

PAID-UP CIRCULATION
Of This Paper Is Greater
Than The Population Given
Shelby In The 1920 Census

The Cleveland Star

RELIABLE HOME PAPER
Of Shelby And The State's
Fertile Farming Section.
Modern Job Department.

VOL. XXXII, No. 53

THE CLEVELAND STAR, SHELBY, N. C.

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1924.

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE

M'ADOO LEADS WITH SMITH SECOND ON
SIXTH BALLOT AT DEMOCRATIC MEETING

BALLOTING STARTS
MONDAY MORNING

McAdoo Gains Strength Faster Than
Smith From First to Sixth Bal-
lot, With Davis Next.

Balloting for a Democratic presi-
dential nominee started Monday morn-
ing, the sixth day after the convention
assembled in Madison Square Garden
New York city and on the sixth bal-
lot Wm. G. McAdoo was in the lead
with 433 votes with Governor Al
Smith of New York following, having
261 votes to his credit. Information
was being received yesterday over H.
and B. Beer's market wire at the local
cotton office, the sixth ballot being
announced about two o'clock.

On the second ballot McAdoo had
395 Smith 251, Underwood 42, Davis
47, with a dozen other candidates re-
ceiving the vote of their respective
states as a compliment and in the
hope that one might be picked as a
dark horse.

On the fourth ballot McAdoo re-
ceived 437, Smith 255. Indications
were that Smith followers were stick-
ing firmly to their candidate. A dead-
lock looks probable when a dark
horse looms up. To nominate requires
two-thirds of 1,087 or 725 votes.

Split over Issues.

New York, June 29.—Emerging
wearily from a titanic struggle over
its platform the Democratic national
convention prepared today to plunge
into another over candidates.

Balloting for nominee for the Presi-
dency will begin tomorrow. A dead-
lock is in prospect, and tonight the
supporters of a dozen candidates re-
newed their predictions of victory.

The platform was perfected at two
o'clock this morning, when amid
scenes of confusion seldom paralleled
in party history a plank condemning
the Ku Klux Klan by name was pro-
nounced rejected by the narrow mar-
gin of a single vote. Another serious
contend had been decided previously
by adoption of a plank re-affirming
in general terms only the party's faith
in the league of nations.

Smith-McAdoo Defeat Predicted.

The convention action on the all-
absorbing question of the Klan appar-
ently had no effect on the relative
standing of the candidates except as
it provided a further argument for
use by those who are predicting that
neither McAdoo nor Smith can be nom-
inated. The out and out anti-Klan
plank, according to Permanent Chair-
man Walsh's announcement, received
541 votes, with the active supporters
of Governor Smith and others friend-
ly to him voting for it, while 542
votes were announced as against it,
largely from the states that are giv-
ing their support to Mr. McAdoo.

The totals of the vote as actually
cast by states and territories, how-
ever, and as verified on recapitula-
tion today shows that 546 and 15-100
votes were cast against singling out
the Klan by name and that 541 and
85-100 votes were cast in favor of it.
This actually increases the majority
to four and 30-100 votes instead of
one single vote as given in the official
announcement.

The Smith people declared the total
recorded showed conclusively the in-
ability of McAdoo to muster the two-
thirds necessary for a nomination, and
the McAdoo supporters said the
votes cast on the other side meant the
elimination of Smith. The managers
for the other candidates agreed with
both of them.

As a result of the only discernible
trend of opinion among the leaders
as they weighted the outcome of yester-
day and laid their plans for the
battle that begins tomorrow was a
further sifting over of available to
which the party can turn if the two
men now at the top of the list are
both eliminated.

Almost as a unit the anti-Klan ele-
ments of the party expressed their
willingness to remain content with
their defeat in the platform contest,
despite the narrow margin by which it
was attained. There was one sugges-
tion that a resolution might be offered
interpreting the religious liberty
plank adopted as in effect, a condem-
nation of the Klan, but the move had
no indication of wide-spread support.

Bryan Jeered and Applauded.

The convention's floor fight over
the league issue had been accompan-
ied by an unusual display of passion,
but it became colorless and almost un-
interesting in contrast to the battle
waged over the Klan plank through-
out the midnight hours and into the early
morning of the Sabbath.

In two hours of intensive debate
several of these outstanding features
of the Democracy, past and present,
played upon the emotions of the vast
assemblage until delegates and spec-

Has Cotton Blooms
In Thirteen Rows

No matter how "hard" the times,
how depressing the outlook for the
cotton crop or how injurious the
storms there are always cotton blooms
before July 4. In olden days it was a
matter of much pride to have the
first cotton bloom in the community
and a right good boost for all the
farmers who exhibited blooms before
the grand and glorious Fourth. Now
adays with farming on a systematic
basis and farmers looking more for
results than anything else the race
for first blooms is not so heated. How-
ever, they still report first blooms and
The Star has recorded several farmers
among the first to exhibit blooms
Usually a colored man is as shy of the
number "13" as a superstitious white
man is of a black cat, but Dave Tur-
ner, typical South Carolina colored
man, now farming on Max Gardner's
Morepacer Seed Farm, does not
have any qualms about thirteen rows
of cotton. He was in the office Monday
exhibiting a bloom that was plucked
from a "patch" of 13 rows.

Dave is a native of South Carolina
that migrated here just in advance of
the weevil and for years has planted
some cotton on the first day of April,
"jes as a 'speriment,'" he says. Usually
he plants enough for a bale, but they
stopped him this year because it was
thought too early and he only got
13 rows planted. "Th' thirteen
didn't keep me frum havin' blooms
kase I got several of dem scattered
over th' thirteen rows now," Dave
stated. The patch where the early
blooms are is "new ground," being
cleared and ploughed for the first
time this year. Dave hails from
Ridgeway, S. C., but says Cleveland
is "uh mighty good place ter live."

Local Club To Play
Loray On July 4

Shelby Defeated Fast Clover Team
Here Saturday. Old Stars to
Play on Friday.

Baseball followers will be afforded
a good attraction here Friday July 4,
when the newly organized town club
meets the speedy outfit from Loray
mill, Gastonia. The Loray club as in
former years has been playing some
fast ball with a good record of victo-
ries this season over other independent
clubs in the section. In the line-up will
be a number of former college stars
and well-known semi-pros. The pro-
ceeds will be used in paying the hospi-
tal bill of Max Connor, high school
player, and the local club will be
made up of high school stars and a
number of local boys who have played
professional and semi-pro ball. Tom-
my Harrill "Shorty" Long, Johnny
Hudson, "Lefty" Robinson and Dick
Gurley will appear in the local line-up.
The game is expected to be hard
fought and the attendance large as
local business houses will be closed
during the day.

Shoutout Clover Team.

Playing here Saturday the local
easily glanked Clover (S. C.) clubs
9 to 0. Given exceptional support Mc-
Kee, former high school southpaw,
held the South Carolina visitors to
three scattered hits, only one Clover
player reaching second base. Ritch
was touched for 12 safeties by Shelby;
Harrill, Cline Lee, Dixon and Hennes-
sa furnished fielding features, while
Lee and Harrill led the hitting.

It is a wise drinking man who moves
to a house near a hospital.
No man is boss in his own home un-
til the family takes a vacation.

tators had reached a pitch of nervous
excitement rendering futile all fur-
ther attempts at orderly procedure.
Bainbridge Colby, secretary of state
under Wilson, challenged his party in
a fighting speech to condemn the Klan
openly, and William Jennings Bryan
closed the argument for the opposi-
tion with an old-time show of dash
and fire that was met alternately with
jeers and applause from floor and
gallery.

Then, for two hours and a half, the
convention sought in a confusion bor-
dering on hysteria, to determine its
own mind. Time and again the roll call
was interrupted by delegates who
sought to challenge the accuracy of
the vote of their states as cast by their
delegation chairman, back and forth
swung the advantage as the voting
approached its conclusion and lead-
ers of the opposing forces tried desper-
ately to win over the handful of
votes they knew would determine the
verdict. As the roll was ended, an
angry growl of disputation swept over
the convention hall in rising volume,
chairs were overturned, two or three
state standards were wrecked, and
there were several personal encoun-
ters on the floor and the speaker's
platform.

"CLEAN TALKING" IS
KIWANIS SUBJECT

Two Pastors And Attorney Discuss
Use Of Slander, Profanity And
Suggestive Language.

"A Clean Mouth"—free of profane,
slanderous and suggestive language—
was the entertaining and beneficial
subject of the Kiwanis program con-
ducted Thursday evening at Cleveland
Springs by William Lineberger in
charge of the program for the month
of June. Three speakers, Revs. A. L.
Stanford, R. L. Lemons and Attorney
D. Z. Newton, handled the subject
from a different viewpoint. Mr. Stan-
ford on "Profanity," Mr. Newton on
"Slander" and Mr. Lemons on "Sug-
gestiveness." Following the formal
program O. M. Mull, president of the
club, appointed a committee, compos-
ed of Max Washburn, Mal Spangler
and Rush Hamrick, to confer with the
merchants of the town in regards to
closing the stores, banks and busi-
ness houses of Shelby on Thursday af-
ternoons during the months of July
and August. A petition has already
been presented the merchants by the
Woman's club, the club also present-
ing the matter to the Kiwanians.

In discussing profanity and blas-
phemy Rev. Mr. Stanford made a fer-
vent appeal for cleaner speech. "Pro-
fanity is the most unnecessary sin of
sins," he declared. "There is no in-
stance on record where profanity in-
creased anyone's credit at the bank,
made new customers for a store, ad-
ded paying clients to a lawyer's patron-
age, or in any way helped any em-
ployer, business or professional man.
Profanity is utterly useless, yet it
pollutes the conversation of our people
on the streets, in our stores and offi-
ces, at ball games, and even in our
homes."

Mr. Newton in a brief but eloquent
denunciation of slanderous tongues
said in part:

"Slander is no respecter of persons.
It steals its way into the homes of
the rich, the palaces of kings, the
huts of the poor and hovels of the
slave; into the prisons of hate and in-
to the gardens of love; into the
churches of God and into the dens of
vice. Its slimy trail leads from Eden's
bowers, winds around the cross and
goes down and down and down. 'Tis
venomous sting turns brimming foun-
tains of gladness into stagnant pools
of misery and makes home sweet home
into a waste of horrors.

"And what is this monster we call
slander? For my purpose it is any
false statement that brings into dis-
repute the good name of a person.
And what is its source? Selfishness,
jealousy, envy, hatred, sometimes. But
more often it is careless, indifferent,
idle conversation, arising from 'They
say,' 'It is rumored,' 'I'm told.' Here
are the incubators, the harbingers and
the broadcasters of slander. Who is
they? I don't know or I promised not
to give them away.

"Ah, well you know how a little re-
mark will sometimes undermine the
reputation of a good man and bring
about his downfall; how one idle word
may forever blight the bloom on a
maiden's cheek and cause her to be
spurned by society, only to fade away
like a withering flower.

"A good name is about all some of
us may ever hope to have. And a
Good name in man or woman
Is the immediate jewel of their soul.
No steals my purse steals trash; 'tis
something, nothing;

'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been
slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me by good
name,
Robs me of that which enriches him
not
And makes me poor indeed."

"Would it not be well therefore never
to say or repeat anything that is
derogatory or disparaging to a per-
son's name, unless we know it is true
and unless it is necessary. Indeed there
is so much good in the worst of us and
so much bad in the best of us that it
does not become any of us to talk
about the rest of us.

"I would that as the lights and
shadows come and go we might look
with withering scorn upon those cow-
ardly, subtle, venomous, hellish 'They
Says,' 'It is rumored,' 'I'm told,'
and realize the sanctity and conse-
quences of our words."

Dr. Lemons in a talk of only a few
minutes considered "Suggestiveness
of Conversation" perhaps more evil
and wielding a worse influence than
either slander or profanity. "As the
clear crystal surface of a lake is
marred and polluted with mud follow-
ing a rain so is the clean mirror-like
conversation of many of our people
polluted with suggestiveness and in-
timations. It is the morbid something
that the mind is left to grasp, the hint
at something sordid that corrupts
and destroys the morals of our youth."

Incidents of the effect of suggestive
conversation of street corner gath-
erings were mentioned in an urgent
appeal and hope that daily conversation
be purged, that it leave clean the
conversation and thoughts of the com-
ing generation.

It was the first program of such a

STORES TO CLOSE
IN SHELBY JULY 4th.

The stores will be closed on July
4th, Independence Day. Remember
this will be Friday of this week.
While there is no celebration plan-
ned for Shelby on this occasion with
the exception of a ball game Friday
afternoon, the merchants
feel that it is a day that should be
observed and it has been their cus-
tom to observe it for a number of
years, therefore, they will close on
Friday of this week.

A movement is on foot to close
all stores in Shelby each Thursday
afternoon during the months of
July and August. This has been the
custom for several years in order
to give the sales people a needed
vacation during the hot summer
months. A petition is now in cir-
culation and is being signed freely
by the merchants agreeing to close
their doors each Thursday after-
noon during July and August and
some announcement will be made
in a subsequent issue of The Star.

SUMMER SCHOOL ON
SECOND WEEK JULY

Around 100 County Teachers Are Ex-
pected to Attend. School
for Students Conditioned

The Cleveland county summer school
for teachers will open Monday morn-
ing July 7 at the Central school
building with probably a larger at-
tendance than ever before, according
to Prof. J. H. Grigg, principal of the
Shelby high school, who with Prof.
Lawton Blanton and Miss Agnes Mc-
Brayer make up the summer school
faculty for teachers. The summer
school for high school and elementary
students conditioned on last year
work will open at the same time with
Mr. W. S. Buchanan and Miss Alma
Peoples in charge of the high school
students, Mrs. Jessie Ransour and
Miss Bessie Clark the elementary
students.

According to Mr. Grigg a number
of teachers from South Carolina and
from Rutherford college desire to at-
tend the summer school here, having
already made application, and it is
at least certain that some will at-
tend from both places. With the large
number of Cleveland county teachers
who will attend it is expected that
the total attendance will be around 100.
It has not yet been determined as to
whether there will be two sessions
or one. Last year only one session was
held.

City-Students

Shelby boys and girls who were con-
ditioned on their work last year will
make up the city summer school stu-
dent body. Quite a number will through
this plan be enabled to advance a
grade or secure enough units for grad-
uation. The course of study will in-
clude all grades above the third. Stu-
dents desiring to make up work may
do so by paying only one-half tuition
as the city school board has agreed to
weeks is \$15, the student to pay one-
half or \$7.50. This is a saving to par-
ents as otherwise the student might
have to return for one entire school
year to make up the work.

Credits Offered Teachers

The following certificates may be
secured by completing one unit of
work in a county summer school in
1924 and by securing the superinten-
dent's recommendation:

- 1. Provisional B. certificates may
be secured by: (a) Applicants who
meet either entrance requirement.
2. Provisional A. certificates may
be secured by: (a) Holders of provision-
al B certificates. (b) Graduates of
non-standard four year high schools.
3. One year temporary certificate
may be secured by (a) Holders of
provisional A certificates. (b) Hold-
ers of one year temporary certificates
may secure extension for one year.
4. Elementary certificate class B
may be secured by: (a) Graduates of
Standard high schools. (b) Applicants
who secure academic credits by state
examination. (c) Holders of provision-
al elementary certificates.

Course of Study

The course of study consists of
subject matter and methods courses.
The subjects are arranged in units,
one unit of work to be completed
each summer. A unit of work consists
of four courses to be taken five times
a week for six weeks the recitation
periods being 45 minutes in length.
To secure credit, one must enter not
later than the third day, must show
twenty-five days attendance, and
must make a passing grade of 75 per
cent on each subject.

The man who says he will try any-
thing once may try it once too often.

nature ever conducted by the club
and much interest was taken in the
brief talks by those present. The de-
structiveness of an unclean mouth in
each of the three important phases as
presented briefly by the speakers
seemed to make an impression on the
hearers.

BIG PAVING WORK
AT RUTHERFORDTON

Two and a Half Miles of Streets to be
Improved. Near Serious Auto-
mobile Wreck.

Rutherfordton, June 28.—The town
council let a contract Thursday to the
Wilson Construction company of this
place to do 30,000 square yards of
street paving or two and one-half miles
within the next year. There were 11
bids for the work. The next lowest bid
was \$2,000 under that of Wilson Con-
struction company. The total cost of
this improvement will be about \$104,000.

The town will soon complete \$25,000
worth of new water mains on the
streets soon to be paved. The town
also will soon complete the new reser-
voir which will give fresh pure water
and nearly a million gallons storage
for emergencies.

It is hoped by the city fathers to
turn on the lights on the white way
by the night of July 4th. A new hall
containing offices for the town offi-
cials and an up-to-date fire depart-
ment will be erected this year.

Court lasted Monday only. Judge
Webb sent the cases back to Hender-
son county for trial. Most of the day
Monday was consumed by the attor-
neys arguing the case.

Over 1,000 people attended the fu-
neral of Rev. H. R. Freeman at Mt.
View church Sunday afternoon. He
was killed last Friday in an automo-
bile wreck near Badin.

Cicero C. Lovelace, one of the coun-
ty's best farmers and citizens died
suddenly Monday and was buried at
Pleasant Hill Baptist church Tues-
day. He had been in ill health for
three years. He was 62 years old and
was a deacon of the church for many
years. He is the father of Prof. A. C.
Lovelace, superintendent of the Hen-
rietta public schools.

A successful revival closed at the
Baptist church Thursday night. Rev.
F. A. Bower, of Morganton, did the
preaching while Earl L. Wolslagle, of
Oklahoma, was the singer. Both Bower
and Wolslagle made many friends
while here. About 30 joined the
church. The boys and men were bap-
tized Sunday night while the remain-
der were baptized Sunday night.

What came near being a serious
automobile wreck occurred Thursday
at noon on the highway at the edge of
town in front of the residence of Dr.
Matt McBryer when a stripped down
Cadillac driven by W. J. McEntire,
garage man, collided with a Ford
truck driven by Charles Flynn. The
cars started to pass each other and
hit at an angle of 45 degrees. Mr. Mc-
Entire was bruised and cut seriously.
His occupant, Curtis Hardin, escaped
injury. Mrs. Cynthia Connor, 75 old
lady of Uree, who was in the truck
with Flynn suffered a fractured arm,
nose and hand and is seriously ill at
the hospital. Flynn was unhurt but
the cars were damaged.

Spindale is planning for a great
fourth of July celebration. The day's
events open with a golf tournament
and tennis match, which will be fol-
lowed with the Old Fiddler's conven-
tion. A better babies contest will be
held. At 10:30 a. m. there will be an
address by Dr. D. W. Daniel of Clem-
son college.

Lincoln Fair Has
Been Reorganized

Lincoln County News.
The Lincoln county fair has been
reorganized, and put on a cash basis
and hopes to have the biggest and
best fair this fall that they have ever
had.

The following officers were elect-
ed: Mr. J. L. Lineberger, president;
Mr. Fred Ramsaur, vice president;
Mr. C. D. Stroupe, secretary; Mr. J.
W. Hoover, treasurer.

Knowing that each fair has been
better than the one before and that
Lincoln county needs a county fair
these men have put the fair on a
sound financial basis and are asking
every person in the county to co-op-
erate to give Lincoln county the big-
gest and best fair this fall that has
ever been held in the county.

Seven Year Old Boy
Dies Of Paralysis

Herman Beam Poston, son of Mrs.
John Poston of No. 5 township, died
Friday June 27th following a two days
illness with paralysis of the throat.
The young fellow was only seven
years, ten months and 11 days old, a
gentlemanly, promising young man
whose death is a source of great sor-
row to his many friends and relatives.
The funeral was conducted by Rev.
Mr. Brown and interment took place
at New Prospect church Sunday amid
a great crowd of sorrowing friends.

Prayer Meeting Central Methodist.
Prayer meeting at Central Metho-
dist church Wednesday night at 8
o'clock. All are cordially invited.

THREE NEGROES KILLED WHEN STRUCK
BY A PASSENGER TRAIN NEAR GROVER

ANOTHER STORM
VISITS COUNTY

One Barn Burned—Others Blown
Down—Mule Killed—Strong
Wind and Some Hail.

Another hail, wind and electric
storm visited the county again Sun-
day evening and added to the damage
which had been done in several pre-
ceding electric storms. Lightning
struck Roy Grigg's barn on Dick Cov-
ington's plantation in the Double
Springs community and destroyed it.
Also the lightning struck the barn of
W. Simon Davis in the same commu-
nity, killed a mule, but the barn was
not burned. The lightning, rain and
wind were heavy, doing considerable
damage to the crops. The path of this
cloud was very nearly the same that
two other previous clouds took across
the county from Lattimore and New
House sections across by Double
Springs, Zion, New Bethel and on into
Gaston and Lincoln counties. This
time the storm reached some higher,
doing right considerable damage in
the Fallston community. A path was
cut through Capt Ed Dixons fine tim-
ber and it will require a day or two
to get the roads cleared up, according
to information received in Shelby
Monday. A crib and outbuildings be-
longing to Tom Stamey were blown
down. There was some hail in Sun-
day night's cloud, but the damage was
slight from this. Telephone lines are
out of order in many directions and
timber and crops have suffered
greatly from the high winds and
heavy rains, the bulk of the storm
damage being confined in three in-
stances to a path across the county
north of Shelby.

Auto Turned Turtle
At Cleveland Springs

W. C. Floyd, a well known young
attorney of Gastonia was painfully
injured Thursday evening shortly be-
fore 7 o'clock when the Chevrolet
coupe he was driving turned turtle off
the new state highway opposite Cleve-
land Springs hotel. A young lady of
Gastonia was in the car with Floyd,
but was apparently uninjured from the
plunge of 15 or 20 feet from the road-
way to one of the springs in the dale
between the highway and the hotel.

They were en route to the Springs
for dinner and Mr. Floyd had passed
the hotel entrance and for some reason,
probably because a car in front of
him slowed up, put on his brakes
suddenly with the result that on the
wet pavement due to rain the car
skidded to the side and hurtled off
the fill. The car turned over one or
more times, landing on its top about
20 feet below, near one of the springs.
The fact that it was a closed car with
a heavy top probably saved the lives
of the two young people, it being con-
sidered remarkable that they escaped
with only slight injuries. Mr. Floyd
received several painful cuts about the
face and was given medical treatment
at the hotel. The radiator and front
end of the car were badly damaged,
while the windshield and glass por-
tions of the body were broken.

It is the first instance on record,
according to those at the scene Mon-
day morning, where three were killed
in such a manner. Frequently one
person falls asleep on the tracks and
is killed, but that three would die
in such a tragic manner seemed puzzling.
Many conjectures were made. Some
were inclined to think that the negroes
were perhaps killed in some other man-
ner and their bodies placed there as
a blind. Another was that they were
shocked or killed by a bolt of lightning
running down the steel rail and were
struck afterwards by the train. The
evidence heard by Coroner T. C. Esk-
ridge and his jury, however, was more
definite and left the impression that
the trio must have been struck while
asleep on the track. There were no
marks of violence other than those
made by the train, as far as could be
determined. No. 135 ran about one
hour or so ahead of No. 35 and one
witness heard by the coroner was posi-
tive that he saw them after 135 passed
through Grover.

Paxton Child Buried
At Elizabeth Church

Ina Lucile, the one year old child
of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. G. Paxton died
Saturday night about midnight and
was buried Sunday afternoon at Eli-
zabeth Baptist church, the funeral
services being conducted by Rev. G.
P. Abernethy. The little child had been
sick for some time, but had responded
to treatment and was sick only a few
hours when she died. The Paxtons
live on O. M. Mull's farm on the
Shelby-Fallston road.

Mr. Paxton lost his father on May
30th. His father J. C. Paxton died at
the age of 72 years. He was a well
known and esteemed citizen of the
county and his passing followed by
the death of the Paxton child makes
a double sorrow in the home. His wife
died about 12 years ago. Remains were
buried at Elizabeth church on June
1st.

Lightning Strikes And
Kills Goforth's Dog

During the thunderstorm Sunday
evening in which the rain, wind and
electric flashes were heavy, the light-
ning struck the home of W. L. Go-
forth on the Shelby-Kings Mountain
road, near Kings Mountain and shock-
ed Mr. Goforth. A dog on the rear
porch was killed by the shock, but no
damage of any material consequence
was done to the residence. Mr. Go-
forth soon recovered from his shock.

UNIQUE TRAGEDY
ON SUNDAY NIGHT

Thought to Have Been Asleep on
Track. Heads Crushed by Im-
pact. Coroner Investigates

The mutilated forms of three col-
ored men stretched out under two
whistleblowers by the main line railroad
tracks within one-half mile of Grover
are mute evidences of a triple tragedy
that happened late Sunday night. Just
how the three negroes came to their
end will probably never be known, but
the hundred or more people who stood
silently around Monday morning offer-
ed several opinions as to how the
tragedy did and the one mentioned most
and similar to the verdict of the cor-
oner's jury was that a fast passenger
train had swept around the curve and
down upon them after they had fallen
asleep while sitting on the end of
the crossties. The dead are: Redrick
Scruggs, age about 25; Jim Degree,
about 16, and "Kirt" Mitchell, also
about 25. Degree and Scruggs are na-
tives of the Grover section, while
Mitchell is said to live in Rutherford
county.

Found by Engineer.
It came out at the inquest Monday
morning that the engineer on No. 35
southbound passenger train stated that
he noticed the bodies as his train passed
through Grover between 11 and 12
o'clock Sunday night, the train stop-
ped and members of the train crew
notified citizens of the village. Some
have the opinion, however, that it was
No. 35 that hit the three negroes. The
engineer is said to have stated also
that in his opinion No. 135, south-
bound, must have hit the men as the
bodies were already stiffening when
he found them. Although opinions differ
it is a certainty that the three were
struck by a train. When found,
the bodies were side by side parallel
with the track in the path at the side
of the tracks. Mitchell apparently was
struck first, there being a small hole
in the right side of his head, which
was badly crushed by the impact. De-
gree, the youngest of the trio, who
was in the middle, had one side of his
face practically knocked off and a por-
tion of his brains was scattered about
Scruggs, hit last, was badly mutilated.
Nearly all of one side of his head was
knocked off and the portion remaining
on the body was empty, all of his
brains being scattered around his
body. With the exception of cuts and
bruises on the right hands and arms
there were no other injuries, it seem-
ed, and from the fact that all were
struck in the head it seems as if they
must have been sitting on the end of
the crossties or were asleep with their
heads on the rail. It appeared as if
Mitchell was struck by the step on the
cowcatcher and that the others re-
ceived the full impact of the passen-
ger steps or the side of the train.

Details are Puzzling.
It is the first instance on record,
according to those at the scene Mon-
day morning, where three were killed
in such a manner. Frequently one
person falls asleep on the tracks and
is killed, but that three would die
in such a tragic manner seemed puzzling.
Many conjectures were made. Some
were inclined to think that the negroes
were perhaps killed in some other man-
ner and their bodies placed there as
a blind. Another was that they were
shocked or killed by a bolt of lightning
running down the steel rail and were
struck afterwards by the train. The
evidence heard by Coroner T. C. Esk-
ridge and his jury, however, was more
definite and left the impression that
the trio must have been struck while
asleep on the track. There were no
marks of violence other than those
made by the train, as far as could be
determined. No. 135 ran about one
hour or so ahead of No. 35 and one
witness heard by the coroner was posi-
tive that he saw them after 135 passed
through Grover.

Died at Mother's Door.
Scruggs, who lived on a farm only
a short distance from where he was
killed, met death almost at his moth-
er's door. The home where his mother
lived being only a few feet from the
tracks on a high bank beside the rail-
road, and the negro's body lay in the
path where members of the family
passed up and down the bank and
across the tracks. He was a farm
hand for Caleb Phillips and married.
Degree, the son of Jim Degree who
lives about two miles from Grover, it
will be remembered was in recorder's
court here with his brother not so
long ago for entering the store of
Webb Brothers here. A .38 calibre pis-
tol, said to be the property of one of
the others, was taken from his cloth-
ing by the coroner. Mitchell, who is
also married, lives in Rutherford and

(Continued on page three.)