

OUR SLOGAN—"OXFORD OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES."

OXFORD, N. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1912.

VOLUME 25. NO. 82

SEMI-WEEKLY.

HOBGOOD SHOTS TO KILL

Mr. W. P. Wilkinson, County Commissioner, Dies From Gun-Shot Wounds.

The usual summer stillness on the streets of Oxford was broken Monday morning when the news reached here that Mr. Milton Hobgood shot Mr. W. P. Wilkinson on the public highway, killing him with a bullet of buck shot. It is stated that Mr. Hobgood was coming to town over the Enon road, and when he reached the intersection of the road with the Lynch Hill, he inquired at the Curran store if Mr. Wilkinson had been seen to pass that way, and learning he had not been seen, and learning he had not been seen, Mr. Hobgood drove up Oak Hill road to a point near the home of Dr. Sals, where he met Mr. Wilkinson, seated in a buggy, followed by a phaeton in which were seated Mrs. W. P. Wilkinson, the wife of the dead man, and his daughter, and Mrs. Milton Hobgood and daughter. As soon as Mr. Wilkinson saw that he was covered by a shot gun in the hands of Milton Hobgood, he made an effort to leave the buggy, presumably to remonstrate with Hobgood, but the ladies in the rear vehicle advised Mr. Wilkinson to keep his seat; whereupon Hobgood opens fire on Mr. Wilkinson, five buck shot finding lodgment in his breast. The wounded man was seen to writ as the shot entered his body, but realizing the extreme danger of the wounds he endeavored to reach Oxford as quick as possible so as to secure medical attention, but Hobgood was bent upon torture and destruction, for as soon as he shot Mr. Wilkinson he opened fire on the vehicle containing his wife and daughter and Mrs. Wilkinson, and daughter one shot penetrating the foot of his daughter, after which he got in the front of the vehicle containing the wounded man and impeded the party's progress as much as possible by random pistol shots. This state of things was kept up for some time, until the road leading to the residence of Mr. F. C. Watkins, to whose house the party fled for protection, followed by the infuriated man, who swore that he intended to kill his wife. Arriving at the Watkins home the two ladies and the wounded child passed in, but when Hobgood drove up and tried to enter the house he was met by Mr. Watkins, who knocked him down, and was beating him when the ladies pulled him off, and when the battle was over Hobgood showed some bruises on his face, and when the battle was over Hobgood showed some bruises on his face, and when the battle was over Hobgood showed some bruises on his face.

Monday was Labor Day, and being a National Holiday the Postoffice and Banks were closed, and Rural Route Carriers enjoyed a well deserved day of rest.

Tell the news of your store by advertising in the Public Ledger which continues to increase its circulation, as the semi-weekly has proved very popular with the people.

Hurrah! for Senator Simmons! The Tar Heel State will be the first to get Federal aid in road building. This is, no doubt, in recognition of Senator Simmons' part in securing the appropriation.

We are requested to announce that the Stem High School will open on the 16th of September instead of the 9th. Don't forget the dates parents and get your bright son and daughters ready for the opening on the 16th.

Mr. C. W. Breedlove, of Blackstone, who is visiting relatives in Dickerson neighborhood, was in Oxford Saturday and the Public Ledger enjoyed a call from this old Granville man. He informed us that the drought also covered his section.

"Houses standing in a row,
What a lot of tales they know!
One a gladness and a glee,
One a moan or melody,
One a grief and one a care,
One a triumph or despair—
All so human and so true
When their stories talk to you!"

establishment of Upchurch & Curran where it was embalmed and prepared for burial, and placed in a casket and taken back to the home of his brother-in-law, Mr. R. C. Watkins. On Tuesday morning the funeral procession, composed of the grief-stricken family, members of the Board of County Commissioners, and many friends left for Grassy Creek where the funeral and burial took place at 3 o'clock amid the tears of loved ones and neighbors and friends. May the Good Lord comfort and sustain the suddenly bereaved family in the hour of deep gloom.

As to Mr. Hobgood's family connection much sympathy is expressed for them on account of the rash act.

The little ten-year old girl, the daughter of Milton Hobgood, who was shot by her father, the ball passing through her foot, was taken to a hospital in Richmond Monday for treatment.

After Mr. Wilkerson died his body was brought down to the undertaking

Local Wavelets.

Events of Interest Gathered Here and There.

It is almost red hot and still a-heat ing.

Still another show is coming, so look out for the date.

One of our weather prophets predicts rain in December.

The Tobacco warehouses will open today for the sale of leaf tobacco.

Humanity during the past week has suffered greatly from the heat.

The walls of the Hettie Lyon Phila-thea Building are going up rapidly.

The man who never talks about his neighbors is generally a splendid listener.

Mr. John Paris mourns the death of his pointer dog, which occurred Sunday morning.

Mr. Robt. Hackney has moved into the Hays cottage and is much pleased with his new home.

Note the change in the advertisement of the Oxford Hardware Co. in another part of this paper.

Rev. Joe Currin while playing a few days ago sprained his ankle and has to get about on crutches.

What the world really loves about lovers is how crazy they are to keep out of everybody's way.

While the thermometer hovers near the 100 mark our merchants are getting in fall and winter goods.

The Dudley Bullock House on Broad street is undergoing repairs and will be occupied by Mrs. A. G. Clement.

It turns out that our Board of Town Commissioners can have the business streets swept clean.

Well, Oxford and Granville county girls does not have to have any of those new fashioned beauty spots.

Every North Carolinian ought to take a dollar's worth of stock in the effort of Woodrow Wilson to restore the government to the people.

Overripened and divinely sweet
The days drift down at last
To that still hour when summer's feet
Tread sadly toward the past.

Nothing equals the disappointment of a girl who has received an impromptu joy ride in an automobile just after she has eaten a dish of onions.

God bless our noble ladies,
Hope they will set the right pace,
And wear small turbans so
We can see the preacher's face.

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It is said that after a woman has married a man to reform him and succeeds, it sometimes happens that another woman comes along and spoils all the good work with a snail.

Mr. Cortez Wright arrived in Oxford Sunday bubbling over with Simmons, and predicting that the Senator will defeat Kitchin by at least 30,000. After talking Simmons all day Monday in Oxford he left Tuesday morning for Raleigh where he will remain until after the election.

We wish every farmer in the county would decide to sell his tobacco this season on his home markets. We do not blame any man for selling where he can get the best prices, but before carrying a load elsewhere be sure that you are going to get more money for it. Stick to your home markets everything being equal.

Fire at the Veasey Saw Mill.

A fire, which originated at the Veasey saw mill last Saturday night or early Sunday morning, spread to the woods, burning over quite an area and finally catching the old William Blackwell place, now occupied by Abner Newton. The fire was extinguished before the building sustained any great damage.

Let the Good Work Go On.

The town fathers are to be commended for cleaning the streets in the business centre of town one day last week. The street hands collected not less than 5 ton of dust on four squares which had accumulated on top of the macadam. The only trouble is that the authorities did not finish the job while they were at it. Every ton of dust carted away now, means less mud and slush when the winter sets in.

A Case in Point.

Mr. Earnest J. Taylor, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Buggy Company, informs the Public Ledger that he is more than gratified with the results of the large advertisement his company carried in this paper during the opening week of their business. They are as busy as bees on both new and repair work, and the jobs they have turned out are marvels of neatness. We predict for this hustling firm a very bright future.

Senatorial Convention.

The Democrats of the Seventeenth Senatorial District are hereby called to meet in Convention at Berea, Granville county, on Friday, September 13, 1912, at 12 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating a candidate to represent the counties of Granville and Person in the State Senate.

E. J. TUCKER,
Chairman 17th Senatorial District.
It is to be hoped that the Granville delegates to this Convention will bear in mind the day and date and be sure to attend.

There's Plenty to Do.

There are many things that Oxford has got to do—provided she would not fall behind in the march of progress. One of these things is to adopt an effective system of street work and furnish the sinews of war for systematic street improvement. We are behind in that respect and we had just as well recognize that fact.

There's plenty to do; and the longer we are in getting at it, the bigger the task becomes. Let's not get into a self-satisfied state of mind and die of dry rot; let's do something. Everything goes up in a growing town. If everything were going down people would move out for the same reason that rats desert a sinking ship. When a town is going forward and things are moving upward it is a sign that the town has jumped the track that runs along old rut. Get in the new groove and shove with might and main for larger and better things.

Special Notice to Subscribers

On and after November 1, 1912, the subscription price of the Public Ledger will be \$1.50 per year. The increased cost of paper, ink, printing materials, etc., which have doubled since the \$1 rate was established, compels us to resort to the increase. Those who settle before November 1st and pay for a year in advance will receive the paper at the old rate of one dollar per year. We would prefer to maintain the old popular rate of one dollar, but in doing so we would sustain a heavy loss. The new rate of \$1.50 per year, or 75c. for six months, will enable us to keep abreast of the times, and every dollar saved by this plan will be put back into the paper. The Public Ledger is purely a local paper and stands for the upbuilding of Granville, and as such the merchants would profit by a more liberal use of its advertising space. Through our subscription list has grown enormously during the past nine months we do not propose to increase the advertising rate at present. Possibly there is no local or county paper in North Carolina that covers the field so thoroughly as the Public Ledger—it goes to 90 per cent of the homes of Granville county twice a week.

MRS. JOHN B. BOOTH'S school of music will reopen Monday Sept. 2nd. Music room is in the Graded School Building. (Sept. 28.2t. pd.)

Death of Little Girl.

Little Imogene Daniel, the ten-year old daughter of Mr. W. C. Daniel, of Tar River, died at the home of her parents last Friday evening. The funeral took place last Saturday afternoon at Bank Chapel. The crowd that gathered to pay their last respects to the sweet little girl was very large.

Western Dramatic Company

C. A. Phillips' Western Dramatic Company, a tent show, will be in Oxford on September 6th presenting the drama entitled "The Mohawk." They travel in their own cars, and have a Cow Boy Brass Band. See the Western Dramatic Company's adv. on 4th page of this paper.

Will Go to Lee County.

Mr. S. D. Holeman, who has had charge of the Granville county road force for a long time, has accepted a similar position in the new county of Lee and will take up his work there in the near future. Mr. Holeman is a competent man, and the new county of Lee is to be congratulated on getting him.

Route Four Routings.

Mr. J. D. Puryear returned to his home in Virginia the past week.

Miss Belle Sicfors, of Salisbury, spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of Mrs. W. S. Burwell, Sr.

We were very sorry to hear of Master Bennie Watkins breaking his arm. Hope he will get along nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Sizemore, of Nelson, Va., were the guests of their mother, Mrs. W. W. Ragland last Saturday and Sunday.

There was a large crowd present at Oak Hill Sunday to hear the speaking of the children which was a very delightful occasion.

Mr. Wesley Y. Thorp and sister, Miss Belle, of this section, and Mr. A. L. Babcock and family, of Route 7, were Oxford visitors Saturday last.

Mrs. J. D. Currin and two children, and Mrs. Lucy Kinton and Miss Annie D. Kinton were the guests of Mrs. W. E. Mulch, of Warren county, the past week.

Farmers are very busy curing tobacco in this section. The weed is curing well but does not weigh very much. Corn is looking awful bad on account of dry weather.

FARMERS' TOBACCO COMPANY.

The Granville Farmers' Tobacco Company will open its prize house for receiving tobacco Monday, September 10th. Improvements have been made in the building, additional room provided for the display of the tobacco, and accommodations provided for the farmers' horses.

This plan of co-operative marketing of the tobacco crop is merely one of the phases of the world-wide movement to eliminate part at least of the excessive waste occurring between the producer and the consumer. This waste or leakage common to nearly all of the present systems of marketing crops is the result of following out-worn, moth-eaten methods that would not be tolerated for a day in any of the well-organized industries. The manufacturing and railroad companies the world over would go into bankruptcy in less than six months if they practiced the loose methods of doing business now in vogue among farmers and especially on the marketing side of their business.

We ask you, the tobacco raisers of the county, to bear in mind that this plan of selling a crop by the producers directly to the manufacturers is not the idle dream of a visionary. It has been thoroughly tested and proven practicable in many places and has in every instance resulted in better prices for the men who make the crop. We also ask you to bear in mind that the men behind this movement are not mere idle dreamers or unreliable promoters. They are among the best and most substantial citizens of the county and the grim determination with which they have thrown themselves in this organized effort to get a large share of the profit for themselves and their neighbors insures its success. The leaders and managers of this business are not standing back and asking you to test the plan and see if it will work. They are taking larger risks both by subscribing stock and storing their crops than any outsiders. They not only have faith in the plan itself but they have faith in the intelligence of the farmers to see its great value and take advantage of it.

Just a word here to the men who have subscribed stock and pledged their support. It is to your interest, every one of you from the largest to the smallest stockholder, every one of you from the smallest to the largest tobacco grower, it is to your interest to look upon yourself as a special representative of this organization, and not only patronize it yourself, but do everything you can to get your friends and neighbors to do likewise. The value of the plan will depend largely on the completeness with which the selling of the tobacco crop can be controlled.

T. G. CURRIN, Manager.

See the four-coated snow white enameled ware advertised by the Oxford Hardware Company.

Personal Notes.

Coming and Going of friends and Strangers.

Dr. W. L. Taylor, of Stovall, was in Oxford Saturday.

Mr. John Mays, of Stem, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. J. W. Russell, of Route 5, was in Oxford Saturday.

Mrs. H. J. Council has returned from Rocky Mount.

Mr. J. D. Kinton, of Route 4, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. J. T. Cozart, of Route 3, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. W. W. Hart, of Route 7, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. R. T. Crews, of Route 2, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. Will Dixon, of Wilton, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. J. T. Daniel, of Route 1, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. J. B. Elliott, of Route 1, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. Crawford Knott, of Route 1, was a town visitor Monday.

Mr. R. J. Jeffreys, of Creedmoor, was on our streets Monday.

Dr. Meadows, of Culbreth, was an Oxford visitor Monday.

Mr. E. N. Clement, of Route 1, was a town visitor Monday.

Mr. Taylor Jackson, of Stovall, was a town visitor Monday.

Mr. A. J. Yancey, of Buchanan, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. R. H. Rogers, of Creedmoor, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. W. Z. Mitchell returned Saturday from Buffalo Springs.

Mr. Rufus Blackley, of Wilton, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. W. H. Daniel, of Lyon, was an Oxford visitor Saturday.

Mr. J. N. Tilley, of Knap of Reeds, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. R. H. O'Brian, of Route 5, was an Oxford visitor Saturday.

Mrs. C. B. Edwards, Jr., of Raleigh, is visiting Mrs. M. P. Chamblee.

Mr. Walter Averett, of Providence, was on our streets Monday.

Mr. E. B. Cozart, of Route 1, Stem, was an Oxford visitor Monday.

Mr. A. T. Knott returned Tuesday to Trinity College to resume his studies.

Mr. W. L. Umstead, of Knap of Reeds, was among the visitors to Oxford Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Breedlove and children, of Route 3, were on our streets Saturday.

Miss Mary Blount, of Richmond, is visiting her uncle, Mr. D. A. Coble, on Gilliam Street.

Miss Ione Yancey returned home a few days ago from a visit to relatives in Person county.

Our young friend Garland Mays, of Stem, left yesterday for Raleigh to enter A. & M. College.

Mr. R. L. Brand and C. R. Robinson, of Battleboro, are visiting friends and relatives around Oxford.

Mr. O. D. Wilson has returned from Greensboro where he attended a funeral of a relative Sunday.

Mrs. D. A. Coble and son, Edwards, returned Saturday from a visit to friends in Raleigh and Statesville.

Rev. J. B. Weatherspoon returned Saturday from his vacation and filled his pulpit Sunday morning and night.

Miss Minnie Hopkins, who has been visiting Miss Marie Medford, has returned to her home in Scotland Neck.

Messrs. L. Hunter and Thos. Jones attended the old soldiers barbecue at Clarksville last Friday and had a royal feast.

Messrs. M. B. Bragg, C. F. Wheeler and W. H. Washington, of Stem, were in Oxford Friday and called on the Public Ledger.

Two Injured in a Runaway.

This Tuesday morning about eleven o'clock Mr. Jeff Averett and his son, C. B. Averett, were driving along College street when their horses attached to a wagon became frightened at the automobile of Mr. L. B. Turner and dashed away. In attempting to hold the horses the lines gave away and the occupants jumped out. Mr. Jeff Averett sustaining a broken arm, Mr. C. B. Averett being badly shaken up and bruised. Mr. Turner placed them in his automobile and drove them to the office of Dr. Coggeshall, who attended their wounds.

INQUEST HELD MONDAY.

The Testimony of One Witness in Shooting is Corroborated by Others.

In the matter of the inquest upon the cause of the death of William Propus Wilkinson held in and near the town of Oxford on Monday, September 2, 1912, the following jurors were duly summoned by Sam. M. Wheeler, Sheriff of Granville county, and sworn by W. D. Bryan, Coroner, to-wit: B. F. Dean, C. W. Bryan, W. B. Dixon, J. A. Niles, S. D. Holeman and Sam Webb, who, after hearing all the testimony, rendered the following verdict: "That the said William Propus Wilkinson came to his death by a gunshot wound inflicted by Milton B. Hobgood, and we recommend that said Hobgood be held without bail to answer the charge of murder."

The account in another column was written on current reports which were gathered before the Coroner's Inquest which is changed to some extent by the testimony of the witnesses. We give the testimony of Mrs. Wilkinson in full which is corroborated by the other witnesses of the deplorable affair, which is as follows:

Mrs. Addie Green Wilkinson:
My home is in Granville, near Virginia-Carolina line; am daughter of Geo. W. Watkins; am a sister of Mrs. Milton Hobgood. She has been at my home since fourth Sunday in July, and left this morning coming with us to Oxford.

Did you see Milton B. Hobgood and when? Ans. I don't know exact spot, but this side of Bill McGhee's, on Oak Hill road, either this side or the other.

State what took place: When he met us he stopped and spoke to Propus and asked him where his wife Martha is. He told him she was in surrey just behind; Propus stopped; Milton went to surrey and took hold of Martha and pulled her out. Propus got out of buggy and objected and told him he could see her in Oxford. He got Martha away and all got in, drove on. We hadn't seen any gun up to now. Hobgood drove around in front. He stopped the other side of Dr. Salls' and drew his buggy across the road and then went to surrey and handed his wife some money and then got back in his buggy and drove around the surrey. Propus told him to get back in buggy and he would have it fixed when he got in town, or he would have him arrested. Hobgood cursed him; said no, he was going to have his wife now, and no one should arrest him. Propus said yes, they would. He got back in buggy and drove back and forth in front of surrey; surrey was in front of us; Propus, Jr., was driving surrey.

Hobgood again just this side of Sall's said if you speak another word I'll shoot you. Propus jumped out and told him to shoot. He had drawn gun and the pistol, and then put them down. Propus told boy to drive on, and as he did so Hobgood jerked up gun and fired first shot. Hobgood was in his buggy and Propus in his buggy. His buggy was drawn across the road at that time. The first shot did not seem to hit Propus, and he immediately fired the second shot and that struck Propus in the chest. He then reloaded and fired again. The surrey had gone before he fired first shot, but not very far. He then fired into the surrey, and I heard several shots, whether from gun or pistol I don't know. What did Propus say after second shot? He said, he has killed me darling and laid over in my arms. I took reins and drove as fast as I could to R. C. Watkins' my brother. Two men helped take him out, I did not know them. Did Propus say anything about who shot him? Answer: He said Milt had shot him and that he was going to die. Propus realized he was going to die and gave directions about family matters. After getting to R. C. Watkins' he told all good bye and sent word to his oldest son to take care of mother and children. Did you know of complications between Hobgood and his wife? Answer: She came to our home for protection and said she could not live with him. Do you know of threats towards Propus? I have a letter at home containing threats. He fired four shots with gun towards buggy.

Judge Graham appeared for the State at the Coroner's inquest.

Times Absent from Congress

We herewith produce the record of Governor Kitchin in the Sixtieth Congress, for which he drew full salary. This, it will be remembered, is the year he deserted Congress to canvass the State for Governor. His record as Governor is worse than that of Congressman, if possible. Here is his record month by month for the session of 1907-8:

December, voting 1.
January, voting 0.
February, voting 1; not voting 3.
March, voting 1, answered present 1, not voting 4.
April, voting 15, not voting 43.
May, not voting 122.
Summary for session—Voted 18 time; answered present, 1 time; not voting 172.
How is that for representation? Yet Governor Kitchin in the face of this ask the voters to return him to Congress.