

The Horry Herald.

VOLUME XXXVII CONWAY, S. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8th, 1923 NO. 42

CONWAY STORY BACK IN 1864

The Leading Men and Where They Lived Their Lives

WOMEN RAIDERS IN WAR
Facts Written in Three Chapters as Told by One Who Remembers

Here is a story of Conway, which begins in the spring of 1864, and ends in the following year when the Civil War ended. The facts stated in it are given to the writer by G. J. Watts, who came to Conway as a boy in the spring of 1864, with his father, Everette Watts, the latter having been appointed to the position of jailer of the county. The family occupied the old jail which was located in the exact spot where the Grace Hotel now stands.

CHAPTER II

What Women Raiders Came to Conwayborough

It was hard times in Horry County in the spring of 1864, and lasting through many years after that, especially during the latter part of 1864, and throughout the following year during which the war ended.

The conditions brought about by the boll weevils at the present time cannot compare with the conditions of that time; neither can the conditions which prevailed years afterward when the price of cotton went down to five and six cents the pound.

The men were in the army of the Confederacy and had been there for some time. They had left their little farms and crude log cabin homes in the hands of the women and children. Women and children can do a whole lot of work, but they cannot raise bread like the men. While the husbands, fathers and sweethearts fought the battles of the lost cause, the dear little women did the best that they could, and that best was not very much. When it became necessary to make raids in order to get something to feed hungry stomachs they were equal to the occasion as we will presently show.

This place had no transportation facilities worth mentioning at that time. The few stores were supplied with goods that were brought up from Georgetown on lighters and flats. The flats were propelled by paddles and poles, with at times a change to oars made out of oak or long leaf pine. There was no good way of protecting the goods such as cloth and notions on the trips up the river so that very often the stocks for the stores were damaged goods to start with. A story is told of how one merchant, even in later years, had a lot of more than an acre covered with cheap calico and homespun hanging out to dry after it had arrived at the town on one of these flats.

Most of the cloth used by the people was manufactured at home, of course, using the old spinning wheel and homemade loom. It was in this cloth that most of the people dressed. They also wore shoes that were made at home. Some manufactured things came in by means of the flats and such things were prized more highly than they are today.

Main Street was one large sand bed. In it, near the center, extending from the Peoples National Bank corner to the F. C. Todd corner, grew long leaf pine trees. There were three very large long leaf pines still left at the time of which we write (Continued On Back Page.)

CAUSES A STIR DOWN IN BUCKS

It is reported here that the leaving of notes signed K. K. K. at the homes of a number of people down in Bucks township, near Toddville, and in the section extending from that point toward Bucksport, has caused no little stir among the population, especially some of the negroes. Some of those who were apparently without work went to hunting jobs and are now apparently busy as the reports say.

One of the colored residents of that community was in Conway recently and said that this matter had caused no little fear in the minds of some, but that it did not affect him as he had plenty of work to do, attended to his own business, and was making an honest living by working his little farm and making good crops. Others it appeared were endeavoring to change their habits of a lifetime, and hunting work.

One of the notes left at the home of a white man, telling him that he

To debate or not to debate. This seems to be a question that the Maple Literary Society must decide before the time comes.

PROMPT ACTION WITH WILLIAMS

Results in Trial and Swift Convictions by The Jury

The negro, Bob Williams, who slew the chief of police of Fair Bluff last week, was not the victim of lynch law as was reported here to be the case early in the week.

The policeman did not die at once, but was rushed to a hospital in Wilmington, N. C., in the hope that an operation might save his life.

When he arrived at the hospital he was so weak that two transfusions of blood were used on him in an effort to make him revive. This treatment did not succeed, however, and he died.

Bob Williams, in the mean time had gotten away, carrying a wounded limb which kept him from walking except on crutches and he was captured almost single handed and lodged in the Whiteville jail before the mob which was forming to lynch him could gather and take him.

When the authorities in Whiteville found that there was still talk about the streets that the negro would be taken from the jail and hung, they sent to Wilmington, N. C., for a detachment of troops. These arrived on time and guarded the jail until the negro could be tried and convicted and sentenced to the electric chair.

The facts as they occurred, after the negro had been arrested, are as follows:

"Bob Williams, slayer of Bradley Cribb, policeman at Fair Bluff, was presented in court at Whiteville Monday morning, arraigned, tried and convicted in nine hours. The date of the execution was fixed for March 1.

The trial of Williams sets a record in court history in Columbus county. The indictment charging him with the murder of Cribb was presented to the grand jury at 11 o'clock and the true bill was returned to the court at 11:30. Williams was arraigned at 2:30 and entered a plea of not guilty. Judge N. A. Sinclair, presiding at the present session of court, appointed Homer L. Lyon, congressman from the sixth district; Donald McCracken and Proctor, law partner of District Attorney Irvin B. Tucker, to defend the bandit.

Solicitor Woodus Kellum represented the state which closed its case shortly before 5 o'clock. The defense offered very little evidence. McCracken and Proctor addressed the jury briefly asking that justice be done.

The nearest either approached to requesting mercy was the plea of Proctor that the jury return a verdict of murder in the second degree. Solicitor Kellum, in a scorching denunciation of the negro, demanded the full penalty of the law to be invoked. The jury received the case at 8 o'clock and returned a verdict of guilty after 15 minutes' deliberation. Williams sat stoically throughout the hearing, his face betraying not the slightest interest in the proceedings. He seemed more like a wild beast at bay than a man on trial for his life.

There was but one hint of violence that came early when Williams was led into the court room by a squad of soldiers. As the negro took his seat in the dock some one in the audience yelled "Lynch him," but the speaker was quickly seized by the soldiers and ejected from the court room.

There was evident, however, an undercurrent of unrest while the jury deliberated briefly on the case; there was low murmuring which even the presence of the military did not entirely assuage and fears were expressed that an outbreak would follow the returning of any other verdict save first degree murder. On the arrival of Capt. R. S. McClelland and his W. L. I. last night saved the life of Williams, is the opinion of county officials here.

A mob of 500 men was gathered in the outskirts of the town when the automobiles bearing the troops whizzed through the long street between Vineland and Whiteville at 10 o'clock. A cordon of guardsmen was quickly thrown about the jail and all automobiles and pedestrians were stopped by the soldiers and the streets absolutely cleared. Twenty-four hours earlier Sheriff J. O. Ammons and Jailer Louis Spivey had singled-handed beaten back a mob of 300 men that rushed the jail where Williams was confined. With drawn revolvers the sheriff and jailer awaited the attacking wave in the jail yard and firmly refused to evacuate. For half an hour the issue hung in the balance; then the mob evidently without a leader, sullenly gave away, but hung in the vicinity of the jail.

When the soldiers arrived they found the sheriff on the verge of exhaustion from lack of sleep and the way open for a more successful attack on the county bastille.

must go to work, has been traced, it is said, to the home of a neighbor where there is not a member of the Klan, and where there can never be a member as the occupants are women.

In a number of instances, it is said that these notes are not the work of the Klan, but of parties in the community who would hold themselves out as members of a Klan. There is no Klan in that part of the country.

HOME FOR WEEK-END

Senator Jeremiah Smith spent the week-end at home with his son, Daniel T. Smith, the contractor, here. On Monday the Senator was in Conway shaking hands with a number of his constituents who were here on business from the country.

Senator Smith was looking well and his appearance shows that he has stood the hard work of the present session with remarkable ability considering his age.

The Senate had adjourned on last Friday until Tuesday of this week to enable the lawyers of that body to attend to the salesday business at their homes. Mr. Smith was on his way back to his duties in Columbia on Monday afternoon.

DUNCAN AFFAIR STILL HIDDEN

Blood Hounds Fail to Track Men to Their Lair

DOUBT AS TO THE CAUSE

Duncan is Progressive Farmer Says Some Neighbors of His

On Saturday night before last Daniel Duncan was shot at by about half dozen men from the dark shadows of Grassy Bay church, as he was passing along near his home.

Duncan did not know how many shots were fired but the shot struck all about his buggy, and while none of the shot struck his body, his horse was hit by the shot in one or two places. Examination of the shot holes in the buggy afterward established the fact that several kinds of shot had been used in aiming at him.

When the horse he was driving was hit by the shot, it became unmanageable and tore down the road toward home at a high rate of speed. Duncan could not have held the horse back had he wanted to.

Duncan heard the shot as they whizzed past his face and head. He thinks that as many as fifteen or twenty shots were fired at him in all. He was unable to identify any of the men whom he saw, about a half dozen in number, standing near the corner of the church building. He knows that it was these men and perhaps others, hidden nearby, who fired the shots at him.

On Sunday morning Duncan got in touch with the owner of a pair of blood hounds in North Carolina. The dogs arrived and were placed on the scent at the church. It had been so long and so many people had passed along that way that it was found hard to get the dogs started on a lead. Finally they struck a trail which led them to the town of Nichols. On Sunday afternoon to see the chase but the dogs trailed along the road opposite a garage belonging to Short Tyler and here they turned up to the doors of the garage and acted as if they wished to enter the building. When the building was opened up they showed no signs of recognizing any scent within the building, and this trail, like the others, was fully lost.

At last accounts nothing further had been done to try to discover the identity of the persons who committed this crime.

Duncan says that some time ago he received a letter written, evidently, in a disguised hand, and signed "Ku Klux Klan," or "K. K. K." in which he was warned to leave the neighborhood. He says that he paid no attention to this. He owns land there and a number of neighbors speak well of him as a farmer and neighbor.

He does not believe that the Klan had anything to do with this business. He rather thinks that it is the work of some enemy or enemies of his in that section of the county. It appears that the Klan have been particularly active for some time past in that section of Horry County, still there can be found no reason why they would molest Duncan, according to a report brought to Conway last week about the affair.

Duncan is said to be a hardworking and law abiding citizen. On his farm he has highbred stock and he uses labor-saving machinery in working his lands. Many appeared to want to aid in bringing the parties to justice.

SALESDAY BUSINESS

Last Monday was salesday, but business at the court house was slack because there was not much to sell.

A farm tract in Gallivants Ferry, once bid off by J. E. Lewis for \$3,000 under mortgage and brought only the small sum of \$100.

A small tract of ten acres in Simpson Creek brought ten dollars.

Some lots resold in the Lewis estate brought very small amounts.

The third and last chapter of the short story about things at Conway in 1964, and 1965 will appear in our next issue. You should not miss it.

BUSINESS MAN HAS HISTORY

Now Lives in Conway. Started in New York State

FOR GREENE AND GAYNOR

Married in Horry County and Cast His Lot There Since

The Horry Herald intends from time to time, to publish brief sketches of business men who live in the town, and who came to Conway from other sections of the country; perhaps many years ago.

The paper does not promise that these sketches will appear in any stated form or at any stated intervals, but only as the facts happen to be gathered and are found to be of interest.

The subject of this sketch is J. E. Nicholas, the well-known merchant and farmer, who for years conducted a general mercantile business on the corner of Third avenue and Laurel street, until some time during the war he sold the lot with the store thereon to the One Price Shoe Store. He is at the present time engaged in the soft drink business, in the real estate business to some extent; and also conducts a store and represents one of the leading manufacturers of automobiles. A brief statement of where he came from, the way in which he started out in life might be of interest to all of the people of the town.

He began his life in the town of Fayetteville, N. Y. About that time there was a firm of contractors under the firm name of Green & Gaynor. For a number of years they were engaged in general contracting, and undertook work of various kinds; both of the members being well trained civil engineers. Later on in their history they became still larger contractors of government work.

At the age of sixteen, J. E. Nicholas was employed by this firm as an office boy. He remained in that position for some time and was promoted to a higher position with the firm.

He worked with the firm for 22 years. During that period the contracting work in which the firm was more and more engaged, spread over many of the large rivers and along the coast from New York City to St. Augustine, Fla.

Nicholas was promoted by the firm from time to time, until at the end of his service with them he was the general manager of all the work which was done by the firm on the streams in the eastern part of the United States.

In the course of time this work brought Mr. Nicholas to Horry County, where the contractors had undertaken work on the Waccamaw river. It was while looking after their work in this county that he met and married an Horry girl and finally decided to resign from the work of the firm with which he had been employed so long and engage in business on his own account in this county.

In the course of time certain contracts that Green & Gaynor had carried out with the government came under question, especially during the time of one of the administrations when government affairs were being looked after; and Green & Gaynor were prosecuted in the Federal courts in a number of trials that took place in Savannah, Ga. J. E. Nicholas was a witness in some of the trials.

The senior member of the firm of Green & Gaynor was known as Col. Gaynor. He was a brother of Mayor Gaynor of New York City.

Another brother of Colonel Gaynor is James E. Gaynor, now a prominent attorney in New York City, and who frequently writes to Mr. Nicholas about the affairs at the old home where both of the men were born.

A recent letter from James E. Gaynor, dated January 22nd, 1923, states that Colonel Gaynor died in October, 1915, and the letter gives the names of several other members of the Gaynor family who have passed away since Mr. Nicholas lived there.

James E. Gaynor writes that he

GASQUE WILL MAKE SPEECH

Horry Local of Cooperative Association Meets Feb. 14

Hon. A. H. Gasque, of Florence, S. C., the newly elected Congressman for this district, will address the citizens of Horry County at the court house, February 14th, 1923, at 11:00 o'clock A. M.

Mr. Gasque is a forceful speaker and his address will deal with the leading subject in the minds of the American public today.

This is the regular meeting of the Horry County Unit of the Tobacco Growers' Co-operative Association.

Director E. C. Epps, of Kingstree, S. C. will be present and will also make a short talk on the Success of the Association to Date.

The public, including the ladies and the business men of Conway is cordially invited to be present.

Farmers belonging to the co-operative association are expected to be here from all sections of Horry County.

Allard H. Gasque is the man who won out in the race for Congress last summer as an opponent of Phillip H. Stoll, the man who was in and had forces strong. He was also opposed to a number of new candidates for the place, such as W. R. Barringer, of Florence, John F. Pate of Darlington.

Mr. Gasque proved himself as an old and tired campaigner and as a forceful stump speaker.

This meeting for February 14th will be a most interesting one for the association in this county. Some time ago numbers of associations were formed in the leading districts of this county. At the head of each local is the most progressive and enterprising farmers to be found. They are the leaders of thought in their communities which seems to be tending more and more toward the co-operative idea of marketing what the farmers raise for the markets.

Since the formation of the local units in almost every corner of Horry, these have been united into the Horry unit. It takes in not only the members of the tobacco association but the members of the cotton association and members of any other co-operative marketing association are eligible to join and become members.

These marketing associations have made it possible for the farmer to arrange his money crop business on a business basis, so that he can place what he has produced on the market as the market demands it and not dump it all at one time or any time, without any method, taking whatever the buyer chooses to give for it.

It is hoped that the attendance at the speaking this time will be large and that Mr. Gasque will have a big crowd of other people who will want to hear what he says on one of the liveliest subjects of the day.

Let each member of the township locals try to get several neighbors to come with him here on the 14th and hear what the congressman has to say. It will add to the information and pleasure of those neighbors and perhaps give the co-operative movement another boost onward and upward.

It is not often that some of the farmers have the opportunity of hearing good speaking. They should not fail to grasp the opportunity when it does happen to offer itself. A big crowd is expected on that day.

HOW DODGE CAR TURNED TURTLE

All Four Wheels in the Air With Passengers Underneath

A Dodge touring car turned turtle on the road between Conway and Little River last Sunday, carrying seven passengers at the time, and yet none of them were killed and still more wonderful to say, none of them even seriously injured.

W. L. Bryan, the Clerk of Court, was on his way home from Little River and saw, piled up in the road ahead of him, a touring car with all four wheels in the air and the hull lying down low showing that the top of the machine had been crushed in.

When he arrived at the place he found with the machine Rowland Veen and Norman Cooper, both of Little River. They had been to Conway after the accident and had gone back before the arrival of Mr. Bryan.

They said that they had been driving along with Fred W. Stanley, the

(Continued On Back Page.)

lives in Brooklyn, with his wife and two boys, his older son, James E. Gaynor, Jr., being a lawyer with the New York Central Railroad. He had promised to meet Mr. Nicholas in Georgetown this present winter, but writes, that owing to his engagements he cannot get away this winter, but he renews his promise to come South and engage with Mr. Nicholas in some quail shooting next season. The last time he saw Mr. Nicholas was in Savannah, Ga., in the winter of 1905 or 1906.

KU KLUX KLAN LETTER MAILED

To Rufus M. Jenrette Regarding A Literary Meeting

MAY DROP THE SUBJECT

Letter Has Cancelled Stamp but No Postmark Showing Where Mailed

Last Friday, Rufus M. Jenrette, of Conway, R. F. D. No. 1, received a short letter through the mail.

"The attention of the Invisible Empire is centered on YOU. Be careful on February 22, of what you say. A word to the wise is sufficient. The way of the transgressor is death. "KU KLUX KLAN."

The letter itself was not addressed to Jenrette, but the envelope bore the address: "Mr. Rufus M. Jenrette, Conway, S. C." with at the left: "R. F. D. No. 1."

The letter was sent to him in a government stamped envelope and this stamp was cancelled, but there was no postmark on the envelope to show where it had been mailed nor where it had been received at any postoffice.

The young man to whom this letter was addressed and who actually received it on the rural free delivery route, lives with his parents in the country, not far from Homewood and on the R. F. D. No. 1 leading out from Conway.

It appears that at the last meeting of the debating society, of which Mr. Jenrette is a member, it was decided to hold the next debate at the meeting of the School Improvement Association at Maple school, six miles from Conway, on the evening of Thursday, February 22. The query, or subject for discussion by the two opposing sides was agreed upon as follows:

Resolved: That the Ku Klux Klan is beneficial to the people of the United States.

The debaters assigned to the affirmative of the proposition are:

S. L. Moore,

Redmond King,

Coker Anderson.

Those assigned to the negative of the proposition are:

Rufus M. Jenrette,

Wilbur Jones,

Johnnie Tompkins.

The last meeting arranged this subject for the next discussion and fixed up the balance of the program which they expected to carry out at the Maple school building about six miles from Conway on the Hardee Road. The Hardee Road turns out of the National Highway about one or two hundred yards this side of Homewood. The school is located in the midst of a territory which is rapidly developing in agriculture and where education is taking a great hold on the people and their children now growing up, of which this young man Jenrette is one.

Asked about getting the note young Jenrette said that he received it by mail; that he was not certain that it had come from a member of the Klan; that in his opinion somebody who was taking an unwelcome interest in the debate, before it comes off, decided they would interfere and not have this subject which had been selected, discussed; that it might be in case the debate takes place that somebody not members of the Klan will take it unto themselves to do the debaters some damage and lay it all to the Klan. His idea was that they would drop the subject altogether and fix up a new program which will have some other interesting subject for discussion.

The statement made last week that one of the strongest Klans in the eastern part of South Carolina had been organized in and around Adrian. Adrian is not very far from the Maple school house where this debate is set to take place.

CONLIFFE WAS NOT MOLESTED

Writes Letter to Horry Herald Asking For Correction

Last week there was a persistent report in Conway, brought in by a number of men from the country that a colored doctor at Mullins had been called on by the Ku Klux Klan and roughly handled concerning some opinion he was said to have expressed about the Collins affair near Mullins some time ago.

It appears that there are no foundations for the reports, as the only colored doctor in Mullins is Milton M. Conliffe, and he has written The Herald the following letter, which paper is glad to publish in order to straighten up.

(Continued On Back Page.)

The streets of Conway are just as bad as ever when it rains. They will be that way until they are paved.