

ESTABLISHED IN 1895.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT WOODBURY PETITION

**Mr. J. C. Sellers Corrects Mr. Jas. W. Johnson in regard to the Woodbury Matter. Effort to Cut off Woodbury Almost Caused Riot. Proves that New County did Lack only 45 votes of Winning. A statement of Fact Which clears the Atmosphere and Ought to Give the People of the State a Clear Understanding of Conditions as They Exist in Marion County Today.**

Some time ago Mr. Jas. W. Johnson took the Dillon correspondent of the News and Courier to task for some alleged "errors" in his reference to the Woodbury Township matter. Mr. Johnson charged that the correspondent had "fabricated." Mr. Jno. C. Sellers, who seems to be in possession of the facts bearing on the matter, publishes the following reply in the News and Courier to Mr. Johnson's attack on the Dillon correspondent:

To the Editor of The News and Courier:

I see my good friend, Jas. W. Johnson, is out in an article in the News and Courier, in which he accuses "to correct a few of the most glaring errors" in reference to the new county question in Marion County, and the Marion Star of this week publishes the letter and makes very favorable editorial comment on same. In the first place the question of whether the new county was defeated at the last election by 45 votes or 133 votes is a mere juggling with figures. The first is based upon the admitted fact that there were 1,223 votes cast, and the second, on the assumption that there were 1,356 votes cast—133 more than were actually cast. If Mr. Johnson was running for Judge (and he would make a good one) 160 votes were cast and he was to receive 80, would not he and everybody else claim that he lacked only one vote of election, and in the ballot he would have to get that one vote from some one who failed to vote for him and not from one who had not voted at all, before he could be declared elected? Just so in the new county election, the new county would have to have gotten 45 votes from those voting against it before the required two-thirds majority could have been secured. And if those 45 votes had been forthcoming the new county would have carried, just as Mr. Johnson would have been elected, in the supposed case if that one vote had been secured to him. But what is the use of arguing so plain a proposition? It is like a case of splitting the hairs so as to befuddle the jury—a trick for which Mr. Johnson's profession is famous. An experience of twenty years at the Bar in active practice and often, in the nature of the case, forced "to make the worse appear the better part," I fear has disjoined my friend's logical powers and made him a sophist for the time being.

My friend is "away off" when he tackles the second "error," so called. After quoting from The News and Courier about the Woodbury and Britton's Neck Township proposed election fourteen years ago, he says: "The election in question was ordered and held and was defeated at the polls." My friend is grievously in error. No election was ever order-

ed, and, therefore, no vote was ever taken. In order to refresh my friend's memory, let me relate a little history, only fourteen years old, which some of the politicians at Marion Court House would prefer to be buried in oblivion.

It was in the years 1894-5, during Governor John Gary Evan's administration, that the new county was first talked about in the new county, and petitions gotten up for an election. In order to thwart the new county the politicians at the Court House got up a petition purporting to be signed by citizens of Britton's Neck and Woodbury townships, in the extreme lower sections of the county, praying that those two townships might be annexed to Horry County. The idea was, by kicking those two townships off into Horry, the area of Marion County would be so reduced that it would forever be impossible for another new county to be formed in the upper portion of the county.

The idea was a brilliant one, truly Machiavelian, and was worthy of a better ending. Unfortunately for the schemers, the people of Britton's Neck and Woodbury had not been consulted in the matter at all. It soon got noised around in those two townships the job that was proposed to be put on them, and indignation was greatly aroused. Curses not loud, but deep and full of meaning were heard on every hand. The schemers at the Court House became alarmed. A mass meeting was held at Nebo, in Britton's Neck, to pacify those benighted people, and make them see things as the schemers saw them. It was proposed to build them a bridge free of cost across the Little Dee Dee so as to enable them to get to Conway more easily than to Marion, and thus to bribe them to go to Horry and stay there. The most brilliant orator of the Marion Bar was engaged to make the principal speech at the meeting at which he proposed to show those misguided people at Britton's Neck and Woodbury how unreasonable they were in wishing to remain in Marion, when the Court House crowd was so anxious to be rid of them. The day of the meeting came and with it a large outpouring of the people, including a small contingent of speakers from the Court House.

An enterprising citizen of Britton's Neck who don't mind "talking right out in meetin'," took charge of the meeting and proceeded to "read the Riot Act, a good portion of the Declaration of Independence and a rough chunk of his own mind." The crowd became excited and bribery and forgery could be heard on every hand. The Marion crowd instead of making speeches as was expected, was as harmless as doves and mute as mice. A free ride on a fence rail and a coat of tar and feathers was not an inviting prospect. That speech, prepared with so much care, and over which so much midnight oil was burned, was not delivered, and has not been delivered up to date.

The Court House crowd returned posthaste to Marion, and that night one of their number took the right train for Columbia. Early the next morning, he walked into the Governor's office and asked for the Britton's Neck and Woodbury petition in order to carry it as usual to the Attorney General's office to get his legal opinion as to its form and execution, but instead of doing so the emissary "sucked his teeth," walked out of the Governor's office and put the petition in his pocket, and there it has remained until this good day unless—unless it was recently resurrected when the peti-

tion for an election in Woodbury Township was a few weeks ago presented to the Governor. That Britton's Neck petition "somehow or somehow else" "got lost" between the Governor's office and the office next adjoining, and has never been in the hands of the Attorney General.

This is no "fabrication" Mr. Johnson, but the plain unvarnished truth. The Governor never ordered the election, and I defy Mr. Johnson or any other man to show from the record that he did. He would not even consider the petition until the Attorney General passed upon it, and it "disappeared" before it reached the Attorney General's office, and that official never saw it.

Another mistake of Mr. Johnson has made in his correction of "errors" is in saying that, "at one of the elections, the people living in the extreme northern section of the county, thirty-five miles from the Court House, actually defeated the scheme." I think a little reflection will convince Mr. Johnson that he is mistaken. The Judson poll, to which he evidently refers, has been established only a few years, and there never has been a new county election since the establishment of that poll. The people of that section formerly voted at Little Rock, and Little Rock has always been practically solid for the new county.

It is generally conceded that Latta has always defeated the new county, and hence, looking at it from a new county standpoint, would it not have been suicidal and the height of foolishness to have included Latta where it could easily be left in the old county, and still have the required constitutional area of 400 square miles. With the Latta vote eliminated, it looks like a foregone conclusion that the new county will carry by an overwhelming vote. I notice that Mr. Johnson cites no law against the direction of the line around Latta, but confines himself to a simple protest against such a line. Able lawyer as he is, I am sure he would, if he could, but unfortunately for him the Constitution of the State only puts two limitations on the direction of a new county line: First, it must not run within 8 miles of an established county seat; and secondly, it must not cut the lines of an incorporated town. I don't believe Mr. Johnson, with his splendid legal ability, could frame a constitution that could specifically define in advance the various directions of a surveyed line, and still retain the right to the people of a county or parts of counties to form new counties whenever, in their judgement, it was to their interest to do so.

I have always been in favor of new counties, where the constitutional requirements can be complied with. Counties are established primarily for the convenience of all the people, country as well as towns, in the transaction of the public business. They are not formed for the purpose of building up a county seat, neither are they the great advantage to a town that some seem to think. Towns spring up, increase and grow, and end even rival the county seat, as witness, Easley in Pickens County, Rock Hill in York and Mullins, Dillon and Latta in our own county. The prosperity and growth of any town depends more largely upon the enterprise, energy and money of its leading citizens than the few dollars that may be spent in it by the Court and juries three times a year. So that if the new county is formed, Marion will not be hurt and Dillon will not realize the great advantages as a town she now expects, but the country peo-

ple in the upper section of the county will be benefitted by being within a convenient distance of their county seat.

Mr. Johnson and I had the distinction of opening the new county campaign, thirteen years ago, he on one side and I on the other, and it looks now as if we were about to close the debate. We both tried to appeal to the reason of our audience. The spirit of intolerance and prejudice had not then begun to manifest itself, but unfortunately the wise councils of Mr. Johnson have been set aside and for years the new county question has been injected into every county campaign and will be until the new county is formed. The upper and lower sections of the county have been almost solidly arrayed against each other for years. Politicians of the baser sort have taken advantage of the situation and have been elected to office to the discredit of themselves and their constituents. I heard a prominent candidate a few years ago make this astounding assertion: "Character and competency to the winds. There is no issue in this election but old county against new county." And he was elected. By such tactics as this our people have become embittered and reconciliation is now out of the question. Under these circumstances, is it not better to follow Horace Greeley's advice and "let our erring brothers go in peace?" John C. Sellers

## FIRE AT OIL MILL.

**Destroys, or Badly Chares, 250 Bales of Linters. Disastrous Fire Narrowly Averted by Good Water Supply.**

Two hundred and fifty bales of linters were badly burned at the Oil Mill Thursday afternoon. The origin of the fire is unknown and the flames had gained considerable headway before they were discovered. The cotton was under a shed adjoining the Dillon Storage Company's warehouse and at one time it looked as if there might be a serious conflagration, but the Oil Mill is equipped with an excellent system of water works and when the hose was turned on the flames were quickly extinguished. There were 260 bales of linters under the shed but out of that number ten were saved from the flames. The loss will aggregate fully \$3,000.

## Notice Primary Election.

By virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned as president and secretary of the White Democratic Club of Dillon, notice is hereby given that on Wednesday, March 31st., 1909, there will be held in the vacant store in the Bracy Block, the usual voting place of said town, an election at which there will be nominated a Mayor and six Aldermen to be voted upon in the general election ordered by the Town Council of said town to be held on April 6th., 1909.

The qualifications for voting shall be two years residence in the State, 12 month's residence in the county and four month's residence in the town.

The polls will open at 7 a. m. and close at 4 p. m. on the day of said election.

Each candidate is required to file with the secretary of said club three days before said election a pledge that he will abide by the result of said election and support the nominees thereof. No vote cast for any candidate who has not filed his pledge or paid his assessment shall be counted.

The managers appointed for said election are: D. N. Oliver, W. L. Bethea and W. E. James.  
W. T. Bethea, Chairman.  
A. J. C. Cottingham, Sec.

## SURVEYORS COMPLETE THEIR WORK.

**And Report will Probably be Made to the Commissioners this Week. Commissioner Mace Holds that Survey is Illegal on the Ground that Mr. Beatty had been Dismissed as Old County Surveyor and Matter will be Heard Before the Governor.**

The surveyors, Messrs. Hamby and Beatty, representing the new and old county respectively, completed the survey of the amended lines Thursday and will make their report in full this week. The Commissioners will then probably have a hearing before the governor as to the legality of the survey. Commissioner Mace holds that the survey is not official because he had dismissed Mr. Beatty as the old county surveyor.

The Saturday before the governor ordered the surveyors to proceed in the survey of the amended lines Commissioner Mace wired Mr. Beatty that he was dismissed as his work had been completed. Commissioner Dillon took the ground that Mr. Beatty's work had not been completed and ordered him to join Mr. Hamby at Latta on the Monday following. While the survey was being made around Latta Commissioner Mace again wired Mr. Beatty not to proceed, but Mr. Beatty ignored the demand and proceeded with Mr. Hamby to make the survey. In the meantime Commissioner Mace wired Mr. Dillon that he had employed Mr. Wiswall to take up the uncompleted work and that he would not recognize Mr. Beatty's work as official. However, the surveyors completed the work Thursday and are now working on their final report which will be made this week. At the hearing of the Commissioners before the governor, Gov. Ansel will decide whether or not Mr. Beatty was acting in an official capacity when he assisted Mr. Hamby in the survey.

Mr. Dillon holds that Mr. Beatty was acting under orders from the governor when he assisted in the survey of the amended lines as the governor in his decision granting the amendment said: "It is therefore ordered that the surveyors do proceed at once to survey the new lines hereby allowed and make a plat of the proposed new county, as per the lines set out in the original petition as amended by my first order of amendment, and by the amendment now allowed, and that as soon as the same is done the commissioners do make their report to me upon the survey and the other matters required by law to be made by them."

From the foregoing it is very clear that the surveyors were acting upon orders from the governor and no doubt their report will be accepted as official.

## Little Bly.

(The following is dedicated to Mr. F. Watkins' dog who came in collision with an automobile Saturday.)

Now I'm sad and lonely,  
My tears forever flow,  
My little bob-tail doggie,  
I never see any more.  
Like Caesar, was ambitious,  
Would chase the automobiles,  
But alas, unlucky day;  
Lost the nimble in his heels.  
An awful crash, a howl of pain,  
The doggies end was nigh,  
Now around his hat he wears,  
A band of crape for Bly.

## WANTED TO BE HUNG IN HIS OLD HOME.

**Extraordinary Wish of an Old Negro.**

Greenville, S. C., March 14.—"Mister, please don't try me here for breaking into the store. Send me back to Greenville, S. C., and let 'em try me there, 'cause they want me for killing a man. I'd rather be tried for killing a man there than stay here and be tried for robbery."

This was the startling plea made by Sam Gray, a negro arrested in East Bouche, Miss., to an officer who had him in charge. "Whom did you kill in South Carolina and when did you kill him?" queried the Mississippi official, visions of a reward for the apprehension of a murderer perhaps floating before his vision.

"Oh, I don't know the nigger's name but I killed him all right. You just write to the people down home and they'll tell you all about it," answered Gray, the robber-murderer.

Sheriff Poole received the letter last week. It gave in substance the conversation between the officer and the arrested thief. It also said that Gray along with three other men, broke into a store, robbing it of almost everything in sight, and that three of the thieves were in custody and would be tried at an early date. The letter also stated that if the Greenville authorities wanted the man for murder he could be seen in the jail at East Bouche.

There was an immediate hustling in the office of the sheriff and deputies went to work on the case. They found that five years ago that Sam Gray had lived in Greenville and that he is supposed to have killed another negro by the name of "Slick" Robertson near the county jail here. They also found that two negroes were killed while the work on the new reservoir was under way, and as Gray worked there for a time, he may have been the man to end the earthly life of one of these. But as all the witnesses in either of the cases are not to be found, Gray will have to be tried in Mississippi for just the plain robbery.

## Child Dies from Burns.

Mr. S. A. Owens of Fork who was here Saturday tells of a distressing affair which occurred in his community Thursday. Mr. Luther Carmichael, a prominent citizen of the Fork, went over to a neighbor's Thursday and left two children aged 3 and 10 at home. During the father's absence the youngest of the children got hold of a match and attempted to make a fire in the stove. When the little fellow stooped down the blazing match ignited his apron and in a few moments he was enveloped in flame. His 10 year old brother ran to his rescue and succeeded in smothering the flames but the little fellow had been so badly burned that he died a few hours afterward. The accident is peculiarly distressing in that Mr. Carmichael was bereft of his wife some months ago and had been caring for the little fellows himself. He has sympathy of everybody in his bereavement.

On the same day another child was burned to death a few miles from Mr. Carmichael's home. The name of the child nor the circumstances surrounding its death could not be learned.

**WANTED**—At once, five first-class canvassers for big money making proposition. Apply at A. C. L. ticket office between 8 and 9 a. m.