



ALL RIGHT. COME ON EVERYBODY. GET READY FOR THE COUNTY FAIR OCTOBER 23RD-24TH.
SEMI-WEEKLY. OXFORD, N. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1912. VOLUME 25. NO. 88

HOBGOOD GETS 30 YEARS.

Both Sides Agree to Murder in Second Degree--Judge Pronounces Sentence.

The Special Term of Granville County Superior Court was called to order Monday morning, Judge Whedbee presiding. This is the second time that Judge Whedbee has graded the bench of Granville County Court, and he fully sustains the high reputation he has in this the Ninth Judicial District, and the manner in which he expedites the business, and his impartial rulings on points of law, makes him popular with the bar and court officials. His charge to the grand jury is always very comprehensive, concise and pointed. In his charge on this special term he referred to the four capital crimes with special emphasis--that of murder, arson, rape and burglary.

Solicitor Gattis was on hand when court was opened, and judging from his rotund figure, he seemed to be abundantly able to handle the State's interests.

The following is the grand jury: E. A. Hunt, foreman; J. D. Fleming, Ernest Walters, R. H. Gilliam, A. Willford, J. M. Meadows, C. H. Landis, Z. E. Lyon, Durell Mangum, J. C. Peace, J. L. Tingen, M. L. Oakley, A. M. Cash, C. E. Earl, W. F. Rogers, C. W. West, W. E. Cottrell, J. E. Coley.

Quite a number of criminal cases were continued. Those tried were as follows:

State vs. Walter Ray, c. w. c., not guilty.

State vs. Oscar Bobbitt and Alex. Moss, affray, both guilty; Bobbitt receiving 6 months and Moss 2 months on the public roads.

Frank Lewis, c. w. c., guilty; 6 months on the public roads.

About 3:30 o'clock Milton B. Hobgood was brought before the bar of the court and in the solemn words and ceremony of law formally arranged for the murder of William Propus Wilkinson. Appearing with the Solicitor in the case were Graham & Devin and Victor S. Bryan, of Durham. For the defense there appeared Gen. B. S. Royster, Hicks & Stem, and Winston & Biggs, of Raleigh.

At the command of the Solicitor Hobgood rose to his feet while the Solicitor read the bill of indictment, charging that wilfully and of malice aforethought he did kill and murder the aforesaid William Propus Wilkinson. For the prisoner Gen. Royster entered the formal plea of "not guilty."

Then came the surprise of the day to the crowded court room. General Royster then withdrew the formal plea of "not guilty of murder in the first degree" and entered the plea of "guilty of murder in the second degree." The Solicitor then stated that he had been advised by the counsel for the private prosecution that such plea was satisfactory to the Wilkinson and Watkins families, and because of the peculiar circumstances of the case he, for the State, accepted the plea.

By common consent of the counsel in the case Judge Graham had been delegated to make a statement in explanation of the sudden termination of the trial. He began by paying a deserved tribute to the dead man, told of his life of probity and honor, of the esteem in which he was held and of his wide connection in this State and Virginia. He then spoke of Hobgood and family connections in the county; of Hobgood's thrift and industry; of his business ability, then of his drunkenness that for so many years held him in its clutches, of his violence and disposition; of the many times Mrs. Hobgood had found it necessary to separate herself from him on account of his violent and unreasoning disposition, and of him sending her from his home last summer, of his debauch immediately before the killing, of his drinking on the morning and preceding days. Then with faithfulness to detail Judge Graham described the meeting on the road September 2d, and the shooting of Wilkinson, an account of which appeared in the Public Ledger at the time.

In conclusion Judge Graham stated that after many conferences and much consideration it had been decided by the friends of the dead man, his wife and children, his brothers and brothers-in-law, to accept the plea tendered by the defendant and to advise its acceptance by the State. It was also stated that all had agreed to ask that the maximum punishment prescribed by the law for murder in the second degree be imposed.

Judge Whedbee in passing sentence spoke of the enormity of the offense that Hobgood had committed and advised him to spend the remainder of his days in an effort to expiate the crime and in seeking forgiveness from Him who can grant it and cleanse from evil. Judge Whedbee then said that he approved of the plea being accepted by the State and expressed the opinion that a long drawn out trial would probably have resulted in the same verdict and punishment. He then sentenced Hobgood to hard labor in the State penitentiary for a period of thirty years.

While the final results of this regrettable affair was a surprise to many people, yet the opinions of many is that it was the course to pursue. It is

Local Wavelets.

Events of Interest Gathered Here and There.

Two new buildings have been erected on Cotton Factory hill.

Mrs. Ella Peace is preparing to rebuild her store on Raleigh road.

The Granville County Fair is yours so do not forget to make it a good one this year.

When a fellow goes courting Saturday and stays till Monday things begin to look serious.

Note the important change in the advertisement of the Oxford Ice Company in another column.

We call special attention to the sale of valuable farm land by A. M. Yates, of Lexington, on the last page.

The dust has at last been laid and people are again getting a slight taste of what they will have to plough through this winter.

The opposition to Senator Simmons are now cussing him out because he secured more pay for the rural mail carriers of the country.

If you want to get the cream of the market on all grades of tobacco and capture many of the choice premiums offered by the Oxford Warehouses. Sell your tobacco on the Oxford Market follows:

The members of the Baptist Church are again discussing the question of a home for their pastor, and we cannot see why this large and influential congregation has not provided one before now.

Think seriously over the proposition to issue bonds for streets purposes, as the money thrown away on filling up holes in the streets with dirt and rocks will pay the interests on \$30,000 worth of bonds each year.

Tobacco continues to flow in on the Oxford market, and we are pleased to learn that the farmers are gratified with the prices, and also full of praise for the market, which cannot be excelled in the State.

Ice cream and cake will be served on the lawn of Salem Public School on Friday evening, September 27th, from 6 to 10 o'clock. Proceeds go to school equipment, and the Patronage of the public will be greatly appreciated.

Men to be happy are men to be true. To all that is manly and fine to do; Fairness and justice and kindly grace. To those at their side in the daily race. Sweetness and mellowness, and desire To help the old world go a little higher.

The Oxford Building & Loan Association is becoming very popular with our people as it is a home and town builder, and for that reason we ask you to carefully read the advertisement of this Association on the last page.

Much as the people loved Aycock, says the Weekly, he would not have escaped detraction at the hands of the Kitchinites if he had lived and continued in the Senatorial race. Indeed, a member of the Kitchin administration wrote a letter reflecting on him very seriously.

Rev. S. K. Phillips will be away the latter part of this week attending the fall meeting of Albemarle Presbytery at Littleton. He expects to return by Sunday and will occupy the pulpit as usual morning and night. The morning service will be the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

The citizens of Oxford are requested by the Churches to bear in mind that the hours set for the taking of the town census are from 3:30 to 5:30 o'clock p. m. this Wednesday afternoon. Kindly listen for the church bells and be ready to furnish the census takers with the information they desire as promptly as possible.

As we go to press this Tuesday morning we deeply regret to learn of the death of Mrs. James Cozart at her home near Cheatham's mill. She was the sister of Senator Hicks and Mr. T. T. Hicks, of Henderson, and numbered among the best women of the county. We extend deep sympathy to the grief-stricken family.

It is known that the defense would have strenuously resisted verdict of murder in the first degree as returned by the grand jury on the ground of insanity. Whether insane or not Hobgood, has for many years, been somewhat unbalanced on account of inebriacy and no doubt there have been many who would have said that he was not entirely responsible.

It begins to look as if life is cheap in Granville county, since there has been so many homicides during the past three years and only one execution.

The arraignment of Hobgood broke into the trial of State vs. Walter Perry in which there was a conviction of nuisance for cursing. State vs. Swindell was the only other case remaining and this was tried Monday. This completed the docket and after only one day's session the special term came to an end.

Eight new subscribers were added to the Public Ledger list Saturday and Monday.

If you want to "feel like 30 cents" just get stalled on a sandy hill with no gasoline in your automobile.

A man never knows how fleet-footed he really is until he has occasion to make a get-away from a bright leap year girl.

We are glad to learn that Mrs. W. R. Taylor, who resides near Oxford and who has been critically ill several days, is some better.

Dr. T. L. Booth will now enjoy riding around to see his patients in a newly painted automobile, which his most excellent wife had done during his stay at Buffalo Springs.

There is a decided movement on foot in Oxford to hold a mass meeting in the near future for the purpose of devising ways and means of enforcing the prohibition law more rigidly. So long as a law remains on the statute books it should be carried out to the letter of the law.

The Registration Books of each precinct throughout the State must be open for new registration of voters on October 3rd to October 23rd. Those who will have to register are voters who have changed residence and those voting for the first time. As soon as the list of Registrars and pollholders are furnished us for this county we will gladly publish it.

A False Report.

We are glad to state that the report circulated to the effect that Dr. B. K. Hays would not return to Oxford and resume the practice of medicine is without foundation. The Doctor has no idea of moving away from Oxford. Dr. Hays will go to New York in October for the purpose of attending lectures at the Post Graduate Medical school, and will return to Oxford to resume his practice the latter part of November.

The Oxford Library.

The Oxford Library has been moved from Dr. Henderson's office to the store of Mr. H. J. Council, which is on the down stairs floor of the same building. The committee, assisted by Mr. Council, the librarian, is taking an inventory of the books and will appreciate it if all persons having books will return same within the next few days, so that there will be no delay in getting the library in working order. It is to be regretted that the privileges of the library have been abused, and it is hoped that in the future the readers of books will be more careful of them and return them promptly and in good condition.

It will also be appreciated if all subscribers will pay their dues promptly, so that the librarian may be paid at the beginning of each month, which will also enable the committee to order new books. And it must be remembered that the library is the property of the Woman's Civic Club, with the exception of a few small donations from public spirited gentlemen, and has been supported by the Civic Club.

The club cordially invites all lovers of good reading to visit and make use of this splendid collection of books. The subscription price of \$1 a year is within easy reach of all.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

Woman's Literary Club.

On Tuesday, September 10th, the first meeting of the club year of the Woman's Literary Club of Oxford, was held with Mrs. R. L. Brown.

The lovely surroundings of this home, set back in a grove of ancient Oaks, with galleries ornamented with trailing flowers, waving ferns and plants, together with the charming hospitality of the hostess made an attractive setting for the beginning of the study of our Southland.

The course of study for the year had been outlined by the program committee, Mrs. A. H. Powell, Mrs. S. H. Cannady and Mrs. J. G. Hall, in an attractive year book with hand painted cover in Daffodils, the club flower, and consists of a thorough study of the South in literature, music and art.

Many beautiful southern songs and poems and other special features have been distributed throughout, that will make an ideal course.

The club was gracefully presided over by its new president, Mrs. S. H. Cannady who in a cordial manner welcomed the new members, Mrs. W. B. Ballou and Mrs. E. G. Couch and the guests of the afternoon, Mrs. E. A. McKethan, Miss Maude Parham, Miss I. Gooch and Miss Susie Roberts.

In answering to the roll call many charming stories were told and brought to the minds of the club the fact that in one small club circle there were many descendants of the Colonial Governors. At the close of the meeting dainty refreshments were served by Misses Josephine Brown and Miss Janette Gregory. The club then adjourned to meet with Mrs. C. D. Kay, Tuesday, September 24. REPORTER.

WELLS DRILLED through rock to practical depth to secure pure, wholesome water in inexhaustible quantity. All surface water cased out. TACKETT-INGOLD WELL AND PUMP CO. Chase City, Va. Sept. 25.4t.pd.

New Pastor Coming.

The Geneva-Stovall-Oak Hill churches are rejoicing over the news that Rev. J. S. Kennison, of Greenbank, West Va., whom they recently called as pastor, has signified his intention to accept their call. A commission composed of Messrs. Daniel, Lewis and Morton have been appointed to prosecute the call for his services before Greenbrier Presbytery, and it is hoped that Mr. Kennison will be in his new field of labor by the middle of October.

Good Citizen Gone.

Mr. John D. Williams, of Fairport section, died suddenly about 7 o'clock Sunday morning last. He had started to go out to the grape arbor and on reaching the threshold his heart failed him and he fell to the floor and expired almost instantly. Mr. Williams served in the Southern army; he was a good, quiet amiable citizen and his sudden death was great shock to the entire community. The deceased was 65 or 70 years of age. He carried on a mercantile business at Fairport for a number of years. Mr. Williams is survived by a wife, two grown daughters and one grown son, two brothers and a host of relatives and friends. The remains were laid to rest in the family plot near Fairport.

Phipps-Sherman Marriage.

The following announcement has been sent out:

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Phipps requests the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Annie Lou

to Mr. Charlie Blank Sherman Tuesday afternoon, October fifteenth nineteen hundred and twelve at two o'clock at Enon Church, Oxford, N. C., R. F. D.

Miss Phipps is a very attractive and accomplished young lady and is universally popular in the Enon section and numbers her friends by the score in all parts of Granville county. Mr. Sherman is a popular young business man of Durham.

Bags of Gold.

Messrs. Mangum & Watkins, proprietors of the Johnson Warehouse, announce the fact that they will give away bags of gold, amounting to over \$700 during this tobacco season. On September 24th they will begin issuing coupons with each coupon and check, which will entitle patron to a chance at ten dollars in gold. The above amount is to be given each and every sale day. At the end of the season, March 31, they will give \$25 to the farmer making largest average during the season for one barn of tobacco weighing not less than 400 pounds, and to the farmer who sells the largest number of pounds at the Johnson Warehouse they will \$25 on March 31 Mangum & Watkins always get high prices for tobacco, and now that they will give away cash prizes every sale day, and handsome prizes at the end of the season, makes it an interesting proposition. A square deal is guaranteed, and their best efforts are at your command. See the adv. of Johnson warehouse on 2nd page of this paper.

Meeting at Hermon.

The annual meeting was held at Hermon church last week, beginning Sunday, the 15th, and continuing for four days, Rev. L. H. Joyner conducting the services. Brother Joyner did some of the best preaching he has done on the work, and told the members their duty to the church, their fellow man and to each other. While there was no great demonstration on the church there was good work done that will tell in the future.

Rev. W. S. Hester was with us on Tuesday and told us how glad he was to be with us one more time, and how he loved the people of Hermon; that he had preached to our forefathers before and since the war; said he was nearing his journey's end and wanted to meet us all in heaven. We feel that the work he has done will be lasting, like the "bread cast on the waters will be seen many days hence." We all wanted the meeting to continue, but the rain had come and we all had to sow our turnips and clover as the dry spell prevented it until now. O, for a deeper work of grace in the hearts of the members of the church.

MEMBER.

THE GAME LAW.

As there seems to be some confusion in the public mind as to the open season for hunting in this county, I take this means of letting the people know when the various kinds of game can be hunted:

Deer, from the 1st of September to the 15th of January.

Turkey, from the 1st of November to the 1st of March.

Partridge from the 1st of November to the 1st of February.

This is the period of the year at which it is most important that the game laws be enforced and we ask all who are interested in the protection of our game to aid us in our efforts for without public sentiment behind us we can do very little to uphold this law.

GRANVILLE COUNTY GAME ASSOCIATION By T. Lanier, Sec'y. Sept. 25.2t.

Personal Notes.

Coming and Going of friends and Strangers.

Mr. J. W. Dean, of Route 2, was in town Monday.

Mrs. E. C. Harris, of Route 3, was on our streets Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knott, of Route 1, were in town Saturday.

Mr. W. R. Garner, of Creedmoor, was an Oxford visitor Saturday.

Mr. Jack Bullock has returned to a medical college in Richmond.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Currin, of Route 6, were in town Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Luther Buchanan has returned to a Medical College in Philadelphia.

Mr. B. M. Caldwell and son, of Gela, have returned from their summer outing.

Mr. Presley Davis, of Stovall, visited his uncle, Dr. I. H. Davis, in Oxford on Saturday.

Mr. Garwood, the Durham Sun's excellent talking man, blew into Oxford Monday afternoon.

Mr. Hillman Cannady is attending the National Carriage Convention at Atlantic City this week.

Miss Mary Shotwell left Monday for Kinston to resume her duties as a teacher in the High School.

Mrs. James Rogers has returned from a visit to her brother, Dr. A. S. Priddy, Lynchburg, Va.

Mr. W. H. Hester, of Clarksville, Va., was an Oxford visitor Tuesday and called on the Public Ledger.

Mrs. Henry E. Holms, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. S. K. Phillips, returned to Richmond Monday.

Messrs. Leon Hines, J. A. Taylor and Henry Robards, of the road, spent the week-end at their homes in Oxford.

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Brummitt and Mr. and Mrs. Tilden Barnett, of Shady Grove, were in town Saturday afternoon.

Ex-Judge Biggs, of Raleigh, was in attendance upon our Court Monday, and his old friends were glad to see him.

Mr. W. P. Spencer and son, of Oak Hill township, were among the Oxford visitor Friday and dropped in on the Public Ledger.

Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Rollins and children, of Durham, were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Steed on Rectory street.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Parham and two daughters and little son George, of Route 5, were among the throng of visitors in town Saturday.

Dr. T. L. Booth returned Monday night from Buffalo Springs much improved in health to the joy of his family and the gratification of his host of patrons and friends.

Mr. Jas. B. Blades and wife, of Newberne, who were enroute home from Buffalo Springs, were among the pleasant guests of the Exchange Hotel Sunday.

Governor B. B. Comer and wife and Mr. B. B. Comer, Jr., of Alabama, were guests at the Exchange Hotel Sunday night. They were enroute home from a summer tour among the lakes of New York and Canada. We had the pleasure of meeting the Governor and found him to be a genial and pleasant gentleman.

Slanders Southern Women.

The manager of Governor Kitchin's campaign has "plastered" Granville county with a goodly supply of Collier's Weekly. We do not suppose this paper was good and kind enough to send them for nothing, and if the "man behind the scenes" thinks the vapors of this Bull Moose, nigger-loving, South-hating, slanderer of Southern woman sheet can influence the white voters of this State against Senator Simmons, the man who led us out of darkness into light, he is very sadly mistaken. "If you would gather roses, do not sow rotten seed."

Stop, Look, Listen.

Mr. Will Mitchell, proprietor of the Banner Warehouse, announces that he will give away \$300 in gold absolutely free. A grand prize of \$100 in gold will be given away on the 29th of March to the person holding the lucky number, and on the same date \$50 in gold will be given to the person holding the second lucky number. Beginning Tuesday, September 24th, 1912, every load of tobacco sold at the Banner Warehouse will entitle the planter to a coupon which will give him a chance at these two prizes. In addition to the two grand prizes there are six other prizes of \$25 each to be given away in October, November and December. Mr. Mitchell guarantees the best of everything--the best of prices, the best premiums, the best service. We invite attention to the advertisement of the Banner Warehouse in another part of this paper.

PHILATHEA AND BARACA.

The Two Noble Organizations Are Doing Good Work in Oxford.

The Public Ledger is gratified with the high standards maintained in the world-wide and noble work in which the Philathea and Baraca classes of Oxford are engaged in. It is doubtful if any two organizations engaged in the extension of the Master's kingdom is bearing better fruit than the Philathea and Baraca classes. Nothing can appeal to the mind of the laity with as much force as that of seeing the members of the Philathea classes striving with an inborn desire to attain their ideals, that of spreading abroad the "love of truth." While the Philatheas love every one with whom its members come in contact, the Baracas is wont to pronounce a blessing on every one with whom its members come in contact. It is a pleasant and most fascinating work, and it carries with it a note of genuine sincerity, which accounts for the happy strides the two organizations are making in all parts of the nation, especially in North Carolina and in the dear old town of Oxford. It is a matter of great pride that the president of the State Philatheas, Miss Hettie Lyon, resides in Oxford. The annual meeting, over which Miss Lyon will preside, will be held in Charlotte next April, and it will be shown that heavy gains have been made during her administration.

As the literature of these two very popular organized classes states, "Philathea" is a Greek word which means "lovers of truth." This is the ideal before each class which not only tries to love every one with whom its members come in contact, but also to make them love the truth. "Baraca" is an abbreviation of the Bible word "Berachah," shortened in order to get it into a class pin. The children of Israel after their victory over the Mohabites held a praise service in the valley which they had named "Berachah" which means "blessing" (2 Chron. 20:26). The members of the class strive to be happy or blessed--a blessing to every one with whom they come in contact.

Fair Draws Near.

There are two separate features that the directors of all fairs have to give attention to and the amount of emphasis placed on the one or the other determines largely the character and value of the fair. These two features can be classed roundly under the heads of amusement or entertainment, and instruction. There is a wide-spread opinion that unless great emphasis is placed on side-shows, fakers, balloon ascension, etc., or in other words the entertainment feature predominates the people will not come and give the proper support financially.

There are two reasons why this idea has attained such prominence in the minds of the people, both of which look back for their origin to the earlier times when a combination of two features was more necessary than it is to-day. There were fewer opportunities for amusements in the middle ages than at present and the means for paying for such was less. There grew up therefore this custom of uniting the amusement feature with the showing of the best products and trading that was carried on to a large extent at these meetings. This demand of the people was recognized by the managers and the means of satisfying it incorporated as one of the principal parts of all fairs. The second reason is the revenue derived from this source. It costs something to run a fair and pay the premiums and it has been considered unwise to neglect any opportunity of securing the necessary funds.

The managers of the Granville Fair believe that the time has come when the predominant feature should be that of instruction and education. Other opportunities are provided at other times and places for those who crave the coarser sensation of the usual low midway attractions. We believe the people have reached the point where they appreciate a quieter, more refined atmosphere about their county fair, where they can meet together, bring their products, get the lessons that come from seeing the fine stock, field and household products, and carry home with pride the premiums won.

We are going, therefore, to strike out boldly along the newer line of cutting out the claptrap, monkey dodgers and plantation shows, relying upon the higher interest of the people to support their fair for its worthier objects. The money available will almost entirely be put in the premium list which will be put forward as the drawing card. We would rather expend \$1000 for premiums to encourage productive efforts in the homes and on the farms of the people of the county than to put this same amount into balloon ascensions and horse-races. If you believe in this policy of conducting a fair, give us your help in carrying it out.

J. F. WEBB

Miss Willie Lee Thomas has again entered the school room, and is now numbered among the popular teachers of Eastern Carolina.