

THE MONROE JOURNAL

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ONE DOLLAR A YE.

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 if 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 percentage of the assemblage 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, 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 bedroom. Asked why she did not make any outcry, she testified that Doctor Wooten had ordered her not to say any thing, 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 someone was coming and he jumped up. She testified that her husband came in the front sitting room and opened the door into the bedroom 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, Jetton's house. This was on the unpaved side whereas the other side, the side on which his own 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—they 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 bedroom. 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 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, that 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, went 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 McLean, delivering a broadside of sarcasm and doubt at the stories of the killing as put up by the defendant and his wife, and Messrs. Candler 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 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 Plummer 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 silhouetted 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 it 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, Mrs. 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 Sacrest. 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, 3 months, and 21 days. She was the last of a large family of children born to Obadiah and Leah Doster, nee Winchester, and was also the last granddaughter of James Doster, the founder 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. Blakey, 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 R. 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 lap.

W. H. NORWOOD, Supt.

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.

"For Another's Crime," a splendid love drama at the Rex theatre tonight with the Strauss orchestra.

YOUNG LADY FROZEN TO DEATH

Miss Flora Hartis of Vance township, while ill, slipped from the house in the bitter cold of the night and her body was found stiff next morning.

Miss Flora Hartis, daughter of Mr. Thomas Hartis of Vance township, froze to death in the bitter cold of Sunday night, lying in a spring branch near her father's home. Under stress of had health for several months the young lady's mind had become deranged and to this condition is due her untimely death.

The family were with her till a late hour Sunday night, and as there had been no apparent danger of her doing anything out of the way, she had not been particularly watched. Yesterday she was missed and a search was begun. About eight o'clock the body was found in the spring branch near the house, stiff and cold. Evidently the young woman had gotten up during the night, partly dressed, and wandered down to the spring. She became overcome by the cold and froze to death. She had partly dressed herself, and had on but one shoe.

Miss Hartis was 23 years of age. She had been in bad health for some time and had lately been in a hospital. Some time ago the doctor had noted that her mind was being affected but there was no thought of her doing anything rash.

Resolutions of Respect.

Whereas the Great Architect of the Universe has seen fit, in His infinite wisdom, to remove from among us our friend and brother, Rev. J. L. Bennett, and whereas our hearts are deeply grieved over his untimely death, be it resolved:

First, That Meadow Branch Lodge No. 578 A. F. & A. M. has sustained the loss of her eldest and one of her most loyal members.

Second, That Wingate has lost a loyal and worthy citizen who was always willing to aid and assist in every good and upward cause.

Third, That we extend to the bereaved family and loved ones our deepest sympathy.

Fourth, That a copy of these resolutions be spread up the minutes of the Lodge, a copy be sent to the county papers and also a copy be sent to the family.

R. L. McWHIRTER,
J. G. CARROLL,
G. C. BECK,
Resolution Committee.

Montgomery Mine Yields Much Gold

Sixteen pounds of gold, in four 4-pound bars, valued at \$4,000, was exhibited in Greensboro a few days ago by George F. Gant, of the Cogdale mines in Montgomery county. This represented a four-days' run of a ten-stamp mill. The property is owned by North Carolina people and has a 9-foot vein, averaging \$262 a ton. Two feet of this vein runs \$676 per ton. It is believed by those who have visited it to be the most promising mine that has ever been developed in North Carolina. The shaft is 272 feet deep and the rich pay streak was developed at a depth of 250 feet.

Went "Yabbi Hunting."

Coy Bell, 4-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lee Bell of Weaverlyville, Buncombe county, wandered away from home and a score of men combed the country for miles around Weaverlyville all night Monday night and met a man bringing the boy in about daylight next morning. The little boy reached the man's house about midnight and when asked about "yabbi hunting," he was so tired that he fell asleep almost at once and next morning his friend started out with him to find his home.

An Epitome of North Carolina's Showing.

An attractive card presenting an epitome of North Carolina crops for 1913 is being issued by the State Department of Agriculture. It shows that the money value of the crops in this State for the past year was \$241,533,679, this including the hogs, cattle and other live stock that were developed on the farms during the year. It is believed that these cattle and meat values would run up the aggregate fully \$2,000,000 more. This State is shown to be the 13th State of the Union in agricultural products, having advanced from the 22nd State in 1909.

MR. HELMS IN FLORIDA.

Tells The Journal Family How He Likes the New Country.

Correspondence of The Journal.

On January 14th, together with the assistance of good neighbors, we proceeded to load our belongings, consisting of household and other goods, one pair mules, wagon, buggy, farming tools, etc., on cars at Mineral Springs. Having accomplished this task, after the local pulled out our car, we spent the night with our brother-in-law, Mr. M. M. Winchester. We boarded the early train Thursday morning for Monroe, where we proceeded to the freight depot to prepay freight charges on our car. The railroad people held us up for \$150.00, which we paid with reluctance, after which we spent the remainder of the day in winding up business affairs, taking leave of our friends, etc. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon, in company with our kinsman, Mr. S. S. Richardson, who was on his way to John Hopkins hospital, we boarded the train for Jacksonville. Our run to Jacksonville was made during the night and was made both without mishap or sleep. We arrived at Jacksonville at 8:30 and had only about 5 minutes to catch the Tallahassee and River Junction train. So, without taking time to quench our thirst with Jacksonville's thirst reliever we proceeded on our journey, which was made during the day. At 5:55 in the afternoon, tired and worn we landed at our destination, Chipley, Fla.

We found Mr. Tom Laney awaiting our arrival and spent several days in his delightful and hospitable home, while awaiting the arrival of our belongings, after which we proceeded to move out and shape up for the reception of our helpmate and children who were to follow in a few days. Having accomplished this task, we wrote our folks to come on as we were tired of keeping house alone.

On Friday night, Jan. 30th, our "folks," accompanied by Mr. M. M. Winchester, relied in.

So much for our journey.

We have proceeded, after a hearty welcome to settle down to business. We have seen quite a lot of Florida. Her hospitable people whom we have met have already won our friendship.

In passing will say that our section is unsurpassed for hospitality anywhere.

At some future date we will tell the Journal readers something of the climate, soils, pine-wood cows, razor back hogs, Florida syrup, and things in general. At present we are engaged in turning the soil preparatory to farming. Very truly,
A. L. HELMS.

Enthusiasm For the Twice a Week Journal.

The announcement that after April the first The Journal would be printed twice a week instead of once has been received by our friends with a great deal of commendation. The idea has been so enthusiastically endorsed as to show that the twice a week Journal is the very thing that we need. Subscribers who had let their labels run to the bad are coming in or sending and having their subscriptions renewed in order to get the advantage of the premium before the semi-weekly begins. This is very gratifying, and we expect every subscriber who is behind to do this. We are going to give the same size paper twice a week at the same old price, but we must have the price from every one. So every one who is behind is requested to look after his subscription right away. Tell your friends about the new paper, if you feel like doing so, and help us get new names in the place of those who drop out, because everyone who does not pay is going to drop out.

Remember the terms, all who pay before April first get a choice of premiums just as before, but after that date no premiums will be given.

Mr. Hudson Appointed County Commissioner.

Mr. R. A. Hudson of Sandy Ridge township has been appointed county commissioner by the Clerk of the Court, to succeed Squire A. J. Brooks, deceased. Mr. Hudson took the oath of office yesterday. The new member will make good in this capacity, for he is a man of good judgment, a large farmer and man of affairs, and has the courage of his convictions. Mr. Hudson has never before held public office, but has always taken a keen interest in public affairs. In politics he is an enthusiastic Wilson and Bryan Democrat. About a dozen other men, all good ones, were suggested by their friends for the place, but Mr. Lemmond thought that the upper western section of the county had the best claim.

Advisers are talking about a trip across the Atlantic ocean, but Orville Wright, one of the pioneer builders of "heavier-than-air" machines, says that a trans-Atlantic trip at this time is impracticable. "Under no circumstances will the engines hold out under the continuous strain of such a journey," continued Mr. Wright. He believes, however, that the trip could be made with ease if two resting places could be provided.

Strauss orchestra at the Rex theatre tonight, with good pictures.

Dr. J. W. Neal accompanied Miss Drucilla Broome, who has been sick for a long time, to Richmond, Va., for hospital treatment, Sunday.

Death of Mr. W. H. Glenn.

The paper in this week called upon to chronicle the almost sudden death of another good man of the county, that of Mr. William H. Glenn of Buford township, who died last Wednesday. On the Saturday before he was in Monroe, and while on the streets, had a severe chill. He went home and soon had a case of pneumonia, from which he died on the day named. The remains were buried at Bethlehem on Thursday, the service being held by Rev. J. C. Posielle.

Mr. Glenn was one of the best of men. He possessed that distinguishing mark of a gentleman wherever it is found—consideration for the feelings and thoughts of others. He went about his affairs as quietly and evenly as a summer's day and he was never heard saying or thinking harsh things about others. He was a Christian through and through. He was an old Confederate soldier and was about sixty-five years of age. He was twice married, the first time to Miss Nancy Bell and next to her sister, Mrs. Hannah Helms. The latter survives him, together with his step-children, who had found in him the qualities of a true father.

The Life and Character of Mrs. J. H. Benton.

The death of Mrs. J. H. Benton, which occurred on the night of the 9th, was briefly mentioned in the Journal of last week.

Mrs. Benton was 56 years old and was born in Camden, S. C., and came to Monroe with her sister, Mrs. W. F. Benton, in 1878, with the family of the late Rev. A. T. Latta. They were orphans and were partly reared by Mr. Latta, who continued to love them as his own daughters all his life. In 1881 she was married to Mr. J. H. Benton and he with two sons and three daughters survives her. She was taken ill on January first and never regained complete consciousness.

In the death of Mrs. Benton this community has lost one of its best women. Even tempered, gentle and sensible, the beauty of her inner life became depleted upon her countenance as she passed from the bloom of youth to the maturity of middle age and her face became the mirror of the loveliness and sweetness of the spirit that reigned within. Her was her goodness of that type which satisfied itself with mere negation, but was of the positive sort that translates itself into actions prompted by a warm heart and directed by a well balanced mind. She was the mother type of the finest grade, which supplements the brooding instinct with the foster principle. Not only as the mother of the home but as a force in her church and community she exerted an influence for good. Her judgment and her heart worked together, and her hand followed where they lead. To say that she will be missed is needless. What woman of this character is not missed? The world is better for her life, and in her memory her husband and her children have a priceless heritage.

Similar to the Mexican Situation.

Conditions similar to those in Mexico at the present time are dealt with in H. S. Sheldon's great new historical play "Captain Alvarez" which Paul Gilmore and Associate players will bring to the Academy of Music next Thursday matinee and night. The struggles of an oppressed people against the tyrannical dictatorship, and the part an adventurous young American played in that struggle is the theme upon which Mr. Sheldon has based one of the season's most entertaining offerings. Though the action took place more than 50 years ago during the administration of President Rosas in the Argentine Republic, the similarity between present conditions in Mexico and those brought out in his play are apparent. The historical facts are cleverly interwoven with the truly delightful love-story of the young American, a part created especially for Mr. Gilmore and in which he is truly at his best.

Paul Gilmore at the Monroe Opera House Wednesday night, February 18th. Price 50c. to \$1.50.

Mrs. Thaw Played in Charlotte But Couldn't Get Lodging.

Charlotte Chronicle.

"No room in the Inn," was the sign hung out at one or two of the hotels Saturday when Mrs. Harry Kendall Thaw appeared in quest of a place to lay her weary head after the busy day was over. It is understood that application was made at only two places and at each was told "No vacant room," and probably acting on the theory that it was useless to seek elsewhere no other hotel was visited, so far as can be learned. So the noted woman was obliged to spend the night and through Sunday in her private car. The story leaked out and was talked freely on the streets Saturday night and some of the hostesses were visited and asked for the facts and while some said simply "She is not here," two made the statement that she could not get in as the rooms were all taken.

Whether the story is mere good press dope for the actress or not, it caused a great deal of talk on the streets.

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"SWEAR SENORITA IT WAS A FAIR FIGHT"
PAUL GILMORE-CAPT. ALVAREZ
Monroe Opera House, Wednesday night, February 18.