

AT THE RISK OF HER LIFE AGED WOMAN TESTIFIES IN THE CARTER INVESTIGATION

Mrs. J. M. Williams, Physically In Bad Shape, Goes to Raleigh Against Doctor's Orders and Defends the Name of Herself and Daughter---Solicitor Norris Gives Some Warm Testimony---Committee Comes Here Tonight.

Raleigh, N. C., March 23.—Mrs. J. M. Williams, landlady of the Montague Hotel in Clinton, the stage setting of the Carter comedy now being enacted in Raleigh, walked slowly with her nurse to the center aisle in the hall of the Lower House today and took her turn at the witness chair in defense of her family's name.

The gray-haired woman of sixty, whose name has been impeached by townsmen of Clinton, made the best defense of herself, her daughter, Mrs. Beulah Towler, and of Judge Carter whom she declared to be a perfect gentleman. As much of tragic circumstance as comic comment was dispensed by her and the impression that she created went far to remove the evil spoken of her yesterday. The defense has introduced no evidence to prove the good name of the woman but has relied on cross-examination. This method has gone far to relieve embarrassment to the defense and it has shown little of its purposes.

Assaults Attacked
Mrs. Williams is a little woman of unpretentious type, intelligent, good at reports, somewhat picturesque in speech, motherly and kind. She broke for a second today, caught herself and with resentful speech assailed those who attacked her. "I came here at the risk of my life to vindicate my honor, the honor of my daughter and of Judge Carter," she said with more power than her weakened frame warranted. "These are the most cruel and dastardly charges ever put upon an innocent woman," she declared as her pretty nurse picked her up and walked her out.

It bore no look of counterfeit anger, spurious debility or artificial age. She lets the years hang heavily upon her and won't object to being described as older looking than she is. She defended her daughter who is much in the hospital and wretched in health. "She could not have climbed the steps to Judge Carter's room to save her life," she cried. "You know how men talk about grass widows," she said again. "I know this and my daughter during her separation and before the death of her husband, was as careful as a woman could be."

To repel the charges of incontinency, she appealed to her age and to the feeble condition of her health. She had violated the orders of her doctor and come here at the risk of her life. The certificate of Dr. Sterling Ruffin showed her in no condition to travel or to bear excitement. But she is a Presbyterian and believes that what is to be will be.

And in that church she showed good standing. The members sit with her and hold meetings in her rooms. Mrs. Grady, whose husband testified sorrowfully, she declared, against Mrs. Williams, was pictured a lovely woman and both had been frequent exchange visitors.

Other Judges Quoted
Mrs. Williams had sat in that "famous swing" with Judge Will Allen once and had played cards with other judges often in her room at the hotel. Solicitor Shaw had dined at her private table and no judge had walked around her house for another. Judge Long alone had failed to eat there unless it was Judge Whedbee. But Judge Long, she said, "is a dyspeptic, does not like to associate with people, besides you can't feed him anyway." That caused "judicial notice" and barristerial notice.

Aside from the evidence of Mrs. Williams, Solicitor Norris made the news figure of today. He was the hardest of them all, knew most and had the dates written down.

Of moral dereliction he said little, though he admitted a suspicion when Judge Carter had Mr. Norris to cash a big check to go to Norfolk and perhaps Washington. Mr. Norris thought it strange that the judge did not go home. He admitted how-

ever, not knowing whether the judge did go home or not.

Mr. Norris was one of the attorneys whom Judge Carter has handled with occasional severity, as he thought, a noticeable thing being that the attorneys who have suffered in his hands testify much more directly to the judges action than those who look on from the outside. This furnishes the interesting psychological side. Laymen who laugh at what lawyers get from the judges, just as they smart under what the lawyers give the laymen on cross-examination, get considerable satisfaction from what is going on. Solicitor Norris is some cross-questioner and has burnt a couple of thousands in Wake and other courts.

Mr. Norris detailed many court incidents and quoted not a few cuss words. Near the close he touched upon some matters that appeared to have embarrassment for Judge Carter. Once the judge would have asked a question designed to contradict the solicitor utterly, but his equitable lawyer, Judge Manning, touched his arm and the boyish-faced judge smiled from under a tear.

The committee took lunch when Mr. Norris stepped down after the most damaging evidence of it all.

The First Witness

The court of inquiry opened at 9:30 this morning, the house being nearer full than at any time. Chairman Doughton was still in charge of the testimony.

Dr. W. W. Faison, superintendent of the Goldsboro hospital, was the first witness at the morning session.

"Your name has been furnished as one who saw Judge Carter in a secluded spot with his arm around a woman, did you ever observe any such occurrence?" Governor Doughton asked. "I have not," Dr. Faison answered directly. "I have never seen any such thing," Doctor Faison said. He said that he had heard the story ascribed to Judge Carter.

J. B. Carr, attorney of Wilmington, was introduced to show that Judge Carter had taken meals with women at a restaurant in Wilmington.

Mr. Carr said he had seen Judge Carter at the Everglade Cafe in Wilmington with a woman whom he took to be a member of his family. He did not know but rather thought it was Mrs. Williams of Clinton. He had heard a remark that Judge Carter was going with a woman with whom he ought not to go.

As to adjourning Pender Court to go to a Wilmington theatre, Mr. Carr said that the adjournment took place at 5 o'clock, very little earlier than the usual hour.

He was asked as to the Williams incident of the "Dutch dime." The matter was related to him by Levy Carter. Mr. Carr's recollection was that the story at the time was not exactly in line with what was said Monday. But said the story made very little impression on him. He knew that the Mrs. Williams was not the Clinton Williams.

The witness had observed a little anger and irascible disposition but nothing worse in the trial of cases. He told of the little quarrel of the Wilmington bar and Judge Carter when the judge was determined to hold a term at one time and the commissioners wanted it at another. The judge said "damned if they wouldn't have to hold it" at a certain period," but immediately withdrew the remark and agreed that it was right to have it when the commissioners wanted it. He said he thought the judge's conduct of the Starkey case "was mighty good."

Judge Manning addressing the committee said he thought the evidence of Mr. Carr relating to the evidence of Levy Carter ought to be stricken out. Governor Kitchin spoke to the same purpose. He did not think "hearsay twice removed" was competent. Chairman Doughton said the committee would let this evidence go on the record without change now but would consider it.

Wilmington Man On Stand

R. S. Haddock, of Wilmington, employee of the Coast Line, said he kept the gate at the union station and Judge Carter sometimes came and met the trains. Once on account of a crowd had to restrict admittance to the incoming train and refused to allow the judge to go through the gate.

"It seemed to make him mad and he said that the Coast Line had some cases before him and he would remember that," Judge Carter and Judge Manning laughed.

Carter with a "very beautiful young woman grown." He said this was in Goldsboro, but he did not know who she was. This was all he knew.

Judge Manning grobbled the witness as to how he came to be a witness. He had told W. P. Emundson, special agent for the Coast Line, to the gate-keeper, to A. H. Shepherd, freight agent, to the brother of Mr. Tom Davis, associate counsel for the plaintiff's against Judge Carter and perhaps to others. He did not know. He was summoned Saturday last.

Merchant Testifies
T. F. Stephens, of Clinton, a merchant, next testified as to moral conduct. He said he knew nothing, had never seen "anything out of the way," had seen the judge in the swing once with a woman and he had heard two women whom he took to be Mrs. Towler and Mrs. Williams talking in Judge Carter's room, which was the parlor. It was about 9 o'clock. He said on special occasions the judge occupied the parlor and this was the judges room then. Mr. Stephens said that he did not know where the room referred to was.

Jamie Hubbard, merchant of Clinton was put up on information that he knew something. It was a libel. He had never seen the judge in the swing. Knew absolutely nothing, not even why he was summoned when it was because he boarded there. He had seen them eat together.

Mr. Vann asked if the witness had told Colonel Kerr that he heard Judge Carter snoring in the women's room. "I did not," he said.

Swinging With Women

T. J. Newsome of Clinton, was examined by Mr. Grier. He said he had seen the judge swinging with the women. Once he recalled that it was near midnight when he observed the judge smoking and sitting in the swing. He did not think the judge had his arm around the woman.

As to giving names of men who might give information, he suggested John E. Fowler as one who "knows as much as anybody." But Mr. Fowler is attorney for the Clinton ladies and is now very ill.

Judge Manning asked, "you are certain that he was smoking a cigar?" Mr. Newsome was.

But the judge does not smoke, the defense says.

Senator Henry Stubbs, of Martin testified that he did not know anything and said: "I think my being summoned here is the result of a remark that I made during the general assembly, that Judge Carter was at Virginia Beach with a young woman. But that remark was made on hearsay. I know nothing."

He was excused and asked to prove his attendance. "I don't charge anything," Senator Stubbs said. "I was glad to get an excuse for leaving home and coming up here." (Laughs) **At Virginia Beach**
Matt H. Allen, of Goldsboro, testified that he saw Judge Carter and a stenographer at Virginia Beach. They were on the porch, "but not together." He said he spoke to both.

He detailed the incidents relating to the judge's conduct in the Ernest Cook case. Cook was convicted of manslaughter and given 7 years by Judge Ferguson. He was given a new trial and acquitted in three minutes. Judge Carter when the verdict was returned asked if the Solicitor had anything against Cook. A submission as to carrying concealed weapons was revived. Judge Carter ordered Cook to pay a fine of \$1,000 to be paid to the widow of the dead man, or go to the roads 6 years. Mr. Allen said Cook's relations had to mortgage their holdings to raise the money. Mr. Allen said the judge's manner was very angry.

Another incident was the mistaken address of a petition for Judge Carter which had, "His Honor Frank C. Carter." Mr. Allen said it made the judge mad and he threw the paper aside. Mr. Allen apologized for getting the name wrong. He said the case over to Judge "Frank C. Daniels" and Governor Kitchin laughed at the "C" which should have been "A."

Mrs. Williams Witness
Mrs. J. M. Williams, of the Montague Hotel, walked feebly into the courtroom at 11:30 with a pretty nurse and took the stand.

She testified that she is 60 years old, mother of six children, the youngest 25, five married and has run the hotel 11 years. She testified that her husband has been dead four years and that Mrs. Towler, her daughter, at Clinton in very feeble health from "three very severe operations."

She was shown pictures of her hotel and pointed out what she called "that famous swing."

She brought down the house when she told about the judge who stopped

WAYNE COUNTY CORONER'S JURY FREES U. S. PAGE

Officer Shot and Killed Negro At Goldsboro On Monday

TRIED TO ESCAPE

Negro Was Wanted By the Officials of City of LaGrange

Kinston, March 23.—The coroner's jury this afternoon at 2 o'clock exonerated U. S. Page of all blame for the shooting of Jerry Swinson, alias John Wooten, who escaped after doing something over two years of a three year's sentence for housebreaking in Lenoir county, and was killed by Policeman Page while trying to escape from him at Miller's Siding yesterday.

Page, shot in the jaw by the negro, is out of danger, but will be confined to a hospital where he was carried after the shooting, for several days yet.

Sheriff A. W. Taylor went to Goldsboro this morning to be present at the inquest over the body of Jerry Swinson, an escaped negro convict killed near that city Monday by U. S. Page, a LaGrange policeman.

Page was wounded by the negro before the slaying and is now in a hospital in Goldsboro. He has a bullet in the side of his face, but is supposed to be in no danger.

The policeman had received information of the whereabouts of Swinson, who escaped from the roads in this county some time ago and was a few miles from Goldsboro when he was located. Page, found him and told him he was his prisoner. Swinson jerked out a revolver and fired it in Page's face. The latter seized the weapon with which he had been wounded and Swinson ran. Page called to him to stop, and when he was not obeyed fired six times. One shot struck Swinson in the back of the head. He died several hours later.

Page, incidentally, learned to shoot in the navy, and did a little of that kind of work at Vera Cruz last year. He is an efficient officer, and a tenacious one, as is indicated by his conduct in the affair with Swinson.

there. She had played cards with other jurors in her living room, had entertained Judge Carter, Cooke, Oliver Allen, Cline and perhaps others. She had not entertained Judge Long. "You know he isn't sociable, is dyspeptic and you can't feed him," she said in a roar.

Both Solicitor Shaw and Judge Carter had eaten at the family table, Judge Carter being sick and requiring attention that she could not privately give. She said the thick smoke in the hotel was objectionable.

She told about the Wilmington incident going to the theatre and to the cafe. Mrs. Towler was in Wilmington for the operation. Mrs. Williams and the judge went to A. G. Fields Ministrel. They said they sat near Rev. Dr. A. D. McClure, my Presbyterian pastor and introduced him to Judge Carter. She explained going to the restaurant. It was owned by lifelong friends, "boys I have known since they were kids."

Another Laugh
She brought another laugh when she said Judge Carter came over from Kenansville one Sunday to spend the day at Clinton. "If you have ever been at Kenansville you know what spending Sunday there is," and J. O. Carr and Rivers D. Johnson, natives of Duplin, joined in the broad laugh. She said Mr. Carr had frequently eaten at her hotel and "knew about us."

She said that she had sat once in the swing with Judge Will Allen, that she and her family used the swing in the summer. Judge Allen sat with her in the day time.

Questioned as to any misconduct of Mrs. Towler and her going to Judge Carter's room, Mrs. Williams said: "She could not have gone up stairs to save her life." No judge had ever slept in the parlor since Judge Peobles and Judge Allen did so years ago. As to her own conduct she denied any wrong doing.

She spoke handsomely of Mrs. H. A. Grady and said both she and her and Mr. Grady had visited the hotel often, that they had once lived a short time with her and she had nursed their little boy when he was ill. "There is not a finer woman in the world than Mrs. Grady." She told of church meetings in the hotel with her as hostess.

Took Life In Her Hands
"I am sixty years old and no man in Sampson county can say that he ever knew me to do an improper thing," she said firing up and suppressing her tears.

"I came here at the risk of my life to vindicate my honor, the honor of my daughter and Judge Carter. You know how men talk about grass widows and I was careful that she do nothing during her separation from her husband until he died. These are the most cruel, dastardly charges ever put upon an innocent woman. I have been like a mother to those who came to my hotel."

"I broke my doctor's advice, Dr. Sterling Ruffin, to come here. He said it would be suicide to come. But suicide or no suicide, I have come. I have but one time to die."

The nurse lifted her up and led her away. Judge Manning read the certificate which said Mrs. Williams was too ill to come to Raleigh.

Walter P. Byrd, clerk of Harnett court, spoke of Judge Carter's conduct in the case in which Attorney Young was ordered to sit down. He said he thought the judge was a little angered at times but had treated him all right.

As to the stenographer brought there he said she was little used and that \$12 of the stenographer's fees had been paid by him. He had not been re-imburshed. The judge and she had walked together. He said the stenographer had worked at the Harnett courts before and since Mr. Byrd became clerk.

Solicitor Talks
Solicitor H. E. Norris, of Raleigh, testified as to conduct of Judge Carter in his courts. His official relations began in February of 1913. This was in Harnett. It was here that the Solicitor said he recommended the stenographer after Judge Carter expressed the opinion that one was needed. The judge did not know him then. He related the prosecution of the Wake county guards and how Judge Carter had exclaimed from the bench that these guards who were charged with abuse of convicts could not be convicted of the offense, that he was reliably informed that the county commissioners were standing for the defense. Mr. Norris said he was amazed at this stand of the judge and said that he would resign if such a condition existed in his county. The case was continued and at the following term Judge Cook trying the case, he convicted the two men.

He told the story of Judge Carter's taking the Motlow case in Goldsboro away from the jury in the case of patricide.

He said he had every reason to believe that he could have convicted the boy whose sole reason for killing his father was a fear that the father would hurt the boy's mother. "I thought it was pretty nearly murder in the first degree," Mr. Norris said.

He said Judge Carter insisted upon directing a verdict of not guilty over the vigorous protest of the solicitor. The judge after the evidence was concluded said to the solicitor: "There is not a d—d bit of need in having a lot of hot air from the attorneys."

He said that Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson said "what in the h—d does this mean?" The solicitor said the verdict was directed and Mr. Norris thought it was an unheard of thing. Judge Robinson took a poll of the jury and there were 11 for conviction. Mr. Norris said he told the judge who in a whisper said "it's a d—d lie." Mr. Norris said the cuss words were always uttered in an undertone.

The solicitor thought this was a wrong to the public and to the solicitor. He had the records in the cases referred to by Mr. Allen as to Cook. The solicitor thought the jury did wrong in the acquittal but that the judge ought not to have taken the verdict away from the attorneys.

He came to Wake county again and told of Judge Carter's conduct in the Girl from Rectors' case in which he ordered a special venire of 100 men. The venire box was locked and the judge ordered it broken open. He did not say whether this was done or not but thought it a little strange for a judge to make such orders.

Coming to the moral question, Solicitor Norris had first been moved to suspicion when he observed that Judge Carter did not go home between courts. He said he had cashed a check for the judge, who said he was going to Norfolk and perhaps Washington and might have to buy a suit of clothes. That caused suspicion.

Mr. Norris had heard talk of strolls with the stenographer and told the story of objection being raised to Judge Carter's stenographer on account of her charges. Judge Carter had said he was getting tired of this talk and that he was willing to pay the expenses himself if there was a kick.

Judge Carter asked a question here, his face red and resentful, "You say I said—" but Judge Manning touched him on the arm. It never came out.

Afternoon Session
Walter D. Sibr, solicitor of the Fourth Judicial District, testified first at the afternoon session, his evidence showing that Judge Carter had recommended the Raleigh stenographer.

Mr. Sibr said he had observed Judge Carter and the stenographer had stopped at the same hotel but he knew of no immoral conduct on the part of the judge or the girl. The judge had expressed a preference for a room upstairs.

Mr. Sibr knew nothing of any immorality and did not mention any harsh or other kind of treatment of the lawyers, witnesses or litigants. His relations with Judge Carter had been pleasant.

K. R. Hogle, of Sanford, testified as to the judge's strolls with the stenographer. He had observed that the judge was a "little abrupt to Solicitor Norris" but knew nothing else.

B. C. Beckwith
County Attorney B. C. Beckwith, of Wake, made a warm witness as to Judge Carter's treatment of him.

Mr. Beckwith told of his going with Sheriff Sears to tell Judge Carter that the summoning of a special venire would cost the county a great amount of money and that the auditor had indicated his unwillingness to authorize the payment of this bill. Mr. Beckwith said they went and found the judge in his room. They put the matter to him and he turned and opening the door with a wave of his hand said: "If that is what you have come here for, I don't want to hear any more from you." Mr. Beckwith said he tried to explain his position but Judge Carter did not abate in his anger and Mr. Beckwith left the room. The judge said something about other attorneys which Mr. Beckwith construed to mean a conspiracy. As Mr. Beckwith went down the steps he heard Judge Carter say: "You can summon that venire or not at your peril." Mr. Beckwith said Sheriff Sears told the judge that Solicitor Norris was his attorney and advised him to do what he did. Judge Carter replied: "Yes, I know about him and the influence of the Joneses over him." Mr. Beckwith asked again that his position be understood and Judge Carter replied: "I want to hear no more from you."

"By G—d you won't," Mr. Beckwith said as he described his own feeling. "He was exceedingly arbitrary and insulting," Mr. Beckwith said. "I have never been treated this way before," Mr. Beckwith said. He told other things which he described as "outrages against my client's rights."

Mr. Beckwith was asked as to "other spots" of Mr. Beckwith with other judges. Judge Manning asked if he didn't have temper too. Mr. Beckwith said he'd knock a man down who spat in his face. He had had two fights in 25 years and was assaulted in each instance.

Sheriff Sears related much the same evidence. He did not lose his temper when the other fellow did.

The sheriff said he knew the reputation of Judge Carter as a harsh dictatorial man in Wake county. Both he and Mr. Beckwith testified that they had never heard anything against "Miss Dement" until this hearing.

Ringmaster at the Show
Sheriff Edwards of Wayne narrated the treatment of him by Judge Carter as to allowing a prisoner to go after being ordered into court only.

Judge Carter, sharply reprimanded the sheriff and after the sheriff explained the judge said "You have said enough, sit down."

"I thought it must be so if he said so," the sheriff mused, and the house roared. "His manner," he replied to Mr. Vann's question, "was more like that of a ringmaster at a dog and pony show than anything I can think of," the sheriff said. He left the court and future commerce with the judge was carried on between his deputies and the judge and they got along well.

THE N. S. TO HAUL ROCK TO LOOKOUT

That the Norfolk Southern Railroad will be greatly benefited by the expenditure of a million or more dollars by the Government in building a harbor of refuge at Cape Lookout is assured by the fact that the rock will be taken from a quarry on the company's property, and that the company will haul the rock on a flat freight rate from Newbern, N. C., to Morehead City.

The Norfolk Southern Company owns sixty acres of land near Newbern, which is ten miles west of Wilson, N. C., that abounds in granite rock of an excellent quality, and it is from this quarry the rock, that will be used in constructing the breakwater, will be taken. The granite will be hauled by the Norfolk Southern to Morehead City where it will be dumped, reloaded in barges, and carried to the cape.

It will be several weeks, before any of the rock is moved, as track to accommodate about one hundred cars will have to be built at Newbern before the stone can be moved. There is considerable work to be done by the contractors at Morehead City before they will be in position to handle the supplies at that end. Long piers reaching to the channel of the river will have to be built.

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NEW BER GIRL HAS DISAPPEARED

Lydia Spurrill Runs Away from Home At Greensboro

A story filled with human interest came to New Bern yesterday from Greensboro and in which a fourteen-year-old girl whose home is in this city, plays the central figure. Several weeks ago Lydia Spurrill was taken from her parents in order that she might be removed from immoral influences. For several days she was in charge of Pastor W. B. Everett of the Free Will Baptist church, a noted social worker and was last week carried to Greensboro and placed in the home conducted by the Children's Home Society. The girl seemed fairly content with her surroundings but it proved that she disliked the restraint placed upon her there and on last Saturday night made her escape. Where the girl went or where she will obtain food or shelter is a matter of speculation. Without friends and without money she is wandering around somewhere in the western part of the State, evidently intending if possible, to return to New Bern. Efforts are being made to locate the girl but at last reports this had not been accomplished.

Nothing on immoral conduct.

John D. Bellamy
Ex-Congressman John D. Bellamy of Wilmington, testified as to the Starkey case in Wilmington in which a white man of prominence who had been previously convicted of retailing was taken up by Judge Carter and fined \$3,000.

Mr. Bellamy said that he had been favorably inclined to Judge Carter, the judge having been appointed by Governor Kitchin, whom Mr. Bellamy supported heartily. He had heard that the "Ashville man" was coming down to break up the blind dogs.

The judge came, told Mr. Bellamy that he had evidence that Starkey was the "King of the blind dogs" and the judge was to make an example of him. He therefore fined Starkey \$3,000.

"I objected and asked for the evidence upon which he based this action and he said he was not bound to give it. I asked for a conference with my client and told the judge I must appeal. He said he would sentence Starkey to 18 months on the roads."

"We went into the room and I could not contain myself. I said this is the damndest outrage I ever saw. I would lie in jail and rot before I pay it," I said.

"But my client was not so certain of the Supreme Court. He said he'd rather pay the fine. I said the most high-handed act I ever saw and he ought to be impeached. Next day he reduced the fine to \$1,000."

Mr. Bellamy said his grievance was the robbery of his client's right of appeal. He thought Judge Carter was too spectacular and played to the galleries too much.

The Wilmington bar was divided on the judge's character as a judge. He had no feeling now.

**HON. S. M. BRINSON
MAY BE CANDIDATE**

His Name Being Mentioned In Connection With Certain Office

While the local political campaign, now in progress, is marked by unusual inactivity, local Democrats are beginning to talk about the next election of State officers and in fact considerable interest is being manifested in this. If incidents pan out as are anticipated, at least one New Bern man will be "among those present" in executive chambers after the next election and that man will be Hon. S. M. Brinson, superintendent of public instruction in Craven county. Friends of Mr. Brinson are mentioning his name in connection with a certain office and feel sure that, if he will be a candidate, he will secure the place. There is just one objection to Mr. Brinson securing the office and that is, he will be forced to leave New Bern and local citizens are loath to give him up. Mr. Brinson is not committing himself either one way or the other on the subject but is sitting tight and watching to see which way the wind blows. In the meantime his friends are "whooping" or "up" and putting on "feathers" in order to put a line on sentiment and it is possible that he will be put up