

FARMERS EDUCATIONAL MEETING

A Large Number of People From all Sections of the County Present--A Good Club Organized--W. C. Manning Chosen President

Saturday was a big day for the farmers and business men of the county, who came in large numbers to attend the Farmers' Educational Meeting conducted by experts from the Agricultural Department as arranged by Congressman John H. Small. The organization was perfected by electing W. C. Manning chairman, who introduced Congressman Small in a few well chosen words. Mr. Small outlined the purpose of the meeting and the work of the government is doing along agricultural lines.

Dr. Joseph Hyde Pratt went over the question of good roads and showed why we cannot do without them, and how easily we may get and maintain them.

The next speaker, Prof. Schaub, is well known among the boys of the State, having in charge the Boys' Corn Clubs and has assisted many youngsters in producing large yields of corn. These yields have been far in excess of what was once thought could be done except in swamps and river bottom land.

The subject of drainage was discussed by A. G. Smith, who easily and simply explained the best way to drain land and the great advantage of same. It generally enhances the value of a farm three-fold.

Prof. C. L. Goodrich's lecture was listened to with much interest as he described how he took a poor and over-worked Maryland farm and built it up to a high state of productivity by the use of legumes. He also gave in detail demonstrations of Arkansas and South Carolina, showing how deep plowing and crop rotation has increased crops from three to four-fold with no extra expense. After Prof. Goodrich concluded his remarks, Mr. Small presented the matter of organizing a Martin County Good Roads Association. Though many present seemed to be in a waiting mood, a good number came forward as the charter members of the Association. The membership though small is well distributed through the county. Hon. John H. Small was the first to enroll. Perhaps, the most inspiring thing in the organization was the enlisting of Mr. Simon Perry, one of the oldest citizens and best men in the county, who has passed the fourscore mile post and has seen the need of good roads. He was full of enthusiasm for the movement and, no doubt, his action will lead many younger men to enlist.

The organization was made permanent by the election of the following officers whose terms will be for one year: W. C. Manning, President; S. E. Hardison, Vice President; J. G. Godard, Sec. and Treas.; Directors: S. F. Everett, J. H. Riddick, P. Peel, W. A. Perry.

The following Constitution was adopted and the first Thursday in each August appointed as the day for the Annual meeting.

Article I. The name of the Association shall be "The Martin County Good Roads Association of the State of North Carolina."

Art. II. The purpose of the Association shall be the improvement of the roads of Martin County, and also, to effectuate that purpose, the education of public sentiment regarding good roads, and the promotion of all other proper means having such result in view.

Art. III. The membership shall

CHIEF OF POLICE W. R. WHITE MURDERED TUESDAY NIGHT

On Main Street While en Route Home at an Early Hour--Assassin Was Hidden in the Lot of Collector Wheeler Martin--Night Policeman not Far Off Heard Report of the Gun and Rushed to the Wounded Who Named Brad Bagley as the Murderer--Was Conscious and Talked Freely

BLACKEST CRIME EVER COMMITTED IN HISTORY OF THE COUNTY

Brad Bagley, Who was Arrested by White and Placed Under Bond For Selling Whiskey. Identified as the Assassin--Ran Across Street in the Glare of Electric Light and was seen by Messrs. C. B. and Chas. Hassell--Found at His Home and Quietly Carried to Jail, Which is Guarded Day and Night--Coroner Held Inquest Wednesday Morning and Jury Rendered Verdict--Funeral Largest in Years--All Business Suspended During Funeral Services

The most horrible tragedy in the annals of Williamston occurred Tuesday night at 8:55 o'clock, when William R. White, Chief of Police, was waylaid and shot with a gun loaded with buckshot, the shot entering the body just above the left kidney, passing through the body and coming out at the upper and middle part of the bowels, death occurring at 10:30. The assassin had secreted himself behind some bushes inside the lot of Collector Wheeler Martin, opening on Main Street and situated in front of the Court House. The muzzle of the gun was not over ten feet away from the victim when the deed was done.

Chief White had just left the business part of the town and was enroute home when the tragedy occurred. H. Weatherington, night policeman, was standing on Watts Street and saw Mr. White pass the home of Mrs. Chloe Lanier, and in a few seconds heard the report of a gun. Running hurriedly to the street he found Chief White lying on the sidewalk wounded unto death.

Soon a crowd collected and physicians gave every assistance possible to the dying man. He was taken to his home on lower Main Street and made comfortable. He told his wife and friends about him that his death was certain, and that he saw the murderer run and that he recognized him; that he was at peace with God and man. And so he died in the midst of strong men, whose eyes were filled with tears and voices trembling with emotion.

Mr. White was only forty-two years old and was a native of Pitt County, being the son of the late Calvin White. He had been married three times, first to Miss Lucy Swanner, who died leaving one son, Arthur White, of Kenly. His second wife was Miss Jennie Taylor, of Gold Point. Three children were born to them--Leroy, Mary Carrie Dell--who survive him, together with his last wife, who was Miss Mollie Ray, of Williamston.

For the past two years he had been chief of police of Williamston, the duties of which office he had faithfully discharged. And it was in the discharge of his duty that he was marked as the victim of a brute, and died a martyr to the cause of civic righteousness in the community. He had engaged in farming all the years previous to

his duties as an officer and was one of the most successful bee keepers in the State, having won distinction as the raiser of the best honey at several of the world's greatest expositions.

Among the declarations of the dying policeman was that Brad Bagley had shot him and that statement brought Sheriff Crawford and Deputy Page, with a posse of citizens, to the scene and the race for the murderer began. Going immediately to the home of Bagley, they found him undressed, presumably preparing to retire. The clothes he had pulled off were wet (a slight rain had been falling) and other clothes were near as if he intended to don them and coolly walk out. As the officers entered the house Bagley's wife said: "Don't kill my husband!" Bagley submitted without a word of protest on his part. He was taken to jail and securely lodged there. Then a search commenced for the weapon which was used. This was finally located in the vacant lot between the homes of Mrs. Chloe Lanier and Wheeler Martin. It was single barrel and afterwards identified as belonging to Bagley, which had been pawned to him for whiskey and had not been redeemed.

Dr. J. H. Saunders, Coroner, held an inquest Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock with the following jurors: A. Anderson G. W. Blount, F. F. Fagan, J. P. Simpson, Eli Gurganus and J. Herbert Ward, who heard the testimony as follows:

H. Weatherington testified that he saw White walking down Main Street crossing Watts. Soon he heard a gun fire and someone calling for help, ran down and found White who said Brad Bagley shot him. Did not see any one himself.

Charlie Hassell stated that he was in the home of C. B. Hassell, heard the shot and both ran out on the porch, saw a man run across Main Street, in a crouching position; that it was Brad Bagley, that he was not mistaken.

C. B. Hassell said that he ran out of his house with Charlie Hassell, stopped on porch and saw man run down Watts Street, across Main and that he was dressed in light pants with dark shirt or coat, that it was Brad Bagley, that he saw him by electric lights; that clothes shown him by Sheriff Crawford were same as worn by man who ran across street.

J. E. Singleton said that:

was with Sheriff Crawford when he fitted shoes to tracks, that they fitted; that they were peculiar in that they were torn up at side and would show in track, also that they had no heels."

Sheriff J. C. Crawford testified that he found Brad Bagley at his home stripped and that his old wet clothes and shoes were lying by and that shoes measured to tracks were shoes Bagley said he had just pulled off, also clothes shown were ones found at Bagley's and that tracks fitted shoes. That Bagley never asked a question about any charge against him nor did he express any surprise.

Alfred Sherrod said: "I was working at power house, saw some one run between same and pile of shingles, paid little attention to it. This was about twenty minutes before the night watchman came out."

Luke Slade testified that Brad Bagley said to John Faulk and himself that he had forgotten to shut up cows and said: "Let's take a walk." They went down to Mr. Roberson's, shut up cows, took a drink and started up town. Brad said I have forgotten something, and have to go back. He (Slade) and Faulk went up town, he saw nothing more of Brad. This was about time lights were turned on.

John Faulk testified that he, Luke Slade and Brad Bagley walked down to Mr. Roberson's, took a drink, started up town. Brad told him and Luke to cross street and go up on other side as he was already suspected of selling whiskey, and he did not want to go with them. Said that they went on up and that he talked to Brad at post-office, but did not see him. This was just as the lights went on.

J. H. Page said that he saw John Faulk and Luke Slade in front of Ellington's stores, they did not talk to Bagley across street.

W. C. Manning said: "I was at telephone office at 8:55, heard commotion on street, ran down to front of Wheeler Martin's, saw crowd around some one, found that they were taking up the body of Policeman White, took hold of one side and helped carry him to his home; asked him on the street who shot him and he said Brad. His wife leaned over and asked him how he felt and he told her he was going to die. When she went out I asked him if he thought he was going to die and he said that he was. Asked again who shot him. Said: "I think Brad, saw him plainly run up street to Mrs. Chloe Lanier's corner, cross street over to Dr. Knight's corner and go down Watts street."

The verdict of the jury was: "That W. R. White came to his death by a gunshot wound at and in the hands of Brad Bagley."

The excitement in town was intense and fears of violence made the officers very cautious but cooler

heads prevailed and men determined to wait and see the law executed in an orderly manner. Sympathy for the dead chief and his family filled every heart and the punishment of the murderer is awaited with impatience for the stain must be removed from the town at any cost. The negro Bagley had been caught retailing several weeks ago, and Chief White had him placed under bond to await court. It is thought that he planned to kill the officer then and took the darkness and rain of Tuesday night to accomplish his purpose.

Thursday morning at 10 o'clock every business house in the town closed and almost the entire town attended the funeral of Chief White. The services were conducted by Rev. G. J. Dowell, of the Baptist Church, of which the deceased was a consistent member. There were numerous floral offerings and the procession was over a quarter of a mile long, while crowds of people went on foot to the cemetery near town. It was the largest number of people that had attended a funeral here in over a score of years, and evidenced the spirit which dwells in the hearts in the community.

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Death of a Young Woman

(Reported)

Mable Powell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellie Powell, was born in Pitt County, May 25th, 1890, and died August 10th, 1911, after a short illness of typhoid fever, at the home of her brother, Edward T. Powell.

Miss Powell was just budding into womanhood and possessed all those sweet traits of character which tend to make one's life noble and useful. She could have numbered her friends by the score for to know her was to love her. Sweet, gentle and patient, she was every ready to lend a helping hand to a friend in need. Although within the last year God called home both her parents, she bore this loss without a murmur for she was willing to put her trust in Him who doeth all things well.

Two years ago she professed her faith in God and united with the Christian Church at Oak Grove. Whenever an opportunity afforded she attended its services with great pleasure always taking an active part.

Miss Powell leaves a heart-broken brother, E. T. Powell, and two sisters, Mrs. W. G. Gurganus and Miss Crissy Powell, and a host of friends and relatives to mourn their loss.

The body was interred in the family cemetery at the old homestead near Stokes.

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ROBERSONVILLE NEWS ITEMS

Local Happenings and People who are Coming and Going, Here, There and Yonder as Gathered by our Regular Correspondent.

H. D. Roberson spent Sunday at Hassell.

J. L. Robertson spent Sunday near Bethel.

Mrs. A. S. Everett is on the sick list this week.

J. B. Edmondson, of Palmyra, was here Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. W. L. James spent Sunday in the country.

Miss Belle Boyd, of Washington, is visiting Mrs. J. T. Ross.

Roy Whickard, of Whichards spent Monday afternoon here.

Miss Louise Fleming, of House, is visiting Miss Maree Robertson.

Mrs. W. B. Ross and daughter, of Tarboro, are visiting her son here.

Miss Sallie Hadley, of Williamston, is visiting Miss Naomi Everett.

Misses Emma, Nolie and Josephine Robertson are visiting their aunt near Grindool.

Rev. Mr. T. L. Stevens, of Stauntonburg, preached at the Baptist Church Sunday.

Elder M. P. Smith filled Elder M. T. Lawrence's appointment at Briar Swamp Sunday.

Prof. Mizell, of Jamesville, has arrived to take charge of the Robersonville High School.

Miss Pattie Dowell, of Williamston, spent Monday with Misses Pearl and Maree Robertson.

Mrs. W. Z. Morton and daughter, who have been visiting relatives in several states, returned Monday.

R. E. Grimes and little Miss Callie May Robertson went to Norfolk Friday and returned Monday.

Misses Johnnie Everett and Lillian Stokes, of Stokes, are visiting Misses Pearl and Maree Robertson.

Quite a number of farmers from this community attended the Farmers' Institute at Williamston Saturday.

Misses Katie Gold Warren and Bessie Godwin, of Wilson, are visiting Misses Pearl and Maree Robertson.

Mrs. H. C. Norman and children returned home from South Boston, Va., Monday, where they have been visiting relatives.

The local ball team wins a double header: First game with Edgecombe called at 2:30, 13 to 1, home boys being the winners. Second game called at 4:30, with Everetts, 9 to 6 at the visitors loss.

The little infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parker, of Williamston, was brought here for burial Wednesday, and taken to the home of J. W. Hight. The funeral services were conducted at 3:30 p. m. by Rev. Rufus Bradley, of Williamston.

On Friday evening last, Miss Rosa Baker, of Palmyra, celebrated her eighteenth birthday at the home of Miss Bettie Roberson at 10:30 with a host of friends. Cake and wine was enjoyed, while the Robersonville band played a sweet melody, which filled each heart with a love for music.

Mrs. Mary Everett, wife of the late W. H. Everett, died near Gold Point, Saturday August 12th, 1911. She had been a sufferer for a long time and passed away peacefully and entered into rest. She had never connected herself with any church, but was a noble, industrious woman—a friend to the poor and needy, a good neighbor, a devoted mother and possessed a large number of friends. Four daughters and three sons are left to mourn their loss. The interment was in the old home cemetery. Elder M. T. Lawrence conducted the services.