

# THE MONROE JOURNAL

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ONE DOLLAR A YE. R.

## SENSATIONAL CASE IN MECKLENBURG.

**Dr. Wooten of Davidson Killed Tuesday Night by Druggist and Friend, Monroe Jetton — Wife Testifies that the Doctor Was Attempting to Assault Her.**

The most sensational affair that has happened in Mecklenburg county in a long time was the killing, last Tuesday night, of Dr. W. H. Wooten of Davidson, by Mr. Monroe Jetton, a young druggist who had been married a few months. The shooting took place in the bedroom of Mrs. Jetton. In his dying statement Dr. Wooten said that Mrs. Jetton was showing him her new dress, that he was shot without a chance to make an explanation, and that he could have explained all if he had been given a chance. The two men had been warm friends and were related. Dr. Wooten had left the drug store and went to the home of Jetton. The latter soon followed and went to the bedroom of his wife and shot Dr. Wooten, saying merely, "He had ruined my home." The testimony of Mrs. Jetton at the preliminary trial was very sensational, and it believed, makes a very bad case against the dead man. The preliminary was held last Saturday.

Mrs. Jetton's arrival in the court room was the occasion of a renewal of interest on the part of the spectators. The court room was crowded and a big per centage of the assembly were residents of Davidson. Mrs. Jetton was brought in by her brother-in-law, Mr. John Jetton. She wore a blue coat suit with hat to match and a blue veil over her face. She gave manifest indications of suppressed excitement but she bore up well under the ordeal. After being sworn she ascended the stand and entered upon her testimony, the most vital as affecting the case of any introduced.

Mrs. Jetton testified that she was a native of Mississippi, had visited in Davidson on four occasions previous to her marriage to Mr. Jetton in October of last year and had known Dr. Wooten for quite a long time. She testified that after arriving in Davidson as a bride she and Mr. Jetton lived with his parents and had been housekeeping about a month. Asked if Dr. Wooten had visited her at any previous time she stated that he had made three visits prior to the night of the homicide. The first of these was on the evening of January 22 when she was sick in bed. It was shortly after 7 o'clock and her husband answered the knock on the door. Doctor Wooten stated that he had called in case he could render any assistance. He had not been summoned professionally. After remaining a few moments he left. The second visit was Saturday night, January 31; was not called professionally; did not hear him knock; asked how I was feeling; told him that I had a dreadful cold, asked what I was taking for it, I told him; he said he would write a prescription, made advances and kissed me but no improper proposals; did leave the prescription at drug store where husband worked. On husband's return he asked if Dr. Wooten had called; told him "yes;" did not tell him anything about fact that Doctor Wooten had kissed me for the reason that families were related and did not care to bring about trouble. Another visit was the following Saturday night, February 7, found me in sitting room, asked me how I was and I told him that I was not feeling well. He said that neither was he. I told him to leave and this he did. I said nothing to my husband about the visit. The next visit was on the night of the homicide, Tuesday, February 10.

## NIGHT OF THE TRAGEDY.

Mrs. Jetton testified that she heard the knock on the front door and answered it. It was a very few minutes after 7 o'clock. Dr. Wooten entered and she demanded to know what he wanted. She testified that he replied that she knew what he wanted. Mrs. Jetton then testified that she went to the kitchen and he followed her, standing in the door while she finished with the dishes. When she finished she threw out the water, she testified that he grabbed her by the wrist and pulled her through the dining room, into the hall and on into the bed room. Asked why she did not make any outcry, she testified that Doctor Wooten had ordered her not to say anything, was a large and strong man, and besides had his hand over her mouth. She testified that she asked him to leave her alone and that he refused. Mrs. Jetton described the arrangement of the room. She said that Doctor Wooten turned down the light and pushed her over on the bed. She testified that she protested, saying that he was "pushing her on her new dress" which was lying on the bed. About this time, she said, she heard someone step on the porch, push a key in the lock and open the door. She told Doctor Wooten that some one was coming and he jumped up. She testified that her husband came in the front sitting room and opened the door into the bed room where they were and she heard him declare "God d— you, you have ruined my home." Doctor Wooten, she testified, struck Mr. Jetton and she ran out and as she did so heard the pistol shot. She said she was in the yard when she heard the pistol fire.

## MR. JETTON ON STAND.

Mr. Monroe Jetton, the accused, was placed on the stand shortly

after the dinner hour. He has a good face, is simple and direct in his manner and appeared to be containing himself with a vast effort. His answers to the questions were deliberate and clear. He testified first to the close and intimate relations which he had had with Dr. Wooten for a long period of years, mentioning that he was a kinsman by marriage and also interested in business together. In reply to counsel he testified as to the first visit of Doctor Wooten to his home, the visit mentioned by Mrs. Jetton in her testimony. Coming on down to the night of the homicide, Mr. Jetton testified that Doctor Wooten's actions about the drug store on his return from supper that evening were suspicious, that he observed him watching him and this caused him to step to the door and look where he was going when he left the store a few minutes later. He observed that he had not crossed the street where he usually did to get to his own home but continued on down on the side as if he was going to his unpaved side whereas the other side, the side on which his home stood, was paved. Stepping back into the office, he placed his pistol in his pocket and walked down to his home to investigate. He was wearing his overcoat and slipped the pistol in his right hand, outside overcoat pocket. Arriving at the house, he stepped to the side window and heard voices within and recognized them as those of his wife and Doctor Wooten. He testified that his wife was pleading with Doctor Wooten to leave. Stepping closer to the window he turned the shutters and saw the shadow of the two on the shade being between the bright fire and the window—and he saw Doctor Wooten pushing his wife over on the bed. Again hearing her cries, he rushed around, sought to put the key in the front door but found it open and hurried in, walking through the sitting room and pushed open the door into the bed room. He testified that he found Doctor Wooten at the foot of the bed and Mrs. Jetton was in the act of turning up the lamp. As he came in he testified that he charged Doctor Wooten with ruining his home and with this Doctor Wooten plunged at him. He said that he struck him and knocked him half down against the washstand and then threw his arm over his neck as if to inflict serious bodily harm. Then he testified that he ran to his hand in his pocket and fired once. Doctor Wooten, he said, fell back against the feet of the bed and he rushed out to summon aid. Asked why he shot, he declared that he was in fear of serious bodily harm that he was almost down and that Doctor Wooten was a larger and more muscular man than himself.

## PRAYER FOR RELEASE.

After Sheriff Wallace had adjourned court and the crowd, had packed the court chamber during the entire hearing had filed out, a pathetic little drama was enacted in the judge's office in the rear of the court chamber. A Davidson minister was present during the hearing and the defendant and his wife, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Vick Fesperman and the minister had quietly into the small room and kneeling down, the minister prayed for the delivery of the young husband.

Mrs. Jetton, who had borne up bravely through the morning session, and the fierce cross-examination of both herself and husband, almost collapsed at the conclusion of the speeches delivered by the attorneys; those for the state, Messrs. Wilson, Stewart and McRae, delivering a broadside of sarcasm and doubt at the stories of the killing as put up by the defendant and his wife, and Messrs. Canstar and Osborne as attorneys for the defense, ameliorating the offense by laying the burden of the blame on the dead physician. It was a sore trial for any one, and Mrs. Jetton broke down and wept during the greater part of the hour that the attorneys were addressing the court.

## JETTON CROSS EXAMINED.

On cross examination, Monroe Jetton, who took the stand in his own defense, was examined by Plaintiff Stewart who put the defendant through one of the most grueling examinations of the day; but throughout the whole time the defendant kept his nerve well and answered without hesitation any questions that were propounded to him. He admitted that he saw a picture of the struggle between his wife and Doctor Wooten, as it was situated against the shade which had been drawn.

"How long did you stand at the window and watch that struggle?" asked Mr. Stewart.

"Two or three minutes," was the reply.

"Do you mean to tell the court that you watched at the window for two minutes and at the same time believed that your wife was being assaulted and never went to her rescue?"

"I thought so," replied Mr. Jetton.

"Why didn't you shoot him when you entered the room?" asked Mr. Stewart.

"I didn't want to kill him," replied Jetton.

He was asked what occurred immediately after he entered the room. He stated that his wife turned up the light and when asked if this did not seem strange to him, he replied that it did not. Mr. Stewart asked him what statements he made immediately after the shooting

"Mr. Styles came to me and I told him that I had shot Doctor Wooten, 'he has ruined my home,' I said to him," replied Mr. Jetton.

"I asked you if that was true?" said Mr. Stewart, "I asked you if were true that he had ruined your home."

"I thought then that he had ruined my home," replied Mr. Jetton.

Mr. Jetton was said to have used the expression: "I shot him because he had ruined my home." Saturday, however, he denied having used the word "because." He shot Doctor Wooten he said, because Doctor Wooten had knocked him down and he did not know what Doctor Wooten might do to him. He admitted that when he took the pistol and left the drug store, that he believed Doctor Wooten was going to his home. He stated that he did not distrust his wife but he did distrust Doctor Wooten.

## Waxhaw News.

Waxhaw Enterprise.

Mr. S. J. Blythe and wife and little son, S. J., of Fort Smith, Ark., arrived in Waxhaw last week and are visiting Mr. Blythe's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Blythe. Mr. Blythe left Waxhaw some ten years ago.

Mrs. Robert Clark and daughter, Miss Constance, left last Friday for Lafayette, Ind., where they will spend the remainder of the winter. Their friends here will be glad to know that they are to return to Waxhaw in the spring.

Mr. W. B. Godfrey of Rock Hill spent Thursday night with Mr. Eugene Seest, Mr. Godfrey lived in Waxhaw till 1907 when he went out on his own hook as a carpenter. He has met with success and is now a prominent contractor at Rock Hill.

Mr. L. L. King, who has been connected with The Enterprise since October last, has disposed of his interest here and left Monday for Abbeville where he has accepted a responsible position with the Abbeville Medium. Mr. King is a good printer and is a young man of fine character.

The way cotton has been coming to town for the last two weeks makes it seem like the fall of the year. Quite a little of this cotton is of the first picking and is nice and white and, of course, brings a fancy price. The amount of cotton in the country at this season of the year is rather surprising in view of the fact that the staple commanded a fair price ever since the selling season opened. The indications are that many of the farmers didn't have to sell and just took their time.

A special dispatch from Pageland to the Enterprise was received yesterday which says, Mr. Thomas F. Gordon of Mineral Springs and Miss Nellie Melton were married Sunday at the home of the bride's parents, at Mt. Croghan. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. A. McGraw of Pageland. Several friends beside the family of the bride were there as invited guests to witness the ceremony and eat the wedding dinner which was enjoyed by all present.

**Obituary—Mrs. Fisher Helms.**  
Mrs. Teresa Helms, wife of Mr. C. Fisher Helms, died Feb. 7, 1914, at the age of 81 years, 9 months, and 21 days. She was the last of a large family of children born to Ober and Leah Doster, nee Winslow, and was also the last granddaughter of the Doster family in Union county. James Doster was born in August, 1735, and settled on Richardson creek on the place now owned as a residence by Mr. Preston B. Blakeney, two and a half miles south of Monroe. He settled there prior to the Revolutionary war.

The deceased was first married to G. W. L. Belk, son of Blue Darling Belk, and to this union were born four sons, C. C. C. Belk, John Belk, D. F. Belk, and C. M. Belk. She was a good mother and a kind neighbor. She bore her suffering with fortitude and patience and died in the full hope of a resurrection to a better life.

On behalf of the family we desire to express our gratitude and thanks to the many friends and neighbors for many kindnesses and sympathy and favors.

D. F. BELK.

**To Telephone Subscribers.**  
Some time ago we notified our subscribers that we could not send out collectors to run them down, and that every subscriber would be expected to send check by mail promptly on the day it is due. A number have promptly responded, but others have failed to keep up with their payments. All bills are payable by the month and I am instructed that payments must not be allowed to lag.

W. H. NORWOOD, Supr.

**President Wilson will be asked to start an investigation of the official conduct of Circuit Judge Alston G. Dayton of the northern district of West Virginia.**

This move was decided on at a mass meeting of union workers in West Virginia. The movement was begun by United Mine Workers of America, who alleged that Judge Dayton showed favoritism in his conduct of cases growing out of the strike at Colliers, W. Va., which has been in progress since early last fall.

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