

AGED MAN HAS THROAT CUT BY HIS OWN SON--ENTIRE FAMILY IMPLICATED IN PLOT

James Barfield, 63 years old. Mrs. Marcellus Cook, 48 years old, her son, Ira, aged 20, and her daughter, Minnie, aged 16, and Henry Wheeler, a farm hand employed by the Cook family, are in the Lexington county jail, charged with the murder of Marcellus Cook, a man 66 years old, a paralytic, whose throat was cut from ear to ear last Friday at his home in the Sneedman section. The details of the crime reveal it to be one of the most revolting in the history of the state. All of the parties are ignorant people, none of whom are able to write except Wheeler, who just manages to scrawl his name, but admits never having been to school and having rarely ever attended church or Sunday school.

A confession made to Sheriff Roof in the presence of the editors of The Dispatch-News by Ira Cook and Wheeler, and substantiated by Mrs. Cook after being lodged in jail early Wednesday, is to the effect that Ira Cook cut his own father's throat while his mother held one arm, Wheeler holding the other and the young daughter holding his feet. Sheriff Roof first secured a confession from Wheeler, Cook refusing to have anything to say, but finally on Tuesday he tremblingly told of the deed, laying the blame upon his mother and her alleged paramour, Barfield.

"My mother persuaded me to help her," the boy said with some signs of emotion. According to his story Barfield had promised him and Henry Wheeler, some chickens and a calf if he would help get Cook out of the way. According to his story his father, who had suffered two strokes of paralysis on the right side and who, though able to get about the house in a shuffling manner, had practically lost the use of his right arm and leg, was sitting on the side of the bed oiling his gun. He had asked the 15-year-old daughter to bring him some shells, which the mother forbade her to do. At this point, said Cook, his mother took the gun away from his father and she held one arm, while Wheeler held the other, the 15-year-old daughter holding his feet, while Ira Cook proceeded to cut the old man's throat from ear to ear, almost severing his head from the body. Wheeler then placed the razor in the hands of the dying man and held the hand tightly until the rigor of death had firmly fixed the instrument of death in his hand, to give color to the theory of suicide which the murderers attempted to invent to cover up their tracks. Young Cook and Wheeler both said that Barfield and Mrs. Cook had conceived the plot and Barfield had instructed them to place the razor in the murdered man's hand and hold it until the hand stiffened. Wheeler and Cook both told of bad blood between the elder Cook and his wife and claimed that Mrs. Cook the night before the murder had attempted to poison her husband with calcium arsenate. Barfield denied any implication

in the murder, but in an unguarded moment admitted having bought the calcium arsenate and giving to Mrs. Cook, claiming he believed it was intended to poison boll weevil.

The confession of Cook was corroborated in detail by Wheeler, who had been with the Cook family for about ten days, the two families being connected. Wheeler is from Saluda county. A relative informed The Dispatch-News that he had served a term in the penitentiary for attempting to pass a worthless check. He had made a crop in Saluda county this year, according to this relative, and had it taken away from him by a party holding a claim against him. He was supposed to have been engaged to the Cook girl.

Barfield is a man passed 60 years of age. When the sheriff and the newspaper men came from the cell of the younger men he requested an interview and seemed anxious to learn what the boys had to say. Though denying their any complicity in the murder, he appeared extremely anxious to learn what the boys had told. He was trembling like an aspen leaf, but stoutly protested his innocence both of illicit relations with the Cook woman and guilty knowledge of the murder. He admitted appearing on the scene within a few minutes after the murder had been committed and upon approaching was told by young Cook that "everything is alright now." He did not stay long and proceeded to Batesburg, riding some distance with a neighbor without mentioning the fact that Cook had been killed or had committed suicide, as he claims he was informed by the family.

Some time after the murder members of the family phoned to Lexington that the old man had committed suicide. Coroner Weed repaired to the scene. At the inquest it was developed from the testimony of Dr. J. J. Wingard that it would have been a physical impossibility for the dead man to have given himself the wound by which death was caused. Effort was made at the inquest by the others to fasten the guilt on Barfield, who was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Oswald and lodged in jail Saturday. Sunday morning after being placed in confinement he made a sworn statement laying the blame on Cook and Wheeler and they were promptly arrested Sunday by Deputy Sheriff Oswald. Monday Wheeler made a confession and Tuesday Ira Cook told of his part, implicating his mother and sister, who were soon placed under arrest. They have substantiated the story told by Cook and Wheeler. The jail is now so full that Sheriff Roof is put to his trumps to take care of the prisoners. He has no accommodations for women and will probably have to remove the Cook women to either the Richland county jail or the state penitentiary. In all probability the case will be disposed of at the next term of court, which meets the second Monday in September.

money, blarney, and promises, and an awful saving of gasoline and auto repairs, and patience and temper to the candidates, if the roads all over the county are in the condition they are in hereabouts.

After a respite of seven years, our jolly friend, Mr. G. W. Jeffercoat, is again walking the floor o' nights with the baby, trying to key a good bass voice to tones suitable for the ear of a wee daughter; and the baby really hushes, whether from fright, amazement, or admiration, we can't say, but our sympathies are all with the baby.

Also, Mr. W. M. Spires is engaged likewise, a tiny daughter having arrived one day last week. We think the stork shows good judgment in leaving these little girls with these big, husky fellows, who look abler to take care of them, these hard times.

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sharpe visited relatives up in the St. Peter's section Sunday.

Mrs. Annie Spires of Gaston spent last Thursday with her sister, Mrs. W. M. Spires.

GILBERT MASONS TO HOLD PICNIC SATURDAY

Gilbert lodge, No. 176, A. F. M., will give a picnic and barbecue Saturday next, to which the public is cordially invited. An interesting program has been arranged for the day, and some of the best known Masons of the state will take part. The public generally, Masons and others, are cordially invited to attend. Following is the program which will be carried out:

Program.
Invocation, 10:30 a. m., by Rev. W. A. Shepard.

Address of Welcome by Hon. Cyrus L. Shealy.

"The Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry," by Brother C. C. Fishburne.

"Missionary—An Idea Above Organization," by Brother Waller Bailey.

"Relationship of Masonry to Religion," by Brother Legare Inglesby.

"Masonry as a Practical Force," by Brother James H. Fowles, District Deputy Grand Master.

"The Best Thing in the World," by Brother O. Frank Hart, Grand Secretary.

PROF. DREHER WILL GO TO COLLEGE IN N. C.

Friends in this county of Prof. E. S. Dreher, for many years superintendent of the Columbia city schools, and a member of the well known family of the same name in Lexington county, has accepted the position of business manager of the North Carolina College for Women at Greensboro. After leaving Columbia Prof. Dreher held an important position with the American College in China, returning from that country on account of his health. Lately he has made his home with his brother at Irmo. His many friends here will wish him abundant success in his new home.

MRS. HENRY SHULL PASSES TO BEYOND

Mrs. Maggie P. Shull, young wife of Henry H. Shull, passed into the great beyond at 12:45 o'clock yesterday morning at 201 Huger street. Mrs. Shull, who was a Miss Norton of North Carolina, was only 21 years of age and had been married about a year. She is survived by her husband, a farmer of Lexington county, an infant child, and by five brothers and three sisters. The brothers and sisters, all of whom are residents of Columbia, are as follows:

J. A. Norton, W. W. Norton, L. C. Norton, James C. Norton, L. B. Norton, Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis, Mrs. May Grant and Miss Hattie Norton.

Funeral services will be held at the Whaley Street Methodist church at 3 o'clock this afternoon conducted by the Rev. Mr. Betts. Interment will follow in the Shull burial ground.—The State.

"BOB" LEAPHART WILL NOT BE IN RACE.

C. E. Leaphart, former county treasurer, will not make the race for probate judge. Positive announcement to the effect was made yesterday by Mr. Leaphart, to a newspaper man. Mr. Leaphart, whose term as county treasurer expired July 1, has since that date devoted himself to his private affairs and did not care to become a candidate in the coming race.

PINEY WOODS PICNIC NEXT SATURDAY

The picnic of Piney Woods local of the farmers union will be held at the Piney Woods parsonage Saturday, August 20. An interesting program has been prepared and a large crowd is expected to enjoy the day.

DEATH MR. JOHN A. KAMINER

Mr. John A. Kaminer, originally of this county, but recently of Columbia, died very suddenly in that city last Thursday at the home of his son-in-law, Robt. F. Martin, 919 Calhoun St. He was only sick a few hours with indigestion and died. Mr. Kaminer was a good man, reserved, but clever to every one he met, a good neighbor and friend, ready and willing to serve them at their call; was a member of Zion church in this county. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Robert Martin, and two brothers, M. K. Kaminer, Job. A. Kaminer. He was in his 59th year of age. His remains were interred in Elmwood cemetery, Columbia, where he rests in peace.

THE MISSES BERLY ENTERTAIN FOR VISITOR.

A pleasant social affair of the past week was the entertainment given last Wednesday night by Misses Sarah and Kathryn Berly in honor of their charming guest, Miss Lollie Holloway of Orangeburg. The evening was pleasantly spent in games with heart dice. Delightful refreshments were served by Misses Bertha Berly, Gladys Harman, Virginia Evans and Bertha Caughman. Those present were: Miss Lollie Holloway, guest of honor, Misses Mary E. Caughman, Pearl Caughman, Bruce Caughman, Leone Kyzer, Juanita George, Katie Lou Clarke, Mary Ellen Caughman, Blossie Clarke, Annie Corley, Ernestine Barre, Neita Lee Harman, Mamie Lee Callison; Dr. Homer Mathias, Dr. Riley, Messrs. James L. Tapp, Jr., and William Tapp of Columbia, John Fox, J. D. Jordan, Jacob Kaminer, L. M. McCarty, P. O. McLain, Norman Geiger, Harry Wessinger, Hoy Wessinger, Chalmers Wessinger, Claude Harman, Samuel A. George, Broadus Oswald, Hugh Corley, Bee Oswald, Harry Lee Oswald and Rufus Haltiwanger.

50 CASES PELLAGRA IN HORSE CREEK VALLEY

Thirty-two cases of pellagra in the Horse Creek valley section were visited by Dr. A. H. Hayden, epidemiologist of the state board of health. Mr. W. D. Wright of Langley had reported to the health board the presence of some 50 or 60 cases of pellagra in that section and last week Dr. Hayden visited the community, and saw personally 32 cases.

The cotton mills in the Horse Creek valley are running at full time. Dr. Hayden reports, and there are no cases or urgent need, he says. His report covers the towns of Langley, Bath and Clearwater and their vicinity. Of the 32 cases of pellagra, two were among negroes and two deaths were also included.

Most of the cases Dr. Hayden saw have developed this year, he says. In one family of seven, the mother and four children were sufferers from pellagra, and several other instances of children being victims of the disease were noted. With changes of diet, improvement has been noted, the report says. With the mills running at full time, it is hoped that the pellagra situation in that section of the state will be improved.—The State.

DOTS FROM PLEASANT HILL.

Mr. D. L. Taylor and wife visited their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Price Sunday.

Mr. Drayton Taylor and family visited Mr. James Hallman and family Sunday.

Mr. J. Z. Taylor and wife visited their son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Taylor Sunday.

Mr. Lawrence Taylor and wife, also Mr. Ruben Taylor and wife and little son, Manning, spent a short while with their sister and brother, Mr. and Mrs. Burly Leaphart, Sunday evening.

Misses Eva and Lottie Risinger and little brother, Charley, spent Sunday with their cousin, Mr. and Mrs. Talma Long.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowman Rawl and three small children made a flying trip to their son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Callie Taylor Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Brinton Shealy, better known as Brint, spent Saturday night with his pal, Mr. Dewie Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. James Long, also Mrs. J. D. Taylor visited her brother and their uncle, Mr. W. W. Anderson Sunday.

We are glad to report at this writing that Mr. Tessie Taylor who underwent an operation some weeks ago has returned home from the Baptist hospital. Hope he will continue to improve.

Mr. L. J. Frick and wife spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Berly Leaphart.

Mr. Callie Taylor and Mr. James Long spent a short while with their brother, Mr. Simpson Taylor, Sunday morning and while there took on one bait of watermelon.

Mr. Lawrence Taylor and wife and Misses Crawford and Dewie Taylor and Douglas Burkett took in the Children's day at Styx Saturday and reported a nice time.

COLUMBIA MOB THWARTED IN PERSISTENT EFFORTS TO LYNCH FOX AND GAPPINS

Jesse Gappins and C. O. Fox, who together are charged with the murder of W. C. Brazell, 19-year-old transfer driver on the Augusta road last week are being held in the Charleston jail, where they were taken last week by Sheriff E. Austin Roof, after having been removed from Augusta to Savannah, by Sheriff Plunkett to avoid collision with a mob which threatened to visit summary punishment on the two men. Soon after they were removed from the Augusta jail a mob, supposedly formed of friends of the dead boy in Columbia, proceeded to search the Richmond county jail in Augusta and there was talk of a like move in Savannah. Sheriff Roof went to Savannah and removed the men to the Charleston county jail, where it is believed they are safe for the time being. It was the intention of Sheriff Roof to bring the men to the state penitentiary, which he felt sure he could have accomplished without danger, but, acting on instructions from the governor he came back from Charleston without them. The Southern train on which he returned from Charleston as well as the train on the Atlantic Coast Line the same night was searched by armed masked men at points near Columbia. Perhaps there have been few instances in which a mob displayed more persistence in an attempt to carry out their expressed intention of lynching the prisoners. For more than a week they kept the officers of the law on the jump and using every precaution to avoid violence.

According to reports from Savannah Fox and Gappins made confessions which implicate Kirby as deeply in the plot as the others, though Kirby stoutly maintains that his confession was the true version of the affair.

Father of Murdered Boy Speaks.

Mr. E. Brazell, father of the murdered boy, Monday issued a statement in which he pleaded for the law to take its course. The statement is as follows:

"I am a law abiding man, and though I know that no punishment, however cruel, could possibly be too severe for these men, yet I would prefer to see the law be allowed to take its course. The lynching of the three men, or two of them, can not give me back my boy and it may possibly cost the life of some of my friends or my murdered boy's friends. It is the sworn duty of the sheriff to protect his prisoners and I should not blame him for protecting them from a mob any more than I should blame him for risking his life to hold them should their friends attempt to rescue them. If I were in the sheriff's place I should hold them if it cost me my life and I now expect the sheriff and other officers to do likewise. I should be true to my oath; they will be true to theirs.

The representatives of the law first arrested the men, who otherwise might by now have made good their escape, and I know that the law can be trusted to hold them and to punish them for their brutal crime. The death or injury of a sheriff or of some friend of mine or my boy's will

not help me to bear my loss. If I were to read tomorrow that Fox and Gappins had been lynched I should feel no better or happier than I do now. These men have broken the law and will be punished without delay by the law. The lynching of them will not make their punishment more certain. Two crimes do not make a right. The law has done its part in capturing the murderers and obtaining the evidence against them; it will do the rest by punishing them."

It is believed that the statement of Mr. Brazell had a good effect for law and order.

Proceedings at Inquest

"That the said William Brazell came to his death on the 8th day of August, 1921, in the county of Lexington, state of South Carolina, at the hands of C. O. Fox, Jesse Gappins and S. J. Kirby, as a result of wounds inflicted by beating, cutting and stabbing," was the verdict of the coroner's jury rendered at Leesville Friday morning at the conclusion of the testimony at the investigation into the death of the young Columbia taxi driver who was killed Sunday night on the road between Lexington and Leesville.

Coroner W. C. Weed presided at the hearing and Solicitor T. C. Callison examined the witnesses, the first one being N. S. Geiger of Lexington, who was acquainted with Brazell and who identified the body when it was found in the woods Tuesday morning.

Sheriff J. T. Plunkett of Augusta was the most important witness. He went over conversations had with the prisoners while they were in his charge, and told of the signed statements made by the three men. There is no material difference in what he told the coroner's jury from what has already been printed, in so far as Fox and Gappins are concerned, but in their statements they accuse Kirby with taking a leading part in all the transactions, including the holding of young Brazell while he was being murdered and of Kirby helping place the body in the car and of helping to remove it to the woods. Kirby has insisted that he was an onlooker only while this was in progress.

During the inquest a pocket knife said to be the one used by Fox to cut and stab Brazell was introduced as evidence, together with two pocketbooks, a card case, stick pin and W. O. W. coin, all of which were taken off the prisoners.

According to the statements of Fox and Gappins the trip leading to the death of young Brazell had been planned Thursday before it took place. The killing, they said, was not premeditated. At another meeting held Sunday afternoon by the three men in a cow stall near the boat landing on Congaree river, it is claimed by the statement of the two men that Kirby delivered to Gappins the blackjack with which Brazell was hit over the head Sunday night.

The inquest was held in the town theatre at Leesville and the building was filled beyond seating capacity. There was no disorder whatever during the proceedings.

DISTINGUISHED ALABAMA EDUCATOR ON VISIT TO OLD LEXINGTON HOME

Among pleasant visitors in Lexington the past week were Prof. and Mrs. Arthur F. Harman, and their three sons, John Fuller Harman, Arthur F. Harman, Jr., and Marlon D. Harman, all promising young men. Prof. Harman and family made the trip from their home in Montgomery, Ala., to Lexington through the country in their car and report a pleasant excursion. After spending a week with Col. and Mrs. M. D. Harman, Prof. Harman's parents, the family left on the return Tuesday morning.

Prof. Harman, who is an old Lexington boy, is always a welcome visitor to the old home town. He has more than made good in his chosen profession of teaching, taking high rank among the well known educators of the South, being one of the

ten highest paid superintendents of education in the Southern states. For 12 years he made a splendid record as superintendent of the city schools of Selma, Ala. Last July he was appointed county superintendent of education of Montgomery county, Alabama, a position which he has filled with credit to himself and profit to his county.

MARRIED IN N. C.

News has been received in Lexington of the marriage in Raleigh, N. C., of Mr. Fred R. Hiller, a former Lexington county boy whose home is at Chapin, and Miss Annie Josephine West. The marriage was solemnized on Thursday, August 11.

Mr. Hiller for some time has been located in Raleigh, where he holds a responsible position with the Southern Bell Telephone Company. Mr. Hiller, who is popular in his home town, was at one time a valued employee of the Citizens Telephone Company.

EDMUND NEWS.

If the condition of the cotton crop in this neighborhood could be taken as an indication of the crop generally, there would be one-fourth of a crop made. The boll weevil has "tail hold and down hill pull." On breaking open the half grown bolls, one finds only a brown sodden mass containing from two to half dozen grubs. Not a person expresses himself but that wishes he hadn't planted a seed. There has been a lot of talk the last few years about production, reduction and, now, it has happened whether the farmer is willing or unwilling. The specialists sent out by Clemson College last year said that we would plant cotton one year too many and it strikes us most forcibly, mentally and financially, that this is the year.

Aw, now, who wants another political "spasm" this year? If a judge of probate can't be appointed, let's stand the candidates all up in a row and "eny meny miny mo" 'em out to see who is to be "it". What 'say? It will be lots cheaper in time,