

THE FORT MILL TIMES.

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J. H. COLTHARP DEAD.

Esteemed Fort Mill Township Citizen Passes to Reward.

Josiah Hartwell Coltharp, perhaps the oldest citizen of Fort Mill township, a man well known and highly esteemed throughout the community, a successful farmer and a veteran of the War Between the States, died at his home a few miles north of Fort Mill Friday. The burial was in Flint Hill cemetery Saturday morning, following services at Philadelphia Methodist church conducted by his pastor, the Rev. W. R. Bauknight, assisted by the Rev. J. R. Smith, pastor of Flint Hill Baptist church, and the Rev. Grover C. Epps.

Mr. Coltharp was born 87 years ago on a farm on the banks of Sugar creek in the section of Fort Mill township then known as "Little York" and spent all of his long life in this community. He volunteered for service in the Confederate army shortly after the beginning of hostilities in 1861 and was assigned to Company B, 6th South Carolina regiment, of which company the late Col. John M. White was first captain and to which many Fort Mill citizens belonged. He served from Bull Run to Appomattox as a faithful soldier, devoted to the principles of the Confederacy. Mr. Coltharp participated in a number of the major engagements of the war and at Malvern Hill he was severely wounded but recovered and continued his service in the army. He was a man of splendid sense and a retentive memory. One of the delights of many readers of The Times years ago was the contributions he furnished its columns, in which he frequently told of incidents of the war which came under his observation.

Mr. Coltharp was partially paralyzed about 20 years ago and with the passing of the years he found it more and more difficult to get about and for several months he had been unable to leave his home, but through all the suffering he underwent and with the fact well known to him that his days were numbered, he was cheerful to the last and his optimism never failed him.

Mr. Coltharp was a master Mason and for 44 years had been a member of Catawba lodge, No. 56, A. F. M. He had also been a member of the Methodist church for many years and was a man of great piety.

Mr. Coltharp was twice married, first on December 21, 1865, to Mrs. Jane Farris, who died in February, 1874. Three sons survive this marriage, Marcellus Coltharp, of Turnersville, Texas, Sylvester L. Coltharp and Wm. Coltharp of Fort Mill township. His second wife was Miss Betty Harper. Of this marriage Mrs. J. D. Gibson is the surviving child.

Revolver Invented by Youth.

In the brain of 14 year old Samuel Colt was born the revolver, that, until the invention of the automatic pistol, was the most deadly small arm known to man. Colt ran away from home and shipped on board a merchant vessel bound for the East Indies. He had a good deal of idle time on his hands once the ship was well at sea, and a long period of calm weather followed its movements.

He began to seek an outlet for his active imagination and mechanical urge and attempted various things to aid sailing, but without any great success. He then took to planning a pistol that would shoot several times by being loaded only once. He had only bits of wood and a jack-knife to work with, but before the voyage was over he had cut out a model for a revolver very similar to the pattern still in use.

Once at home he again went to work in his father's factory, but the revolver idea was still in his head, and he worked at it from time to time until he was 21. At this point his experiments had so far advanced that he asked for and obtained patents in America and European countries. A stock company was then organized and the revolver put on the market.

BOUND FOR LIBERIA!

Story of Sharpers Defrauding Unsuspecting Negroes.

One of a party of men sitting on the bandstand in Confederate park a few afternoons ago told a joke about a negro preacher advising his people to move to Liberia and grow up with the country. Then another member of the party said he could tell a story of an attempted exodus of negroes from this section to Liberia in the spring of 1888 that was no joke, especially to the negroes themselves.

"Two men, one white, the other a mulatto, came to this section in January or February of 1888," said the speaker, "and aroused great interest among the negroes of rural communities over the possibilities of wealth and contentment offered their race in Liberia. It was, they said, the negro's paradise, where little effort had to be put forth to earn a livelihood. There the government was in the hands of the negroes and no white man was allowed in the country. Cotton, fruits and vegetables were the chief products of the country and these could be grown in abundance and marketed at a good profit with a minimum of labor. Everybody in Liberia took life easy and had plenty of time to sleep and otherwise enjoy life to its fullest.

"Many negroes in the rural sections of Lancaster county and Union county, N. C., believed the stories told them by the white man and the mulatto of the wonderful country in Africa, and when they were advised to sell everything they had except their clothing and get ready to leave Fort Mill and Pineville, N. C., on a certain day in the spring of 1888 for Liberia at \$5 per head several hundred took the advice of the strangers. An excursion train, they were told, would pass through to take them over the first lap of the journey to their new home. There must have been at least 500 negroes who paid the swindlers \$5 each and came to Fort Mill and Pineville to board the train.

"One, two, three, four days passed and the train failed to arrive. Then the negroes became restive and sought counsel of citizens of Fort Mill and Pineville. They were told that there was nothing to the trip to Liberia, that they were the victims of swindlers. Finally the negroes saw the light and began to disperse. Some went back to their old homes, while still others remained around Fort Mill and Pineville. Efforts were made to catch the white man and mulatto who had defrauded them, but nothing was heard of either."

Program for Baptist Church.

The following special program has been prepared for the observance of "Christian Education day" at the Fort Mill Baptist church by the Sunday school at 10 a. m., Sunday, June 26:

Song, "Higher Ground," by the Sunday school.

Prayer.

Song, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me," school; classes assemble.

Class period; reassemble.

Report of secretary.

Song, "He Leadeth Me," No. 164, school.

Prayer for God's blessing on the program.

"Discussion of "Christian Education," Dr. J. W. H. Dykes.

"What is Today?" 12 primary children.

"The Chickens," Maria Culp. (Tells how to get an education.)

"The Boy and the Swan," Owen Patterson.

Duet, "My Father Planned it All."

"This is Your Honor," Lula Parks.

Song, "Jesus Expects You," No. 231, by the Sunday school.

Services at 11 o'clock.

The board of directors of the First National bank of Fort Mill meeting a few days ago declared the usual semi-annual dividend of 4 per cent, payable from the profits of the business of the last six months, and dividend checks will be mailed to the stockholders by the cashier, W. T. Barron, on June 30.

NEWS OF YORK COUNTY.

Current Items of Interest Found in the Yorkville Enquirer.

Every merchant in this town insists that notwithstanding the injustice of it, they are selling goods at far below replacement value, regardless of original cost. "I followed the market" said a well-known and successful merchant to the reporter Saturday, "and I do not speculate. If wholesale prices go down, my prices go down. I cannot afford to have a reputable merchant to undersell me at a profit for himself and I do not do it."

Charlie Starnes dead and Sam Anderson so badly wounded there was no reasonable certainty he would recover are the net results of a pistol fight just across Fishing creek, two miles east of Yorkville, Monday night. Mooney Lowry, a negro woman to whom both were paying attention, was the cause of the trouble. Coroner McCorkle went to the scene Tuesday morning accompanied by Sheriff Quinn, Magistrate Black and Policeman McCarter.

Although the Yorkville Enquirer has no reliable statistics as to the cotton acreage in York county this year as compared with last year, it is certain of the fact that this acreage is very much reduced. There has been a reduction in the acreage put to crops of all kinds. In other words there is not as much land under cultivation this year as there was last year; but there is probably more corn in proportion to cotton than there has even been in the history of the county.

The Planters' Bank of Sharon gets the \$50,000 worth of Broad River township bonds let at competitive bidding at the office of John R. Hart, Esq., in Yorkville at noon Tuesday. That was the understanding at the hour at which it was necessary to close the forms of the Yorkville Enquirer. The offer of the Planters' bank was to take the bonds at par, with the understanding that the proceeds are to remain on deposit with the bank during the process of disbursement and that the sinking fund is to remain with the bank without interest. The sinking fund is to be secured by satisfactory bond. The bonds, which bear only 5 per cent interest, are worth only 85 on the open market. This sale will permit the expenditure of the full \$50,000 on the roads of Broad River township.

Rain Sunday Night.

Rain which had been threatening for several days finally came to the Fort Mill community Sunday evening to relieve the suffering vegetation and break the drought which had existed for five weeks. Cotton had not begun to deteriorate for lack of rain, but early plantings of corn and vegetable gardens were showing the effects of the hot, dry days of the last few weeks and most of the pasture grasses had dried up. Living conditions for those whose homes are near the streets of the town and the public roads of the country were also greatly improved by the rain, which settled the dust for a few days.

Value of the Dollar.

In 1914 the American dollar was worth 100 cents. In 1917 its purchasing power was about 45 cents. Today it is worth about 70 cents when one buys a suit of clothes and 90 cents at the grocery store. Its purchasing power is 80 cents at the butcher shop and in the purchase of all other commodities it has increased almost 40 cents in value. It is still a depreciated dollar, in paying rent and fuel bills. The man who saved a dollar in war times actually saved \$2, for today it has a purchasing value almost double that of war times.

City Water Pure.

Samples of Fort Mill city water sent to a Columbia chemist for analysis on June 18 by Dr. J. B. Elliott, chairman of the local board of health, yesterday were reported by the chemist to be free of bacteria of any kind, which means that the water is pure and that it may be used for domestic purposes without fear of harmful effects.

ARAGON BESTS LOCALS.

Overtime Game With Fort Mill Goes to Rock Hill Team.

With both teams playing at top speed throughout the entire 13 innings it took to decide the contest, lovers of baseball Saturday afternoon witnessed the best exhibition seen on the local grounds this season when Fort Mill lost to Aragon mills of Rock Hill, 7 to 6. At the close of the ninth inning each team had registered six times and from then on neither team was able to put across a counter until Blair for Aragon drove out a three-bagger in the 13th and a moment later scored on a bunt laid down by Ellison.

Each team got one in the first inning and there was no more scoring until the fourth, when Fort Mill got a running start on five hits which netted four runs and incidentally sent Blair from the box to the outfield, to be succeeded on the mound by Baker, whose work proved that he is a pitcher of no mean ability.

In the fifth inning two singles and an equal number of doubles put the visitors within hailing distance of the locals with three additional runs, to which another was added in the sixth, tying the score.

Then in the seventh Doc Kimbrell got busy and laced out one good for two bases, later scoring on A. Ferguson's and Bratton's singles. Here Fort Mill kicked in so far as further scoring was concerned. Not so with Aragon. In the eighth Ellison got to second on a clean drive and from that station scored on Mason's single.

With interest running high and the partisans of the two teams urging their favorites to hold their opponents, the game progressed from round to round without either team putting a man across until Blair and Ellison put the locals in the hole for keeps in the 13th.

A. Ferguson pitched a good game for Fort Mill, but could not keep his hits scattered as did Baker for Aragon. W. Ferguson and Kenneth Nims proved the handy men for Fort Mill with the stick. In the 11th Kenneth drove out a hit good for three bags which probably would have settled the contest in Fort Mill's favor had he not failed to touch first base in his anxiety to get around. Rogers at third made a star catch of a line drive.

Fort Mill and Aragon play their next game in Rock Hill Saturday afternoon.

GIVES VIEW OF CRIME.

Sheriff Hunter Thinks Prisoners Too Well Treated.

John P. Hunter, for 34 years sheriff of Lancaster county, has given to the press his view of the crime wave which is now sweeping over South Carolina. In his opinion the lenient treatment accorded the inmates of prisons in the State is responsible for much of the crime.

"I believe one cause of crime," said Sheriff Hunter, "is that those who are criminally inclined often hear of convicts being so nicely treated. I believe all prisoners and convicts should be well fed, well treated and their health well looked after; but showing a sympathetic spirit, with no outward evidence of condemnation, has a tendency to encourage rather than deter the criminal class. When you see a person who is penitent and grieved over his violation of the law there is hope of that person's reformation. But when you see a fellow who has committed crime swaggering and smoking one cigarette after another, and seemingly unconscious of the disgrace he has brought upon himself and the trouble that he has caused his family and loved ones, you can put it down that the criminal will never reform. On the contrary such a fellow will work hard to lead astray other men of good families in order to bring them down to his level."

Sheriff Hunter concluded by saying that "idleness and fast living have a great deal to do with so much violating the law."

Many Fort Mill property owners are facing executions for non-payment of taxes.

YET HAS CHIMNEY SWEEPS.

Charleston Maintains Old English Custom.

One of the quaint customs that Charleston still retains is that of having chimneys cleaned by little negro sweeps, known to children of that city for generations past as "ro-ro's," the name given because of the peculiar cry the sweep makes as he is preparing to descend the chimney. "Ro-ro! Ro-ro!" he croaks out in a sing-song, melancholy voice. No wonder he feels low-spirited, for it is by no means a pleasant task that is before him. When the chimney becomes choked with soot, as is often the case, there is danger as well as discomfort for the poor little sweep. More than one has been suffocated.

In the old days, before and for a number of years following the Civil war, chimney sweeps were quite numerous in Charleston. They could be seen frequently on the streets in little black bands, looking like somber flocks of crows, clothing in tatters and covered with soot. But they are a much rarer sight now, for better ways have been learned for keeping chimneys clean than in sending little "ro-ro's" down the black funnels to be choked by the soot or squeezed almost to death in some narrow opening.

In the old days a gang of chimney sweeps was hired by a licensed contractor. He visited the houses, made arrangements for the cleaning of the chimneys; then when the work had been done by the little sweeps made a round of the houses to collect what was due him. Some contractors trusted to the sweeps themselves to collect the money. They were sent out in little squads, so that one could keep tab on the other. It was a common sight to see them going through the streets, each sweep armed with a brush and scraper, which he now and then displayed by a flourish as he sang at the top of his piping voice the ditty:

Got er chimney to sweep?
Well, I's yer man!
I'll get out the sut
Ef ennybody can!

Chimney sweeps were an old institution of London, and the idea was borrowed of the mother country by the people of Charleston. The sweeps of London were all white children, generally orphans. The condition of the London sweeps at one time became so pitiable—ill fed, as they were, wretchedly clad, and driven to their tasks, often with blows, by cruel masters—the attention of Parliament was called to the matter by a mass meeting of the people. A bill introduced by Lord Shaftsbury for the betterment of the condition of the unfortunate children was pending for years when the tragic death of two little sweeps brought the bill to speedy passage.

Ardrey, Coble Wedding.

A marriage of much interest in the Providence section of Mecklenburg county and elsewhere occurred last Tuesday evening when Miss Ethel Ardrey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Ardrey, became the bride of M. A. Coble of Burlington, N. C. The marriage took place at the home of the bride's parents, the officiating minister being the Rev. Mr. Houck, pastor of Harrison Methodist church.

Mrs. Coble is a popular and cultured young lady who is a recent graduate of the Woman's college, Greensboro, N. C. During the last session she taught in the high school at Burlington. Mr. Coble is a successful banker of Burlington where he and his bride will make their home. They were the recipients of many presents.

Monday evening, June 27, has been set as the date when the board of trustees of the Fort Mill graded school will meet to elect a superintendent of the school for the next session, opening in September. There are a number of applicants for the position. At the meeting Monday evening it also is expected that a number of grade teachers will be elected to take the places of teachers elected some time ago who are understood to have stated that they will not return to the school.

KILLED BY NEGRO.

Former Fort Mill Citizen Murdered at Home in Texas.

Sam W. Richardson, farmer, 56 years old, who moved from Fort Mill township to Caldwell, Brazos county, Texas, 27 years ago, was murdered at his home on Tuesday night, June 14, by a negro burglar, who also struck and seriously injured his daughter, Miss Ella Richardson. Such was the word received a few days ago by Mrs. Ira G. Smythe of Fort Mill, sister of Mr. Richardson, from J. B. Richardson, another brother of Mrs. Smythe's who lives near Caldwell.

Mr. Richardson and his daughter had retired for the night. At 11 o'clock they were awakened by the negro, who had entered the home to burglarize it. The negro attacked Mr. Richardson with a club or other blunt instrument, felling him to the floor and inflicting such injuries that he died almost instantly. Then he turned upon Miss Richardson, who had attempted to defend her father. Her skull was fractured, but it was thought when the letter was written to Mrs. Smythe that she would recover.

The negro was captured last Wednesday morning by neighbors of Mr. Richardson and it was thought he would be lynched but no word of what happened to him has been received in Fort Mill.

Mr. Richardson was a prosperous farmer who had accumulated considerable property since he moved from Fort Mill to Texas. His wife, who was a Miss Laney, died several years ago. Of his immediately family he is survived by one daughter and two sons.

Army Needing Officers.

A war department circular just received at Camp Jackson, Columbia, announces that a special examination will be held for second lieutenants of the regular army, and the commanding general of Camp Jackson has been instructed to convene a board of officers for preliminary examinations at the camp without referring applications to higher headquarters. The final examinations will be on August 22, but the preliminaries may be completed at any time prior to that time when an applicant presents himself.

Officers are needed in practically every branch of the service, but principally in the infantry, field artillery, coast artillery, quartermaster corps and several other branches.

Want Harding in Charlotte.

Efforts are being made by citizens of Charlotte to have President Harding visit that city on the occasion of the celebration on May 20 next year of the signing of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence.

T. L. Kirkpatrick, president of the Charlotte chamber of commerce, has received a letter from Senator Overman, who extended the invitation to the president, in which Mr. Harding is quoted as saying that the date is too far in the future for him to make even a tentative promise that he will accept, but "he suggests that I ask you to bring the matter up again a month or so before the date fixed and that he will then be in better position to give us a definite answer."

Europe an Armed Camp.

Although Europe is at peace, there are 3 million men under arms in France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Jugo-Slavia, Czechoslovakia and in the Balkans. On the other hand, Germany's military burden has been lightened to maintaining 100,000 soldiers. Austria has 30,000, Bulgaria 33,000 and Hungary 35,000.

France and her allies have 2,300,000. Of these France proper keeps more than 800,000 under the colors, Poland 600,000, Jugo-Slavia 200,000, Czechoslovakia 147,000, Rumania 160,000 and Belgium 105,000.

A bicycle which was stolen from D. C. Patterson several months ago yesterday was recovered when it was ridden into town by a negro who said he bought it from another negro in Rock Hill. The negro was not arrested, as his statement was believed.