

# OXFORD PUBLIC LEDGER

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## A THRILLING AND TRUE DETECTIVE STORY TOUCHING OXFORD

### THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ONE OF THE GREATEST CRIMINALS ON EARTH

His Journey From Oxford To Lynchburg Was Traced Two Weeks Ago

By Gregory, the Great International Detective, Accompanied by Assistant Postmaster Henry C. Critcher and Will H. Averett—The Body of John O'Brien Rests In a Rock Heun Tomb.

Interest is revived in the Oxford post office robbery which occurred three years ago. John O'Brien, the world's most famous yeggman, leader of the gang, died in the Atlanta penitentiary a few months ago; wealthy relatives claimed the body and it rests in a rock-hewn tomb overlooking the historic Hudson. Two of the gang, that participated in the robbery here, are in the prison at Raleigh and they will have a final hearing on December 17.

It will be remembered that these noted criminals stole a fine car at Franklin from Mr. Vann, in which they fled from Oxford to Lynchburg, at which place the car was captured 24 hours later by Mr. Gregory, the great international detective.

### New Trial Pending.

At a former hearing it was proven that the criminals in their flight from Oxford, crossed Roanoke river at Cannon's Ferry, below Norlina, and passed through LaCross, South Hill, Chase City, Brook Neal and on to Lynchburg. On cross examination of witnesses, here and there, the fact was established that they left Oxford about three o'clock in the morning and arrived in Lynchburg eleven hours later. Since the death of O'Brien it is claimed by the attorneys for the defendants that it was impossible to make the trip from Oxford to Lynchburg in eleven hours. Desiring to secure definite information on this point, Mr. Gregory, the noted detective two weeks ago detailed Assistant Postmaster Henry Critcher to accompany him to Lynchburg on a car driven by Mr. Will H. Averett. The three men left Oxford at 3 o'clock in the morning, the same hour the criminals left Oxford via Williamsboro and crossed Roanoke river at Cannon's Ferry; thence by the same route to Lynchburg, arriving there 9 hours later, or two hours earlier than it was claimed the prisoners made the trip.

### Thrilling Story.

The Detective Story Magazine for December 1923, contains the following interesting account of the activities of John O'Brien:

A short time ago a famous yeggman, now an old man of sixty-eight, was apprehended in Philadelphia for the blowing of a safe in Oxford, North Carolina, three years ago. "Hostile" John O'Brien was known in his day as an expert crackman and he harks back to the crook celebrities of the eighties. He is now in a Federal prison, and he will probably die there because of a malignant cancer on his lower lip.

It was this growth that really brought about his arrest. Driven by pain to apply at a Philadelphia hospital for treatment, he virtually surrendered because it was this cancerous growth that was his chief mark of identification. Although he was known in his heyday as a fighter, he did not resist arrest.

His apprehension has caused something of a stir for two reasons: he is one of the last of a dying clan, the old-fashioned yeggman, his arrest follows chase round the world for his capture. His last "job" was as neat as any in his career. He drilled the lock box, dripped a quantity of nitroglycerin into the lock mechanism and touched it off. With the forty thousand dollars in the safe John fled to Europe as Mr. Thomas Dougherty, banker and planter. For a time he favored London with his presence and his bank roll, and when Scotland Yard questioned him his excellent hearing and his splendid alibi got him by.

But O'Brien knew the United States government was after him, and he went to Paris and the Riviera. Nice and Monte Carlo knew him as a rich American, who gambled like a gentleman. He did not know that at least twenty-five of his years had been spent in prison. Eventually he was caught in his stolen fortune, and secret agents were hot on his trail. With his last four thousand he fled to Buenos Aires. Here he made a successful coup and won thirty thousand. But the cancer as well as detectives was troubling him. He left Rio with fifteen or twenty thousand dollars, but he sailed for New Orleans as a deck hand. Here he made arrangements to enter a hospital, but a policeman recognized him. O'Brien went to Tit Juana, where he lost and won. But a department of justice man hailed Hostile John again. Next he appeared in New York where he was arrested, but succeeded in furnishing seven thousand dollars for bail. He failed to appear for trial, and now fifty government gants took up the pursuit of the man who was

## JOHN W. ADCOCK DEAD AFTER BRIEF ILLNESS

John W. Adcock, a native of Granville county, who moved to Fuquay Springs section 20 years ago, died at Rex Hospital Nov. 25th after a brief illness, in the 64th year of his age. He was a prominent business man, tobacco farmer and warehouseman.

Mr. Adcock was twice married; first to Miss Sophie Knott, of which union there survive four children, Luther, David, George and Mrs. W. O. Smith. His second wife was Lillie Smith, daughter of T. J. Smith, of Granville county. To this union were born five children, three of whom survive, Wallace, Forest and Ray.

One brother, Robert Adcock, and two sisters, Mrs. Robt. Hobgood and Mrs. Jim Pruitt, also survive him. Besides these he leaves a host of friends as was evidenced by the large concourse of people which gathered at his home when the funeral services were conducted to pay him the last tribute of respect. The interment was in the family burying grounds and the services were conducted by Rev. J. Lee Johnson followed by the ritual of the Junior Order. The floral offering was extremely beautiful and bespoke the high esteem in which he was held by his many friends.

## TOBACCO FARMER HELD UP AND ROBBED OF \$411

### Farmers Leaving Town Late In Evening Should Protect Themselves With A Gun.

What happened to A. M. Thompson, a tobacco farmer last week is apt to happen to any farmer who has a roll of money in his pockets. The Orange County farmer had driven to Danville with a load of tobacco, and on his return was held up and robbed of \$411 almost in sight of his own home by masked men.

Thompson said that all four men wore black cloths, with holes cut in them for vision, over their faces. Two of the men, he said were tall and slender, one was rather stocky and the fourth, he thought, was a negro. The man who secured his money wore a light overcoat.

No man is safe on the highways of our county after dark with a large roll of money in his pocket. The only sensible thing to do is to deposit the money in a bank.

## BAPTIST PLEDGES SHORT \$1,600,000

### Collections For All Objects This Year Amount To About \$800,000.

(Raleigh Correspondent.)

North Carolina Baptists are short about \$600,000 in this year's pledges to the 75 Million Campaign and the total shortage for the four years of the campaign to date amounts to over \$1,600,000, according to figures obtained from State Treasurer Walters Durham at the closing of the books for the convention year Saturday. Collections for the year amount to approximately \$800,000 as compared with a quota of \$1,228,000 and pledges of \$1,400,000.

North Carolina was asked for \$5,000,000 in the 75 Million Campaign but the amount was later increased to \$6,000,000. Pledges exceeded this amount largely, the Baptists of the State agreeing to pay \$1,400,000 a year for five years.

The five year period began December 1, 1919, and for various reasons the collections have fallen steadily short of the pledges, this year's collections being little more than half the amount asked for be used as a basis instead of the amount pledged the deficit for the four years is about one million dollars and that for this year about \$520,000.

## MAMMOTH BLEACHERY

### Delaware Concern Will Spend Thirty Million Dollars At Old Fort—Provides Employment For 2000 People.

Old Fort, N. C., Dec. 3.—Joseph Bancroft & Sons Company, of Wilmington, Delaware have closed a deal whereby the Bancroft company comes into ownership of more than 500 acres of land adjacent to the town of Old Fort. More than \$78,000 in cash was paid for the property, which is to be used as a site for a tremendous bleacher that will represent a total outlay of more than \$30,000,000, provide employment for 2,000 persons and provide a plant that will take care of the output of 40 to 50 Southern cotton mills.

making the department look foolish. Six or eight cancer patients were locked up before they really found O'Brien.

Now he philosophically accepts his fate, but refuses to admit that he ever did anything "that wasn't legal and on the square."

—Your battery should have water about every two weeks. Stop at Oxford Battery Co.

## FLOWERS COVER GRAVE OF DR. E. B. MEADOWS

### THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN PASSED AWAY LAST SUNDAY MORNING

Remains Laid To Rest In Elmwood Cemetery Yesterday Afternoon Following An Impressive Ceremony At The Residence At Culbreth.

Dr. E. B. Meadows, aged 49 years, died at his home at Culbreth last Sunday morning after a brief illness. He suffered a stroke of paralysis five years ago, from which he never entirely recovered, but nevertheless his death came as a shock to the whole county.

Dr. Meadows graduated from the Medical College of Virginia at an early age and took up the practice of his profession in Granville. His office has always been at Culbreth, at the home in which he was born. The medical fraternity regarded him as a wise, safe and careful practitioner. He had a large practice and was ever ready to respond to every call. He had on his list quite a number of charitable patients. His heart was always touched at the sight of suffering, and his gentle hand, laid upon the brow, was as soothing as the medicine. He was greatly beloved by the people in all walks of life, and he will be greatly missed.

Dr. Meadows was prominent in the affairs of the county. He stood for progress in the board sense of the word, but was a strict adherent to the policy of "paying as you go." He served for a number of years on the County Board of Education and was a strong advocate of good schools and good roads.

Dr. Meadows was a consistent member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church. He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Julia Clement, and by seven children, three daughters, Misses Serena, Rowella and Hattie, and four sons, Herman, Edward, Clement and Brent. He has one surviving brother, J. F. Meadows, and one sister, Mrs. E. K. Howard, both of Oxford. He was the son of the late Brodie Meadows.

Dr. Meadows had realized for some time that his days were drawing to a close. He recently told Rev. J. D. Harte, pastor of the Oxford Baptist Church, that he was ready to go at the all of the Master.

The funeral was held from the residence at Culbreth yesterday afternoon, conducted by Rev. F. F. Comerford, Rev. Geo. T. Tunstall and Rev. E. R. Harris. The interment followed at Elmwood Cemetery, Oxford. The pallbearers were: Rat Cannady, W. J. Ellis, W. H. Dean, Elmore Gooch, W. B. Currin. Honorary—Several doctors, James Powell, J. R. Hall, Luther Bawling, Willis Bowling, Mr. Ray (of Stem), Graham Daniel, Crawford Clark, John Daniel, John Hopkins, Will Gooch, John B. Mays, O. A. Daniel, Luther Daniel, Eli's King, W. B. Currin, James Bowling, Mr. Burchett, H. H. Latta, Buck Bullock, H. M. Bragg, Arther Meadows, Milton Bragg.

## DURHAM COUNTY COURT

### Judge Devin Presiding At The Two Week's Term.

After spending Sunday at home, Judge Devin left for Durham to preside over the two week's criminal session. The Durham Herald states that nearly 200 cases have been docketed giving the court officials the task of handling one of the most crowded calendars of some months. Following are among the first cases to be tried: Charlie Ragan, storebreaking; Henry Carver, larceny; Joseph Jordan, storebreaking; Joe Jordan, larceny; Elmer Carter, larceny; Frank Reed, larceny; Will Stone, larceny; Henry Woolwine, larceny; Elijah Morgan, housebreaking; Ed Ragan, housebreaking.

## COTTON QUOTATIONS

### December Cotton Brake Last Saturday At \$37.10.

New York, Dec. 2.—There was a renewal of liquidation in the cotton market at the opening yesterday. There was some buying at the outset based on reports that trade interests had been good buyers on a scale downward in the Liverpool market, and the market was nervous and unsettled during the early trading. Opening and closing quotations:

|                             | Open  | Close    |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------|
| December                    | 36.65 | 37.10    |
| January                     | 35.95 | 36.45.52 |
| March                       | 36.08 | 36.74.78 |
| May                         | 36.25 | 36.88.90 |
| July                        | 35.33 | 35.88.93 |
| Spot cotton quiet; middling |       | 37.65    |

## MR. FRANK FORT DEAD

### Death Came Suddenly Last Night.

Mr. Frank Fort, eldest son of Dr. C. D. H. Fort, died suddenly last night at ten o'clock at his home on Raleigh road. He is survived by a wife and several children. The arrangements for the funeral have not as yet been announced.

## NEW S. A. L. SCHEDULE

### NO CHANGE ON BRANCH LINE

The Florida East Coast Limited Stops Only Twice In Its Flight Across the State.

The slight change of schedule that went into effect on the main line of the Seaboard last Sunday does not change the time of trains on the branch lines. A new train, known as the Florida East Coast limited was put into service. This train runs between New York and South Florida, and its fine equipment and fast schedule is the Seaboard's bid for winter tourist travel.

The new train does not conflict with any of the others on the road at the present time. It passes Henderson going south at 4:30 a. m., and returning north will pass Henderson at 10:17 p. m., but will make no stop at Henderson.

No. 2, northbound, arrives in Henderson at 1:09 a. m. instead of 1:12 a. m., while No. 5 through train southbound between New York and Florida, arrives in Henderson at 2:05 a. m. instead of 2:30 a. m., as heretofore, and these are the only changes recorded in the new schedule. All the other trains, including those on the Oxford and Durham branch lines, will continue to operate on the same schedule as heretofore.

## COURT HOUSE REVIVAL

### It Is Said That the Afflicted Are Being Healed and the Deaf Made To Hear.

The Court House revival that is now on in Oxford, and is conducted by Mrs. Olive, The Alabama Woman Evangelist, is in many respects the greatest revival known here in the history of Oxford. She is equal to any in the expounding of the Word. She is gifted in preaching, in song and in prayer. The crowd is increasing all the time. You must come an hour ahead of time to get a seat. All seating and all standing room filled to overflowing. Inspiring music, six or eight musicians and a fine choir. People here from adjoining counties, some bring their dinner and their supper.

Service at 7:30 p. m. during this week; 3 services next Sunday, at 11 o'clock a. m., 2:30 p. m., and 7:30 at night.

We cannot accommodate the colored people but we will hold a service for them before the Evangelist leaves.

The sick and afflicted are being healed, and the deaf made to hear. She does not claim the power, but she is an instrument in the hands of God.

At times the interest is so great, it reminds one of the days of Whitfield, Asbury and Pierce.

## PROMINENT HUNTING PARTY IN VANCE

### Headed By The Postmaster At Washington, D. C.

(Henderson Dispatch)

W. D. Mooney, postmaster at Washington, D. C., and G. D. Ellsworth, assistant postmaster at Washington and a former resident of Henderson, arrived here Sunday. While here they will be the guests of I. J. Young and accompanied by Mr. Young will visit H. C. Tutill's farm near Williamsboro. Tuesday the party will go to camp at Wood's store in Franklin county, where they will hunt and be entertained by J. R. Collier, of the State Income Tax Department.

While at Wood's store they will be joined by Bart M. Gatling, former Raleigh postmaster, and Dr. Fleming, of Louisville.

## WHITE SQUIRRELL

### While out hunting last Saturday the dogs belonging to Mr. Tom Overton treed a white squirrel, anxious to get a closer view shot the little animal which, upon close examination proved to be a perfectly formed white squirrel.

### Removal Notice.

L. G. S. Watkins has removed his office to the room over Lyon's Drug Store.

17 DAYS LEFT TO SHOP

FOR RENT—SIX ROOM TWO-story house on Broad street. 12-4-2tc MRS. WADE H. BRITT.

## LIBERATED FROM THE COUNTY JAIL

### LUCY EASTWOOD DEPARTS FROM THE STATE

### Mr. T. M. Humphreys Adopts the Two Eastwood Children—They Will Attend Fredrick School.

At the recent term of Granville County Superior Court Lucy Eastwood, 38 years of age, was found guilty of conduct unbecoming a woman. By order of the court she was confined in the county jail pending arrangements to leave the State. On Saturday last she was brought from the jail to the clerk's office and arrangements made for her departure. A purse of \$35 or \$40 was made up by generous people and presented to her.

The two little daughters of the Eastwood women, who were sent to the Home of the Aged and Infirm until a home could be found for them, was adopted last week by Mr. T. M. Humphreys, a highly esteemed farmer in Oak Hill. In taking the children he obligates to send them to Fredrick High School; see that they go to church and Sunday school, and not to let any of their former associates call on them. Mr. Humphreys is determined that the little girls shall have a chance in the world.

## JAGGERS-SMITH

### One Of Oxford's Most Popular and Talented Young Women Weds Prominent New Jersey Business Man—At Home, Hillside, New Jersey After December Tenth.

(BY MISS JEANNETTE BIGGS)

A wedding, beautiful in its simplicity was celebrated at high noon on Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie F. Smith, when their oldest daughter, Miss Willie Lee, became the bride of Mr. David Jagers, of Hillside, N. J. The rooms in the home were most attractively decorated with a profusion of yellow and white chrysanthemums, palms and brass and silver candelabra filled with bright candles, which shed a lovely radiance to the attractive scene.

Before the ceremony, Miss Daisy Pearl Smith, sister of the bride, accompanied by Miss Frances Jackson, cousin of the bride, sang most sweetly "O Promise Me."

The only attendants were the four ushers, Ewing Smith, Frank Smith, William Walters and Frank Leonard, of Hillside, N. J.

Little Misses Elizabeth White Smith and Caroline Smith preceded the bride as flower girls, carrying baskets of yellow roses and sweetly attired in white and yellow organdies. The impressive service was performed by Rev. E. M. Snipes, pastor of the First Methodist Church, of Oxford.

The bride was very attractive in a blue brocaded chiffon gown with black satin hat and carrying a shower of orchids and valley lilies. Mrs. Smith, mother of the bride, was robed in black georgette crepe, with corsage of white roses. Miss Daisy Smith was robed in a most becoming blue crystal gown, with gold hat and corsage of gold roses.

The bride is a young woman of charming personality and a very gifted musician and was for a number of years lady principal of Monohan School, Greenville, S. C. The groom is a prominent real estate dealer of Hillside, N. J., where he has a large circle of friends. Immediately following the ceremony, the happy couple left for a bridal tour, after which they will be at home in Hillside, N. J.

The bridal party and out-of-town guests were given a bridal breakfast on Saturday morning by Mrs. W. H. Walters, and the bridal party was entertained on the evening preceding the marriage by Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Smith, parents of the bride. A large number of handsome and beautiful gifts were received by the popular bride.

The out of town visitors were: Frank Leonard, Sturat Looker, Dick Jagers, Hillside, New Jersey; Mrs. J. E. Jones, Mrs. Leland Jones, Mrs. Emmett Jones, LaGrange; Mrs. C. G. Harris, and family, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Jones, Goldsboro; Mrs. C. G. Bobbitt, Henderson; Miss Mabel Chapman, Linwood; Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Lunsford, Durham; Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hoffer, High Point; Miss Emma Cooper, J. M. Lea, Danville; Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Walters, Smithfield; Miss Thelma Bailey, Greenwood, S. C.

## DR. HARDAWAY SICK

### Now In a Hospital At Richmond.

Word is received here that Dr. J. S. Hardaway, pastor of the Oxford Baptist Church for many years, who has been on a visit to his brother at Amelia, Va., for two weeks, has suffered a relapse of his physical trouble, which compelled him to give up his pastoral labors and that he has been sent to a hospital in Richmond, Va.

## CHIEF HOBGOOD ON THE WAR PATH

### Electing Chase After a Pair Of Bank Robbers.

A bank in New Jersey was recently robbed of \$100,000 and there is a reward of ten thousand dollars for the capture of the burglars. They were traced to Washington City and it is supposed that they came South.

On Sunday last Chief Hobgood received a message from the chief of police of Virginia notifying him that the two robbers had just passed through that town on foot, and was headed toward Oxford, and asked Chief Hobgood to meet the Virginia delegation on the road.

Hobgood hastily detailed Deputy Walters, Bragg and Newton to accompany him. It was dark when they left Oxford, and up the road somewhere they saw a colored boy with a bucket of milk.

"Where are you going with that milk?" asked Chief Hobgood.

"I am taking it to two men down here in the old school house," answered the boy.

Visions of a big reward stared the officers in the face as they surrounded the school house with guns in hand. Chief Hobgood slipped up to the house and opened the door and saw two men—one of them was fast asleep and the other one asked him to come in.

They were just ordinary tramps and begged the officers to bring them to Oxford.

In the mean time the Virginia delegation arrived on the scene and stated that the two men acted rather suspicious when they passed through their town. The two men had letters of identification in their pockets. They wanted a job and were willing to work at anything they found to do.

## END OF THE CHAPTER

### No More Literature On the Subject Wanted Unless As Paid Advertisement.

Mr. John W. Hester's statement in a recent issue of the Public Ledger, to the effect that many Co-ops are breaking their contracts, provoked much discussion pro and con and many of them are seeking a leakage through the Public Ledger to air their particular views. Six letters to date bearing on the utterances of Mr. Hester have been received with the request to publish. Mr. Hester having had his say, we selected from the batch of our correspondents that of Hon. T. T. Hicks as the most fitting on that side of the two-sided question. The other dozen letters, for and against, have been consigned to the waste paper basket, and no more are wanted unless as paid advertising. The Public Ledger did not provoke the discussion and much is to be lost by a continuance of the same.

## JUNIOR ORDER HOME

### Henderson Has One Chance In Five Of Getting the Orphanage.

Henderson has one chance out of five for the location of the national Junior order orphanage, according to a statement by National Councilor James D. Tunson, of Richmond Hill, N. Y., chairman of the committee making the selection.

Forty-two sites were offered. All but five have been eliminated. Those still in the running are: Hickory, Lexington, Henderson, Goldsboro and Raleigh.

The letter state that the five places will be visited again during the early part of December for final selections. Soon after this tour, the officials of this order hope to notify the people of the state of their selection.

## MR. R. S. USRY'S WILL

### Left An Estate Value At More Than \$60,000.

The last will and testament of the late R. S. Usry was drawn by Royster & Royster and was signed on the 31st day of August 1923. The will covers four typed pages in which it is stipulated that each of the six surviving children shall inherit an equal part of the estate.

Those in close touch with Mr. Usry's affairs estimate that he left an estate ranging in value from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

## RECIPES FOR SAUSAGE

### Every Farmer Should Have a Good Sausage Recipe.

This one from Tait. Butler in the Progressive Farmer is simple. "Use two-thirds lean, and one-third fat meat. Mix in seasoning (22 ounces of salt, and 10 ounces of black pepper for each 100 pounds of meat). Run through a meat-and-food chopper and stuff into casings with the sausage stuffer, lard and fruit press. (Casings may be prepared on farm or bought in nearest town.)"

## CHRISTMAS SALE

The Annual Christmas Sale of the Methodist Church will be held in the Lyon Memorial Building, Friday Dec. 7th from 2:30 to 5:30 o'clock. Come out and buy your Christmas presents. A silver offering at the door.