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# The Cleveland Star

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## FRED ALLISON'S TRAGIC DEATH IN UPPER LINCOLN Baffles CORONER'S JURY

### Shot by Unknown Companion in Car With Him—Told His Brother He Was Making Last Trip—Had \$1,000 on His Person When He Left—Car Contained 50 Gallons of Whiskey.

"Bub, I am making my last trip tonight," Fred Allison told his brother, Lawrence Allison in Charlotte Sunday afternoon before leaving on the automobile spin toward Lincoln near which town he met death in a raid upon his car by Lincoln county officers about 9:30 o'clock that night.

Lawrence Allison further said that his brother pulled out of his pocket a roll of bills, which were counted and which he declared, contained \$1,000 and a ten dollar gold piece which Fred told him had been given him as a Christmas present.

When his body was searched in Lincoln, according to Lawrence Allison, who went through his clothing himself, only \$9 and a knife were found.

The car which he was driving when death overtook him at the wheel contained, according to Lincoln county officers, 50 gallons of liquor, which, it was estimated cost no more than \$300 leaving at least \$700 unaccounted for.

The story was told by eye-witnesses of the tragedy, at the coroner's inquest over the dead body of the victim. The jury was as follows: S. R. Warlick, special coroner for Lincoln county; D. C. Williams, G. C. Bean, M. H. Doyle, R. E. Camb, S. Alexander, sr., E. C. Baker. The verdict of the jury is as follows:

"That deceased came to his death from a pistol wound inflicted by a head by one of his companions riding in the car with him, which companion is unknown. The evidence shows that as many as two companions were with him at the time, but all except deceased made their escape without their identity being known, and the evidence failed to disclose their identity, and the whereabouts of said companion or companions is unknown."

named Gibbs hit me with a black jack" At this time his mind wandered. I never was fully satisfied that he was wholly conscious of his statements.

"While we were undressing him he vomited a bloody mucus which had no odor of whiskey. We found a blue steel automatic in inside coat pocket, magazine had full six shells in it. We have this at the hospital; also \$9 in cash in his pocket. Under the other anesthesia a four-inch incision was made over right of wound. The skull was fractured and part of a ball was lodged in edge of cranium at pointed fracture. Brain tissue considerably injured and very free hemorrhage.

"Patient's breathing at this time became irregular and operation stopped. He died in about two minutes, death caused from pistol wound in back of head and from subsequent hemorrhages. Mr. Scott Miller and Baxter's son, and two other boys were with deceased when body was brought to hospital. No statement was made by either, as we were busy with operation. I have seen a lot of close range wounds while in the United States army service in France. No powder burns showing on wound. From my experience it is my opinion that shot was fired in about 20 feet distance."

### CRAIG AND OWENS ARE ARRESTED AND RELEASED.

Jimmie Craig and Ed Owens, reported to have been in the automobile with Fred Allison when the latter was shot Sunday night in Catawba county, were arrested early Tuesday morning by Charlotte authorities but released later in the day when it was learned from Lincoln that there was no evidence on which to hold them, the release being upon instructions from Sheriff Abernethy.

Both men are reported to have denied being in the party.

Mrs. W. S. Allison, mother of the dead man, was very ill at the time of the death of her son, but it was reported last night that she was in a much better condition.

### PERSONALS.

Ellis Morrison who is a student at N. C. State, Raleigh, and Ivy Morrison a student at the University of North Carolina, spent the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie A. Morrison in South Shelby.

Dr. Allan McBrayer and sister, Miss Miriam McBrayer, who came up from Florida for the holidays, returned Wednesday morning, making the trip through the country in Dr. McBrayer's car.

Miss Elizabeth Webb and her charming guest and schoolmate, Miss Hannah of Atlanta, Ga., who have been spending the holidays here with Miss Webb's parents, Judge and Mrs. E. Y. Webb, expect to return to Breunau college, Gainesville, Ga., the first of next week.

Attorney and Mrs. D. Z. Newton and Mr. L. R. Newton spent Christmas in Lincoln county with their father, Mr. George Newton.

Miss Marie Kendall who is a member of the graded school faculty at Charlotte after spending the Christmas holidays here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Kendall, expects to return to Charlotte the first of the week.

A. R. Putnam has returned from Asheville after spending Christmas holidays with his daughter Mrs. M. W. Hamrick.

### A FAREWELL EXERCISE FOR DR. J. MARCUS KESTER

As previously announced, Dr. J. Marcus Kester, pastor of the First Baptist church of Shelby, will close his administration of nearly four years next Sunday, December 31st. An interesting farewell program has been arranged for Sunday night, beginning at 7 o'clock. All other churches of the town and surrounding territory are invited to attend. It goes without saying that the departure of this faithful and popular pastor to a field of broader usefulness to the Master will be a distinctive loss to Shelby.

### COUNCIL MEETING OF POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT

The Cleveland county local welfare postoffice department will hold a meeting at the helby postoffice on January 1st 1923 at 2 o'clock p. m.

Every postmaster and rural letter carrier and all who are connected with the postal service in any way are urged to be present.

KATE BETTIS, Secy. Treas.

### MRS. ANDREW MILLER, JR. DIES, BLOOM WOMANHOOD

#### One of Shelby's Most Esteemed Young Women Dies at Rutherford Hospital on Dec. 24. Saddening Hearts at Christmas Time—Buried Here.

The note of gladness which is always attendant upon the joyous Christmas season has been strangely stilled in Shelby at this time by the sad death of one of its most splendid young women Mrs. Anice Floyd Blackwell Miller, beloved wife of Andrew C. Miller jr., whose untimely death came suddenly at 3 o'clock Sunday morning, December 24th at the Rutherford hospital, where she had been taken for treatment. And like Rachel of old this community at large as one family in the bonds of sympathy, weeps for "one who is not", and we mingle our tears together with the bereaved ones.

The passing of this young wife, just in the flower of young womanhood when life seemed to hold all that was fair and good, came as a great shock and sorrow to all. She had been ill only a few days previous, and her condition was not thought to be at all alarming until Saturday morning, when with her devoted young husband at her side, she was rushed to the Rutherford hospital, but pneumonia and a complication of troubles had set in and her condition steadily grew worse. All that love and medical skill could do was brought to bear against the malady, but the strain on her young heart was too great, and quietly she passed away into the arms of her Heavenly Father, leaving this earthly paradise, to bloom in a brighter Paradise forever more, leaving to mourn her passing her husband, an invalid mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Blackwell of Spencer. Also three devoted sisters, Mrs. Paul Lentz of Salisbury and Misses Helen and Robbie Blackwell of Spencer and one brother, Edwin of that place.

Mrs. Miller was born in Spencer 30 years ago. Being a mute she was educated at that splendid institution for the deaf at Morganton, and it was while a school girl there that she met her future husband and the beautiful romance of love blossomed for her, and on Feb. 2, 1916 she came to Shelby as the lovely bride of Andrew C. Miller, jr.

The deceased was one of Shelby's most esteemed and beloved young matrons, beautiful of form and face, and to this beauty of face was added beauty of mind and character. She greeted her friends, and they were many, not with spoken words, but with a sweet, glad smile, and a cordial, warm handclasp and it was indeed a rare privilege to know and love one so sweet and good. Her home life was indeed a thing of great beauty, and she was ever a loving comrade to her devoted young husband and a dutiful daughter to his parents who mourn her as their own daughter.

She early gave her heart to Christ, joining the Presbyterian church of which she was ever a faithful member.

The funeral was held from the Presbyterian church by her pastor, Rev. W. A. Murray, on Christmas afternoon at 3 o'clock, and was one of the largest ever attended in our city, the floral tributes being elaborate and beautiful—and she was tenderly laid to rest in Sunset cemetery. The pallbearers were: Messrs. L. M. Hull, John Black, I. C. Griffin, W. A. McCord, L. A. Gettys, J. Frank Roberts and H. M. and W. D. Loy.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell were ill at their home in Spencer and unable to attend. Her brother Mr. Edwin Blackwell and two sisters, Misses Helen and Robbie Blackwell, and brother-in-law, Mr. Lentz, together with a number of out of town relatives and friends came up for the funeral.

### Letter of Appreciation.

Special to The Star.

Dear Brother Weather's:

My people have been very kind indeed to me during the Christmas holidays. Saturday night at the Christmas tree the Poplar Springs people presented me a nice purse with some other good things.

Then Sunday afternoon while in service at Beaver Dam kind friends there completely retired my car and then loaded it up with good things. Surely no pastor has kinder and more thoughtful people than I. God bless them all.

Sincerely,  
JAS. C. GILLESPIE.  
Boiling Springs, Dec. 26, '22.

### Mr. Woodson Indisposed.

Rev. C. J. Woodson sends The Star a note saying he is indisposed and unable to get out to transact business. Those who have business with him are asked to call at his home on the Cleveland Springs road.

## SOCIETY

Light! Back at work! Now for the New Year—and the old bills. New Year resolutions should be labeled: "Fragile, handle with Care."

The aftermath of Christmas is largely a question of mathematics—with the incoming bills.

### Social Meeting of Chicago Club.

Mrs. P. L. Hennessy will be a special hostess this afternoon (Friday) to the members of the Chicago club at the regular social meeting. The hour is 3:30.

### Beautiful Bridge Hospitality For Mr. and Mrs. Eskridge.

One of the prettiest hospitalities of the Christmas tide was the auction bridge party given by Miss Ora Eskridge of last Thursday evening at her home on West Marion street as a pretty courtesy to Mr. and Mrs. Ab Eskridge, of LaFayette, Indiana, who are here for the holidays.

The house was aglow with potted plants and Christmas decorations and a merry and interesting evening was enjoyed at the four card tables scattered about the room for the game of auction.

Just previous to the game a tempting and delicious buffet supper was served, the hostess being assisted her sister, Mrs. Tom Eskridge. Those enjoying Miss Eskridge's hospitality were Mr. and Mrs. B. T. Falls, Dr. and Mrs. S. S. Royster, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Webb, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Roison, Messdames O. Max Gardner and S. R. Riley, Miss Stella Murchison and Mr. Forrest Eskridge.

### Beautiful Christmas Hospitality.

Mrs. Will Kizer was a most generous hostess at her lovely home on Sumter street on Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd as a pretty courtesy for her sister, Mrs. W. E. Richardson of Reidsville, and Mrs. Charlie Burrus a charming bride of last month, one of the newest additions to Shelby society.

The house was artistically arranged to suggest the sentiment of the Yule-tide, the living room, parlor and dining room, being decorated in a wealth of bright berries, holly, mistletoe, Christmas baubles and lovely potted plants.

Eleven small tables at which the appropriate game of Christmas dice held the interested attention of the 50 invited guests, were scattered about the various rooms, the place cards being dainty little holly affairs.

At the conclusion of the games a tempting and delicious salad course and mints was served in entertaining. Mrs. Kizer was graciously assisted by Messdames Harace Grigg, Charlie Washburn, Miss Oeland, Washburn and little Miss Dorothy King.

### B. Y. P. U. Sings Beautiful Carols.

Sleeping townspeople were awakened Monday morning as members of the Senior B. Y. P. U. of the First Baptist church of Shelby sang Christmas carols and other appropriate religious selections. By a unanimous vote held Sunday night, it was decided that special music would be rendered in keeping with the holiday spirit early Christmas day. So the singers rose bright and early, gathered at the church and proceeded to parade the town. As they moved down the various streets, little children could be seen rushing for their first glimpse at Santa's delights, old negro mummies stood and gazed as though anticlimax to a return of the angels, while those who took part enjoyed the early morning air and rich fellowship.

Day dawned in a flush of glory and the young people left by automobiles for Cleveland Springs where an elegant breakfast was served. The personnel of the party included the following young people:

Misses Wilma Hartness, Kathleen Davis, Rosalyn Nix, Janice Blanton, Egberta North, Frances Bridges, Irma Bridges, Thelma Hopper, Pauline Hopper, Genelle Wilson and Frances Roberts.

Messrs. Robert Hartness, L. H. Ledford, Dewey Plummer, Mr. Spake, Harold Hamrick, Bynum E. Weathers, Dumon Wilson and Bynum Harrell of Lattimore.

### Mrs. Virgil Gardner Weds Rock Hill Man.

The host of friends here of Mrs. Virgil Gardner, formerly of Shelby and Chester, S. C., but who for the past year has been making her home with her brother Mr. Edwin Allen at Rock Hill, S. C., will be interested to learn of her marriage at that place on Tuesday morning, December 26th, to Mr. Luther Branch, the marriage taking place Tuesday morning at 10:30 at the Baptist parsonage, the

pastor of that church officiating in the presence of only a few special friends.

Mr. Branch holds a responsible position as salesman with the Rock Hill Bakery and is a splendid young man with a wide circle of friends—while his charming bride is very much beloved in this county where she has spent a great deal of her time with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Branch will make their home in Rock Hill.

### Miss Mabel Allen Weds Mr. L. Owens of Rosman.

One of the most interesting of the Christmas marriages to the host of Shelby friends of the bride was that of Miss Mabel Allen of the Elizabeth section and Mr. Leslie Owens of Rosman, Transylvania county, which happy event took place here Saturday night at the Baptist parsonage, Rev. J. M. Keister, the bride's pastor performing the ceremony.

The bride is a winsome and attractive young woman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Allen of this county. She is a graduate of the Shelby high school and afterwards spent one year at the Boiling Springs high school. For the past few months she has been with Gilmer's local store as saleslady. The groom is a promising young business man of Rosman, where he holds the responsible position as manager of a large consignment for the Tokaway Tanning Co. at that place. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Owens left for their home at Rosman.

### Entertained at Cleveland Springs For Christmas Visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Webb were delightful hosts at Cleveland Springs hotel last Tuesday entertaining a few friends as a pretty courtesy to their kinsmen, Mr. and Mrs. Ab Eskridge of LaFayette, Ind., pleasant holiday visitors.

At the close of the evening's pleasure a delicious collation of sandwiches, coffee and cream, cake and stuffed dates was enjoyed.

### Subscription Bridge Party at Cleveland.

Cleveland Springs hotel was the scene of a merry party of young people last Monday evening when about ten couples motored out for an evening of auction bridge. The elegant and spacious lobby, which has been the scene of so many delightful social affairs of late, had been most artistically decorated for the Christmas tide—and even the old fashioned log fires were not lacking to complete the ensemble. In the midst of these delightful surroundings five tables of auction held the interested attention of the players, after which a delicious collation was enjoyed.

### FANNING'S BIG SALE BEGINS SATURDAY 30TH

The W. L. Fanning company inaugurates its semi-annual clearance sale on Saturday, December 30th, offering tremendous reductions throughout the store. The store will be closed Thursday and Friday of this week while the force of sales people is marking down the merchandise. This is a semi-annual reduction sale which always attracts attention among the many friends of the Fanning company store. A double page advertisement and thousands of circulars broadened over the county make note of the many reductions that will obtain throughout the big store. It will pay you handsomely to take advantage of the prices offered by the Fanning store during this clearance sale.

### INFLUENZA IS RAGING BUT IS NOT SEVERE

Influenza is raging in the county and the physicians have more calls than they can attend to, but they declare that the patients all seem to be getting along much better than they did during the previous epidemics and only one or two deaths have been reported. Influenza now seems to be in a much milder form, but is more contagious than ever before. The schools of the county will perhaps suspend longer than usual for the Christmas holidays in order for the Christmas holidays in order for the Christmas holidays to clear away.

### Death of Little Child.

On December 23 the death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Brown of Slyva, this state, and took from them Frederick Albert, a bright little son 15 months old. The many friends of Mrs. Brown, who was Mrs. Attie Bridges and is well known here will sympathize with them in this their hour of bereavement.

Miss Ruth Roberts who has been spending the Christmas holidays here with her mother, Mrs. Eliza Roberts, expects to return this week to her school at Troy, this state.

Mr. G. R. Randall of Rock Hill, S. C., spent yesterday in Shelby on business. Mr. Randall was former depot agent at Earl.

## CHRISTMAS FULL OF CHEER AND TREAT

### HOLIDAY TRADE WAS VERY HEAVY

#### Industrial Plants Close For Four Days—White Christmas at Churches—Mail Well Handled.

Christmas has come and gone and in many respects it was the "biggest on record." From a trading standpoint, the merchants of the county declare that Friday and Saturday were the best shopping days and they had all the trade they could conveniently care for. In fact, the attention the merchants usually give to their customers, could not be given because the rush was so great. But this was no fault of the public. The continuous rain and bad weather that prevailed during December, prevented the shoppers from doing all the shopping they had on their list, so when the weather cleared Friday, the lamb began. Merchants who feared that much Christmas merchandise would be left on their shelves, found it moving rapidly and all in all, they sold out during the last two days. The fall trade as a whole was above the average. October and November were good months, due to pretty weather and plenty of money caused by high wages and high priced farm products.

### Pay up Week a Success.

The one-up campaign waged during the week of December 18th to 23rd was a great success, all merchants and business men who joined in the campaign declaring that hundreds and hundreds of accounts were settled as a result of the campaign which was waged effectively all over the county.

Beautiful weather prevailed from Friday until Wednesday morning, when rain came again. This week and next is stock taking time with many merchants, then the usual clearance sales when great reductions will be put in force to clear out winter merchandise, although winter is only one third gone.

### Christmas Mail Heavy.

Acting Postmaster J. H. Quinn and his able staff of clerks handled the big Christmas mail in a most commendable manner. Every courtesy was extended the patrons and there was no unnecessary delay in the receipt and dispatch of Christmas parcels. Some of the clerks who have been in the office for many years, declare the Christmas mail to have been heavier than usual. The carriers made their usual rounds on Christmas day, but will not go on Monday, January 1st, which is a holiday. The postoffice will observe the New Year's holiday, but all banks and stores will be open for business as usual.

### Old Soldiers Remembered.

The Daughters of the Confederacy remembered the Confederate soldiers and their widows as usual with baskets of fruit while individuals sent Christmas goodies to the unfortunate in the county home at the convict camp, jail, and at the Rock quarry where long termers from the penitentiary are working.

### A White Christmas.

All of the churches had Christmas exercises, many of them observing "White Christmas," the spirit of this being "it is more blessed to give than to receive." While the children gave to the poor, they received gifts from Old Santa.

The cotton mills and other industrial plants closed Friday evening and resumed operations Wednesday morning, which with Sunday intervening, gave them four days vacation. The cotton mills remembered their employees in a generous way, as is customary year after year.

The exchange of Christmas gifts started earlier than usual this year, many sending out their gifts on Saturday because Christmas eve came this year on Sunday. There was no unusual demonstration, but a regular bombardment of explosions of fireworks all day long Christmas day, beginning early in the morning when the little fellows awoke to get their Santa Claus. The shooting of fireworks, guns and pistols lasted all day Monday. No serious accidents have been reported.

### DISTRICT CONFERENCE HERE AT THE M. P. CHURCH DEC. 5.

There will be a district conference rally of the Methodist Protestant church at the Shelby church on the fifth Sunday in December. This district consists of six charges. There will be the pastor and delegation from each charge.

There will be talks from the pastors and other conference members that will be interesting. All day service and the public is invited.

C. D. Stroup and family of Lincoln spent Christmas with his mother Mrs. J. L. Stroup.