true, but the awful fact, without the harrowing circumstances, remains. For this action, I am truly sorrow, and believing that I am at peace with God, and I am to soon pass into His presence, this statement is made."

The secret of his confession was held inviolate by the ministers until after the execution. Not even the broken hearted friends knew of its existence, friends of the family declare. Not four hours after he had been declared dead in the death chamber in the State's prison, were the murderer's attorneys cognizant that he had made a clean breast of his guilt. With the same intrepidity that had marked his conduct from the beginning, Beattie went to the chair and brought the sordid story to a dramatic end. That was his sole satisfaction.

The shock which killed Beattie was turned on at 7:19, and death was instantaneous.

In addition to the two physicians there were gathered in the death chamber when Beattie appeared, the twelve witnesses to the electrocution, as required by law, the Revs. John J. Fix and Benjamin Dennis, Maj. James B. Woods, superintendent of the penitentiary, the electrician and four deputy wardens.

When the preliminaries were over Superintendent Woods, accompanied by two deputies, threw back an iron-studded door and started for the death cell. Instantly the death chamber was plunged into darkness with the exception of a vivid circle of lights from the hooded and powerful lamp above the chair. The chair, an oaken bit of furniture, which except for its straps and steel bands might grace any library, was on a rubber mat. All but it was obscured, the lamp throwing everything else into darkness so dense as almost to be felt.

The little party in the chamber heard the superintendent a few feet away droning out the death warrant. Beattie listened to it with intensity, but did not flinch. He stood during the reading, as it is the custom and when it was ended he swayed a trifle but quickly recovered. Then, without assistance he took his place between the guards and began his march to the unknown.

His entrance into the death chamber was as dramatic as anything he had done since he first commanded the public eye. He halted for a brief moment on the threshold, looked on the chair with an inscrutable smile that had in it the hint of a sneer and then walked briskly forward. Not once did he deign to strive to pierce the blackness outside his circle of glowing light.

It had been feared that the prisoner would flinch when the dreadful moment came to seat himself in the chair. There was no trepidation and not a hint of hesitation in Beattie's attitude. Still wearing his peculiar smile, half amused and half cynical, he stepped lightly in the seat, settled himself as though he had been looking forward to the rest and assisted the attendants in adjusting the straps and clamps by putting his arms in the proper positions. The only indication that he was under a nervous strain was disclosed by his tightly clenched left hand.

When the law was avenged and the witnesses were gone, the prison attendants moved the body to the mortuary room, which adjoins the death chamber. There it lay for four hours until an undertaker, authorized by the Beattie family to prepare it for burial, moved it to his morgue. Later it was taken to the Beattie home where funeral services, attended only by the family, were held Sunday.

On the night of July 18 last, Beattie drove his automobile into Richmond, carrying with him the body of his wife which had a gaping shotgun wound in the head. He declared that a tall bearded man had accosted him on the Midlothian turnpike, five miles from Richmond and when he had requested the man to make room for him in the road the stranger without warning had fired the shot which killed Mrs. Beattie. He added that he had grappled with the man but was overpowered and that the murderer had fled leaving the gun behind. This story of the crime was maintained by Beattie to the end of his trial.

For a brief time Beattie's tale was given some degree of credence, but within a day or two suspicion began to point to him and he was kept under the closest surveillance. Bloodhounds, taken to the scene of the crime refused to leave the place, circling around the bloodspot on the road.

Beattie, it had eventually transpired had thrown the shotgun into the torse of his automobile after the shooting but in passing over some railroad tracks not far from the scene he claimed it had been jolted out and was picked up later by a negro. This gun, which Beattie alleged, had belonged to the mysterious highwayman proved the means of sending the young man to the electric chair.

At the coroner's inquest the weapon was identified by Paul Beattie, a second cousin of young Henry, as the weapon he purchased for Henry with money furnished by the latter.

Beattie was arrested immediately after the inquest. This was on July 21, and on August 19, one month and a day from the time of the murder, a trial was begun before Judge Walter A. Watson, in Chesterfield county court house sixteen miles from Richmond.

The jury was made up almost entirely of farmers, and on this fact Beattie based his claim that he had been convicted, not for the murder of his wife, but because of his relations with Beulah Binford, a notorious young woman. He insisted that a jury composed of city men would have freed him.

The trial moved swiftly although many witnesses testified and on September 8, after 58 minutes of consideration and prayer, the jury, in chorus instead of through its foreman, declared Beattie to be guilty of the murder of his wife. Motion for a new trial was denied and November 24 set as the day for the execution.

On November 13 the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals refused to grant an appeal on a writ of error, and two days later Governor Mann, who had been appealed to for commutation or reprieve, issued a statement declaring that the interests of the people of Virginia demanded that Beattie should die in the electric chair.

Mr. J. R. Simpson, says the Waxhaw Enterprise, who lives down on Cain Creek in the lower part of Jackson township, made 128 bushels of corn on one acre of land this year.

Mr. Simpson will also make a bale of cotton to the acre on the land he is using for cotton. This section had more favorable seasons than the rest of the county and the crops are unusually good.

A masked white man boarded a Coast Line train from Wilmington as it was entering Columbia Friday night, held up the clerks in the mail car, got all the registered letters, pulled the bell cord and stepped off and disappeared in the darkness.

## NEWS FROM EAST UNION.

### Several Items of Interest Taken From the Columns of the Marshville Home.

Mr. Willie F. Long and Miss Wilma Stegall, both of Goose Creek township, were married Wednesday at the home of the officiating magistrate, Esq. J. A. Baucum.

The Polkton circuit of the Methodist church was divided at the recent meeting of the Western North Carolina Conference and a new charge, known as the Marshville circuit, was formed and consists of Marshville, Gilboa, Harmony, Wingate, Center and Smyrna churches, while Polkton, Peachland, Hopewell, Fountain Hill and Poplar Hill are retained on the Polkton circuit.

Mr. Raymond Stator, of New Salem township, returned this morning from the Presbyterian hospital in Charlotte, where he has been receiving treatment for injuries received about the knee in a mix-up with a mule a few days ago.

Mr. Carl Small, son of Mr. Will Small, and Miss Leslie Smith, daughter of Mr. Lee Smith, all of Lanes Creek township, were married last Wednesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents. Rev. E. C. Snyder performed the ceremony. Mr. Small is a prosperous young farmer of excellent habits and Mrs. Small is a young lady of beauty, intelligence and industry. We wish the couple much success in life.

Thursday night some one stole a horse from Mr. Julian Thomas of Diamond Hill, Anson county, and rode the animal to Polkton and then turned it loose. Friday morning, while Mr. Thomas and his neighbors were looking for the horse, they met it in the returning home. The identity of the thief is strongly suspected by him as not being arrested.

At the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Tice, in east Marshville township, Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Miss Annie Tice was married to Mr. J. B. Smith, Rev. A. Marsh performing the ceremony. The bride is a young lady of many admirable graces. The groom is a son of Mr. H. C. Smith of Lanes Creek township and is a prosperous young farmer of excellent character. We join their many friends in wishing them success and happiness.

The people of New Salem township were greatly disturbed one night last week by a burglar who first attempted to enter Mr. J. B. Mullis' house while Mr. Mullis was away from home. Mrs. Mullis jumped up and rang the 'phone for help, which frightened the burglar away. While the neighbors were attracted to Mr. Mullis' an attempt was made at Mr. W. B. McBride's and later at Mr. A. A. Griffin's, all in the same neighborhood and presumably by the same person. No clue as to the guilty party has been obtained.

## Teacher's Meeting.

The second regular meeting of the Union County Teacher's Association for this year will be held in the graded school building, Monroe, Saturday, December 16, beginning at 12 o'clock.

The law requires all teachers of the public schools to attend; therefore it is the duty of all teachers to be present.

1. Opening exercises.
2. Discussion of the Eight Factors of Study ("McMurry's How to Study"). Discussion led by Prof. J. E. Crutchfield of the Marshville High School.
3. The use of the Rural Library in the Public Schools. Prof. J. T. Yeargin, Wesley Chapel High School.
4. The Study of Children and Its Results (The Teacher and the School, Chap. III.). Discussion led by Prof. Neal A. Ransom of Waxhaw, and followed by Miss Coza Lancy and others.

We hope all the teachers will give some thought to the topics contained in this program, and be prepared when the meeting comes, to give the teachers the benefit of their thoughts.

R. N. Nisbet, Pres.

## ELECTROCUTION IN RALEIGH.

### The Young Indian Who Murdered a Girl in Swain County, Pays the Penalty.

Raleigh, Nov. 24.—Ross French, the young Cherokee Indian from Swain county, went to the electric chair this morning in the death chamber of the State prison with typical Indian stoicism and paying the death penalty for the murder of Miss Ethel Shuler on a lonely Swain county road early in October. He cut her throat and left her body on the road side. He confessed the crime some weeks ago and repeatedly since he has been in the death cell has said that the punishment accorded him was deserved. He was attended by the negro Episcopal minister at this place, Rev. J. E. King, by whom he was given the Episcopal baptism a couple of weeks ago. He had taken final leave of his octogenarian grand father, John Talla, and his cousin Sallie Thompson last evening in a very touching scene, during which he requested Mr. John P. Allen of this city to see to the disposition of his little property for the benefit of his grandfather and his wife, giving his yoke of oxen to the grandfather. He sent greetings to his fellow Cherokees and an appeal for none of them to follow his example in crime, for which he was receiving his just dues.

When the Indian came into the death chamber, he was as cool and collected and cool as could be. Most victims close their eyes while the straps are being adjusted and until the hood is fitted over their heads. French, however, surveyed the crowd, as the straps were being adjusted about his ankles and body to hold him in place while the death dealing current was sent coursing through his frame. His eyes followed every movement with a degree of curiosity as though he were an unconcerned spectator studying the manner in which shackles were applied.

It was exactly 10:30 when the prisoner was brought in the death chamber. The first shock of electricity was applied at 10:34 and consisted of the application of 1,800 watts with a quick return of the lever to zero and back again to 1,800 and off to zero again. Then at 10:35 there was a second application of the 1,800 voltage and four minutes later the attending physicians pronounced him dead.

The body was delivered to John Talla, who left this afternoon with it for his Swain county home for burial.

## Attempt at Highway Robbery.

While on the way home from Waxhaw last Monday night Mr. Ed. Biggers of Wesley Chapel was halted by a highwayman near the Colossus mine and for a while was in a very dangerous situation. He and his brother-in-law, Mr. Cleve Moore, were on the way home from Waxhaw. Mr. Biggers driving his wagon in the rear. After Mr. Moore had started down a very long hill in front, Mr. Biggers' wagon was halted and a man jumped up on the wagon and demanded money. Mr. Biggers replied that he had none. The man then jumped into the wagon and attempted to pick up a bundle which contained a suit of clothes.

By this time Mr. Biggers had got out his knife and began cutting at him. Then the other man jumped on the wagon and cut desperately at Mr. Biggers, slashing long gashes in his clothing, but cutting the skin slightly in but one place. The robbers then jumped off the wagon and ran. The theory is that the men, one of whom was colored, and maybe both, had seen the young men go to town with cotton and decided that they would have money on the return, and laid for them, purposely attacking the second wagon after the other had gone on down the hill.

All the colored teachers of the county are requested to be present on the first Saturday in December at 1 o'clock. If nothing prevents, Prof. R. N. Nisbet, the county superintendent, will be with us at 2 o'clock, p. m.

W. McE. Cuthbertson, Chm.

## What Cleveland Said of Mr. Caldwell.

Charlotte Chronicle.

Mr. W. C. Heath, of Monroe, was in the city yesterday. He related a little incident which happened once on a boat between Norfolk and Baltimore, which is interesting.

In the smoking room there was a stout gentleman reading a newspaper and nobody seemed to notice him. Finally all the others left except Mr. Heath and the stout gentleman. Mr. Heath then approached the gentleman and said: "Excuse me, sir, but if you are not Mr. Grover Cleveland, you are his counterpart."

The gentleman answered: "I am not his counterpart. My name is Grover Cleveland, and I am returning from Georgetown, S. C. where I have been visiting my friend, Mr. E. P. Alexander. We have been hunting."

Then Mr. Heath said: "I want to shake hands with you." "Where are you from?" Mr. Cleveland asked of Mr. Heath. "I am from North Carolina," he said.

"There is one man down there in North Carolina who seems to be a very staunch and able man," replied Mr. Cleveland. "His name is J. P. Caldwell." Then he smiled and said: "He calls me 'The Sheriff,' and I believe I have no stauncher friend in the United States. His judgment on public questions seems to be always clear and I regard him as a man of great ability."

## Victim's Father Saves the Criminal.

A Kansas man rescued a young negro from a mob Friday — the negro who attempted to assault his daughter. The negro had been caught and was in the hands of a large mob. At last a tall farmer pulled the negro towards the door and cried:

"Come on boys, we'll burn the scoundrel at the stake."

Willing hands dragged the negro to the street. At this juncture J. A. Fike, father of the girl attacked, arrived. Pushing aside the mob, he reached the negro's side. Addressing himself to the crowd, he declared that the men must disperse and let the law take its course. "This is undoubtedly the man who attempted a vicious crime on my daughter," he said, "but Judge Lynch does not live in civilized Kansas any more. To burn this fellow to death will only scandalize the country. Let the law take its course."

After the conference the mob turned the negro over to Fike, who took the culprit to the sheriff.

## Proceedings in Recorder's Court.

November 21-23.

Joseph A. Knight, said to be Croatan Indian, assault with intent to kill, \$75 and costs.

Thomas Little, assault and battery; costs.

Nannie Smith and Tom Smith, fornication and adultery, not pros as to Nannie Smith, Tom Smith \$10 and costs.

Burl Belk, selling whiskey. There were four cases against the defendant for selling whiskey and one case for selling to a minor. The Recorder passed judgment in two cases of selling and in the case of selling to a minor. The defendant was fined \$50 for one sale, \$75 for another, and \$25 for selling to a minor. This sale to the minor was the same sale for which he was fined \$50. The defendant appealed. The evidence in the other two cases for selling whiskey disclosed that the defendant had loaned whiskey to two different parties. In these two cases the Recorder continued his decision till the 5th of December.

Sam Davis, colored, disposing of mortgaged property, 30 days on roads.

Frank Hagler, violation of ordinance 76, costs.

John McCorkle, disposing of mortgaged property, costs taxed on prosecutor.

Committeemen will please see that a copy of their teacher's contract is sent to this office just as soon as possible.

R. N. Nisbet, Co. Supt.

## WOMAN WHO WAS HANGED HERE.

### Two Slaves, One of Them a Woman, Paid the Death Penalty for the Murder of Their Mistress—The Jurors That Tried the Case.

Last week The Journal published an article that is going the rounds of the State press concerning the very few women that have been executed in this State for a crime. This served to call to mind to many people about here that a colored woman here the fact that a colored woman and her husband were hanged here about the close of the war, and many persons now living were present at the execution which was public after the manner of that day, and occurred on a spot of land now owned by Mrs. D. A. Covington in the southern part of town. The slaves were Henry Austin and his wife Mary Hamilton, and they murdered their mistress, Mrs. J. E. Austin, in a field on the home place on Rocky River. The woman belonged to Mrs. Austin's father, the late William Hamilton, and had been loaned to his daughter. The man belonged to Mr. Austin. As the law of the time provided, the cost of the trial was collected from the owners of the slaves. They were sentenced by Judge Heath, the presiding judge, on October 27th, 1864, and were executed on the 25th of the next month by Sheriff F. L. Rogers. The two were tried separately, the man first, and the jury who heard the case are of interest. Those who found Henry guilty were James W. Price, George W. Wimberly, Samuel McWhorter, Burrell Rushing, Tyre Broom, J. J. Hasty, Samuel Rogers, J. R. Baucum, Joseph W. McMurry, T. D. Winchester, W. W. Walkup and Dr. Sam C. McLaughlin.

Those who sat on the case of the woman were James R. Winchester, G. W. Helms, Joseph McLaughlin, Hugh M. Houston, John W. Hohm, R. T. Barrett, Joseph R. Hudson, Albert N. Carraway, Jackson Trull, John D. Stewart, Harrison Lee, Darling Broom.

## The Fall of Troy.

Besides the other pictures at The Dixie on Thanksgiving Day, "The Fall of Troy" will be produced. This is a fine picture, a reproduction of the Trojan war—2,000 armored gladiators engaged in deadly combat—spectacular attack on the city—spectacular dazling with grandeur—awe-inspiring conflagrations, showing the giant wooden horse, captured by the Trojans, and the sortie in the dead of night by the soldiers concealed in the animal, who set fire to the city; the terror of the lonely Helen as her husband at the head of the avenging Greeks destroy the Trojans with fire and sword and kill Paris, her lover, and a multitude of amazing incidents; beautiful women, dashing chariots, artistic statuary, massive palaces, regal costumes, all depicted in exquisite photography, united and blended beyond compare.

## Benefit of Oxford Orphanage.

### Mr. Iceman's House Burned.

The residence of Mr. Charles Iceman, on South Hayne street, was burned Saturday afternoon. The fire originated upstairs some where about the chimney, and was so inaccessible that the house was half destroyed before the flames could be subjugated. The furniture was considerably damaged and much of the clothing and other valuable articles were lost. The furniture was insured for fifteen hundred dollars and the building, which belongs to Mr. Randolph Redfern, for the same amount. The insurance is sufficient to cover the loss.

## Farmers' Union Delegates.

The county organization of the Farmers' Union met Saturday in the court house. It was decided that the December meeting was the proper time for the election of officers, hence this was not gone into. The following delegates were elected to the State meeting which will be held in Wilson December 13th, 14th and 15th: T. E. Williams, A. J. Brooks, T. F. James, J. C. McIntyre, Rev. H. B. King.