

SHELBY
Was Carolina's Fastest Growing Town 1920-1925 By U. S. Census.

The Cleveland Star

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New Claimant To Big Hopkins Fortune Bobs Up In Shelby

Mrs. Long of Bostic, Great Grand Niece of Man Leaving Three Hundred Million She Says

Shelby over the past week entertained a woman who may inherit a share of the three hundred million dollar fortune left by Mark Hopkins at Sacramento, California, Or, at least, so goes the story of the woman. Although there are already 125 claimants in this state to the big fortune left by the former Carolinian, Mrs. Frances Louise Stallings Long, wife of S. W. Long, of Bostic, Route 1, Rutherford county, late week engaged O. Max Gardner and Chas. A. Burrus, Shelby attorneys, to forward her claims as a great grand niece of the late wealthy Californian.

The story of Mark Hopkins and the fortune he left is one of the intriguing romances of the state; a story of gold rush days, of pioneer railroad building, and then the age-old story of death and a vast fortune left to no one in particular.

The Woman's Story
In Randolph county years ago, according to Mrs. Long's story at it checks with the history of the Hopkins family, there lived three brothers, Mark, Moses and John Hopkins. In the gold rush days Mark and Moses left for California by wagon. That was the beginning of Mark Hopkins \$300,000,000 fortune.

The Bostic woman, who claims to be a great grand niece, traces her lineage thusly: John Hopkins, brother of Mark, had a daughter named Prudence, who married John Teeter and lived in Stanley county. The Teeters had a daughter named Nancy Elizabeth, who married Matthew Stallings and lived in Cabarrus county. The Stallings daughter was Frances Louise Stallings, the claimant, who married Samuel Walter Long, and now lives near Bostic in Rutherford.

Mrs. Long informed her counsel that she had other relatives in Stanley county and intended to get them to unite with her in her claims to a portion of the estate.

These claims will augment those already made by 125 others in this state and Virginia, which was the original home of Mark and John Hopkins' father.

According to a news story by M. R. Dunnagan, of Durham, the claims of all those in this state may be recognized. The Durham story giving complete details of the tangle about the fortune follows:

The bulk of the accumulated estate left by the late Mark Hopkins, native of North Carolina, California gold miner, hardware merchant and railroad magnate, very conservatively estimated at \$300,000,000, will come to North Carolina and be divided among more than 125 claimants, if the petition to have the original distribution set aside and a new one made is maintained, according to Judge J. H. Longden, of Sacramento, Cal.

Judge Longden and his wife, Dr. H. L. Longden, have been in this state for about a month working on the lists of claimants, making Durham their headquarters and going out into the several counties of the state in which the claimants are located.

The bulk of the claimants are in Randolph county, with large numbers in Guilford, Person, Durham and Orange counties, with scattering numbers in other counties of the state, and probably 30 or 40 scattered in other states, including Virginia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington and California, it is stated.

List of Attorneys
North Carolina attorneys, including Nathan Lunsford, Roxboro, representing the Rhex claimants, largely in Person county; Lieut. Gov. J. Elmer Long, representing Chambers claimants, largely in Durham, Person and Orange counties; Palmer and Blackwelder, Concord, representing the Smith claimants, in Randolph, Guilford and Montgomery counties, and Victor S. Bryant, Durham, assistant to Judge Longden, have been holding conferences recently and will continue until they come to the point of taking definite court action, which is expected within the next few days.

Court action in this state is expected to include the filing of a petition in U. S. court in Greensboro for permission for a hearing in which the claimants would attempt to establish their right to participation in the Hopkins estate. Judge E. Yates Webb would hear the evidence and certify the names of those who, in the opinion of the court, established their relationship. This decree would be filed as an amendment to the petition which Judge Longden filed in the superior court in San Francisco last year for a hearing to set aside the first distribution of the estate. The defendants in the action, of whom there are said

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Good Mileage



—NEA, Cleveland Bureau
Mrs. William Meyer (above) of Cincinnati, O., recently wore a pedicometer during her rounds of her household duties. She attached it to her apron pocket at 6:20 a. m. and at 6 p. m. she found that it registered seven miles. All of her walking had been confined to her five room apartment.

Judge Webb To Hold Superior Court Here

Shelby Jurist By Exchange Will Preside At Court Term Here And Also Lincoln

Judge James L. Webb, Shelby jurist, will preside at the term of superior court which convenes here Monday, July 26, it has been definitely announced.

Judge Webb will also preside at the term of superior court this week in Lincoln instead of the jurist previously announced.

Sometime back it was stated here that Judge H. P. Lane would preside at the local court. Later it was thought that Judge John H. Harwood, who succeeds Judge Bryson, resigned, would preside, but it is learned that Judge Harwood will not preside at either the Cleveland or Lincoln court. Judge Calvert will preside at Lexington and Judge Webb here and at Lincoln by the exchange.

Large Crowd Attends Funeral Of Eskridge

A large crowd attended the funeral of Mr. George Eskridge who was buried Sunday at 11 o'clock at Zion Baptist church, six miles north of Shelby, the funeral service being conducted by Rev. D. Frank Putnam. Mr. Eskridge was an engineer on the E. J. and E. railroad at the time of his death and served in the world war overseas in the capacity of engineer. He had been away from Cleveland, his native county, for 25 years, and had made a wonderful success. Two years ago he was here on a visit to relatives. According to Mr. Groves Eskridge a brother and Mr. Ab Poston, a brother-in-law, who went to Gary, Indiana for his remains, deceased died suddenly from hemorrhage of the brain. He had not been sick and was seen on Saturday and Sunday morning before his death last Sunday night by friends. O. H. Gant, secretary and treasurer of the trainmen's lodge of which he was a member at Gary, accompanied the remains to Shelby Friday, the remains being kept at the home of his sister, Mrs. Ab Poston until the funeral at Zion on Sunday. He was the son of the late Marion Eskridge of the Double Shoals community.

Stick Of Stovewood Proves To Be Snake

Hot weather—a snake story. It comes to The Star by way of "Doc" Suttle, who tells it from the vantage point of a bench on the court square. It is vouched for.

The story is this: That last week Mrs. Lee Whisnant, who lives on R-2, was building a fire in the range to cook dinner. She was using wood, which is largely the fuel of the countryside.

Mrs. Whisnant stood by the stove and picked up the wood and placed it in the stove—piece by piece. She picked up a piece, lying like the rest in the box, and it wiggled. The piece of wood seemed to come to life. She dropped it, as a woman would be expected to do under the circumstances and screamed, which seems also to be a perfectly natural reaction.

The piece of wood was a large-size pilot snake.

YOUNG COUNTY GIRL DIES IN CAR CRASH

Lillian Beatty, 15-Year-Old Daughter of James Beatty, Meets Death in Lincoln Wreck.

Lincolnton, July 18.—Miss Lillian Beatty, 15-year-old daughter of James Beatty, of near Cherryville, in Cleveland county, was instantly killed in an automobile wreck on East Main street in this city Saturday night at 11:20, and her companions in a Ford touring car, Lewis Johnson, telephone employe of Gastonia, and Miss Brunie Larmon, of this city, were both injured and were carried to the local hospital for treatment for minor injuries.

The accident occurred when the car driven by Johnson attempted to pass the Ford touring car occupied by Rush Foster and Roscoe Smith, negro farmers of the county. Both cars were travelling west along the highway when they side swiped. The death car, following the collision, turned over several times, spilling the driver and his companions out, and landed 30 yards from the point of collision in a badly smashed condition. The negro men escaped injury. Their car driven by Foster, was reversed in the road and broken up.

The negro men left the scene following the fatal accident, but returned this morning, and they, with Johnson, are being held for a hearing by the sheriff.

Coroner Warlick had the body of Miss Beatty removed to an undertaking establishment, thence to the home of the parents at Cherryville, where the funeral will be conducted Monday morning at 11 o'clock from Bethel church in Cleveland county.

Company K Returns From Morehead Camp

Local Unit of Militia Returns from Annual Encampment at Morehead City. Fine Record.

Company K, Cleveland county militia unit, returned Sunday afternoon from Camp Glenn, Morehead City, where they have been at their annual summer encampment. The return was by way of the Seaboard on a special car.

The local company, made up of 65 men and the commissioned officers, made a good showing in the regimental manoeuvres. Second Lieut. H. C. Long was the winner of the regimental prize for marksmanship.

All members of the company, from the officers down, returned in a good state of health and in ideal physical condition following their regular training period on the coast.

Corner Stone Laying And Picnic At Belwood

There will be a corner stone laying and Junior Order picnic combined at the new Belwood consolidated school building in the afternoon of July 24th from two p. m. to six p. m. Hon. L. S. Spurling of Lenoir will make an address on the principals of the Junior order. Short talks by Professor Hodges of Boone, N. C., Prof. C. A. Ledford of Lawndale, and probably others.

Hon. J. C. Newton, of the Shelby chamber of commerce will speak on "Education and Consolidation of Rural Schools."

Mr. J. H. Brackett will have charge of the corner stone work. The public is invited and especially we want all patrons of the new district present and don't forget to bring well-filled baskets.

At six o'clock a picnic dinner will be served.

Free lemonade will be furnished by the Junior order.

J. P. Boggs, E. W. Dixon, R. T. Peeler, H. D. Hoyle, Committee.

Roberts On Important Virginia Commission

Rufus Roberts, son of Mrs. Eliza Roberts of Shelby and editor of the Virginia Star at Culpeper, Va., has been appointed by Governor Byrd of Virginia as a member of the state commission on conservation and development. This is a distinct honor coming to Mr. Roberts who holds a high position in the state of Virginia where he has been editing a newspaper for a number of years. His many Shelby friends rejoice over the high honor that has come to him. The commission on which he has been appointed is composed of six other prominent men of the Old Dominion. They will have complete authority over the conservation and development work in Virginia. It will take over the forestry work, the geological survey, the water power development, the business of acquiring the Shenandoah National park area and the expenditure of the \$50,000 annual state advertisement fund.

Young Sonner succumbed at 3 o'clock this morning from an attack of pneumonia.

The boy had been improving steadily and it was hoped by physicians he would recover from the two bullet wounds he received above and below the heart. Then, three days ago, the pneumonia complication developed and within twenty-four hours the doctors feared all hope for his recovery was gone. He was unconscious all day yesterday. Before lapsing into the coma the youth indicated no desire to make any statement concerning the week-old tragedy, physicians said.

No Statement

Thus the dead boy's original statement that his pretty young companion and himself were shot by another boy named "Jimmie" who escaped, stands as the only solution to the tragedy on record. The theory of Sheriff McFarlane that Sonner shot

Started World-Wide Union



Thirty-five years ago Marshall A. Hudson started the Baraca-Philathea Union with a class of a dozen young men. Now the organization encircles the globe, with more than 1,000,000 members. This picture of Mr. and Mrs. Hudson was taken recently in Cincinnati at a convention of the order.

Youth In Tryon Mystery Dead--Confesses Slaying

Confession of Sonner on Way to Hospital, is Said. First Thought Lasting Secret.

Asheville, July 17.—A posthumous confession by Q. C. Sonner, jr., that he killed pretty Jean Braswell in a fit of jealous madness and then shot himself was revealed late tonight by Sheriff Robert F. MacFarlane, of Polk county.

"I killed Jean and then shot myself, but for God's sake don't tell anyone," Sonner is said to have gasped out to Moses Bradley, who discovered him with two bullet wounds in his breast the night of July 7 just after the shooting occurred at a lonely spot on inaccessible Green River Cove road.

Bradley promised to hold the confession in confidence until after Sonner died.

Early Saturday morning the Sonner boy succumbed to a pneumonia complication that had set in after he was apparently going to recover. Officials believed his death had sealed the mystery of the dual tragedy until Bradley's statement tonight. The confession, however, did not come entirely as a surprise, Sheriff MacFarlane said as charges of murder were to have been filed against Sonner had he recovered.

Was Screaming.
It was only a few minutes after he heard the shots and screams that accompanied the shooting, Bradley told Sheriff MacFarlane, that he and his brother found Sonner staggeringly down the road mortally wounded. He was screaming out that he and Jean were shot. The girl, the boy told Bradley, was dead.

On the way to the car in which Bradley and his brother took Sonner to the Tryon hospital the boy gasped out the story of the killing.

Throughout his three-weeks courtship of Miss Braswell, Sonner told the Bradleys, he had been intensely jealous of her. She refused to give up her friends as he demanded and only the day before the shooting she had acted particularly cool toward Sonner.

A lovers' quarrel, over a date she had given another Saluda youth the day of the shooting precipitated the tragedy.

Tryon, July 17.—Q. C. Sonner, Jr., companion of Miss Jean Braswell, Tryon society girl, on the night of July 7, when she was shot to death, died here today of pneumonia, which developed while he was being treated for gunshot wounds inflicted at the same time Miss Braswell was fatally injured.

Young Sonner succumbed at 3 o'clock this morning from an attack of pneumonia.

The boy had been improving steadily and it was hoped by physicians he would recover from the two bullet wounds he received above and below the heart. Then, three days ago, the pneumonia complication developed and within twenty-four hours the doctors feared all hope for his recovery was gone. He was unconscious all day yesterday. Before lapsing into the coma the youth indicated no desire to make any statement concerning the week-old tragedy, physicians said.

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Boys Pinned Under Wreck For Hours

A report of an automobile wreck that came near proving fatal comes in from Kings Mountain.

Late Saturday night a Ford touring car, occupied by three Kings Mountain young men, turned turtle at a culvert near the mountain cut on the York road about three miles south of Kings Mountain and the three occupants in addition to being painfully injured were pinned under the wreckage of the car in the water for hours.

The boys in the car were John McDaniels, Ab Parish and a Laughridge youth, it is said.

McDaniels suffered a broken arm and broken ribs, while Parish had several fractured ribs and a punctured arm, and Laughridge received several painful injuries.

Parish and Laughridge were pinned under the wreckage in the stream of water from 12 at night until 4:30 Monday morning, it is said. The broken spokes of the steering wheel pinned Parish's arm to the bed of the stream and he was unable to move and suffering excruciating pain. McDaniel freed himself with a broken arm, but was unable to extricate his companions, having to seek aid elsewhere.

Had the wrecked car stopped the flow of water through the stream it is thought likely that the boys under the car would have drowned.

The youths after being extricated were removed to Kings Mountain where they were treated by physicians. The car it is said overturned after missing the culvert.

Ben Abernethy Has Winning Art Work

Most folks in Shelby know B. E. Abernethy. He is a local boy, son of Mr. Tom Abernethy, of West Marion street, and a brother of Paul G. Abernethy, who represents his angular frame daily here at the Star office.

Ben, about twenty-three, now lives in Bastonia—but, with his brother, learned the ways of work and optimism, at the feet so to speak, of Mr. Hoey, in this establishment.

Ben works in a foundry in the Gaston town. But that is not the story—only a part of it—a background to give color to an achievement. The fact is this—that this boy is an artist, with all the burning ambition and restless spirit of the members of that cult.

And while he works in a foundry by day, by night he works with his pen in his room, drawing and painting pictures—doing his level best to put over the big task of crawling out of his present job to the heights he dreams about.

This story has to tell of a big jump toward success. In this week's "Judge" one of the standard humorous weeklies of the country, Abernethy has a picture—which drew a prize. The work reveals the high qualities of the artist's mind, humor, wit and understanding.

The notice of Ben's success, comes to Shelby through Mrs. Mary E. Yarbrough, county treasurer, who knows young Abernethy and who has helped him with sympathy, advice and friendship.

Mrs. Yarbrough was immensely gratified to see the picture in "Judge" as justifying her belief in her youthful protégé. She says she believes "Ben" has it in him to climb high in this big field of imaginative work.

Crop Acreage And Yields In Cleveland Last Year

Fully Developed Boll Of Cotton Shown Here

To Dave Turner, colored tenant farmer on Max Gardner's Morpene farm, goes another honor of the crop year. In the latter part of June Dave brought in the section's first cotton bloom, and last week he exhibited the first fully developed boll.

The boll exhibited came from a bloom later than the one he brought in on June 29, Dave says. The boll was fully developed and no deprecation of the reported "leaf hopper" or boll weevil could be detected. However, the cotton in the boll was still damp and it would not likely have completely opened for some time.

As is natural Dave is proud of his early cotton and the cotton raising tactics he brought with him from Ridgeway, S. C.

PLAN OF STAGING HORSE SHOW HERE

Shelby Riding Club Sponsors Move To Put On Big Horse Show In Shelby During Summer

A big horse show, planned to attract hundreds, may be staged in Shelby during the late summer.

Such is the report that comes from a recent meeting of the Shelby Riding club. An event of the type, other than the annual fair horse show, has been talked for some time, but without any organization definitely behind the move. Now that the organized horsemen and horsewomen of the town are behind the movement success appears likely.

At a picnic meeting of the local riders held one evening during the past week at the Sam Lattimore plantation the subject was brought up and such was the favorable comment of those present that a committee was appointed to go further into the details and to report during this week to the club. A favorable report by the committee, it is understood, would assure the staging of the show under the direction of the club.

The committee appointed was composed of Messrs. W. H. Lineberger and George Blanton and Dr. J. S. Dorton, all horse lovers and interested in horse shows.

Many Shelby people attended the recent show held in Statesville and were highly impressed with the event. While there the thought came to many that Shelby should put on another horse show in addition to the ones and show each fall at the fair ground. Since their return many of them have discussed the matter with the above result.

According to the preliminary plans riding horses would be brought in from several states and the ideal location of the race track at the fair ground with Cleveland Springs nearby would add much in the conveniences of visitors expected.

Florida Party Comes For Summer Months

Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Wickens and daughter and two grand children and a friend Mrs. Stanley Norman, of Clearwater, Florida arrived Sunday and will occupy the Tom Lattimore residence on N. Morgan street. Mr. Wickens arrived last week with Mr. E. A. Marshall, while the other members of the party came on Sunday. Mr. Wickens is charmed with Shelby, having learned to like it when he came to Shelby the early part of June with the Clearwater delegation brought here by Alfred P. Marshall of the Cleveland Springs Estates. He is sure the other members of his family will be pleased with the climate, the people and the beauty of the town.

Mr. Wickens is one of the leading citizens of Clearwater, a booster who goes on all of the trips made in the interest of his home town and has already made many friends here.

Many Week End Folks At Cleveland Springs

Cleveland Springs hotel, Shelby's resort hotel, has been enjoying a fine patronage of recent weeks, numerous parties from towns and cities over the Carolinas and Virginias stopping over for a week, or for week-ends.

Under the management of J. D. Lineberger the hotel is becoming more popular than ever and numerous Shelby parties added to the Sunday guest lists.

This County Showing Marked Progress in all Lines of Agriculture. Considering the Drought.

Interesting facts are revealed on Cleveland county agriculture in a pamphlet entitled "North Carolina Agriculture" by the soil improvement committee of the National Fertilizer association. In 1925 Cleveland county had 64,431 acres planted in cotton and every acre was fertilized. The average number of pounds of fertilizer used to the acre is given at 468 and the yield of cotton per acre as 204 pounds. The county produced last year about 38,000 bales which was short about 4,000.

In corn it is reported by a survey that the county had 36,123 acres planted and that the yield was 12 bushels per acre, yielding a total of 433,476 bushels. Our farmers have been somewhat criticized for failure to plant corn but when they plant more than half as much corn as they do cotton, there is no ground for criticism. The acreage seems to have been ample but the drought cut the yield. In wheat the county was deficient.

There were only 3,767 acres in wheat, yielding an average of 11 bushels per acre or 41,437 bushels for the entire county. This year with more favorable weather conditions the wheat yield will probably double that of last year. Rye is of course a small crop in Cleveland and last year there were only 1,316 acres in the entire county. Only 26 acres were planted in peanuts, 102 acres in hay, 87 acres in soy beans, 139 in Indian corn, 287 in sweet potatoes and 886 in white potatoes.

These figures are supposed to be accurate but there seems to be some mistake about the number of acres in sweet potatoes when the information is given that three times as many acres were planted to Irish or white potatoes as were planted to sweet potatoes. Cleveland is regarded as a sweet potato county and the progress made in this line has resulted in the building of potato storage houses capable of housing and curing 25,000 bushels.

North Carolina holds high rank for value of agricultural wealth produced. Though one of the small states of the Union, it usually ranks fifth to seventh in the value of its agricultural products. This good showing is to be attributed to several things, chief of which are: (a) Crops of high money value, such as tobacco, cotton and truck. (b) Intelligent use of commercial fertilizers. (c) Soils that are responsive to good treatment. (d) Climate with enough moisture and warmth to favor maximum plant development. (e) Good farming systems, including intelligent handling of the soil and the use of crop rotations and good seed. (f) Excellent home markets because agriculture is diluted with manufacturing enterprises, and because of excellent nearby markets afforded by the large population centers of the country.

A complete census of agriculture of the country was taken in 1925, five years after the previous one, instead of ten years as in the past. In this census it is shown that in 1925 there were 283,491 farms in North Carolina, as compared to 269,763 in 1920—a gain of 13,728.

Though the number of tenants increased from 117,459 in 1920 to 128,254 in 1925, the number of farm owners grew from 151,376 to 154,813. The percentage of tenants in 1920 was 43.5, while in 1925 it had increased to 45.2.

North Carolina in 1925 was farming on fewer acres than in 1920. The decrease was from 20,021,736 acres to 18,597,795 acres. In this respect North Carolina is not different from other southeastern cotton states.

One reason is apparent for the decrease in the farmed acreage. It has been mentioned that the number of farms and farmers has increased. This clearly indicates that farming has become more intensified. The size of the average farm is shown by the census to be 74.2 acres in 1920, while in 1925 it was 65.6 acres.

Young Minister Is Visiting In County

Rev. Sylvester Elliott native of the Beams Mill section of Cleveland county and one of the prominent young ministers Cleveland county is producing, is spending awhile here visiting friends. He filled the pulpit at the First Baptist church last Wednesday night at prayer meeting and again Sunday night, preaching a most excellent sermon in the absence of Dr. Zeno Wall who is engaged in a revival meeting this week at Lattimore. Mr. Elliott has many friends in the county and is being heard in pulpits at several places. Mr. J. C. Newton will have charge of the prayer meeting services at the First Baptist church Wednesday evening of this week.