

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY THE RESULT OF KINDLING FIRE WITH KEROSENE

Young Mother Burned to Death and Six Months Old Infant Saved by Merest Accident.

Mrs. John Simons died yesterday afternoon at five o'clock from burns received earlier in the day in an explosion of kerosene in her kitchen.

Mrs. Simons was in the act of kindling a smoldering fire in the kitchen stove by pouring kerosene on it from a 5 gallon can yesterday morning at nine o'clock when the explosion occurred.

When the auto fire truck arrived on the scene it was found that little damage had been done to the house, the kitchen walls being hardly more than scorched.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT PLEASURES

Every seat in the annex was taken and quite a number of those in the main auditorium were occupied Wednesday night on the occasion of the annual Christmas entertainment at Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the pastor, Rev. I. N. Lofin, and this was followed by a chorus "Silent Night".

After the musical selections, Santa Claus was called to the platform and he, after appropriate remarks on the spirit of Christmas called for assistance in distributing the Christmas candy.

Following the entertainment and distribution of the gifts a pleasant "get acquainted" hour was passed. Among the gifts distributed to the poor of the city by this church on Christmas Eve were: 150 pairs of stockings, 150 packages, 40 bags of flour, 100 cans canned goods, 1 doz jars preserves, 65 pounds candy, \$23 in cash, 60 packages dried fruit, a large number of cans of lard, besides shoes, hats, suits, dresses and coats.

The Savings Bank and Trust Company will be open Saturday, New Year's-a'so Saturday night as usual.

First National Bank Starts Christmas Savings Club For 1916

VERY POPULAR FORM OF SAVINGS-OPERATED BY NEWLY PATENTED SYSTEM.

By its adoption of the Christmas Savings Club, the First National Bank of this city has proven its right to a place among the most progressive banks of the country.

Many men and women, whether their incomes are large or small, find it difficult to "get ahead" financially. They postpone the time when they will start saving to provide for the rainy day because they never seem to have enough spare money to start a bank account.

The Club opened this week and runs for fifty weeks so that each member receives check in time for Christmas shopping. When payments are made regularly the banks allow interest on the account which is always an encouragement to saving.

A number of plans are offered and members may select one or more of them. In the uniform classes one may pay 25c, 50c, \$1.00 or \$2.00 weekly, the totals amounting respectively to \$12.50, \$25.00, \$50.00 and \$100.00.

Regular bank books are not needed in carrying the Christmas Club accounts. The First National Bank is using a patented card system, in which the record of payment is made by punching cards. This not only gives the depositor a receipt, but also shows exactly how much has been paid in to date, and does away with any possibility of error.

This attractive method of saving has proven most popular.

SAVINGS BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Savings Bank and Trust Company Elizabeth City, N. C. will be held at its Banking House on Monday, January 10, 1916 between the hours of 3 and 4 p. m. for the purpose of electing directors and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before said meeting.

H. G. KRAMER, Cashier, dec 31 Jan 4

Are all the family home this Christmas. If so, why not be photographed in a group by Zoeller. You all may not be together again.

GIFTS PRESENTED PASTOR AND ORGANIST

Following the Christmas cantata, "A Home Made Santa", given by the pupils of the Sunday School in the First Baptist Church annex Wednesday evening, the church presented their organist, Mrs. I. M. Meekins with a gift of one hundred dollars in gold, in recognition and appreciation of her many years of loyal service without financial recompense.

The pastor, Dr. B. C. Henning, was at the same time presented with a handsome suit of clothes, the gift of the church.

At the close of the evening's exercises attractive boxes of holiday confections were distributed to all members of the Sunday school and visitors.

HAMILTON-DAVENPORT

Miss Jeannie Cohoon returned Wednesday afternoon from Columbia where she has been to attend the wedding of Miss Ada Davenport, to Mr. Joe Hamilton of Atlantic.

The wedding occurred Wednesday morning at the Christian Church at Columbia, the wedding music being rendered by Miss Cohoon. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Ambrose of Plymouth, the maid of honor was Miss Fannie Holloway and the bridesmaids were Misses Edith Snell and Mattie Davenport. John Hamilton, brother of the groom, acted as best man, and the other groomsmen were Julian Hamilton, Floyd Cohoon and Bruce Hassell. The bride is the popular daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Davenport of Columbia.

T. P. WILCOX DEAD

The funeral of T. P. Wilcox was conducted Thursday afternoon at his home with Masonic rites and the body was laid to rest in Holly Wood cemetery.

Mr. Wilcox suffered a stroke of paralysis Tuesday night and died at six o'clock Wednesday evening. Up to the time when he was stricken he was in his usual health and was seen on the street in the early part of the week.

In the passing of Mr. Wilcox another gap is made in the ranks of the old guard who ruled the county in the days of republican ascendancy in North Carolina. One was when T. P. Wilcox was one of the most prominent citizens of Elizabeth City and in local politics a power always to be reckoned with. For eight years he was Sheriff of the county and for half that period held the office of Register of Deeds. Since the trial of his son, James Wilcox, twelve years ago, for the murder of Nellie Cropsey, his health had broken down and the fatal stroke of paralysis was not the first attack.

Mr. Wilcox is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Samuel E. Williams and Mrs. Edwin Ferebee. He was living at the home of the former daughter at the time of his death.

WISH TO THANK CONTRIBUTORS

The churches which cooperated with the United Charities and Rescue Workers in giving Christmas dinners to the poor of the city wish to thank those contributing to this fund.

In addition to the Christmas stockings sent out by each church, and gifts of clothing, seventy five baskets were distributed on Christmas Eve by Adj. Gossett. These baskets were valued at \$1.35 each, and each basket was filled with provisions for a Christmas dinner for one family.

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Dr. B. C. Henning will preach on Sunday morning at eleven o'clock from the subject "What Can We Do With the Past?"

On Sunday evening at half past seven o'clock the First Baptist choir will give a Christmas cantata. The church going public is invited to attend these services.

PRETTY HOME WEDDING SOLEMNIZED

A pretty wedding was solemnized at noon Wednesday at the home of Mrs. W. W. Mann on Burgess street when her daughter, Miss Mary Ella Mann became the bride of John Coler Evans of Manteo. The bride was attired in a travelling suit of midnight blue with hat and gloves to match and carried a shower bouquet of Bride's roses and lilies of the valley.

Miss Mattie Daniels was maid of honor and was attired in pink chiffon and carried a bouquet of Killarney roses tied with pink tulle. The bridesmaid was Miss Laura Spivey and wore blue chiffon, carrying Killarney roses tied with pink tulle. The groomsmen were Dr. J. C. Bullock of New York, Henry Evans of Washington, D. C., brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man.

The bride entered the parlor with her brother, L. F. Mann as Lohengrin's Wedding March was played by Mrs. L. F. Mann, sister of the bride.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. G. T. Adams, presiding elder in the Methodist Church. The home was decorated in ivy, intermingled with holly, potted plants and shaded candles.

Among the out-of-town guests were Miss Bonnie Bell Evans, sister of the bridegroom, Miss Rennie Griffin, Charlie Evans, brother of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Creef and Captain M. L. Johnson, all of Manteo; Miss Mattie Daniels of Wanchese, Dr. J. H. Bullock of New York, Henry Evans of Washington, D. C.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Will Mann of this city. The groom is the son of A. V. Evans of Manteo, and one of that town's most promising young business men. The bride and groom left on the north bound train for New York, Philadelphia and Washington. Upon their return they will be at home in Manteo.

The pre-nuptial reception given Tuesday evening by Mrs. Mann at her home on Burgess street in honor of the marriage of her daughter, was one of the most elaborate social affairs of the present holiday season. In addition to the bridal party and the out of town guests for the wedding, a large number of town friends were present at this reception.

The guests were greeted by Misses Addie Etheridge and Miss Allie Williams and ushered into the hall, which was attractively decorated in Christmas greens, holly and ferns. Miss Flossie Mann led the way into the reception room in which the color scheme of pink and green was carried out most effectively with ivy, potted plants, festoons and shades of pink crepe paper. Those in the receiving line were: Mrs. W. W. Mann, Miss Mary Mann, Mr. J. C. Evans, Miss Mattie Daniels, Mr. Henry Evans, Miss Laura Spivey, Dr. J. H. Bullock and Miss Bonnie Belle Evans. Presiding at the punch bowl were Mrs. George Smith and Miss Mildred Fuller Music by Mann's orchestra, which was sheltered by a bower of long leaf pine added greatly to the enjoyment of the occasion.

Passing into the dining room, which was decorated in holly and pink shaded lamps, the guests were greeted and served a delicious salad course by Mrs. Wm. Boettcher, Mrs. Annie Barnard, Misses Bertha Martin, Edna Sanders, while the gift tables, loaded with a handsome array of expensive gifts, was presided over by Misses Rennie Griffin and Kate Sanders.

How about that family group you have been promising to have photographed. Why not have it now while all are home. Zoeller is prepared to do it at home or at the Studio.

PASSING OF OLD YEAR MARKS PROGRESSIVE TWELVEMONTH

And The Holiday Season Which Closed 1915 Undoubtedly The Best Ever Known Here.

The passing of 1915 marks the close of the most prosperous year of Elizabeth City's history. Never in the space of a twelve-month did the town make progress of such far-reaching nature along so many lines.

The outstanding event of the year is the erection of a new market house, now approaching completion. This structure is of brick and has been designed with especial care and attention to sanitation. It will afford facilities not only for the attractive exhibition of meats, poultry, game, fish, oysters, dairy and farm products but also for their preservation in the best condition. The cold storage plant of the building is a real feature, the refrigerating machinery installed being the very latest invention, economical in the space it will occupy and efficient in operation. Freezing temperature will be maintained in the cold storage rooms at all seasons and the cold storage compartments will be built of compressed cork, thus insuring a comparatively low cost of refrigeration. The exterior walls now stand complete and the building is of plain but imposing appearance, triangular in form with floors in each corner. When entirely completed, it will be one of the city's show places.

Elizabeth City's new hospital, one of the most handsomely designed and modernly equipped of its kind to be found anywhere, opened its doors for patients in January of 1915. This institution has had a most successful year and has already demonstrated the wisdom of those who had long urged the need of a hospital in the town.

Two new knitting mills began operation in August of 1914, and during the past year, in spite of difficulties due to the scarcity of dyestuffs in this country, have been operated for the greater part of the year on a full-time basis. One of these mills is the Avalon Hosiery Mill, erected by the Elizabeth City Hosiery Company, which has been operating one mill for a number of years; the other is the property of the Pasquotank Hosiery Company, a new corporation organized in 1914. The Pasquotank Hosiery Company lost less than three weeks time during the whole year.

Elizabeth City began paving her streets with vitrified brick on an extensive scale in 1911. The most recently completed piece of work is that on North Road Street, extending from Cypress Street to the railroad and completing the paving of this street throughout its entire length. Riverside is now paved from its beginning out to the corporate limits of the town, affording a beautiful automobile drive along the river side and making the new hospital of easy access. Main and Church Streets were paved throughout their respective lengths previous to 1915 and the town now has ten miles of streets paved with brick altogether. In the wholesale districts the streets are paved with Belgian blocks.

During the latter part of 1915 the old slip at the foot of Main street was filled in with dirt and the street thus extended out to the water front. This provides the city a public wharf at this point.

In 1914 the City Manager plan of government was adopted by Elizabeth City and in July, 1915, the new charter went into effect with J. C. Commander as City Manager and P. G. Sawyer as Mayor. The new plan has worked well here and already the administration believes that the City Manager's salary has been saved many times over in the decreased cost of municipal undertakings, such as street paving and so on, and public opinion inclines to the belief that the town now gets better work for less money than under the old form of government. There can be no

no doubt that under the new system there has been a great deal of improvement in the matter of law enforcement, especially of laws regulating sanitation in the city.

For a number of years now there has hardly been a town in the State with better sanitary laws than Elizabeth City, but previous to 1915 in the matter of the enforcement of these laws a great deal was left to be desired. During 1915, however, there was a marked change and a decided improvement in the city's sanitation and this has been attended by a decreased death rate, especially from summer diseases. Elizabeth City's death rate, never unusually high, is said by the city's health officer, Dr. C. B. Williams, this year to have been abnormally low, as shown by the statistics of the State Board of Health.

One of the most noticeable improvements in the town during the past twelve months was the sewerage of the open drain intersecting North Road Street which in time previous has been not only an eyesore but a stench in the nostrils of the people of that vicinity. The water of this drain is now conducted through a cylindrical concrete sewer and the old bridge where the drain crossed the street has been done away with. On Polindexter Street, too, a concrete bridge has replaced the old wooden affair over Polindexter Creek, adding much to the appearance of the street as well as affording a much better way of passage over the stream.

There have been few years in Elizabeth City's history in which so many residences have been erected as went up during 1915. Not only was new property opened up on account of the change of the location of the Norfolk Southern Depot to the end of Main Street, but on many of the leading residence streets buildings have been or are going up which set a new mark in residence architecture in the town, and now on the old Elliott property on Main street, opposite the court house square, excavations are being made for the foundations of a residence for C. O. Robinson which will be the most palatial in the city.

Never in the history of the town have the Elizabeth City merchants enjoyed a better business season than the fall and holiday trade of 1915 and a feeling of intense optimism is manifest throughout the town.

Elizabeth City has a population of more than twelve thousand. Situated on deep water within fifty miles of the Atlantic, it has always had a consistent growth, and its population now is four times greater than it was in 1890. Elizabeth City's lumber and woodworking mills give employment to more than a thousand well-paid workmen, and an equal or greater number find work in her hosiery mills and cotton factory. All the modern conveniences, water, gas electric lights and sewerage, are at the command of the city's residents, and in few cities on the Atlantic seaboard are the rates for electric power so low. Located here are well-established buggy, wagon, barrel and basket factories, a home telephone company with national connections, saw and planing mills, box factories, and various other manufactures, drawing from an almost inexhaustible supply of raw material. Industrial opportunities are numbered here by the score, the tax rate is one of the lowest in the State, the climate is mild and equable, and to the stranger coming to her gates, Elizabeth City offers a helping hand and a smiling welcome. The future of the town lies in the fertility of the soil of the ten counties tributary to