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The Dillon Herald.

MIDDLING COTTON 9.

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BEATTIE CONFESSES BEFORE HE DIES

VIRGINIAN'S LAST STATEMENT BRINGS RELIEF TO DOUBTERS

THE YOUTH SMILES AT DEATH

As He Beholds the Death Chair Smile Spreads Over His Face, And Four Minutes Afterward His Lifeless Body is Removed. Funeral Held Sunday.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 24. — The State of Virginia to-day took the life of Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., in payment for the wife's life he took last July—and the State made no mistake.

The young man himself — who tossed aside a future of riches, the love of a young wife, the guardian ship of an infant son, through infatuation for a wayward girl—made that plain before he went to the electric chair in the early darkness of this dreary, rainy morning.

He confessed his guilt, faced his end with a smile and went to death with a firm belief that, if there was happiness beyond the grave he would have his share of it.

He died about 7.21 o'clock this morning, and a few hours later, his two spiritual advisors handed out a typewritten slip reading thus:

"I, Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., desirous of standing right before God and man, do, on this, 23rd day of November, confess my guilt of the crime charged against me.

"Much that was published concerning the details were not true, but the awful fact, without the harrowing circumstances, remains.

"For this action I am truly sorry, and, believing that I am at peace with God and am soon to pass into His presence, this statement is made.

(Signed.)

Henry Clay Beattie, Jr."

To the confession was appended this note from the clergymen:

"This statement was signed in the presence of the two attending ministers and it is the only statement that can and will be made public by them.

"Mr. Beattie desired to thank the many friends for kind letters and expressions of interest and the public for whatever sympathy was felt or expressed.

(Signed)

Rev J.. J. Fix,

"Rev. Benjamin Dennis."

Shielded Father to Last.

As brutal, as cowardly, as Beattie's crime was—the shooting down of the wife whom he lured to the lonely Midlothian on the pretense that an automobile ride would do her good—he partially atoned for it by the manner of his confession. He arranged it so that his devoted old father should not learn of his guilt until after he had gone forever.

He confessed to the Rev. Mr. Dennis on November 9—more than two weeks ago, but requested that the clergyman keep secret his admission of guilt from his white-haired parent. Then, when he dictated and signed his public statement, he said yesterday:

"Don't tell Dad about it now. Keep it from him until after I am dead. Then show it to him and tell him I will meet him in Heaven, for I believe I'm going there, and I know that he is. He's already a saint if ever a human being was."

Everyone Satisfied.

And so, in the general sentiment of relief that the whole sensational business is over, there is to-night throughout Virginia a spark of admiration for the chief figure in the tragedy. For he not only did this commendable thing, but he went to the chair in a fashion that the religious folk of the community may call sanctified and the worldly may call "game." He satisfied everyone.

Beattie was aroused from a tossing, fitful sleep at 5.30 this morning. He seemed to realize, as soon as he arose, that he was facing his last hours, for there was a peculiar gentleness, all agreed, in the voice which greeted first his guards, then his spiritual advisors. He was far different from the flippant, grinning Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., of old.

Already he had picked up his costume. He donned a white tennis shirt, opened V-shaped at the neck and cut off at the elbows, a pair of light-colored flannel trousers turned up at the bottom, and black silk stockings with low shoes.

"Goodby and Good Luck."

To the last guard on duty he said: "Goodby, Frank, and good luck to you. I wish you would say that God will bless everyone that sympathized with me."

Then Beattie gripped the keeper's hand and began praying with his clergyman. They arose after fifteen minutes and sat one on each side of him, reading the Bible and giving him words of cheer. Another youth brought in a cup of coffee, which the youth drank.

It is said — and was perhaps true—that this contained the merciful opiate which is usually given to a condemned man nearing death, to dull his agony.

Meanwhile, outside, the twelve witnesses of the execution had gathered in the home of Superintendent Wood of the penitentiary, and, after a few words of instruction, had been escorted through a rear entrance to the death chamber to a room 25 by 12 feet in the basement of the prison.

Automobiles containing the newspaper correspondents pulled up in front of the prison. A few white men and women drove along in horse carriages. A couple of hundred of curious persons, black and white, lined up on the sidewalks and waited in a slashing rain for they knew not what.

No Assistance Needed.

After a final handshake with the ministers, young Beattie at 9.19 o'clock started on his 200-foot walk from his cell to the death chamber. The clergymen, with heads bowed and prayers on their lips, preceded him. Two guards held his arms lightly, but apparently he needed no assistance.

In a corner of the room, diagonally from where he entered, sat the twelve witnesses. They were in darkness, because the only light shining was one over the chairs of the prison physicians, Dr. William T. Oppenheimer, and his brother, Dr. St. Julian Oppenheimer.

At the door the guards relaxed their clasp, and each minister patted a farewell upon the boy's shoulder, then stepped back and out.

Smiles as He Sees the Chair.

Beattie walked steadily forward for a few feet, then caught sight of the chair, and—whether it was from bravery or from an opiate none could tell, stopped for an instant, smiled in the direction of the doctors and the witnesses, and seated himself in the big oak affair with its ghastly arm and leg clutching divices.

He was as calm as a man reposing himself in his library, though there was a pallor to his face and a glaze over his eyes.

He did not smile again. His lips made no movement either of prayer or farewell. His left hand seemed to clutch the chair-arm fiercely, while the right extended in limp fashion over its end.

Quickly Strapped in.

At 7.20, just a minute after he had left his cell, he had been strapped fast in the chair and the electrodes had been adjusted by three guards, working from the speed gained from weeks of practice.

The lower part of the headpiece (like a football players' hemlet) covered his eyes. He could see nothing. The witnesses could behold only that the remainder of his face was immobile His last vision was upward and his last vision was that of a cold rain, driving against the panes of the death-room's one window.

A few seconds later the full voltage—about 2,000—was turned on by a shadowy figure, which slipped in noiselessly behind the chair. The body lurched forward abruptly against its confining straps. Then, as usual, the current was lowered to the minimum of 200 voltage and, alternately increased and decreased for about two minutes.

Beattie Pronounced Dead.

At 7.22 the physician brothers examined the limp form in the chair and at 7.24 pronounced Henry Clay, Beattie, Jr., dead.

After the body had been removed to an anteroom some of the old prison attendants recalled an incident of several years ago. Young Beattie, with several youthful friends, drove up to the penitentiary is his motor and they were shown all through the institution. He saw, of course, the electric chair, then just installed, and remarked, "Isn't it awful."

As soon as the official pronouncement was made Superintendent Wood, of the penitentiary, stepped to the front door and announced to the rain-soaked crowd outside. "It is all over. Henry Beattie is dead." The men and women dispersed in silence.

Family Claims Body.

At 9 o'clock the body was claimed on behalf of the Beattie family by the Rev. Mr. Fix. James Morrisett, the undertaker who took it in charge, was, curiously, a playmate and chum of Henry in his boyhood days. It was taken first to the undertaker's shop, then later to the Beattie residence in Richmond.

Once the news of the avenging of Beattie's crime became known throughout Richmond the universal querry arose:

"Did he confess, or for his old old father's sake did he go to his grave with his lips sealed?"

It was soon settled. The clergymen telephoned the newspaper correspondents that they would meet them in one of the hotels at 11 o'clock. At that hour they gave

(Continued on page 5.)

DEATH CLAIMS MRS GEORGIA SMITH.

Aged 66 Years, Mrs. Smith Passed Away on the 23rd.

The angel of death entered the home of Mr. J. S. Thompson on the night of the 23rd and claimed the spirit of Mrs. Georgia Smith, the aged mother of Mrs. Thompson. Mrs. Smith had been in feeble health for some time and her death was not unexpected, although it was a great shock to her family and friends. Since moving to this State from Alabama about 2 years ago Mrs. Smith has been making her home with her daughter, and during her brief residence here she had made many friends and acquaintances who will be pained to hear of her death. The interment was made at Little Rock on the day following.

Mrs. Smith is survived by a husband and the following daughters: Mrs. Hodges, of Anniston, Ala.; Mrs. J. S. Thompson, of Little Rock, and Mrs. J. F. Bethea, of Latta.

COUNTY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

NEWSY LETTERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE COUNTY

COMING AND GOING OF PEOPLE

News Items of Interest to Herald Readers. Ebb and Flow of the Human Tide.

Hamer.

Mr. Lon Smith and bride, of Mullins, lately returned from their bridal trip through Florida and other Southern points, spent Friday night with Mr. and Mrs. John L. Bethea.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Campbell, of Florence, are spending some time with the former's sister, Mrs. J. B. McEachern.

Mr. H. A. Blackwell, of Dillon, and Miss Sarah McDonald, of Wade, N. C., spent Sunday with their friend, Miss Nora Graham.

Mrs. D. A. McCallum is visiting relatives at Blenheim.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Smith, spent Sunday at Rowland with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McLeod.

Mr. D. D. Williams spent a few hours in Dillon Saturday on business.

Mrs. Kilgo , of Greenville county, is spending some time with her brother, Mr. J. C. Kilgo, of this place.

Mr. Jack Watson, of Dillon, was in town Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. John L. Bethea, spent a few hours one day last in Rowland shopping.

Mr. S. O. Wiggins, of Pages Mill, was a visitor in this section last week.

Miss Alberta Powell, a student of Kings Business College, Raleigh, N. C., is visiting her uncle, Mr. Long, near here.

Mr. A. B. Hayes, of Rowland, was greeting old friends near here Sunday.

The Hamer school is doing good work this term under the efficient management of Miss Mary Belle McKenzie, of Rowland. The inside appearance of the school room has been greatly improved by the addition of a number of pictures and the erection of numerous shelves for potted plants. Miss McKenzie hopes to see her way clear later on to fix up the old music room into a nice reading room and library for the benefit of the students.

We hope to see many out at worship Sunday as this is the regular appointment for this church.

In spite of the low price of cotton there are some people still buying land in this section.

We regret very much to learn of the death of Mr. McKenzie, of Rowland, which occurred Sunday night. He has been in feeble health for a long time. We express our sympathy for the dear loved ones.

"Peg."

Little Rock.

The farmers of this section are getting their cotton out very slowly and holding it because the price is so low.

Mrs. Hamp Prince, of Little Rock, is very sick at this writing, but we hope she will be beetter soon.

Messrs. Jack McLaurin and Clarence Moody, of Dillon, have bought the DuBose Drug Store, of Little Rock, and we hope they will make a great success.

Mr. Andrew Wallace was a welcome visitor at Mr. D. C. McCall's Sunday afternoon.

Policeman R. L. Norton will move his family to Little Rock about January 1st.

Mr. M. A. Stubbs, of Dillon, passed through this town Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Y. Wallace, near Little Rock, spent Sunday in Florence with their son, Mr. R. J. Wallace.

Miss Ethel Murry, of Hamer, spent a few days last week visiting Misses Blanche and Nina Stanton.

Mr. Van Hamilton was a pleasant caller at Mr. A. Y. Wallace's Sunday afternoon.

Hello, Sub! Casey is wide awake and full of fun up here. Casey and Blue Eyes, do not wish to meddle with Sub. and her affairs at all; Casey thinks more of Blue Eyes than to take her up for teasing him.

Say, Red Bluff, where have you gone to these days. In winter quarters, I guess. I think we have jammed your business; we can't hear from you. Are you dead or just asleep? Wake up and get busy it seems that Casey enjoys stopping over in our town and getting warm supper. I think they give the poor little fellow cold coffee and not any supper at all up there. So I guess I will ring off for this time and give Red Bluff another chance to come. Come, kid, don't be so bashful.

Best wishes and kindest regards to The Herald and its constant readers. Same old kid.

Honey Boy.

The Ladies' Aid Society, of the Presbyterian church will have a Bazaar at McLaurin's Drug Store Friday, the 9th of December from 2 to 10 p. m.

Mrs. Agnes Carmichael and daughter, Miss Bessie, left Saturday for Durham, N. C., where they will spend some time with the family of Prof. W. B. Carmichael.

THAT LOAN PLAN HEARD FROM AGAIN

PRESIDENT OF STATE FARMERS UNION DOES NOT THINK IT NECESSARY

HOPES IT WILL BE GOOD

Says he Hopes That It Will Help. But He Believes That Its Object Has Already Been Achieved, But it All Depends on Farmers.

E. W. Dabbs, president of the South Carolina Farmers' union, is rather doubtful how the farmers of the State will receive the plan of the New York syndicate to lend $25 a bale upon the cotton crop of South Carolina. Its success will depend, he said, upon whether the planters embrace the offer of the syndicate. He also said that he could not see any noticable effect of the syndicate's scheme, as he thought the main desiratum to be obtained by the plan, in his estimation, had already been accomplished through action by the Farmers' Union.

Nevertheless, if the plan seems good to him when he has had time to examine its details, he will lend it his heartiest support. He hopes, he said that it will prove successful in helping the farmers to secure a fair price for their cotton.

"While I do not wish to throw cold water on the New York syndicate's plan of advancing $25 per bale on the South's cotton crop," said Mr. Dabbs Tuesday night, "I do think that the promoters have overlooked two points. One of these, as I pointed out to S. S. Barrett, president of the National Farmers' Union, is the question whether the farmers will embrace the offer of the Northern syndicate. I suggested to him that instead of one trustee, as proposed in the original plan, there should be three for each State, and that one member from each State should constitute the central board of control. Mr. Barrett seemed to think that the more important point was to secure the confidence of the financial men, while I maintained that the farmers' trust should first be gained. To this end I made my suggestion as to the appointment of three trustees.

"That second point that the promoters seem to have overlooked is the effect that will be produced by the action of the business agents of the Farmers' Union, which urged that the farmers refrain from buying fertilizer at high prices. Will make for a substantial reduction in acreage even without the trustee movement.

"I had thought that the effect of tying up 2,000,000 bales of cotton in the hands of the trustees would be a very strong tendency on the part of the farmers to reduce their acreage next year. The knowledge that there were $2,000,000 bales of cotton that might be carried over until the next crop was put on the market, I thought, would lead the planters to see the futility of excessive production.

"This purpose, however, I think, has been subserged by the present conditions. With cotton selling at nine cents and below, and with fertilizers high, I think the farmers will take the advice given by the business agents of the Farmers will take the advice given by the business agents of the Farmers' Union in their meeting at Columbia. Conditions are such now that farmers, by reducing their acreage and cutting down their purchases of fertilizers will so curtail production that another excessive crop is unlikely. This, then, disposed of one object of holding the cotton by the trustee system. This condition seems to prevail wherever I have been of late.

"Now, as to the success of the plan. It depends, as I intimated before, on whether the farmers will embrace the offer of the financiers.

"So far, I can see no notable effect. The action of the Farmers' Union business agents and the action we took at Sumter yesterday will prevent the sacrifice of cotton to purchase fertilizer. The matter of reduction of acreage will be accomplished by this means without the application of the trusteeship plan. Judging by the response to the pledges to hold cotton and reduce acreage, I do not think that the planters will readily embrace the proposition made by the syndicate.

"I should like to see the planters succeed, but I fear it will not take with the Southern planters.

"I am not at all antagonistic to this plan; I will be glad to see anything succeed that will insure us a price for our cotton which will give us a profit. After I have secured a better knowledge of its details, if it meets my approval, I will give it my heartiest support and co-operation."

Mr. Dabbs also explained the action taken Tuesday at a meeting of the Farmers' Union called to discuss the fertilizer situation. The result of the meeting was a recommendation that the farmers by no fertilizer for 1912 except on this condition that the payment be made in three installments, one not earlier than December 1, 1912, and the other two at intervals of not less than 30 days.

This recommendation, with that of the business agents of the union, that the farmers be conservative in their purchases of fertilizer at the present prices, if followed, Mr. Dabbs thinks, will lead to a reduction in acreage and will put the farmers in a better position to hold their cotton.

BLIND TIGER IN TOILS.

J. A. Simpson Arrested Monday For Selling Whiskey.

J. A. Simpson, a white man employed on the North & South Carolina railway's construction force, was arrested at the Maple Mill Monday upon the charge of selling whiskey. It is said that more than 100 pints of whiskey were found on Simpson's premises. There are six charges against Simpson, including two additional charges for carrying concealed weapons and resisting an officer.

Monday morning when Sheriff Lane attempted to serve a warrant on Simpson the man refused to submit to arrest and gave the sheriff a lively tussle. In the tussle Sheriff Lane's hand was badly bitten by Simpson. Sheriff Lane called Stanley Hamilton and John Quick to his assistance and after struggling with Simpson for nearly an hour the prisoner was subdued.

Heretofore Simpson has borne a good reputation and is known as a hard working, industrious man. He is the owner of a fine pair of oxen, which he uses in doing odd jobs around the community. Simpson's home is at Florence, but he has been living in Dillon for the past year.

SUCCUMBS TO APPOPLEXY.

M. J. McDonald Suddenly Stricken Last Thursday Night.

Dillon county lost an upright and honorable citizen last Thursday night when Mr. M. J. McDonald was stricken with appoplexy and died within a few minutes. Mr. McDonald was conversing with some neighbors who had come over to spend the evening when he went out on the porch to get a drink of water. Returning to the room he seated himself near the fire place and started to resume the conversation when he was stricken with appoplexy and died in 15 minutes without regaining consciousness. The day previous to his death Mr. McDonald had been in the field assisting his son in gathering corn and appeared to be in the best of health and spirits. Neither himself nor his son with whom he had spent the entire day had the slightest intimation that death was so near, and his sudden demise was a terrible shock to his family and friends.

Mr. McDonald was one of the leading and substantial citizens of the Carolina section. He was a man of quiet, unassuming manner who lived by the golden rule of "Do ye unto others as you would have them do unto you," and it was natural that he should die as he had lived—in the friendship and esteem of all who knew him.

Mr. McDonald was 52 years of age and his entire life had been spent at the old homestead near Carolina church where he was born and reared. When quite a young man he was wedded to Miss Kate McLaurin, of Marlboro county, who preceded him to the grave some years ago. From this union was born one son, who survives him and who has been his helpmeet and companion during the long years of his widowhood.

His surviving brothers and sisters are Mrs. W. J. Stone, of Clio; Mrs. W. McInnis and Mrs. J. T. Easterling, of Dillon; and Mr. F. M. McDonald, of Bonifay, Fla.

He was a member of the Woodmen of the World and a member of Auroro Lodge, A. F. M., of Clio. Followed by a large concourse of friends and relatives his remains were laid to rest at Carolina church Friday afternoon, with Masonic honors.

Mr. Sandy McKenzie Dead.

News was received in Dillon Monday of the death of Mr. Sandy McKenzie at Rowland. Mr. McKenzie, who had been in failing health for several months, passed away at 2 o'clock Monday morning. The deceased was one of the early Scotch settlers in Robeson county, having come to America when he was quite a young man. He possessed to an unusual degree all the sterling qualities of mind and heart so characteristic of the early Scotch settlers and his passing removes from this sphere of action an upright and honorable citizen whose life has been a benediction to mankind Mr. McKenzie was the father of Mr. A. D. McKenzie, of Rowland, and Miss May Belle McKenzie, teacher in the Hamer graded school. He was also an uncle of Miss Isla and Mr. J. J. McKenzie, and Mrs. C. Henslee, of Dillon.

At Kentyre church to-day the annual ingathering and Thanksgiving will be celebrated with appropriate ercises and the usual picnic so much enjoyed by the good Scotch people of this congregation and their friends. The usual premiums will be awarded to successful competitors in the cotton contest. Addresses are expected by Hon. J. P. McNeill, of Florence and the Rev. A. E. Spencer. Also addresses by others in awarding the prizes. Following the celebration a series of evangelistic services will be conducted by Rev. Mr. Spencer, beginning on Friday, Dec. 1st and continuing through the following week.

SURVEY STARTED ACROSS RIVER

PROF. HOLMES IN CHARGE OF ENGINEERING WORK

WILL MAP OUT THREE ROUTES

There Will Be Three Lines Run Through Pee Dee Swamp and People Interested May Select a Route That Will Suit Them.

Definite and concrete work has been started on the proposed road across Pee Dee swamp, which is to be known as the Eastern Carolina Good Roads Association road, and it is expected that not many moons will be allowed to rise and set until the wagons and the automobiles can cross the river near the present railroad bridge, and the people of this section of the State will be able to hold communication other than by mail and rail.

Prof. Goode Holmes, in charge of the work of the government in this State, who has taken a great interest in this very important piece of engineering, and has gotten the government interested in it, has charge of the survey and with his assistant engineer is pushing the preliminary work as rapidly as possible.

These engineers will run three lines through the swamp as they see the most practical line.

Secretary Husbands of the association has the matter in charge, and to him the government agent will look for the expenses of the survey, and to meet these expenses Mr. Husbands made a hurried canvass of the business interests of the city and raised what will be Florence's portion of the expense, for there are three counties, Florence, Dillon and Marion united in this enterprise. He expects the other two counties to raise their quota at once, and they will probably do so.

The engineers will give Mr. Husbands for the association blue prints of the three lines that they will run with careful estimates and suggestions on each, and the people of the three counties will then select the one that seems to them the best for the purposes.

If the delegations in the legislature will co-operate in the matter as they are expected to there will be no delay in the construction of this much needed highway.

Death of Mrs. L. E. Dew.

Latta, Nov. 25. — Mrs. L. E. Dew died Friday afternoon at her home near Catfish church, after an illness of only a few weeks. Mrs. Dew was a young woman, about 26 years of age and was beloved by all who knew her. Her life was one of devotion, and in her death the whole community is bereaved. Besides her husband she leaves three little children, one an infant of only three weeks. Before her marriage Mrs. Dew was Miss Ellen Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Allen, of Free State, both of whom with a number of brothers and sisters survive her. The funeral services were conducted at Catfish church at 3 o'clock this afternoon by Rev. Mr. Ford, of Marion.

DILLON TO LOSE GOOD CITIZEN

Mr. W. J. Adams is disposing of His Property and Will Return to Marlboro.

The Herald regrets to announce that Mr. W. J. Adams, of Gaddy Mill, is preparing to dispose of his property in Dillon county and will return to Marlboro about the first of the year. Mr. Adams is one of Dillon's most progressive and substantial citizens and the many friends he has made during his residence here will learn with regret of his intention to return to the county of nativity.

From the Gaddys Mill plantation Mr. Adams has developed one of the best plantations in Dillon county The plantation was badly run down when he purchased it, but after applying progressive farming methods he had the satisfaction of producing more than a bale of cotton to the acre on some of the lands Mr. Adams has turned his plantation over to the Carolina Realty & Auction Company, of Bennettsville, and on Wednesday, December 6th., this valuable tract of land will be subdivided into small tracts and sold at auction. All the farming implements on the place will be sold at the same time.

Mr. Adams was a strong advocate of the New County, and has always taken an active interest in county affairs. Since the formation of Dillon county he has been a member of the Board of Commissioners and in this capacity he has rendered valuable service. In his return to Marlboro county Dillon loses a good citizen.

Our correspondents will please bear in mind that communications sohuld reach us Tuesday morning to insure publication in the following issue. If anything of importance should happen after the communication has been mailed the correspondent can use the phone or telegraph if it is impossible for a letter to reach us by noon on Wednesdays.

Miss Annie McNeill, of Meridian, Miss., is visiting her sister, Mrs. John C. Bethea.