

1 KILLED, 1 WOUNDED IN AFFRAY NEAR STATE LINE

Desire to Secure Vengeance Believed to Have Actuated the Killing of Ganson Funderburk.

THE TWO ASSAILANTS ESCAPED

Ganson Funderburk, colored, was instantly killed, and Rena Funderburk, also colored was seriously, if not fatally wounded, early Wednesday morning in Chesterfield county, near the Lancaster and Union county lines, by two unidentified negroes. The assailants are believed to be the nephews of the negro Seegers who was killed by Ganson Funderburk several weeks ago when he was resisting arrest, and it is thought their deed was actuated by a desire to secure vengeance for the death of their kinsman.

Since the shooting occurred near the state line, Sheriff Fowler of this county, Chief of Police Spoon of Monroe, Sheriff Hunter of Lancaster county, and Sheriff Grant of Chesterfield county, all hastened to the scene, but it was found that the deed was actually committed in Chesterfield county and therefore under the jurisdiction of Sheriff Grant.

The killing, according to Rena Funderburk, who was carried to a Charlotte hospital for treatment, was an atrocious, cold-blooded murder. He gave Sheriff Fowler, and the other officers, the following account of the shooting:

"Ganson and Laney Funderburk and myself were plowing in the bottom near the creek when two strange negroes appeared about 7 o'clock in the morning. None of us had ever seen them before. They pretended to be cold and hungry, saying they were dodging the officers, and that they were on their way to Atlanta. One of them said the cause of their flight was the shooting of an officer when a posse raided their blockade still. We immediately built them a fire, and sent Laney to the house for food, one of the men taking his plow.

"Shortly after the departure of Laney, the negroes drew pistols, and began shooting at a stump. One of them made an excellent shot, and asked us to examine the target. Both of us walked over to the stump, and as we bent over to examine the target, our visitors began opening fire. Ganson was instantly killed, and I fell by his side.

Ganson Funderburk was shot in the head and in the left breast about the heart, while Rena was shot in the head, the ball entering over his right eye, and in the left side.

Laney Funderburk, who was at the house getting the two strangers food when the murder took place, said he first heard one shot, then several in rapid succession. He rushed back to the field to investigate the shots, finding his companions dead and no trace of their assailants.

The story of the negroes was verified by the finding of a bullet in the stump, and by tracks showing that two men had fled in haste over the hillside.

A white man in the community told Sheriff Fowler that he saw two strange negroes sitting in a buggy near the dead man's home the evening previous, and this assertion led the officers to believe that the two men planned to kill Funderburk that night if he left his home. His failure to go out, they believe, delayed his death.

Descriptions of the negroes, as sent out over the country in the hope of leading to their apprehension, are:

One was a mulatto, about 38 years of age; height, 5 feet, 10 inches; weight, about 150. He wore blue overalls, dark coat, black hat and sported a short mustache. The other negro was of dark complexion, 25 or 30 years of age; weight about 170 pounds; also wore overalls; had on a light-colored shirt and a black hat. Clean shaven.

The officers are confident that the killing was done by nephews of Seegers, as there is no other possible motive than that of revenge that could have actuated the deed, they say. None of the belongings of the negroes were stolen, it was pointed out, and even if robbery had been their motive, the officers say, it would not have been necessary for them to resort to murder as both were armed.

The shooting of Seegers, which is believed to be at the bottom of the killing, was depicted in a recent issue of The Journal, as follows:

"How a Pageland negro, by the name of Funderburk, avenged himself upon another member of his race, who goes by the name of Seegers, and at the same time saved the life of Constable Rogers, who was sent to arrest both of them, is told by Mr. W. E. Funderburk. The shooting affray, which occurred Monday, ended in the death of Seegers.

"A few days ago Funderburk and Seegers had a row, resulting in the latter inflicting a pistol wound upon his adversary. News of the trouble reaching Pageland some time later, Constable Rogers had warrants issued for the arrest of the two, and on Monday went to the home of Funderburk, which is a few miles from

Pageland, to serve them. Finding Funderburk at home, he placed him under arrest, but was unable to locate Seegers.

"There was nothing else to do. The constable, with his prisoner, started back to Pageland.

"They had almost reached the outskirts of the town when Constable Rogers espied Seegers standing on the side of the road. Bringing the car to a stop, he jumped out to arrest the fugitive. Funderburk, apparently, was only a disinterested spectator.

"Seegers showed fight. Hastily drawing his pocket-knife he made a lunge at the constable; who, fortunately, was agile enough to grasp the hand which held the knife before the sharp blade penetrated his chest. For a few minutes they struggled, the constable having both hands around the negro's wrist, was unable to reach for his gun. The negro, gradually giving away under the superior strength exhibited by Mr. Rogers, made desperate efforts to secure his pistol; and for a while it appeared that the Pageland officer would be murdered by his assailant. It was then that he thought of his prisoner in the car. Like a flash, Funderburk was out of the car, and equally quick he reached for Mr. Rogers's gun. There was a pistol report, and Seegers fell to the ground, mortally wounded. Thus Funderburk avenged himself, yet stayed within the pale of the law, it is believed."

EIGHTH GRADE DIPLOMA AN EDUCATIONAL CURSE

Mr. Hinson, a Teacher for Fifteen Years, Makes Some Pertinent Observations on School Matters.

Mineral Springs, R. F. D. No. 1, April 21.—The students at Prospect are preparing for an elaborate entertainment during commencement, beginning April 29.

A number of friends of Mr. Jackson Plyler gathered at his residence, near Bethlehem, Saturday and celebrated his birthday. The day was made merry with songs, stories and a picnic dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Hinson attended the funeral of Mrs. Hinson's brother, Mr. Wylie Montgomery, at White Plains, S. C., Sunday. Mr. Montgomery died of apoplexy.

People here were elated to know that the Prospect team won several events in the county commencement athletic contests held in Monroe Saturday; especially since it was apparent that Marshville had "it up her sleeve" to win almost everything in the educational line. The local boys are being congratulated on their athletic prowess.

Generally speaking, the fruit crop was killed; but although there was freezing weather, some fruit seems to be holding its own. What wasn't killed, however, was badly damaged.

Your correspondent was greatly pleased to see that his bird story was republished in the Charlotte Observer, one of the state's leading dailies. For some time I have been writing articles on birds, and their lives are so closely connected with our own that they have completely won my affections.

Mr. Grady Plyler has returned home after an extended visit to friends in New York and Newport, Conn.

Mrs. William Dean has returned to her home in Charlotte after spending ten days with her mother, Mrs. R. A. Barrett, who has been very ill for some time.

The Prospect baseball team defeated the College Hill nine in a fast game here Friday. Green pitched fine ball for the Prospect team, but he was accorded poor support. McWhorter and Mosely, for the visiting team, played well, but errors at critical points lost the game.

The eighth grade diploma is one of the greatest curses of the present educational system, according to Mr. F. V. Hinson, a teacher of fifteen years experience. He said that he had taught hundreds of bright boys and girls who did their work with great credit, but that the moment they completed the eighth grade and had received diplomas they were content to abandon their pursuit of an education, contenting themselves with the parchments presented by the county. Mr. Hinson thinks the standard of the schools should be increased by consolidating small schools so as to afford more and better teachers.

Teachers were impressed by The Journal's editorial calling attention to the plight of ex-soldiers living in our midst. The exposure of such a deplorable condition is enough to awaken the fires of patriotism as nothing else will, and your correspondent believes the people will respond to the appeal made in their behalf.

News of the Siler Community.

Matthews Route 26.—Many of the citizens of the Siler community were greatly interested in the Ross will trial, a number of them having been witnesses; and the verdict of the jury, it seems, is generally approved.

Rev. W. C. Underwood preached a most interesting sermon Sunday, his subject being "The Betrayal and Slandering of Christ by Judas." He applied his sermon to present day conditions, claiming that people betrayed each other. Some people, he said, become jealous of their neighbor because he has a better home or a better farm, and to vent their spite they become "busybodies" in idleness, going from house to house, mixing a grain of truth with a bushel of lies. God doesn't teach us to be that way. He having said: "Rejoice with those that do rejoice and weep with those that weep." The people are highly pleased with Mr. Underwood, and hope that he will be a leader in the community for many, many years.

It seems that a majority of the people are dissatisfied with the law requiring marriage applicants to present a certificate from their physician showing that they are free from contagious diseases. The writer is unable to see how the law will accomplish much good, especially in this section, owing to our proximity to the state line. A couple failing to pass the required medical examination can run down to South Carolina at very little expense and have the knot tied.

Monroe Graded School Honor Roll.

The following is the March honor roll for the Monroe Graded School:

Lower First Grade: John Hinson, Edgar Robinson, Frank Hinson, Rosalee Reader, Crowell Reader, Joe Presson, Rebecca Lee, Kathryn Wagner.

Higher First: Margaret Laney, Margaret Love, Carrie Lee Morgan, Wilma Griffin, Adelaide Barnes, Edmund Bivens, Gus Henderson, Mason Mincy, Wilson Griffin, Percy Laney, Ervin Stack.

Higher Second: Virginia Gravelly, Louise Roberts, Elizabeth Rice, Lillian Lockhart.

Higher Second: Johnny Laney, Billy Heath, Ashe Bennett Sikes, George Stovall, Betty Sikes, Worth Winchester, Elizabeth Redwine, Dick Lee, Robert Payne.

Lower Third: Ruth Davis, Elizabeth Griffin, Mabel Hinson, Edward Todd, Herman Stewart, Lorraine Stack, Margaret Wood Simpson, Frances Lee Stack.

Higher Third: Jack Blakeney, Frances Crowell, Adeline Fowler, Boyce Funderburk, James Griffith, Helen Hinson, Thomas Neal, Sara Parker, James Patton, Lillian Warren, Philip Weaver, Sam Warlick, Gertrude Walsh.

Lower Fourth: Margaret English, Sarah Faulkner, Myrtle Chas. Fulkner, Rachel Hudson, Billie Parks Smith, Jane Austin Sikes, Bernice Coan, Kathryn Lee, James Ashcraft, Charles Roberts.

Lower Fifth: Ruth Cadieu, Elizabeth Miller Caldwell, Mildred Crenshaw, Martha Ruth Kendall, Bertha Presley, Laura Stewart.

Higher Fifth: Edith Boyles, Mary Steele Norwood, John B. Ashcraft, Floyd Canup, Harry Lee, Pickett Williams.

Lower Sixth: Claude Sanford, Maurice Redfern, Margaret Redwine, Ella M. Helms, Maude Bowers, Aida Fairley.

Higher Sixth: Helen Cason, Janie Weaver, Lena Baker, Rena Broom, Claudia Brown, Winnie Boyles, Hilda Morgan, Lois Fowler.

Miss Emma Hunter's Grade: Max Griffin, Annie Toole Rotter, Jesamine Austin, Mary Leannond, Johnnie Lathan, Elizabeth Meares, Emma Jean Cox, Bertis Price, Nellie Austin.

Miss Iva Ratliff's Grade: Annie Louise Caldwell, Virginia Blakeney, Eleanor Stevens, Louie Sikes.

Miss Mary Gordon's Grade: Celesto Armfield, Margaret D. Sikes, Charles Weaver.

Lower Eighth: Nellie Cadieu, Evelyn Snyder, Heath Davis, Harry Presson, Lee Tod.

Ninth Grade: Florence Redwine, Mildred Lee, Abram Crowell, Clarence Houston, Whitford Blakeney.

Tenth Grade: Grace Williams.

Eleventh Grade: Christine Gordon, Mildred Plyler, Ruby Williams.

North Monroe—Second Grade: Nellie Coan, Mary Lee Privett, Roy Helms, Curtis Helms, Paul Phifer, Willard Helms, Ruby Hargett, Mary Permenter, Curtis Deese, Tehron Deese; Third Grade: Annie Faulkner, Annie Gray, Floyd Helms.

THE GRAND STATE OF BUFOIRD

Esq. Jerre C. Laney Says Everything Is Peaceful in His Domain.

Monroe Route 8, April 21.—Whooping cough is raging in this section, and the schools are so affected that they have almost become depopulated.

Small grain is good; farmers are working with all their might; there is some cotton and corn planted. The freeze a week ago nearly destroyed all of the garden vegetables; the peaches, however, are safe; peaches, apples and grapes, it is believed, met the same fate that the early vegetables did.

The farmers are using but very little commercial fertilizer. There are several fresh milk cows for sale, but no buyers; money is scarce; there's not a hiring in all this section, the farmers being forced to do all their own work.

Spring has arrived. The croaking of the frogs, the singing of the birds, the cooing of the doves, and the song of the whippoorwills can be heard, making one think of old times.

Very little is being said about the approaching road election, the Ross will case having occupied the thoughts of the people for the last two weeks.

I am engaged in my old occupation, raising chickens and turkeys.

This communication, Mr. Editor, will give you a faint idea of the joy, peace and tranquility that reign in the grand old state of Buford, the home of fair women, famous for its Sunday dinners and fine citizenship.—Jerre C. Laney.

Statement From Mr. Wood.

To the Voters of the Fourth Ward:—I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the magnificent vote accorded me in the first primary, and to say that I am in the second race and promise that if elected I will work in the interest of efficiency and economy in city government. I am also in favor of reducing the salaries of the mayor and aldermen to the old 1918 basis. Thanking you for your support, I beg to remain, very truly yours, V. H. WOOD.

Mr. Moore Is Grateful.

I wish to thank my friends in ward two for the excellent vote given me in the primary last Saturday, and to say to them that I am still in the race, and will be glad if they will stand by me. I promise if elected to stand always for the best interests of the town, and economic government. O. H. MOORE

"Was Mrs. Sickly's operation successful, doctor?"

"Ah, no, madam."

"What, she died?"

"Not that. She didn't pay me."

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NOT SWAYED BY PREJUDICE

Ross Will Verdict Shows Negro Can Get Justice in Courts.

The jury's verdict in the Ross will case in Union county is one of many instances in which the gratifying fact stands out that while jurics can and do disregard race prejudice, says the Statesville Landmark. Maggie Ross, a white woman possessed of large estate, lived in retirement and it is alleged that she permitted her negro servants unusual privileges in her home. At her death it was found that she had willed the bulk of her estate to three negroes. Various bequests were made to churches, missions and charities (the orphanage at Barlum Springs, \$2,000, and small amounts were given to various white persons, but the bulk of the estate of 1,500 acres of valuable farming lands and about \$35,000 in cash was left to a negro man and his daughter and granddaughter. The white woman had no near kin, but as soon as her will was made public second and third cousins and others farther removed, to the number of 109, entered suit to set aside the will on the ground that Maggie Ross was not mentally competent to make a will and that she was unduly influenced by the negroes who were beneficiaries. Many witnesses expressed the opinion that she was mentally competent to make a will and when pinned down admitted that the opinion was based on the fact that she left her property to the negroes.

That was a natural thought and that with the natural race feeling and the feeling that it was not best all round for so much valuable property to pass from the white race by gift into the hands of negroes, made a strong case to break the will. True the white beneficiaries employed counsel and gave their aid and influence against the effort to set aside the will, but most of these beneficiaries are outside of Union county. Their local influence would be small, while a jury of white Union county citizens would not be expected to look with favor on 1,500 acres of valuable Union county land passing into the hands of negroes, their heirs and assigns, for all time.

But after a hard-fought contest of 15 days it took that Union county jury just 45 minutes to agree that Maggie Ross knew what she was doing when she made her will; that she wanted the negroes to have the property and she was entirely right within her rights when she gave it to them.

That is by no means an unusual verdict, either, from the point of race relationship. Not so many years ago a white jury, in Iredell Superior Court, took the word of an old colored man against that of two white men—men of property and standing as men of affairs in their community—in a

matter involving the ownership of land. There are cases, of course, where passion are aroused, when race feeling sways judgment. But when the facts are set out in an atmosphere free from passion, in the clear light of justice, the negro will get his rights before the average Southern jury.

LIST TAKERS' APPOINTMENTS

For the purpose of securing property returns, I will be at the following places in May:
At J. Davis Helms, May 16; W. F. Robinson's, May 17; Oscar Clontz's store, May 18; Fairley Drake's (W. G. Long old home place), May 19; Huey Sell's, May 20; and Unionville, May 23 and 24. Come prepared to give in all crops produced on your land. I. C. CLONTZ, List Taker, Goose Creek Township.

Sandy Ridge Township.

Mineral Springs, Tuesday, May 3. Marvin, Thursday, May 5. Weddington, Friday, May 6. W. L. Hemby's Old Store, Monday, May 9. Howie Mine, Wednesday, May 11. Clark Bros' store, Friday, May 13. Pries Mill, J. N. Price's Store, Monday, May 16. J. N. PRICE List-Taxer.

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