

OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER.

F. M. PINNIX, Editor and Owner.

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PAPER CHANGED HANDS.

My brothers, W. M. and M. K. Pinnix desiring to make other arrangements, I have taken charge of the Ledger. After an absence of nearly ten months it is a pleasure to be back at the ink slinging business and I promise the subscribers of the Ledger my best efforts in getting out the Ledger. I am very proud of the kindness with which the paper has always been treated and hope to have the continued support of the people.

Very respectfully, F. M. Pinnix.

BROTHER MANNING ILL.

The Ledger is very sorry to see in the Gold Leaf that its editor, Mr. Thad Manning is quite ill in a Richmond hospital. Brother Manning has the deepest sympathy of all his fellows in the business, and the Ledger heartily joins them in wishing him a speedy recovery and return to his desk.

THE LATE COL. HICKS.

The state has just lost a valuable man in the death of Colonel W. J. Hicks. In his long career of usefulness in the state he has left many marks of his ability and his works will long survive. His latest labor, his term of service at the Asylum, is a suitable crowning of them all, and his peaceful sinking into slumber terminates a life nobly lived.

THE MURDER TRIAL.

The Ledger is particularly glad that no disturbance of any kind took place while Nathan Montague was upon trial since all sorts of sensational reports have been circulated in connection with it, all of which have been found to be without foundation. The trial was fair, impartial, conducted in a dignified manner, so much so that no civil suit could have been put through with more ease and less friction. Aroused and heated as the people have righteously been their conduct is worthy of the highest commendation which it is receiving from all quarters.

It would be a hard matter to say where all those lurid rumors of wholesale purchase of weapons, big consignments of whiskey, dire plots, etc., originated, and it is now unnecessary to say that they were all bosh. There were plenty of people just after the happening—black as well as white—that might have been ready to stretch Nathan at the end of a rope, but after matters had subsided and after it was found that he would be given a speedy trial, there was no danger of any trouble whatsoever.

Some people have been angry about that piece of artillery, but after all it does not make any difference. The governor must have had sufficient request for military help thought the artillery might be sent along for display.

TWO GOOD MOVES.

Notice is carried in the news columns of this paper of a movement to launch a vegetable and fruit show for the month of July. Superintendent Webb who is implicated in the move and if he is the author of it he deserves a feather in his cap. The amount of products taken from Granville gardens every year must total a considerable sum and anything causing an increase in amount adds that much to the sum total of the county's wealth. It is human nature to brag about garden work and a little public attention will cause considerable more interest in garden work. This is right in line with the general progress of the county and let everybody give it a helping hand.

The second movement that the Ledger is so glad to see is the effort to get small stockholders in the Granville County Agricultural Association. Under any plan that would be put in operation or under any plan by which the capital stock is to be raised, the Association will do a fine work. But if hundreds of shares of stock are taken in very small amounts, the interest of those stockholders will all the greater on account of them. Necessarily, when the fair gets under way everybody is going to feel a deep interest in it, and the question now is simply as to make that interest the keenest.

SENTENCED TO DEATH.

(continued from page 1) and hair on well. Questioned by the defense, witness stated that he could not tell anything from the footprints.

Other Witnesses at Fire. Melvin Hunt, the next upon the stand, ran out when Mr. Overton called him and was the first at the fire. Doors all open, fire raging couldn't see inside house, but as flames were not coming from roof when first arrived, witness thought it must have originated in front room. J. T. Milton was the third man upon the scene. Found conditions similar to other witnesses. Saw body 2 or 2 1/2 feet from fireplace and two others between window and fireplace. Dishpan of charred corn was found near a body. The smallest body was near the largest which was lying upon its back with head towards the window. Witness testified to Hester's picking up the burning skirt which 3 or 4 jumped upon to stamp out the blaze. This was the first suggestion of crime and foul play. Told of discovery of knife and identification. Testified as to bloody condition of well and finding of hair exactly like dead woman's. Said that struggle was indicated by tracks and that somebody had been dragged to or away from a locust tree. Witness has seen none of the victims since that day.

Helped Drag Out Remains. Frank Hester was the young man who found the burning skirt which was imbrued with fresh blood. Discovered it about fifteen feet in front of the door, and a foot and a half away he saw a little puddle of blood near the ditch where a body had been dragged in a north and south direction. Corroborated conditions as well given by other witnesses. Identified hair. Swore to seeing other hair four feet from locust. Helped ex-sheriff Fleming take out bodies. Identified them as human by teeth and skull.

Ex-sheriff S. A. Fleming who lives a little over a mile from the late Saunders whom he has known for 30 years was informed of the happenings at 10:10. Arrived at scene found house caved in and part of the walls tumbling in. Body was found four feet from fireplace and from outside could see skull and backbone. Two other bodies in southwest corner of the room. Took largest body out first. Limbs and arms were burned off, but from hips up not all flesh had been burned. Right lobe of lung was burned to crisp but heart not destroyed. Witness ran finger in body's mouth and found his teeth sound but worn. Saw hair at well and on ground, putting chip of wood over latter tuft. Was summoned by Sheriff Wheeler and at 1:30 was present with latter R. E. Starnes, and Hester at taking of prisoner. Prisoner had "idiotic silly giggle" but said little.

Bloody Clothes. R. E. Starnes was the man who discovered the irrefutable evidence of the negro's guilt. With Sheriff Wheeler he reached Montague's house at 1:15. The sheriff knocked and was answered from within. He replied by asking the owner of the voice to get up, strike a light, and open the door. Prisoner came to door in night clothes, his wife and child being in bed. Montague was told that crime was committed and officers were on search of party. Prisoner replied that he didn't know anything about it. Witness went up stairs and was at once rewarded by finding incriminating evidence, a bundle of clothes on his right. Found man's shirt, woman's skirt and undershirt, coats and undershirt. The undershirt, of a man, was very bloody, and the coat was found to have blood and hair upon it. Montague was immediately handcuffed and carried to Hester, where a conveyance was waiting, for quick transportation to Durham. Returning later to the negro's house, where he was sent by the sheriff for further evidence, Mr. Starnes found other articles. A wet rag was picked up in the middle of the floor and a washpan containing half a cup full of bloody water was nearby. A bloody hat and a handkerchief and other articles were also found. The blood upon the various findings was not yet dry.

Prisoner Searched in Durham. Sheriff Sam Wheeler succeeded Mr. Starnes upon the stand and gave similar testimony as to what he saw at the fire and what took place at the arrest. Told of conversation when prisoner came to door and of his disclaiming all knowledge of the crime. Arrived in Durham, with assistance of sergeant Pendergrast and another man searched person of prisoner. Right knee was found badly bruised, right elbow skinned, both hands scratched, and traces of scratches upon his face. His underclothes were bloody, blood was discovered upon his shoes, and a stran or two of light hair was picked from him. Two little pocket-books, a bunch of keys, and a watch chain was found. In the left hand hind pocket. Upon cross-examination, the sheriff stated that the negro offered no resistance to arrest. Next day, he examined the scene of the fire, saw the tracks but could not tell of the probable number of people engaged nor of the size of the shoes.

Wrecking of Chain of Evidence. Sergeant Pendergrast of the Durham police, corroborated the sheriff's statements as to the examination. He pulled from his pocket the hair taken at the examination and, comparing it with the hair picked up at the scene of the crime, pronounced it all as alike.

George Mangum, father-in-law of the condemned man, as black as the ace of spades and an old-fashioned "dis here, dat ar" darkey, told of taking his daughter away after the arrest. He further assisted in the wedding of the chain of evidence by telling of the finding of foreign wearing apparel, a top dress, shirt waist, towel, and a number of other articles that he recognized when put before him

for identification. He had them put in a "je-wano sack" and placed in a corner. Later he told Hart Overton of his find, this taking place on the day of the late Mr. Saunders' burial.

Mrs. Saunders Recognizes Articles. Mrs. Saunders, widow of the murdered man, and mother of the outraged woman, who was upon a visit in Oxford at the time of the terrible catastrophe in her home, described the interior of the room in which the bodies were found, and swore that the articles found by the father-in-law of Montague were taken from that room where they had been in a locked bureau drawer. She also identified the articles taken from the negro in Durham, the watch chain being her husband's and one of the purses that of her daughter. She said that she had never seen Montague before the day of trial.

Josie Currin saw the negro and Mr. Saunders talking a few steps from the well between sunset and dark, upon the evening of the catastrophe. Abel Boone, colored, saw the deceased near the cowpen with a man who looked like Montague. He had on a light hat, and was the man whom he had seen earlier in the day at Overton's wearing the same clothes and hat.

Case Goes to Jury. Under the questioning of Judge Graham and the solicitor the evidence was apparently so strong that it was deemed that no speeches were necessary. Maj. Gattis arose and stated to the judge that the prosecution was ready for the case to go to the jury. Neither Messrs. Brummitt nor Lassiter of the defense desired to speak, so the judge charged the jury for about 15 minutes and sent it to the rear room for verdict.

The judge's charge was limited mainly to the definition and application of the law in reference to murder, which was divided into murder of the first degree and murder of the second, the penalty for the first upon conviction being death and for the second being from 2 to 30 years imprisonment at the discretion of the court. He stated that to obtain a verdict of murder of the first degree that guilt must be established beyond the shadow of a reasonable doubt and that premeditation or malice must be established. He stated that the defense would maintain that there was no proof of any crime and that the defendant came into court an innocent man until proven guilty. The prosecution, on its part, was confined to circumstantial evidence entirely, which he briefly reviewed. He went through enough damning pieces to convict the prisoner over and over again.

He finally charged the twelve men to whether Montague killed Mattie Saunders, and if so after a willful and deliberate intent to do it. If such were found the case, the jury was instructed to bring in a verdict of murder in the first degree; but, if murder were committed by the defendant but not in a willful or premeditated manner to bring in a verdict of murder in the second degree. If not so guilty, find him innocent.

The Verdict and Sentence. At 4:10 the jury solemnly filed out and in exactly eight minutes the twelve men quietly marched back the jury box prepared to announce the verdict. Before asking the decision of the foreman Judge Ward warned the spectators that, though he sympathized deeply with the people of Granville, he could not permit any demonstration. He ordered the sheriff to station his deputies in the audience and bring before him any who might make any noise. Then turning to the jury, he received from the mouth of the foreman, Mr. S. Crawford Hobgood, the verdict of guilty.

Compelling the prisoner, who during the whole trial had not exhibited a semblance of emotion, nor even of interest, to stand up, the sentence was read. Judge Ward told the condemned man that he stood convicted of the heinous crime and that the evidence all pointed to at least five other counts upon which he would be entitled to a death sentence, to wit, two of murder, and one each of arson, rape, and burglary. He then directed that Montague be handed over to the sheriff who was ordered to deliver him to the warden of the penitentiary to keep him until Wednesday, the 15th day of February, when between the hours of 8 a. m. and 2 p. m., the warden shall cause to pass through his body a sufficiently strong current of electricity to cause his death.

When the prisoner was asked if he wished to state any reason why death should be pronounced or if he wanted to make any statement, he mumbled or almost inaudibly "What did you say?" The words were repeated several times, when his counsel said that he did not care to talk. The condemned man sat down, apparently unconcerned, indifferent, and patiently waited the pleasure of those around him. The sheriff, General Royster, in full uniform, and deputy Turner, surrounded the condemned man and when the people had quietly filed out of the room he was carried away from Granville never more to be seen in these parts.

Compliments People. The judge paid a public compliment upon the way the trial was conducted, the quiet, sober interest, and good behavior of the people, and the defendant's counsel's defense.

The grand jury who sent in the true bill was composed of: C. R. Gordon, foreman, R. H. Rogers, W. S. Sutt, T. W. Burch, B. H. Oakley, C. C. Currin, C. S. Elixson, J. Scott West, O. B. Breedlove, S. T. Lloyd, J. M. Blalock, E. J. Nance, G. P. Adcock, W. T. Farabow, John, B. Booth, W. T. Montague, C. J. Gee, and J. H. Pickett.

The jury that rendered the verdict comprised these citizens: S. Crawford Hobgood, foreman, R. L. Watkins, S. H. Veazey, C. H. Chapelle, E. G. Currin, B. E. Currin, A. H. Owen, Ed Lumpkin, W. C. Daniel, L. D. Blackwell and Oscar Yancey.

The New Stores.

Have just received and opened up the best and prettiest line of Muslin Underwear that has ever been shown in Oxford. The quality, as well as workmanship, and extra good and the prices we think very reasonable.

Laces.

We have always had the reputation for having the best line of laces in town. The new line that we have just received surpasses by far anything that we have ever shown from the 5ct ones up in Vals, Cotton and Linen Torshons and Cotton and Linen Clunys.

Embroideries.

And the same is true of our new line of Embroideries. The biggest, best, and prettiest line that we have ever shown. All the new patterns and work are here. We always show the newest things that come as early as they are gotten out.

You Will Have to See Them to Know How Pretty They Really Are.

And Don't Forget we are Offering Some Big Bargains in Odds and Ends all Through our Two Big Stores.

Make our store your headquarters when in town. All conveniences now for everybody. Come to see us Always glad to see you and to show you.

PERKINSON-GREEN CO.

Main Street, Crenshaws Old Stand.

Oxford, N. C.

WHAT NATHAN MONTAGUE SAYS

Gave Alleged Confession to Times Man En Route to The Penitentiary After Trial.

Nathan Montague, while on the way to the state penitentiary after his conviction, gave a signed statement to a Times Reporter telling of the crime for which he will lose his life. Here, Nathan's alleged confession or rather his method of making a confession, is distrusted. Several days before the trial he made a confession, telling his story so as to put a minimum amount of blame upon himself, and implicating other negroes, and after several days effort, they were unable to substantiate any part of Nathan's story. His wife and his brother, even, contradicted his assertions. However, the officials will always keep their eyes open and if any part of the condemned man's story is, true they will find it out. Here is the report as given in the Times reporter.

Enroute to Oxford Tuesday morning, where he was being conveyed by a special train for trial, Montague was very quiet and did not seem to care to discuss the affair. However, such was not the case coming back, as he talked freely and gave the following signed statement of the crime to a representative of The Daily Times:

"When I left Mr. Overton's house that evening it was getting dusk. I met Albert Cook on the railroad track waiting for Lonnie Bridgers who had gone to Mr. Saunders' Albert said, 'Come down here and let's wait for Lonnie, as he is on behind. It was getting right smart dark when Lonnie came along. We went on down the railroad to my house and when we got there they said 'Let's go down to Allies' (referring to some colored woman whose last name he could not recall.) She lived below Mr. Saunders' and we went on down that way. Just before we got to Mr. Saunders' Lonnie said let's go yonder and rob his and get his money.' I told him I was not going in there. Albert pulled out a bottle and said, 'I'll go with you all down there, but I'll not go in. The house had three doors. Lonnie went to the back door and called this man (Mr. Saunders) and I was at the other. When the man came to the door I heard a lick. After that Albert and Lonnie both went in the house. I was at the door to the east, the door that Lonnie called the man to was towards the south. After they stayed in there scouring around a little while the girl came to the door where I was. Albert told me to catch her and not let her get away and I caught her. She said, 'Don't do nothing to me; I won't go off.' And I was at the other. When she got off the train I am not going to do nothing to you."

"She came back in the house and went out the south door and some one of them, I don't know which one, went out and got her. They stayed in the house 10 or 15 minutes and then called me and told me to come in and see what we can find. I went in there and found some clothes. Saw Mr. Saunders laying on the floor dead. Did not take special notice of him, but noticed blood all over the floor. Saw the little child laying near Mr. Saunders. She too, was dead. Largest girl was on the bed. Don't know about her being dead, but suppose she was, as she did not say anything. I got some clothes. Lonnie and Albert got Mr. Saunders' clothes. Then Lonnie broke the lamp on the floor and set the house afire and we left.

"I went home and they went towards Tar River station." (Signed) NATHAN MONTAGUE.

When asked about his knife being found in the back yard Montague said he had traded knives with Albert Cook before they went to the house.

Asked why he would not give the alarm and summons help when the other negroes were in the house Montague said he was afraid to do so, as he would implicate himself in the crime. He did not seem to know it was a death penalty to rob a house.

Montague said he was willing to suffer his penalty for the part of the crime he committed, but he wanted the other negroes to suffer for their share."

COST NOT GREAT.

The Special Trial to Try the Murderer Will not Cost the County \$400.

Register of Deeds Jim Powell says that the cost of the recent murder trial will be only between \$350 and \$400. "You can tell 'em", he said, "that it will not cost over \$400 at the outside." These figures include everything, special term, special train, military protection, jury expenses, and everything. The amounts have been footed up and the figures can be relied upon. It has been feared that the expense would run up very high, some people actually believing that several thousand dollars would be involved.

UNEQUAL EYES.

Do you see equally well with both eyes? If not, both may be defective, one certainly is. Have them properly examined. We prescribe glasses only when absolutely necessary, and guarantee satisfaction. Dr. N. Rosenstein will be at Oxford Tuesday, Jan. 25th, at the Exchange Hotel. And at Creedmoor Wednesday, Jan. 25th, at the Hotel. Call to see his about your eyes, charges most moderate (1t)

GRADED SCHOOL HONOR ROLL.

Second Grade Honor Roll.

Ida Kerr Taylor, Ruth Howard, Transford Ballou, Annie May Watkins, John Perry Hall, Lorena Turner, Olive Webb, Lillian Cheatham, Thelma Lou Hester, Foy Tilley, La Very Harris, Irvin Jackson, Mabel Sizemore, Chandler Watkins, Ione Wheeler, Thad Parham, James White, Willie Howell.

Third Grade Honor Roll.

Sam Hall, Roy Upchurch Louise Currin, Beulah Fargis, Viola Hester, Minnie Patterson, Mary Day, Rassic Hobgood.

Fourth Grade Honor Roll.

James Ballou, Suddie Crews, Nina Cooper, Fannie Taylor, Robert Parham, Junius Cooper, Lula Hunt, Jewelle Thomasson, Julian Abbit, Charlotte Carroll, Frances Mitchell, Sallie May, Jessie White, Tresa Gorman, Daisy Williford, Mozelle Parrott, Robert Day.

Fifth Grade Honor Roll.

Irene Pierson, Georgia Winston, Suddie Adcock, Joe Ragland, Flora Covington, Edward Ballou, Annie Sue Covington, William Pace, John Covington Easton Parham, Thelma Averett, Henry Shaw, Sophronia Loomam, Rial Loomam, Forest Longmire, Mattie Burchette, Joseph Bryan Robert Fort, George Cheatham, Lorena Perry.

Sixth Grade Honor Roll.

Fannie Buchanan, Compton Bobbitt, Dorothy Royster, Muzett Daniel, Susan Webb, Lila Currin, Edward Abbit.

Seventh Grade Honor Roll.

Alva Le Currin, Ercelle Burchette Hettie Hunt, John G. Webb, Marie Meadows, Carrie Harris.

Eight Grade Honor Roll.

Paul Daniel, Hellen Paris Harvey, Renn, Robert Mallard.

Ninth Grade Honor Roll.

Lucy Wyatt, Esther Mitchell, Virginia Carroll, Annie S. Pierson, Myrtle Fagan Thomas White, Little Hester.

Fortiscue-King.

Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Fortiscue requests the honor of your presence.

at the marriage of her daughter

Addie Lawvernee.

to

Mr. Moses Armstrong King on Thursday evening, January the thirty-first one thousand nine hundred and eleven.

at nine o'clock

114 West Second Street

Washington

North Carolina

Mr. King is the proprietor of the pool room at the armory and is a pleasant young man. His friends will be glad to welcome the bride and groom to Oxford.

SEE CALLIS FIRST. If your wheels need new rubber. He uses the "White Diamond Brand", the best and prettiest to be found. Fully guaranteed for twelve months. He makes the price right.