

# The Smithfield Herald

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## FORTY THREE WENT TO DEATH.

Collision at Sea Resulted in Sinking of Steamer Monroe by the Nantucket—Vessels Bound to and From Norfolk—Monroe Went Down With 19 Passengers and 24 Members of the Crew. Wireless Operator Gave His Chance to Be Saved to Another and Went Down to Death a Hero.

The story of how 43 souls went down to death in the chill waters of the Atlantic when the liner Nantucket rammed and sank the steamer Monroe early today, was brought to port tonight by 91 survivors of the sunken ship's passengers, rescued and brought to shore by the Nantucket. It was a story of awful and sudden death, sweeping out of the dark and fog and taking unawares the doomed half hundred with the heaviness of sleep still upon them. It told how the stricken Monroe, with her side gored deep by the knife-like steel prow of the Nantucket, filled rapidly, rolled over on her side and in a few minutes turned completely over and plunged to the bottom, carrying with her the ill-fated passengers and members of the crew who had failed to get clear of the wreck. Tonight the revised lists prepared by Captain Johnson, who survived the sunken vessel, showed:

Lost: Passengers 19, crew 24; total 43.

Saved: Passengers 36, crew 55; total 91.

Under the thick bank of fog that hid the heavily running sea, both big ships were making their way slowly and with difficulty in the early morning. The Monroe, with Captain Johnson on the bridge and a double lookout peering into the fog ahead, was edging under half speed to the northward, having left Norfolk for New York last evening. The Nantucket, heavily laden with freight and with but two passengers aboard, was nosing her way southward, bound from Boston to Norfolk.

The crash came about 1:40 o'clock without warning. Out of the gray black fog that shut out even the waves from view, the gleam of the Nantucket's searchlight scarcely touched the dripping side of the Monroe before the high steel prow of the southward bound vessel cut into her side with a ripping and crashing of plates that threw the stricken ship aback. The Nantucket, with her bow crushed in, backed out of sight into the fog, as Captain Johnson, seeing that his vessel was fatally stricken, shouted an order for the lifeboats.

When the crash came those aboard the Monroe were in bed and asleep. Only Captain Johnson and the watch on deck were up and about. But the shivering of the stricken vessel, as the water poured through the gash in her side, awakened the passengers and sent them clamoring toward the deck. Warned by the officers, they hurriedly adjusted life-preservers and made for the tilted deck. But the time was all too brief. Those rescued agreed that from the time the Monroe was struck until she settled beneath the waves, not more than a short ten minutes elapsed.

Baggage, clothing, valuables, all were forgotten in the flight. Pajamas, nightgowns and bathrobes and blankets were the common apparel of those who reached the deck. And most of them wore that garb when they left the limping Nantucket at her dock here late today.

As the half-clad, excited throng of passengers reached the deck, they were hurried toward lifeboats by officers and crew. Three of the lifeboats were gotten away from the side, freighted mostly with women. By the time these were away the Monroe was rolling over on her side, and it was impossible to launch the other boats.

With a sudden lurch the liner rolled over her side. With a chorus of shrieks the unfortunates left on the sinking vessel turned, and crawling like rats, made their way over the superstructure, through port-holes, windows and companionways, until they rested just out of reach of the waves on the upper side of the half-capsized vessel. Even this slippery security was not long available. With a rumbling sound the ship plunged beneath the waves, leaving her human freight afloat in the icy ocean.

Meantime the Nantucket, herself

badly damaged, had stood by and Captain Berry had aroused his sleeping crew. As the rays of the searchlight failed to picture the blanket of fog, Captain Berry ordered out his lifeboats and one by one they slipped away into the fog to search for the Monroe. They found only the struggling survivors afloat in the icy water, crying frantically for help. Many of those picked up were utterly exhausted and unable to help themselves. Thomas R. Harrington kept his wife afloat by swimming with her hair in his teeth, only to have her die a few minutes after he was hauled aboard the Nantucket. Lieutenant L. B. Curtis, United States army, was rescued, but died after reaching the Nantucket.

Captain Johnson of the Monroe and all of his officers got away from the sinking vessel and were rescued. All of the officers and the crew of both the Monroe and the Nantucket were held here tonight to await an investigation of the catastrophe which will be begun immediately by the Federal steamboat inspection service.

There were notable deeds of heroism by Assistant Engineer Oscar Perkins and First Wireless Operator Ferdinand J. Kuehn. Perkins, when the inrush of water put out the main dynamo and left the Monroe in complete darkness, rushed below and put to work an emergency dynamo. He is among the rescued.

Wireless Operator Kuehn gave the first S. O. S. call and after adjusting a life preserver which would doubtless have saved his own life, removed this from his body and put it on a girl. Kuehn was lost. His assistant, R. L. Etheridge, was saved and walked into the arms of his wife who stood to greet him as the Nantucket docked with the rescued this afternoon.—Norfolk, Va., Dispatch, January 30th.

## DR. POTEAT TO SPEAK HERE.

Will Be Here When The Debating Contest Is Held On March 6th.

Wake Forest, N. C., Feb. 5.—Dr. W. J. Poteat, President of Wake Forest College, has been secured by the Johnston County Club of Wake Forest College to make an address immediately after the final debating Contest of the schools of Johnston County, on the evening of March the 6th, 1914, in Smithfield. Dr. Poteat is a very able speaker and his address will add greatly to the event.

The order has been placed with Mahler's Jewelry establishment, in Raleigh, for the medal for the best debator. On the face of the medal will be this engraving: "Best Debator, Johnston County, 1914, W. F. C. Club." The design is neat and attractive and will be worth the hard efforts of the contestants. The Club is expecting to place it on exhibition within the next few days. It will first go to Selma and remain a short while, then to Benson for a short while, then to Smithfield to be kept until the contest comes off.

The libraries have about completed their circuit and will be called in in a few days. The State Library is yet to go to Selma and the Wake Forest Library yet to go to Smithfield and Benson.

An occasional letter from some of the contestants shows that the boys are hard down at work and that they are going to present a rare treat to the people of Johnston County. Every effort has been made to furnish each town with sufficient literature to thoroughly acquaint the speakers with the subject of Immigration.

This subject of Immigration is a live issue in the South now, and vitally affects the farming class. Every farmer, who can possibly be present should be at Smithfield on March the 6th and hear this question discussed from every standpoint.

## Disastrous Fire At Four Oaks.

Four Oaks, Feb. 4.—A disastrous fire occurred here tonight about 7 o'clock when a planing mill, saw mill, shingle mill, dry-kiln, grist mill, and large quantity of lumber at the plant of the Johnston County Lumber Company went up in smoke. Approximate loss, ten thousand to twelve thousand dollars, partially covered by insurance. Origin of fire unknown.

By the heroic work of a volunteer bucket brigade another building, nearby, containing a planing mill and a large quantity of lumber was saved.

## CONFERENCE ON CHURCH WORK

Will Be Held In Smithfield Next Monday Afternoon and Night. Dr. Livingston Johnston and Rev. Chas. E. Maddy to Make Addresses. Preachers, Sunday School Superintendents and Church Workers Invited to Attend.

A meeting of more than usual importance is scheduled to be held in Smithfield Baptist church next Monday afternoon and night, February 9th. The conference has been called for the purpose of mapping and planning the work for the churches in this, the Johnston County Baptist Association, in order that a more systematic and more efficient campaign may be carried on against the powers of darkness. This is an age of progress and the Church, if she is to measure up to her opportunities, must be exceedingly busy and work with intelligence. To be able to do this a knowledge of the needs must be known. It is for this that this conference is to be held in this county.

Addresses will be made at the night service by Dr. Livingston Johnston, Rev. Charles E. Maddy and others. These are among the foremost leaders of the denomination in the State and are speakers of rare charm and ability.

The meeting in the afternoon at 2:30 o'clock is for the special purpose of making plans and finding out what needs to be done. All the pastors of the Association, all the Sunday School superintendents, and all the church workers are given a pressing invitation to be present, and are expected to be here.

The meeting at night will be devotional and inspirational and the people of the town are given an invitation to be present and enjoy the good things in store for all who attend.

## A Wonderful Little Machine.

Among the many wonderful machines that man in his ingenuity has made the cash register is one that holds a high place. One who does not understand the mechanism of the wonderful little machine stands amazed at the many strange and accurate business transactions it is able to record. A few days ago the writer had the pleasure of seeing the machines made by the National Cash Register Company, of Dayton, Ohio, demonstrated by one of their special agents, Mr. J. R. Creel. This company makes a large variety of machines for all kinds of business, whether large, or small, ranging in price from fifteen dollars each up to six or seven hundred dollars. With one of these machines a merchant can keep right up with his business and see which of his clerks is worth most to him, and also keep an accurate record of every transaction made in the store. The National Cash Register people claim that with a cash register a merchant or business man may be able to stop the leaks in his business and by doing this alone save more than the price of the machine.

While here last week Mr. Creel and Mr. Gerken sold several machines, among the number being two electrically operated machines for the Cotter-Underwood Company for their large and commodious stores, at the price of \$1260. With these machines this concern will be able to keep track of every transaction made by the clerks in the various departments. The representatives also sold machines to The Austin-Stephenson Company and the Cotter Hardware Company.

These cash registers are most wonderful and interesting machines and it is surprising to note the number of various records which can be made on them.

## Thieves at Pine Level.

Pine Level, Feb. 5.—Wednesday night thieves entered the store through the glass door of Floyd C. Price's place and got several items, shoes, suit case and a little cash that was left in the change drawer. However, the damage and loss is only small.

## Meeting Farmers' Union.

The Johnston County Branch of The Farmers' Union will meet in Smithfield February 14th, 10:30 a. m. All Locals will please send delegates. W. C. HARPER, Secy.

## GOING TOWARD THE SUNSET.

Notes of a Voyage On the Bosom of the Pacific, From San Francisco to Honolulu. Some Incidents of Interest.

(By A. M. Noble.)

U. S. Naval Station, Tutuila, Samoa, January 15.—It was one o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, October 21st, that we boarded the S. S. Ventura, a steamer of 10,000 tons displacement, for our island home. Both the upper and lower docks were lined with passengers and all looked so happy it made us forget, temporarily, that we were leaving home for two years. The scene just as we were leaving San Francisco was most beautiful. Just before the gang-plank was pulled aboard, the stewards passed through the crowds that lined both decks, giving to each passenger several spoils of paper streamers of many colors. The passengers would hold to one end of the paper and throw the spool to some friend or acquaintance standing on the pier. Those, like ourselves, who had neither friends or acquaintances to bid farewell, threw their streamers to someone else's friend. The sun was shining in all its glory and the effect produced by the tangled mass of paper streamers of almost every imaginable color was most pleasing. As soon as the gang plank was pulled in, there were two long whistles; the band played, "Should Auld Acquaintance be Forgotten"; the engines began to throb and the steamer glided slowly out into the bay. As soon as we left the pier hundreds of sea-gulls took after our boat, and at midnight, when we were perhaps 175 miles from shore, we knew from the noise overhead that they were still following us.

Although the sun was shining beautifully when we left the pier, we had not gotten outside the harbor before we encountered a heavy fog, inland bound. This caused deep regret to all on board, as we were deprived of seeing the Golden Gate, the beautiful entrance to San Francisco harbor.

When we reached the ocean proper, we began to get some very rough weather, and the boat certainly did do the "bobbing up and down" act. One by one the passengers began to desert the decks and seek refuge in their staterooms, where they could relieve themselves, as they could, from that awful feeling of sea-sickness. It was a slim looking crowd that answered the call for supper that first night out, Mrs. Noble being among the absentees. I considered myself quite fortunate in not being troubled to any extent by sea-sickness.

At dinner the following day we were assigned regular seats in the dining hall. All the Honolulu passengers were given seats on the port side, and those for points beyond that place were seated on the starboard side, since it would be cooler on that side as we neared the equator. Mrs. Noble and myself were assigned seats at the ship's doctor's table, and he, with the others made a jolly good crowd. The ship's doctor, J. G. Evans, is a native of South Carolina and had traveled through Smithfield quite a number of times. We found him a splendid type of the Southern gentleman. There were seven at our table, the doctor, two middle-aged Englishmen from Australia, a young Englishman from London, an actress from New York, Mrs. Noble and myself. The young Englishman from London was about nineteen years of age, and was taking his first trip from home. His father was a man of considerable means, being interested in enterprises in Australia, and had at the request of one of the Englishmen from Australia, with whom he was associated in business, permitted his son to take this trip which was to extend around the world. He was a most interesting chap, a perfect Chesterfield in manners and free from those airs and appearances which are so often associated with the rich. He was every inch an Englishman. He never saw the point in a good joke until the others were through laughing, and seemed dumb-founded when listening to a crowd of Americans talk, in which a good deal of American slang was being used. He could see no sense in it. No doubt he was justified in not being able to. There was one passenger on board who was always using the word "some," when

"very" or some other word of like import would have been proper. The use of this word seemed to appeal to the Englishman, however, and he was interested in the proper use of it. He would often come around and ask: "Would you say, the ocean is rough some, or, the ocean is some rough; the boat is rolling some, or, the boat is some rolling." Many would try to explain, always at his expense. By the time we reached Pago Pago he was trying to use the word in most of his expressions, and when we told him good-bye he wished us "some" pleasant time during our stay here.

The two Englishmen from Australia were making the last lap of a trip around the world, having been away from home nearly a year. They were very jolly and had many interesting accounts to tell about the places they had visited. The little actress from New York was on her way to Melbourne, Australia, to play in "The Land of Nod." Last season she played the leading part in "The Balkan Princess." She was quite clever and seemed far above the average.

Among the first cabin passengers were several actresses and actors on their way to Australia to fill engagements. Some of them possess quite a little talent. How we whiled away the time will be told in my next article.

## Jurors for February Court.

A Superior Court for Johnston County will convene in the court house in Smithfield on Monday, February 16, for the trial of civil cases only. It will be a two weeks' term and will be presided over by Judge R. B. Peebles.

The following have been drawn as jurors for this term:

FIRST WEEK—A. W. Blinson, Z. V. Stephenson, P. L. Wood, R. A. Langdon, C. B. Barbour, A. E. Surlis, T. L. Hudson, Norman Langston, Jesse Williams, A. J. Webb, H. A. Parker, D. R. Webb, S. L. Johnson, J. F. Batten, D. L. Dixon, L. E. Phillips, J. E. Corbett, C. H. Carpenter, Ellis Waddell, J. E. Parker, A. L. Ray, Needham Munden and J. H. Brady.

SECOND WEEK—J. L. Green, B. B. Stallings, W. A. Williams, Joseph J. Pleasant, Ira Allen, A. P. Tart, O. T. Hockaday, Len E. Cox, G. P. Dunn, Wade Worley, B. J. Rose, Harvey Brown, W. J. Wilder, L. A. Pounds, A. J. Jones, J. R. Starling and J. W. Baker.

There will be a term of the court for the trial of criminal actions to convene here on Monday, March 9th. The list of the jury for this term will be published in our next issue.

## Washington News Notes.

The Secretary of War and Mrs. Daniels entertained at a beautiful dinner party Friday evening at their home, "Single Oak," in compliment to the Secretary of State and Mrs. Bryan. The additional guests were the Brazilian Ambassador and Mme. de Gama, Senator and Mrs. Ollie Ames, Congressman and Mrs. Edward P. Henry, the Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy and Mrs. John H. Gibbons, the Commissioner of Patents and Mrs. Thomas Ewing.

## Abdo-Kalil.

Yesterday afternoon at 5:30 at the home of Mr. Wadi Abdo, his brother, Mr. Naekley Abdo, and Miss Teresa Kalil, of Roxboro, were united in marriage, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Father James Golder, of Raleigh. The ceremony of the Catholic church was used in uniting these two young lives.

The out-of-town guests present were: Mr. Abraham Kalil and Mr. Nassar Kalil, of Roxboro, father and uncle of the bride, respectively; Mr. N. Shyne and his mother, Mrs. Shyne, of Rocky Mount; Mr. Tom Joseph, of Selma; and Mr. Sam Parker, of Dunn.

The happy young couple will make Smithfield their future home, the groom being a partner in the fruit and commission business here conducted by Abdo Bros. The contracting parties are both Syrians, having been born in Mount Lebanon, Syria. They have been living in America for the past several years.

The best wishes of their friends go with Mr. and Mrs. Abdo on their voyage over life's matrimonial sea.

## MEXICANS ON EQUAL TERMS.

President Wilson Has Lifted the Embargo On Arms So That Revolutionists and the Government of Mexico Placed On Same Footing So Far as Arms Are Concerned.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 4.—President Wilson, by an executive order, dated yesterday, and made public at the White House last night, removed all restrictions against the exportation of munitions of war into Mexico from the United States, placing the contending elements there on a basis of equality with respect to the purchase of arms and supplies in this country.

The executive order emphasizes that it was the desire of the United States to be in the same position of neutrality toward the contending factions in Mexico as were the other powers.

The text of the proclamation follows:

"Whereas by a proclamation of the President issued on March 14, 1912, under a joint resolution of Congress approved by the President on the same day, it was declared that there existed in Mexico conditions of domestic violence which were promoted by the use of arms or munitions of war procured from the United States; and

"Whereas by the joint resolution above mentioned it thereupon became unlawful to export arms or munitions of war to Mexico, except under such limitations and exceptions as the President should prescribe:

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, hereby declare and proclaim that, as the conditions on which the proclamation of March 14, 1912, was based have essentially changed, and as it is desirable to place the United States with reference to the exportation of arms or munitions of war to Mexico in the same position as other powers, the said proclamation is hereby revoked."

Accompanying the order, the White House issued the following statement of explanation:

"The executive order, under which the exportation of arms and munition into Mexico is forbidden, was a departure from the accepted practices of neutrality, a deliberate departure from those practices under a well-considered joint resolution of Congress—determined upon in circumstances which have now ceased to exist. It was intended to discourage incipient revolts against the regularly constituted authorities of Mexico. Since that order was issued the circumstances of the case have undergone a radical change. There is now no constitutional government in Mexico, and the existence of this order hinders and delays the very thing the government of the United States is now insisting upon—namely, that Mexico shall be left free to settle her own affairs, and as soon as possible put them upon a constitutional footing by her own force and counsel. The order is, therefore, rescinded."

American embassies and legations abroad were instructed last Saturday to inform foreign governments of the above decision. Similarly, Secretary Bryan late on Monday informed the members of the diplomatic corps here. This was in line with the present administration here of keeping the nations of the world informed of the developments in the Mexican policy of this government.

Shipments of arms and ammunition from the United States into Mexico has been one of the principal levers of American influence in the Mexican situation, and has been the storm center of agitation ever since armed revolution began in Mexico in November, 1910. It was charged by the Diaz government, then in power, that the rebellion waged by Madero was sustained by arms purchased in the United States. President Taft ordered troops to Texas to enforce neutrality, but notwithstanding this the Madero revolution was quickly successful. The border patrol of several thousand troops has since been maintained, chiefly to prevent smuggling of arms.

When Gladstone was asked to speak something into the phonograph that might be used fifty years after his death, what do you suppose he said? Simply this "I owe my life and vigor, through a long and busy life, to the Sabbath day with its blessed succor of toil."