

ELIZABETH CITY'S SEMI-WEEKLY PAPER

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HOPEWELL SWEEP BY RAGING FLAME

Boom City Of Virginia Crumbles Into Ashes But Powder Plants Unhurt

(Special To The Advance) Petersburg, Va., December 9—The new city of Hopewell was fire-swept this afternoon and the total losses are figured at \$2,000,000. The fire started in a Greek restaurant and lodging house on Appomattox street on the extreme northern edge of the business section of the city. The next building to catch was the Victoria Hotel, owned by Roanoke capitalists and occupied by a Greek rooming house where 500 people were lodged.

A brisk breeze was blowing from the north and it was evident from the very first that the town was doomed. The flames spread across the street and then reached the Cawsons and Broadway. At one time it looked as if it would be gotten under control, and the major part of the city saved, but the wind veered and swept the devouring elements into Poythress and Railroad Avenues. New brick buildings which were under construction and many that were completed crumbled under the great heat and practically every building of importance in the entire city of Hopewell proper has been destroyed. It was one of the most spectacular fires ever witnessed by the thousands of workmen who rushed from the DuPont plant, and the business element of the town. Men stood by and with tears streaming down their cheeks, saw the efforts of months and all their savings devoured by flames. There is a strong impression that the fire was of incendiary origin, and it is believed that German agents may have had a hand in it. The flames were started at a logical point to cause a conflagration and destroy the entire city.

As a result of the fire looting started in short order, and citizens forming themselves into voluntary guards did not hesitate to use their weapons for protection of property. A number of shots were fired at looters a negro was strung up to a telephone pole by a crowd of about sixty people as an example. Governor Stuart was notified of conditions, and he rushed four companies of State Militia to Hopewell and martial law was declared by 8 o'clock. At that hour the fire was practically under control. The Petersburg fire department responded to the call for help and sent an engine and hose wagon on a flat car drawn by a special engine. The churches of Petersburg threw open their doors to care for the thousands of people rendered homeless and every effort is being made to care for the unfortunates who have lost all in the flames. One man was killed by falling walls. He was a Greek and was warned by officers to get back from the burning building but he would not heed. He was rescued from the debris, but died on his way to the hospital. Later the hospital was destroyed, but all the patients were removed to places of safety.

The midnight scent at Hopewell beggars description. Some eighteen or twenty blocks of solid houses were wiped out. The Norfolk and Western station, freight depot and Southern Express office all went up in flames.

FINED FOR SPEEDING

Eddie Cohoon and Keeney Crank were fined ten dollars and costs for speeding by Judge Sawyer in police court Wednesday.

Mrs. George Grandy of Shawboro was in the city Wednesday.

FIRES AT BELVIDERE

Belvidere, N. C., December 7—Last Monday, November 29, about three o'clock p. m., Mr. Edmond Riddick, a farmer near here, had the misfortune of getting his house, kitchen and smoke house destroyed by fire.

The house caught from a spark which came from the chimney, the alarm was given and the neighbors hurried as fast as they could. There not being much water in the well there was no chance to save the buildings so the people rushed into the house and saved all the furniture and most of the windows and doors. Mr. Riddick was cutting wood at the time and knew nothing of the fire until he stopped work to come home and reached there time enough to see it fall in. Mr. Riddick carried no insurance.

On Saturday night December 4, Matthew Curby, a colored man of this place, lost his home by fire. The fire broke out about nine o'clock. Curby and wife were in bed asleep and knew nothing of the fire until the neighbors were calling them. They escaped just as the house was falling in and didn't have time to save the clothes they wore that day.

It is thought that the fire caught from the flue. The place was owned by R. A. Baker of Edenton and carried no insurance.

On Friday afternoon, December 10 at two thirty o'clock, Mr. C. R. Hudson of the State Department of Agriculture, will be at Belvidere Academy for the purpose of organizing a local Betterment Association. The public is invited.

A public missionary meeting will be held at Pine Woods Church the second Sunday in December. A special program is being arranged and Rev. Wood will deliver an address on Missions.

Miss Lucy Perry and Mr. Earnest Lamb were quietly married last Sunday by Justice of the Peace John Hendrix at his home.

Misses Lillie Mae Ralford and Eunice Parker and Fred Smith made a business trip to Elizabeth City last Saturday.

Mrs. C. S. Parker of Elizabeth City who has been spending several days with her father, Mr. Q. R. Hurdle returned to her home Friday.

The school here is progressing fine, with eighty five students at present. The number is expected to increase to nearly one hundred when all the children get in.

A Christmas tree and entertainment will be held at Belvidere Academy sometime near the 20th. Watch the paper for the exact date.

Rev. A. A. Butler filled his regular appointment at Whiteville Grove Sunday and took dinner with Mr. Bragg Perry.

Mr. W. P. Hudgins spent Saturday and Sunday with relatives and friends near Gateville.

On Thursday evening, December 2, Miss Lillie Mae Evans gave a social at the home of Mr. Jay Winslow. After several games of interest delicious refreshments were served consisting of Ambrosia and cake, and home made candies.

A. A. PERRY DEAD

News has been received here of the death in New Hope section of Perquimans County of Mr. A. A. Perry, a prominent and well to do farmer of that county. Mr Perry was about fifty years old and is survived by a wife and several children.

Mr. Perry was stricken with paralysis some time last week and succumbed to the stroke on Tuesday of this week. He is well known here.

BOX SUPPER AT WOODVILLE

A box supper will be given at Woodville schoolhouse on Friday night, December 17th, the proceeds of which will be used to extend the school term. The public is cordially invited to attend and support this very important cause.

EXPECT EXPERTS TO VISIT MILL

Both State and Federal Departments Interested in Soy Bean Possibilities

J. M. Morse of the United States Department of Agriculture and C. B. Williams of the Experiment Station at Raleigh will be in the city on next Thursday, December 16th as the guests of the Elizabeth City Oil and Fertilizer Company.

Mr. Williams is known here as a native of Camden County, the son of R. J. Williams of this city, and also in his official capacity as chief of the division of agronomy of the State Department of Agriculture. His friends in this section have observed with interest his recent efforts to get manufacturers, especially the cotton mill men, interested in the possibilities of extracting the oil from the soy bean on a commercial scale, and of marketing both the oil and the by-products.

The Elizabeth City Oil and Fertilizer Company had already conducted some experiments in the matter of extracting the oil; but they were not sure that at the prices which the beans command they would be able to extract the oil and market it at a profit. On recent visits to this city Mr. Williams has conferred with their representatives and has now induced the company to undertake the manufacture of soy bean oil and by-products on an extended scale.

By next Thursday, December 16th the new work will be well underway and Mr. Williams and Mr. Morse will both be on hand to observe the results. The Oil and Fertilizer Company also invite the farmers of the section to visit their plant on this day and see for themselves a process which in time may become as familiar as ginning cotton.

COLUMBIA COURT NEWS

Columbia, N. C., December 8—The following cases were disposed of at the fall term of Superior Court in Columbia last week.

Demos Jones found guilty of retailing was fined \$25 and costs.

Nathias Cohoon and Lloyd Gibbs were fined five dollars each for participating in an affray.

The case of Stanley Woodard for seduction was continued on account of wife's illness. Judgement was suspended in the case of D. L. Finch for obstructing the highway.

A verdict of not guilty was rendered in the case of Lemuel B. Hopkins on trial for cruelty to animals and for assault with deadly weapon.

Andy Hill was given three years for larceny and housebreaking, while his accomplice, Dave Gibbs was given eighteen months.

Lee Parishers was found not guilty of exceeding the automobile speed limit.

On the civil docket W. K. Nobles was given judgement for \$283.77 against W. C. Hassell.

In the case of C. Litchfield and wife against John Muse in regard to the disputed ownership of a cow, judgement was awarded the plaintiffs.

A mistrial was ordered in the dispute of C. E. Spruill against W. T. Norman and J. T. Alexander about a horse-trade, and in the case of Jesse Nooney against the Branning Manufacturing Company for injuries sustained in the service of the company.

A divorce was granted D. E. Dunbar and Mary Dunbar.

There were also twenty six cases against the Norfolk Southern Railway, all of which were compromised.

Miss Myrtle Burgess of Shawboro was in the city Thursday.

MANY EXPECTED AT ALKRAMA

With Fair Weather Community Service Day will Attract Crowds

Preparations are now complete for the observance of Community Service Day are now complete, and the indications are that half past ten o'clock to-morrow morning, if the weather holds fair, will see a big crowd of country and town people gathered at the Alkrama Theatre to take part in the exercises.

A special feature of the day's program will be the free lunch to visitors in the city which will be served on the third floor of the Kramer building at the noon recess by W. T. Deans and Company. The business men of the city have been most liberal in their contributions toward this object and preparations will be made to serve five hundred people at this time. The number last year from outside the city was much smaller than this, but bad weather prevented attendance on that occasion.

The program follows:— Song, 'America'. Prayer, B. C. Henning D. D. Foreword, J. Kenyon Wilson. [The Church in Community Service Rev. C. A. Ashby. Governor's Proclamation, Mrs. J. G. Fearing. Song. State Superintendents Letter, Mrs. C. W. Melick. Where Our County Stands in the Adult Illiteracy Column, W. M. Hinshaw. Why We Should Observe Moonlight School Month, S. H. Spragins. Song.

The Relation of Town and Country, Prof. E. C. Branon, University, N. C.

Health and Sanitation, Dr. R. L. Kendrick.

Roll Call of Districts to Find Volunteer Helpers, W. A. Foster. Announcements. Song, 'Carolina'.

SAUNDERS-CARTER

Richard C. Saunders and Miss Effie Carter, both of Forks section of Providence township were married Wednesday evening at 7:30 at the home of the brides parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Carter. The attendants were: Joseph Saunders, brother of the groom, Miss Mary White, Claude Whitehurst, Miss Beasie Carter, sister of the bride. The wedding music was rendered by Miss Linda Thornton, and little Miss Margaret Harrell sang "Sing Me The Rosary". The ceremony was performed by Justice of the Peace J. W. Munden in his usual impressive manner.

CHRIST CHURCH

The Mission conducted by Rev. B. F. Huske of Newbern is being well attended. Mr. Huske has made a most favorable impression as a preacher and the music adds to the appeal of the services. Today at four o'clock there will be a special service for children with the regular Mission service to-night at seven thirty.

Mr. Huske will conduct the services at Christ Church Sunday, Mr. Ashby leaving here in time to be in New Bern on that day. He will conduct a mission there next week.

LESEUER-SMITH

L. B. Lesuer and Miss Annie Virginia Smith, both of Norfolk were married here Wednesday by Justice of the Peace, J. W. Munden. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank T. Smith of Norfolk.

THROWN FROM BUGGY AND ARM BROKEN

Mr. George T. Winslow of Belvidere had his arm broken as a result of an accident while he was on his way to Elizabeth City yesterday.

Mr. Winslow was driving toward down along the 'desert' road when his horse became frightened at a passing automobile and jumped into a ditch alongside the highway, throwing Mr. Winslow from his seat.

Mr. Winslow was brought to the city and taken to Bagley's stables, where his arm was set by Dr. Claude B. Williams.

FULL LIST OF APPOINTMENTS

An incomplete list of appointments for this district Methodist ministers by the Conference in Wilmington last week was given in Tuesday's issue of this newspaper, not all of the circuits having been heard from.

The following is the complete list of appointments.

Rev. G. T. Adams, presiding elder.

Camden circuit, Rev. E. L. Stack.

Chowan circuit, Rev. J. A. Rousseau.

Columbia circuit, Rev. M. T. Hodges.

Currituck circuit, Rev. C. P. Jerome.

Dare circuit, Rev. M. B. Cox.

East Lake, Rev. R. W. Hardesty, supply.

Edenton, Rev. P. D. Woodall.

Elizabeth City, City Road, Rev. C. B. Culbreth; First Church, Rev. J. L. Cunningham.

Gates circuit, Rev. G. W. Fisher.

Hatteras circuit, Rev. E. L. Hill.

Hertford, Rev. J. M. Ormond.

Kennebec circuit, Rev. A. W. Price.

Kitty Hawk circuit, Rev. J. F. Usry.

Moynock circuit, Rev. M. W. Hester.

North Gates, Rev. V. A. Royall.

Naquotank circuit, Rev. Rufus Bradley.

Pantego and Belhaven, Rev. L. B. Jones.

Perquimans circuit, Rev. J. Y. Old.

Plymouth, Rev. B. Hurley.

Roanoke Island, Rev. J. C. Humble.

Roper circuit, Rev. F. F. Eure, supply.

BASKET BALL TO-NIGHT

The Elizabeth City Reds and the Elizabeth City Blues will play a game of basket ball on the Y. M. C. A. floor here tonight. These teams have been practicing regularly for several weeks and the best exhibition of basket ball seen here this season is expected. The line up follows:

Blues Position Reds
Crosby Forward Jackson
Evans Forward Griffin
Weatherly Center Williams
Bundy Guard Winslow
Reid Guard Brothers
The game will be called at seven thirty.

W. C. T. U. APPROVES SUNDAY LAW.

With their president, Mrs. Clay Foreman as spokesman, representatives of the Elizabeth City Woman's Christian Association appeared before the Board of Aldermen Monday afternoon to express their approval of the present Sunday laws of the city and to urge that no action be taken to repeal these laws.

The organization has a large membership here and this expression, therefore, practically gives the woman's vote on the Sunday question in this city.

PARSONAGE SOCIETY MEETS

The Parsonage Society of City Road Methodist Church will meet Monday night with Mrs. Wilson Walker on Main Street. The meeting will be called to order at three o'clock, and a full attendance is urged.

BESS CITY GETS NEXT CONVENTION

Baptist Hosts in December 1916 Will Meet at Blackwell Memorial Church

The Baptist State Convention will meet in Elizabeth City next year.

A telegram from Rev. I. N. Loftin to P. G. Sawyer yesterday afternoon brought the news that the Baptists of the State had accepted the invitation of Blackwell Memorial church, seconded by the city's Mayor and Board of Aldermen, and would hold their next annual convention with that church.

One of the strongest Baptist centers in the state, and often a rallying place for Baptist meetings, Elizabeth City will next December have, gathered in its bounds, the greatest Baptist host in its history.

The news will be received here with much gratification, both by Baptists and by members of the other christian congregations in the city. To the members of Blackwell Memorial church the news comes as a fitting climax to the season of revival which the church has just experienced.

Rev. I. N. Loftin will return today from Charlotte, where he attended the Baptist State Convention and will fill his regular appointments Sunday morning and evening. A cordial invitation is extended the public to attend these services.

W. T. C. U. MEETING

The W. T. C. U. of this city will hold a public meeting at the First Methodist Church Monday afternoon at three o'clock. An unusually interesting program is being arranged, the musical feature of which, it is promised, will alone make attendance worth while.

Addresses will be made by Dr. B. Church Eason, C. Henning of the First Baptist church and by Rev. J. H. Hill, who was at one time presiding elder of this district and whom his friends will welcome another opportunity to hear.

SHAWBORO BRIEFS

Shawboro, December 7—Misses Annie and Mary Smith returned home Saturday after a very pleasant visit to their sister Mrs. Laurence Reindell of Portsmouth Va.

Misses Martha Burgess, Bertha Bright, and Emma Sherlock of Elizabeth City were the guests of Misses Annie and Mae Smith Sunday.

Mr. Wilton Walker and Lawrence Doxey of Tullis were here Saturday on their way to Elizabeth City.

Mrs. John Duncan spent Saturday and Sunday in Elizabeth City, the guest of her sister Mrs. Clifton.

Miss Carrie Pappendick returned to her home Sunday after a visit to friends and relatives here.

Miss Jennie Ferebee returned to Camden Sunday where she is engaged in teaching school.

Mr. Caleb Bell Sr., left Sunday night for his home in Washington, N. C. after a few days visit to relatives and friends here.

Rev. J. E. Blalock, of Moyock, N. C. left last week to attend the M. E. Conference at Wilmington.

Mr. Willie Flora left Sunday night for Elizabeth City where he has accepted a position.

Watches left with us for repairs which have been in our hands for four months will be sold for repairs January 1st. LOUIS SELIG

Dr. W. L. Cowell of Shawboro was in the city yesterday.