

The Smithfield Herald.

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SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1907.

NO. 34.

DIES BY HIS OWN HAND.

Has Gone to Stand Before the Great High Court.

MURDERER NOW GETS JUSTICE.

Ransom Godwin, Who Embroed His Hands in the Blood of His Aged Wife, Killing Her on August 7th, Finding the Task Hopeless to Hide Himself Longer from the Law Shoots a Bullet Through His Heart and Ends All.

Kenly, N. C., Oct. 22.—Ransom Godwin, the aged white man who, on August 7th last, brutally murdered his wife at his home near this place, committed suicide early this morning by shooting a bullet through his chest with a pistol.

He had been in hiding ever since the murder was committed, none but his immediate relatives knowing of his whereabouts. Special efforts had been made by the officers of the law to apprehend him, and Governor Glenn a few weeks ago offered a reward of \$100 for his arrest, but he continued successfully to elude the clutches of the law, and now he has cheated the machinery of the law out of the task of bringing him to justice and executing the same.

The suicide was committed at a place in his field where it had been his custom to feed his hogs, only a few hundred yards from his residence.

The information was given out today by a son of the deceased, that the old man, who was 76 years of age, had never left his neighborhood since the murder, as had been the opinion of some, but that he had kept himself in hiding in one place and another near his old home, being fed and looked after by his children and near relatives.

It developed also today Godwin's action this morning was not his first attempt to end his life. On the night of the same day on which he had murdered his wife, he attempted to commit suicide by shooting himself through the left shoulder with a rifle. Failing to accomplish his purpose, but seriously wounding himself, and no one knowing of his whereabouts, he lay wounded in the woods without food or water for four days, at the end of which time he was found by relatives who have since looked after him.

Id the meantime he has told his son Richard that he was going to kill himself and one time since the unsuccessful shooting he had tried to kill himself by cutting his throat.

He had a pistol with him all the time. At first he had a rifle also, but a few days after the murder was committed the rifle was found.

Early this morning the old man's son, Richard Godwin, went out to where his father was in hiding, to carry his breakfast. The old man refused to eat anything and told his son that he was going to kill himself. He also told his son where to find him during the day if he wished to see him for any purpose, (it having been a custom that he would tell his son where he would be for a day or more ahead). The young man left him and while at his home eating his own breakfast he heard the report of a pistol in the direction of the place where he had left his father. He went to see what had happened and found the old man lying dead with his pistol lying by his side, and a bullet hole through his chest.

The remains were taken up and carried to his son's home and will be buried tomorrow. No one has lived at the old homestead since the awful tragedy of August seventh, when the old man brutally and wilfully, according to all reports, murdered his aged wife in their home while his sons tried to intervene.

Godwin was well-to-do, and has left good property worth several thousands of dollars.

He has a son in Texas who is a successful practicing physician, and it had been thought by some that the old man had gone there.

Wanted to Start Even.

A story is told of a Nebraska farmer who had a suit for damages against a Nebraska railroad. As the cause approached the day of trial, the farmer learned that the judge who would preside over the trial carried an annual pass over the defendant railroad's lines.

This information worried the soil-tiller. He thought about it by day, cogitated over it by night. He figured out that the annual pass must be worth about \$500 a year to the judge. He had confidence in the judge, but little in the railroad, and he pondered the query in his mind why the railroad gave the judge \$500 a year for nothing.

He finally concluded that the railroad must know what it was about, and he sat down and wrote the judge the following letter:

"Dear Judge: I am told that you carry an annual pass over the Burlington railroad. As near as I can figure it, this pass is worth to you about \$500 a year. I don't believe that this will influence you in favor of the railroad and against me in my case, but to be on equal footing with the railroad, I enclose my check for \$500. I do not do this to influence your decision in any way. I do not ask you to retain my check. But if you return this check, please return the railroad pass, if you keep the pass, keep the check."—Farm Implement News.

The question that bobs up after reading the above is What did the Judge do? Can any of our readers tell?

Thieves Steal a Whole Church.

Thieves of Chicago and vicinity, notorious for many remarkable deeds, eclipsed all previous efforts some time yesterday when they stole bodily the Presbyterian Church, seating 200 people, from River Grove, on the Desplains River. The church had no regular pastor, but itinerant ministers would address the farmers in the edifice occasionally.

This morning Z. A. Rosi, a farmer living across the river, missed the church. He rubbed his eyes and called his family. Then they crossed the river to make certain the church was gone. It had been stolen, down to the last splinter, and there is no trace of it, although active search has been kept up all day.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Stingy Man's Estate Settled.

Heirs of Patrick Cooney reached an agreement today in the Probate Court by which the way is opened for the settlement of his estate after five years of legal warfare. Cooney was a section hand on the Valley Branch Railroad, and saved \$15,000 from pay that never exceeded \$150 a day.

To save car fare he used to walk twenty-five miles to Hartford. Fearing damage to his boots, he removed them, one cold day, to work in a trench half-filled with water, and caught cold and died—a bachelor with fifteen heirs.—Haddon (Mass) Dispatch to the New York Tribune.

Notable Medical Discovery.

A notable medical discovery and one that appeals especially to many people in Smithfield is the combination of stomach remedies in the Mi-o-na treatment. This preparation has worked wonders in cases of indigestion or weak stomach.

It acts specifically upon the walls of the stomach and bowels, strengthening and stimulating them so that they readily take care of the food that is eaten without distress or suffering.

So positive are the good effects following the use of Mi-o-na that the remedy is sold by Hood Bros. under an absolute guarantee to refund the money if it fails to cure. With an offer like this, none can afford to suffer with indigestion or stomach troubles.

A 50-cent box of Mi-o-na will do more good than half-a-dozen boxes of ordinary digestive tablets.

Clayton News.

Mrs. Young, of Charlotte, N. C., is visiting Mr. Ashley Horne.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Barbour are visiting the Jamestown Exposition this week.

We are glad to note that all the sick folks hereabouts are getting along nicely.

Miss Jno. W. Harden and children spent a part of this week the guests of Mrs. Charles W. Horne.

There was over two hundred more tickets sold to the State Fair from here than were sold last season.

Work on the Liberty cotton mills is going along nicely now. The building is beginning to look business-like.

Mrs. Dewey Hicks and child, of near Garner, spent several days here this week, the guests of Mrs. John Robertson.

The Broomell-Reed Company entertain at the Academy Friday night. The Press speaks in high terms of these young ladies.

Miss Carlotta Barbour, who is attending G. F. C. at Greensboro, after attending the Fair, came on home and spent a few days.

There was a slight "rucus" among the darkies recently. One or two were cut a little and as a consequence one negro man went to jail without bail.

The congregations at the Baptist church, was delightfully entertained Sunday by Rev. O. W. Henderson, of Wake Forest, who preached two sermons.

There was more cotton here this week than we have had for the same length of time this season. We are sorry to see the price lower, but still the farmers are getting a good deal more for the crop than they expected. Clayton, Oct. 23. YELIR

Benson News.

Miss Lillian Markham, spent last Saturday in Smithfield.

O. A. Barbour made a business trip to Smithfield last Tuesday.

Miss Pauline Renno, after spending several days here visiting friends, returned to her home in Smithfield last Saturday.

Dr. Edwin "Cyclone" Southers, the noted lecturer, will address the people of Benson with his famous lecture "If I were the devil" at Benson Graded School hall on Friday night, October, 25. Dr. Southers comes to us highly recommended, and we think all who can should avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing this lecture. October, 23.

Get Thirty Cents For Cotton Seed.

We were glad to see the mills start cotton seed this fall at thirty cents per bushel. When they bring that price the farmer gets a good sum from the seed of his cotton crop and we do not see how he can use them for manure after they reach that price. We hear that on last Monday the mills cut the price of seed several cents per bushel. We think it is time to stop selling until the price goes back up. We advise every farmer to hold his seed for thirty cents per bushel and not sell them at all unless they bring that price. The loss in weight and hauling seed and hauling meal which the seed pay for is considerable and we are sure they should not be sold for less than thirty cents. No farmer need fear to put thirty cents as a price on his seed. Oil and meal and hulls are much higher now than for most of the time for several years and there rarely ever comes a year in which seed do not go to thirty cents.

Out of Sight.

"Out of sight, out of mind" is an old saying which applies with special force to a sore, burn or wound that's been treated with Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It's out of sight, out of mind and out of existence. Piles too and chilblains disappear under its healing influence. Guaranteed by Hood Bros., Druggists, 25c.

Horrible Wreck Near Greensboro.

North bound passenger train No. 34, of the Southern railway, traveling at the rate of 60 miles an hour, ran into an open switch at Rudd, a small station four miles north of Greensboro, Thursday night about 10:20, striking a freight head-on and killing four persons and injuring 20 or 25. The first day coach was entirely split open and the engine of the passenger was completely demolished. The wreck did not catch fire and the Pullman coaches and passengers therein did not suffer. Practically all the persons in the first day coach were injured, about 25 in number. Another person died later as a result of injuries received.

Among the killed was Mr. B. Allen Bryant, aged 23, a representative of the Richmond Paper Company. Mr. Bryant was a popular salesman and was well known in North Carolina. He was in Smithfield five days before the fatal accident. He was married on September 4th, to Miss Sterns, aged 18, of Asheville. The young bride did not learn that her husband was killed until she reached Richmond. Her grief, when apprised of his death, was indescribable.

On the fated train were Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Davis, who were married that afternoon at Winston and had started North on a bridal tour. Mr. Davis was injured slightly, while his bride was very seriously hurt, having one of her legs broken in two places, receiving several bruises and cuts. It will be several weeks before she is well again.

Wyatt Day at Selma.

The people of Selma are planning another Wyatt entertainment for to-night. Governor Glenn and Congressman Pou will make addresses. Oysters and other refreshments will be served, the proceeds to go to the Wyatt Memorial Fund. A good time is promised those who attend.

Rev. R. L. Davis Here Sunday.

Rev. R. L. Davis, the State Anti Saloon lecturer, was here Sunday, preaching in the Methodist church in the morning and lecturing on temperance in the evening at the Baptist church. Good congregations greeted him at both services. He made a strong temperance speech Sunday night and many who heard him realized the temperance situation in North Carolina as never before. Mr. Davis says that State prohibition is the only remedy and he firmly believes that the next Legislature will give us a chance to vote on the question. If it does, North Carolina will surely go prohibition. Mark the prediction.

Who Is Responsible?

It has been stated that Leonard, the flagman, who is charged with being responsible for the terrible wreck near Greensboro last week, had been on duty 23 hours. This is too bad. The railroads regret wrecks as much as any one, yet they could better safeguard the lives of their human freight if they would give their employees shorter hours and more rest. No man who has been on continual duty for nearly 24 hours is fit to be entrusted with the cares incident to such responsible positions, and doubtless many grievous accidents might be avoided if greater consideration were given those who operate trains.

The Modern Version of It.

"What little boy can tell me the difference between the 'quick' and the 'dead'?" asked the Sunday-school teacher.

Willie waved his hand frantically.

"Well, Willie?"

"Please ma'am, the 'quick' are the ones that get out of the way of automobiles; the ones that don't are the 'dead'."—Everybody's Magazine.

Read about Durability on page five.

State News.

New Bern has voted \$50,000 of bonds for street improvements and Greensboro has voted \$125,000 of bonds to pay off the floating debt.

There are 310 inmates in the white blind and colored deaf and dumb institution at Raleigh, and 212 in the deaf and dumb school at Morganton.

A gold brick weighing 217 ounces and valued at \$3,700 was exhibited at Thomasville a few days ago. The material was taken from Capt. M. L. Jones' mine near Thomasville and was the work of one week.

An exchange says: In Cleveland county last Saturday four negroes were playing cards in the woods and booze and pistols were "in their midst." Ward Thompson has been buried and Tom Falls is in the tall timber.

Near Blue's bridge, Scotland county, a few days ago, John Black killed Hector Stewart by striking him with a piece of plank. The parties were from Moore county and were operating a tar kiln in Scotland. Booze figured in the trouble. At last account Black had not been arrested.

Dr. R. H. Lewis, of Raleigh, was unanimously elected President of the American Public Health Association, which represents this country, Canada, Mexico, and Cuba, at the thirty-fifth annual meeting held at Atlantic City recently. Only three Southern men have ever been President of this organization.

At the annual meeting of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association in Raleigh last week the Patterson loving cup, awarded each year for the best work of the year, was awarded to ex-President Battle, of the University. The feature of the meeting was the address of Hon. Hannis Taylor, of Alabama.

The chairman of the prohibition executive committee of Asheville has filed a sworn itemized statement of the receipts and expenditures incident to the recent successful prohibition campaign in Asheville. The statement shows that the prohibitionists expended approximately four thousand dollars, the exact amount being \$3,787.52.

It is understood that the next session of the Western North Carolina Conference, to be held in Salisbury next month, will pass on the question of establishing an orphanage for the Western North Carolina Conference, the one at Raleigh being considered the special property of the North Carolina Conference. It is believed that the Conference will take favorable action on the orphanage matter.

In regard to the probability of an early prohibition election in Salisbury, a Salisbury correspondent of the daily papers says that an anti-saloon league has been organized there with W. D. Smoot president and P. S. Carlton secretary, and that the question of asking for an election on saloons or no saloons will be decided soon. It is added that "a number of leading citizens, are anxious to make a vigorous temperance campaign."

It is with keen personal sorrow that we chronicle the death of Mr. Ben B. Raiford, and this sorrow will be shared by hosts of our readers who knew him. He was an unpretentious but noble soul—a Confederate Veteran, who wore the Southern Cross of Honor and who never dishonored it in thought or act. He fell dead on the roadside yesterday afternoon, near Mt. Olive, while walking from his son John's home to his own, about a mile apart. He was 67 years old, and is survived by his wife and several children, a wide circle of relatives and a legion of friends.—Goldsboro Argus, 19th.

Temperance Speaking at Selma.

On Sunday, October 27th, Rev. R. L. Davis, State organizer for the temperance forces, will speak in Selma in the town hall at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Everybody invited to hear him.

Kenly Items.

Mrs. J. P. Pate, of Micro, was here Wednesday.

Mrs. C. C. Teague and Mrs. W. L. Thomas went to Fremont Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. V. Barnes, of Wilson, are visiting at the Merchants Hotel this week.

Mr. M. A. Hooks, cotton buyer for Messrs. Alex Sprunt & Son, of Selma, was here Tuesday.

Mrs. Z. V. Snipes, who has been visiting friends at Richmond, Va., for the past two weeks, returned home last Thursday night.

Messrs. C. W. Edgerton, and J. J. Edgerton, and Miss Emma Matthews are spending the week at Jamestown Exposition.

Prof. R. T. Teague and Mr. M. A. Pennington spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. Pennington's father, in Southern Johnston.

Messrs. C. W. Edgerton and C. C. Teague, went to Smithfield Monday in behalf of Kenly Academy, and secured one of the County High Schools for our progressive town.

Mrs. John A. Guley died at her home about four miles north of here Wednesday and was buried at the family burying ground Thursday. The funeral services were conducted by her pastor, Rev. R. W. Horrell, of Selma.

Kenly, Oct. 23. X. Y. Z.

Over The River News.

Mr. Henry Stephenson took in the Raleigh fair last week.

Miss Enla Mitchell visited relatives in Wayne County Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Clifford Austin from near Clayton spent Saturday night at Mr. W. J. Talton's.

Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Thompson, visited Mrs. Thompson's father Mr. I. Stephenson last week.

Mrs. G. L. Jones and daughter Miss Ruth, from Smithfield, spent Sunday afternoon in this burg.

Master Erwin Pittman, from Smithfield, spent last week with his grand parents, Mr. and Mrs. Israel Stephenson.

Messrs Israel Stephenson, Hermon Talton and Misses Lola Talton and Emily Stephenson took in the fair at Raleigh last week.

XERXES.

His Dear Old Mother.

"My dear old mother, who is now eighty three years old, thrives on Electric Bitters," writes W. B. Brunson, of Dublin, Ga. "She has taken them for about two years and enjoys an excellent appetite, feels strong and sleeps well." That's the way Electric Bitters affect the aged, and the same happy results follow in all cases of female weakness and general debility. Weak, puny children too, are greatly strengthened by them. Guaranteed also for stomach, liver and kidney troubles, by Hood Bros. Druggists, 50c.

Esperanto Forever.

"Now, Jimmy, repeat a sentence embodying the word 'seldom'." "My father used ter 'ave a couple of pigs, but he selled 'em."—London Tatler.

Hard Times in Kansas.

The old days of grasshoppers and drouth are almost forgotten in the prosperous Kansas of today; although a citizen of Codell, Earl Shamburg, has not yet forgotten a hard time he encountered. He says: "I was worn out and discouraged by coughing night and day, and could find no relief till I tried Dr. King's New Discovery. It took less than one bottle to completely cure me." The safest and most reliable cough and cold remedy and lung and throat healer ever discovered. Guaranteed by Hood Bros. drug store 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

See "Durability," on page 5.