

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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TRONG PAYS TRIBUTE TO FALLEN SOLDIERS

Bodies of Sergts. Hall and Bailes Brought From France and Interred in Fort Mill.

A crowd estimated at from 2,000 to 2,500 gathered in Fort Mill Sunday afternoon to attend the funeral exercises of Sergt. Tom Hall and Sergt. Eli Bailes. Fort Mill soldiers who lost their lives in the World war and whose bodies arrived Friday evening from Hoboken, N. J., after lying in the soil of France since October 9, 1918. Hundreds came to Fort Mill from Rock Hill, York and across the line in North Carolina to join the home folk in honoring the memory of the two young soldiers whose gallant conduct overseas shed luster upon the record of the company, regiment and division to which they belonged.

Both Sergt. Hall and Sergt. Bailes were members of the Fort Mill company (G), 118th regiment, 30th division, both were mortally wounded on October 8, 1918, in the engagement near Montbrehan, France, and both succumbed to their wounds the following day. Now their bodies lie side by side for all time in a plot in New Unity cemetery presented to the Fort Mill post, American Legion, by the town authorities.

Sergt. Hall had the distinction of being one of the fifty of the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers composing the expeditionary forces to whom the congressional medal of honor was awarded for gallant conduct outside the line of duty. Some time after the death of Sergt. Hall the medal was presented to his father, W. L. Hall of Fort Mill.

The funeral services were held in Confederate park Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, after the bodies had lain in state in the armory of the Tom Hall Guards from Friday evening until the hour for the exercises, during which hundreds visited the armory as a tribute of respect to the memory of the two heroes. Throughout the entire time, the bodies lay in the armory a military guard of honor, members of the Tom Hall Guards, named, in honor of Sergt. Hall, was stationed at the foot of the caskets, almost hidden from view by the American flags in which they were wrapped and the floral tributes of the Fort Mill Legion post and friends of the young men and their families.

The services were under the auspices of Fort Mill post, No. 43, American Legion, and were begun by an announcement of Arthur C. Lytle, post adjutant, to be followed by prayer by the Rev. J. B. Black, pastor of the Fort Mill Presbyterian church, after which Thomas B. Spratt, former lieutenant colonel of the 118th infantry, paid a tribute to Sergt. Hall and Sergt. Bailes, in the course of which he spoke of the gallantry of the two young soldiers and described, as only one who knew the facts firsthand could describe, the glorious record of their company, the 118th regiment and the 30th division. The Fort Mill company, said Col. Spratt, lost more men in killed and wounded than any other company in the 118th regiment, which likewise lost more men than any other regiment in the 30th division, to which must go the credit for breaking the Hindenburg line. Col. Spratt said he knew of his personal knowledge of the courage and patriotism shown by Sergt. Hall and Sergt. Bailes in that memorable attack. He said that following the death of the two Fort Mill soldiers, the regimental chaplain came to him and expressed his sorrow that they should have gone down in the maelstrom. "That incident," said Col. Spratt, "proved the soldierly worth of the two men whose memory we are here to honor, for had their records not been outstanding they would not have been known personally by the chaplain out of the more than 3,000 men who composed the regiment."

In the course of his address Col. Spratt quoted an English commander as describing the 30th division in the salient, where the Hindenburg line was broken as a

DIED UNDER INDICTMENT

Chester Dispatch Tells of Case Against W. A. Wilkerson.

On January 11, last, the body of W. Austin Wilkerson was brought to Fort Mill, his old home, from Winston, N. C., and here interred in the city cemetery. About three years ago, Mrs. Wilkerson, wife of W. Austin Wilkerson, was mysteriously murdered in Chester and her body also was interred in Fort Mill. Some time after the death of Mrs. Wilkerson, her husband was accused of the crime and was tried in Chester, the case against him having resulted in a mistrial. He was to have again been tried last fall, but his health at the time, was such that he could not go to Chester from Winston.

A Chester dispatch of recent date tells the following story relative to the case against Wilkerson:

"The death of W. A. Wilkerson, who was under indictment for murder in the courts of Chester county, occurred at Winston-Salem, N. C., on January 10, but was not known here generally until a day or two ago. Wilkerson was tried about two years ago, the case resulting in a mistrial, but last fall, when it was intended to try the case again, he was unable to appear. The cause of death is set down in the death certificate as myocarditis. At the time of Mrs. Wilkerson's murder the couple were occupying the house at the city's Sandy river water station, Wilkerson being in charge. Negroes were at first charged with the crime and hastened to Columbia to escape possible mob violence; but they were able to prove their innocence, whereupon suspicion attached to the husband, who was arrested and charged with the crime. The jury, as stated, was unable to agree upon a verdict."

The attendance of nearly 300 in the Sunday school, besides the visitors, at the Easter exercises at the Fort Mill Baptist church Sunday morning was gratifying alike to the pastor, the Rev. J. W. H. Dykes and the superintendent of the Sunday school, S. A. Lee. "We were especially glad to have the visitors with us," said Mr. Lee, "and assure them and any others who may come to worship with us that they will always find a warm welcome at the Baptist church."

spear, whose head was the 118th infantry and the spear point the Fort Mill company, which went into the attack with 165 effectives and came out with less than 40 unwounded men, with all of the commissioned officers gone along with practically all of its non-commissioned officers.

Col. Spratt's address was listened to with marked interest not only because of the tribute he paid to the soldiers whose memory the large audience had foregathered to honor, but also because of his contribution to the history of the regiment and division to which the Fort Mill company belonged.

Following the conclusion of the exercises at Confederate park the funeral procession was formed and marched to New Unity cemetery. First came the buglers, followed by the escort of 28 men, members of the Tom Hall Guards; next, the clergymen and then the hearses, followed by the pallbearers, Capt. S. W. Parks, Capt. George W. Potts, W. S. Belk, T. D. Burrage and Lloyd Varnadore for Sergt. Hall, and Capt. F. M. Mack, Capt. Richard Fulp, W. H. Nims, Joe M. Belk, Herbert Harris and Callie A. Smith for Sergt. Bailes, all being comrades of the dead soldiers; members of the families, the Tom Hall Guards, Fort Mill post, American Legion, ex-service men of Fort Mill, ex-service men of Rock Hill and York, about 80 in number, followed by hundreds in automobiles and other hundreds afoot.

At the cemetery the burial service was read by the Rev. J. W. H. Dykes, Th. D., pastor of the Fort Mill Baptist church, and at the conclusion of the filling of the graves three volleys were fired by the escort and taps sounded by the buglers.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY TOLD IN PARAGRAPHS

Items Concerning People and Things Briefly Related by the Yorkville Enquirer.

The mercantile stock of Mrs. Minnie A. Hood, at Hickory Grove, bankrupt, was sold recently at public auction, to the Hart Grocery company of Yorkville for \$925.

Harry McCluney, Rob Taylor and Corbett Hunt, white men, who have been in jail in Yorkville for several weeks awaiting trial, on a charge of stealing the trunk of Miss Myra Hunter, a Winthrop college girl, were taken to Chester Monday. They are wanted in that county to answer a charge of robbing a store near Lando.

The worst stretch of Road, between Yorkville and Fort Mill just now is at a point near Catawba river bridge between Fort Mill and the river, according to persons who were over the road a few days ago. Fort Mill township people, it is said, have plans for the building of a concrete road from the main square of Fort Mill to the river bridge.

Robbery of the store of G. C. Deese & Co. some time last Tuesday night was reported to the sheriff's office Wednesday. It is estimated that goods valued at about \$400 was stolen. No money was obtained for the reason that none was left in the cash drawer at the close of his day's business Tuesday. Sheriff Quinn visited the store Wednesday, but was unable to obtain any positive clue. There is a theory that the store was robbed by some passing tramp.

P. O. Purvis, textile operative of Rock Hill, has been bound over to the court of general sessions under \$500 bond by Magistrate J. F. Wingate of Catawba township, to answer a charge of malicious mischief. According to testimony given the magistrate, Purvis was intoxicated in Rock Hill last Saturday night when he was accosted by two strange men who wanted to give him a drink. They invited him into a freight caboose in the railroad yards and there, it is said, they tried to rob him of \$7. Purvis is said to have handled his two assailants rather roughly and in doing the job he tore up things in the cab quite a bit.

Dr. D. B. Johnson, president of Winthrop college, Tuesday declared that Winthrop did not receive a fair deal at the hands of the recent South Carolina General Assembly. The General Assembly, he charged, failed to provide funds for the college that are absolutely essential to its welfare and progress. Although Winthrop's property is valued at \$2,250,000, according to figures presented by the college president, the entire investment of the State since the college was established has been only \$631,117. The balance of the sum has been secured from other sources.

Yorkville is to have a city hall which will cost complete about \$15,000, according to plans drawn by Julian S. Starr, architect of Rock Hill. City council already has decided to build the city hall, and the proposition will be financed through a building and loan association which has agreed to furnish the money. The city hall will be a two-story brick structure, according to present plans, an auditorium with a seating capacity of 500 occupying the second floor. This auditorium will be equipped with a commodious stage and dressing rooms. Quarters will be provided in the building for a large council chamber in which police court will also be held, offices for the city clerk and treasurer, chief of police and the superintendent of the town water, light and power department.

Among the visitors to Fort Mill Sunday afternoon to attend the funeral exercises of Sergt. Tom Hall and Sergt. Eli Bailes, whose bodies arrived Friday, from France, were Editor W. D. Grist and Chief Reporter James D. Grist of the Yorkville Enquirer and Editor J. T. Fain and City Editor Benton of the Rock Hill Evening Herald.

J. R. Merritt and A. C. Sutton are new county grand jurors.

DESERVED DECORATION

Fort Mill Soldier Got Instead Citation.

At least one member of the Fort Mill company which served overseas with the 118th regiment, 30th division, merited more consideration than he received from the army authorities, in the opinion of his army comrades. On October 10, 1918, in the engagement near Bohain, France, the captain of the Fort Mill company, P. W. Hudgens, South Carolinian, who had taken over the command, following the wounding of Capt. S. W. Parks, called for a volunteer runner to carry a message through a heavily shelled area to battalion headquarters, all of the company runners having been killed or wounded. Unhesitatingly John S. Bayne of Fort Mill stepped forward and volunteered to make the effort to get through with the message. "How he ever managed to deliver the message has always been beyond my understanding," yesterday said another member of the Fort Mill company, "for exploding German shells were falling everywhere between him and battalion headquarters. But he got through with the message, notwithstanding the chances appeared to be ten to one against him, and for his bravery was rewarded with a citation. He deserved the distinguished service cross and it was a rank piece of injustice which withheld that decoration from him, in my opinion."

PLAN RAID IN FORT MILL

Officers Said to Have Eye on Local Distilleries.

Yorkville Enquirer. Federal and county prohibition officers, it was learned Friday morning, are making plans for a raid on distilleries in Fort Mill township, who are said to be growing in numbers. Information in the hands of prohibition officers, it was said yesterday, is that there are no less than seven distilleries in operation in that township and there is a probability that the number of booze plants may be made more than seven.

Fort Mill moonshiners, it is alleged, are furnishing not only liquor to the thirsty of that township, but are furnishing some spirits for Rock Hill and Charlotte and other places.

The distillers in that township, it is said, at the beginning of operations some time ago were content to make mean liquor in quantity and with swiftness. But now it has gotten to the point where competition is keen and they are trying to see which can make the best grade of liquor.

A warrant has been issued for a white man who blew into the township some time ago and who is known as the "Blue Ridge Moonshiner," but who has taken his departure for parts unknown.

Officers say that the section of Fort Mill township used by moonshiners in their operations is in a region almost inaccessible because of the rough country, and that it is much easier to find distilleries in the country surrounding King's Mountain battlefield. However, a thorough housecleaning in that section is about, due, it is said.

Quantity of Ginger Seized

Police Officers Potts and Manus Tuesday afternoon seized 60 two-ounce bottles of Jamaica ginger in the store of Meacham Moore, near the Southern freight depot, in Fort Mill, and Moore was required to put up a cash bond of \$100 with the town authorities on the charge of violating the ordinance against storing. A half gallon of imitation rum, which Officer Potts said Moore brought from the passenger train from Charlotte late Tuesday afternoon, also was seized by the officers. Reorder Ott last night said no time had been set for the trial of Moore and that he might not ask for a trial.

By a vote of 92 to 10 York citizens Tuesday authorized a bond issue of \$125,000 for the erection of a new school building for white pupils, a new building for negro pupils and repairs to the two buildings now in use.

BROTHERS IN TROUBLE

J. W. Fisher and Millard Fisher Run Afoul of the Law.

J. W. Fisher of Fort Mill and his brother, Millard Fisher of Charlotte, Saturday got themselves into considerable trouble as the result of ill feeling which grew out of the attempt of J. W. Fisher to collect one day last week a board bill which he claimed P. O. Hargett of Fort Mill owed him. Hargett is employed at one of the local cotton mills as is J. W. Fisher. Saturday morning the two Fishers attacked Hargett about the head with coca-cola bottles, it was stated, and inflicted injuries he found it necessary to have a physician dress. The Fishers were then arrested by the town authorities charged with violating the ordinance against disorderly conduct. J. W. Fisher was fined \$25, which he paid. Millard Fisher drew a \$50 fine and did not have the money to pay it. Monday morning he was taken to the county chaingang to serve a 30-day sentence. Subsequently his fine was paid and he was released from the chaingang, but not before a warrant was issued by Magistrate J. R. Haile charging him with assault and battery with intent to kill. No opportunity was presented to serve the warrant, however, as Fisher eluded the officers after being released from the chaingang.

A similar warrant was issued Saturday by Magistrate Haile for J. W. Fisher and he was bound over under a \$300 bond for trial at the next term of criminal court in York.

MIX OWN FERTILIZER

Clemson College Says Farmers May Save \$10 Per Ton.

An "information card" on the home mixing of fertilizers is now being issued by the extension service of Clemson college which gives the following reasons why the farmer will find it to his advantage to mix his own fertilizer.

It makes an average saving of \$10 per ton or more.

It is the only means by which a farmer may know definitely of what his fertilizer is composed.

It has an educational value which leads to a more intelligent fertilizer practice.

The information card contains a handy fertilizer test for home mixing, whereby the amount of commercial fertilizer materials in a ton to make up a particular formula may be determined at a glance. Copies of the card may be had from the extension service of Clemson college. It is pointed out that each farmer should study his own soil carefully and try to know what kind of fertilizer will give the best results. "If we do this we can buy the raw materials and mix just the elements we need. By so doing we get the best fertilizer possible for our soils and save \$10 or more a ton on the mixing. In addition to this, we do not pay for a lot of fertilizer which our crop does not need, whereas in buying ready mixed goods we frequently buy large quantities of certain elements which are not needed.

"We advise farmers to see their county agents and find out what formula is best to use, and then get one of the information cards and mix their own fertilizer this year. It will pay."

Made Interesting Talk

Decidedly more interest was shown in the address Tuesday evening by N. E. Winters of the Clemson college extension service by the farmers who heard it than in any of the previous talks on farming problems which have recently been promoted by Marion R. Smith, teacher of agriculture in the Fort Mill high school. Mr. Winters, who is known as the "Billy Sunday of Agriculture," held the close attention of his audience at the high school auditorium for more than two hours and it was the common assertion of those present that the farmers of the community had certainly missed much of great value to them at this time. This was so strongly felt that arrangements will be made for Mr. Winters to return to Fort Mill at an early date, probably on a Saturday, and make another address.

SPECULATION GOING ON OVER POSTMASTERSHIP

People Wondering Who Will Be Permanent Head of Fort Mill Office.

Who is to be the permanent postmaster of Fort Mill? This is a question which has received more or less consideration locally since the United States senate refused to confirm the nomination of Joe M. Belk, made by President Wilson a few weeks before he retired from office on March 4. The Fort Mill postmastership is still being filled temporarily by W. B. Ardrey, who was appointed last July upon the resignation of B. H. Massey becoming effective, but Mr. Ardrey is said to be anxious to be relieved of the duties of the office and some time ago asked that some one be appointed to take his place. He was induced to hold the office a while longer, however, thinking that the appointment of a permanent postmaster would be a matter of only a few weeks or a month or two. But the weeks are stretching out into months and there is no evidence of the immediate intention of the authorities at Washington to name his successor.

A few days before President Harding was inaugurated four weeks ago a story was sent out from St. Augustine, where the president-elect then was, by a well known newspaper correspondent to the effect that one of the first official acts of Mr. Harding would be to set aside the order of President Wilson declaring all the postmasters of the country in the classified service. No such action has yet been taken by the new president. On the contrary news stories have appeared under Washington date lines within the last three weeks saying that President Harding had no idea of revoking the order of President Wilson.

If this latter story be true, Joe M. Belk doubtless will eventually be renominated for postmaster of Fort Mill, with his confirmation by the senate a foregone conclusion. He is a World war veteran and this fact doubtless will have weight in his behalf if the announcement attributed only a day or two ago to Postmaster General Hays pans out. In the announcement the postmaster general was quoted as saying that former service men would be given the preference in the selection of postmasters. Following the resignation last July of Postmaster Massey, Mr. Belk was one of two candidates who stood the civil service examination for the office and he was subsequently recommended by the civil service commission to President Wilson for the appointment. His nomination was sent to the senate along with several hundred other nominations for postmasterships, but the senate refused to confirm any of the nominations.

Should President Harding decide—and it is recognized that he yet has plenty of time in which to make such a decision—to annul the order of President Wilson placing all the postmasters of the country in the classified service, it is presumed that the Fort Mill postmastership will go to the one who can secure the backing of the South Carolina Republican patronage bosses. In the old days when federal patronage was dispensed upon the theory that "to the victor belongs the spoils," one of the tests of the applicant's qualifications for appointment was party loyalty and party activity. If it be in the Republican program to resurrect this necessary qualification for federal office-holding, the bosses will have to import a postmaster for Fort Mill, because there has not been east at this precinct in the last eight years a single Republican vote. There are said to be living in Fort Mill one or two men with Republican tendencies, but, as was remarked by a citizen a day or two ago in discussing the local postmastership, these men certainly have shown an odd sort of interest in the success of the Republican party by staying away from the polls on election day.

John Burroughs, naturalist, died in New York State Monday.