

COMMISSIONERS SET THIS YEAR'S COUNTY TAX RATE AT \$1.38

ELDER SYLVESTER HASSELL, NOTED EDUCATOR AND CHURCHMAN, DIES AT HIS HOME HERE LAST SATURDAY

LARGE CROWD AT FUNERAL HELD SUNDAY

Nationally Known As Leader in Primitive Baptist Church

RENOWNED WRITER

Many Prominent North Carolinians Here To Attend Funeral of Man Universally Loved

Sylvester Hassell, devoted and beloved throughout the State as an elder in the Primitive Baptist Church, died at his home here last Saturday afternoon at the age of 86 years. For weeks and even months Elder Hassell had been in declining health, but the love for his work added to his strength, and it was hardly a week ago that he became inactive and turned to his bed to spend his last few days on earth. Losing consciousness early Saturday morning, he slept peacefully, the end coming at 1:30 o'clock.

With hundreds of friends and relatives from the county, State, and other sections coming to pay their last respects to the beloved minister, the funeral was held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Interment was made in the Skewarkey cemetery beside many of his people buried there.

The funeral service was conducted by Elder J. C. Moore, of Whitakers. Speaking touchingly of the love and admiration he had for the deceased, Mr. Moore recounted the friendship of his father, the late Andrew Moore, for Elder Hassell. He used the one hundred and third Psalm in the service.

Elder Newsome H. Harrison, an associate of Elder Hassell for more than 60 years in the Primitive Baptist faith, fittingly paid his tribute of love and friendship multiplied many fold during their years of service together. Elder Harrison's words were truly touching, showing the esteem and love held by him for Dr. Hassell and his works. Elders S. B. Denny and A. B. Denson made short talks, expressing their appreciation of the useful life of Elder Hassell.

At the grave Elders B. S. Cowan and J. H. Rogerson spoke a few words, commending the life as led and preached by their leader. Several hymns, all favorite ones of Elder Hassell, were sung. The large floral offering, covering the grave many times, expressed the esteem in which the churchman was held by numbers of friends.

R. J. Peel, John D. Biggs, Grover W. Hardison, C. D. Carstarphen, Clayton Moore, and W. C. Manning served as active pall bearers.

Sylvester Hassell was born in Williamston July 28, 1842, the son of Cushing B. and Mary Davis Hassell. When he was only 4 years old his mother died, leaving him for three years without the care and attention of a mother. When the boy was 7 years old, his father married Mrs. Martha M. Jewett, of New Hampshire, who proved a real mother to the then 7-year-old lad. Not only did she show him every kindness and attention, but she also served as a spiritual teacher and helper. Elder Hassell said of her in later years that she was the most spiritual-minded person he ever knew.

Early in his youth he became a faithful student and attended the Williamston Academy. After completing the courses offered there, he entered the University of North Carolina at 16 years of age, where he remained until the fall of Fort Hatteras in August, 1861.

He was the leader of his classes at that institution and was said to have been one of the best scholars the University ever graduated. In later years one of his teachers was asked in what special branch he was best, and he replied in all branches.

After he had completed the college course the University conferred the degree of Master of Arts on him, in 1867. Dr. Kemp P. Battle sought his services as teacher of moral philosophy, but Dr. Hassell learned that Dr. Mangum, an older man, desired the position, and he wrote Dr. Battle and asked that his name be withdrawn.

In 1880 he returned to the University, where he gave illustrated lectures on astronomy during the summer normal school.

Several years ago the University conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Elder Hassell.



Dr. Hassell, who was a noted linguist, educator, and teacher, and who was recognized as the greatest leader in the United States of the Primitive Baptist Church, died at his home here Saturday in his eighty-sixth year.

RIVER IS STILL RISING HERE

Crest of Flood Not Expected To Be Reached Until Tomorrow

Additional rains in the Roanoke watershed has sent the stream out of its banks here, and a gradual rise is expected until about Wednesday. According to those best acquainted with flood waters here, the river will go about 8 or 10 inches higher than it is today before it will start falling. The water is in the warehouses, but there was no damage, as the freight had been removed. The effects of the last rains expected to cause a second rise here the latter part of the week, but it is thought that the second rise will not be as high as the present one.

While the damage along the banks in this section has been noticeable, it is not expected to be of a serious nature.

ton, D. C.; survive. Mary, who married John L. Hassell, died several years ago. His wife died in 1889.

In 1880 his father, Elder C. B. Hassell died, after four years of labor in writing a history of the Kehukee Primitive Baptist Association. After his death the task of completing the church history fell upon his son, Sylvester, who worked for six years in gathering material for the book. He used many of the leading historical authorities of the world, both ancient and modern, to find and prove facts for his works. Many historians of the State place it among the finest works ever written by a North Carolinian.

In 1886 he gave up the school work in Wilson and returned to the home of his birth, where he again took charge of the Williamston Academy. He taught for several years, serving several churches in the community at the same time. On account of failing health he stopped teaching in 1890.

Elder Hassell joined the Primitive Baptist Church at Skewarkey January 7, 1864. He began preaching December 10, 1871. After retiring from the teaching profession, he traveled extensively, covering the territory from Canada to Mexico and preaching in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New York, and Canada.

At the death of his father, C. B. Hassell, in 1881, he became pastor of the church at Skewarkey, which service he continued until his death 48 years later. The father and son served the same church continuously for 86 years. He also was pastor of number of other churches, among them Spring Green, Jamesville, Conetoe, and Great Swamp. He also preached at the various associations.

He was Moderator of the Kehukee Association, the oldest Primitive Baptist Association in the United States, it having been formed in Halifax County in 1765. He held the position for 48 years, succeeding his father, who had been Moderator for 17 years.

In 1896 Elder Hassell purchased

IS FIVE CENTS HIGHER THAN IT WAS LAST YEAR

Increased Rate Is Lower Than Was Generally Expected

ONE SALARY RAISED

No Changes Made As Result of Recommendations by Special Committee

Martin county's general tax rate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1929, was fixed at \$1.38 by the board of commissioners in continued session here yesterday afternoon. The new rate is only five cents higher than the one of the past fiscal year, the increase coming from school operation. While there is an increase in the rate, it is very much smaller than was generally expected, for an increase of six cents on the \$100 valuation for the bond and interest fund was predicted. If that had matured, it would have, with the school increase sent the rate to \$1.44.

The rate calls for the following levy:

General county tax	\$.15
Roads and bridges	\$.05
Bond int. and sinking fund	\$.28
General school	\$.90
Total	\$1.38

General poll tax, \$2.00.

In holding the levy down for bond interest and sinking fund, the board offered the following resolution:

"Resolved, that in view of the fact that the budget requirements for bond redemption, interest and sinking fund for the fiscal year, closing June 30, 1929, is \$55,290.72, which would require a tax levy of 34 cents on the \$100 valuation,

"Be it further resolved, that a levy of 28 cents, same as last year, be made and that a sufficient sum to balance the budget be taken from unexpended road and bridge bond funds and credited to said interest and sinking fund."

Upon the motion of L. P. Holliday, seconded by J. E. Pope, a levy of 90 cents on the \$100 valuation to meet the budget requirements for constitutional six months school terms was ordered made in view of the expected increase of revenues to balance the budget, totaling \$151,458.14. The motion was carried unanimously.

While there were no changes made as a result of the investigations of a special tax committee, the members of the board reviewed the suggestions, and will probably make a few changes in the future. However, according to the passage of the following motion, the county authorities do not intend to change the order of the recorder's court:

"In view of the fact that the recorder's court has proven very successful and brought into the county a net income already paid into the treasury of \$3,400 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928 and due to the efficient manner in which the court is being managed, motion by H. S. Everett, seconded by L. P. Holliday that the recorder's salary be increased from \$75 to \$100 per month beginning December 1, 1928. The motion was carried unanimously."

Fire Destroys Pack House Near Here

Mr. Bill Keel, who leaves just to the west of here on the Everetts highway, suffered a loss estimated at \$3,000, early Sunday morning when his packhouse and all its contents were destroyed by fire. About 1:30, the car of Bob Taylor, local resident, ran out of gas near the home of Mr. Keel. Mr. Taylor went to the Keel home and was drawing gas from one of the Keel cars when the fire started from a lantern, a few feet away.

Mr. Taylor suffered severe burns on the hand attempting to check the flames. Help was summoned, but nothing could be done to save the packhouse and its contents. Mr. Keel lost a Ford truck, a new Pontiac car and practically all his tobacco crop. The loss was partly covered by insurance.

Two-Year-Old Girl Dies in Poplar Point

Rachel Mae, the two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Nicholson, of Poplar Point, died at the home of her parents Sunday after an illness of only a few days. Interment was made in the Nicholson burying ground, near the Sitterson farm yesterday afternoon with Rev. C. H. Dickey conducting the last rites.

"The Gospel Messenger," a religious journal then published in Butler, Ga., after having been associate editor of the paper for four years. After pur-

(Continued on page two)

Tobacco Market Opening Is Postponed to September 4th

School Budget for County Is Approved by Commissioners

Total Amount of Budget As Approved by County Board Is \$320,068.43; \$122,248.21 of Sum Is For Permanent Improvements, Such As New Buildings, Etc.

The tentative budget for the running of Martin County schools for the 1928-29 term, amounting to \$320,068.43, was approved by the county board of commissioners in special session here yesterday afternoon. The budget was prepared by the educational board and carried before the commissioners by members of that body.

The budget is less by \$16,203.07 than the original one prepared, the board of education and the special tax committee joint taking that amount from the currently expense and capital outlay funds. The debt service fund, \$43,153.04, could not be changed. The greatest cut was made in the capital

MILLIONS WILL HEAR AL SMITH

Acceptance Speech of Democratic Nominee Set for Tomorrow, 7:30

Albany is making a figurative cake, wiping the dust from the parlor furniture, and generally getting ready for the guests who will go there to hear what Pete Fowden predicts will be a masterpiece, in Al Smith's acceptance of the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. The New York governor will accept the nomination tomorrow evening.

In the New York capital more than 500 rooms, besides those in the hotels, have been rented by people from all over the country who will be there tomorrow when Governor Smith makes his acceptance speech. Huge amplifiers have been placed on posts, trees, and wires over the capitol lawn to carry the governor's voice to the thousands who are expected to take places in front of the steps and in Capitol Park.

As the governor starts his address at 7:30, daylight saving time, local radio owners will have to tune in at 6:30 to hear the first of the speech.

Boat Line Freight Is Routed by Washington

Due to the high water in the Roanoke, freight shipments over the Norfolk, Baltimore & Carolina Boat Line will be handled via Washington, the company maintaining its regular schedule. Boat line trucks will bring the freight from that town tomorrow morning, arriving here in time for delivery at an early hour.

Bear Grass Parents-Teachers Meet Thursday

A regular meeting of the Bear Grass Parents-Teachers association will be held Thursday evening, August 23, it was announced today by the association's president. The parents of the community are urged to attend the meeting.

Expect to Complete Work on Highway 90 This Week

According to unofficial reports, the Brown Paving Company will complete the concrete work on Route No. 90 between here and the Washington County line this week, provided the weather continues favorable.

Only a short detour is necessary between Jamesville and Plymouth and it is thought the road will be open all the way within a week or ten days after construction work is completed.

Mr. Hooks, who contracted to build the road's shoulders, is rushing that work, and he expects to complete the task within a comparatively short time.

Mrs. H. R. Roberson and children, of Suffolk, are visiting Mrs. Roberson's mother, Mrs. J. R. Peel, near here.

Messrs. Bob Grimes and Mayo Little, of Robersonville, were business visitors here yesterday.

BIG COMPANIES REFUSE TO SEND BUYERS ON 28TH

Claim It Is Not Possible To End Season in Georgia Before September 4

Change of Date Was Not Unexpected; Large Amount of Tobacco Will Be Ready for Opening

The opening of Eastern Carolina tobacco markets was last Saturday officially postponed one week when practically all the big tobacco companies wired that it would be impossible to complete the season in Georgia in time to transfer buyers to the markets in this section by next Tuesday. The markets will open Tuesday, September 4.

When the opening was scheduled for the 28th of this month, many people expressed their doubts as to whether it would stand or not, but after it had gone so long without being changed, it was believed that the date would hold Saturday when telegrams were received, the change in the date was ordered by officials.

The new date, besides adding to the expense of warehousemen, is subject to place the markets in an unstable condition, since farmers all through the section have been preparing their tobacco for the floors. At the same time, marketing conditions in Georgia have been greatly improved, several local people on the market there writing that looked to be impossible to close the season there by the 28th.

Farmers in this section will complete their curings this week, and with two weeks to work in their packhouses before the market opens, a large amount of tobacco will be ready by the 4th. In many cases, farmers completed their curings last week and the week before, giving many of them four weeks' time to grade their crop before they could sell a pound.

Dog Track Found In Brick 130 Years Old

A dog track known to be over 130 years old was found imprinted in a brick by Mr. Lon Lilley when he tore down a chimney on the Lanier land in Griffins township a few days ago.

The house was erected late in the seventeen hundreds and it is thought the dog stepped on the brick while it was in the making.

Addition to Hamilton School Is Refused

Messrs. P. L. Salisbury and Don Matthews, representing the Hamilton school, appeared before the board of education in session here yesterday, requesting that two additional rooms be built at their school. The board refused to comply with the request, stating that once the district is consolidated there or additional pupils were shown the rooms asked for would be provided. To grant the request, it was pointed out, a special election would be necessary effecting the consolidation of the schools there, or an increased enrollment within the present district would be necessary.

Request for Funds To Clear School Lot Denied

The \$75 asked for by the Cross Roads school for clearing its grounds were refused here yesterday by the board of education. The members of the board suggested to Messrs. Warren and Roebuck, who appeared in behalf of the school, that the fuel supply be gotten from trees on the grounds, thereby effecting a saving in fuel costs and at the same time providing a means to the end desired.

County Home Inmate Dies Sunday Morning

Slade Price, 60-year-old colored inmate died at the county home near here Sunday morning of a complication of diseases. For years, the colored man with a crippled arm and leg, had been a common figure on Williamston's streets. He had roughed the offerings of winter's cold winds, chopping a little wood in exchange for his meals for a number of years. Within the past few months however, old age forced him to spend all his time at the home, where his passing was of little notice.

The body was placed in paupers' field Sunday afternoon.

STRAND THEATRE

WEDNESDAY

TOM MIX

in

THE WESTERN STAR SUPREME

Also

2 - REEL COMEDY

And Serial

"The Jungle Goddess"

and

FREE TICKET FOR SHOW FRIDAY