

WILLIAM PAGE AS A WITNESS

Trial of Case Against Officers and Directors of The Bank

FARMERS BANK OF AYNOR Incidents of a Bank Failure Which Stirred People in 1916

Mr. William Page was sworn here as a witness for the plaintiff in the case of W. A. Freeman, Receiver, against the officers and directors of the old Farmers & Merchants Bank. This is the case in which the Receiver is seeking to recover from officers of the bank the big loss that was sustained by the bank by the stockholders who put their money into it. So far as the depositors in the bank are concerned they have already been paid 75 per cent and they will be paid in full before it is over as the stockholders are liable for an amount equal to their shares of stock in order to pay the people who deposited money there.

Mr. Page was examined by Mr. F. L. Wilcox, of counsel for the plaintiff, and he testified as follows, in substance:

"I am seventy-eight years of age on next Monday. I was an original stockholder to the amount of \$500.00, and I subscribed \$50.00 for a little granddaughter.

"At the meeting of the stockholders at which the directors were selected, I was present but I do not remember that I was elected as a director. I was nominated but word came afterwards that I could not serve on account of living so far away from the bank. I know that W. R. Lewis was the president, W. W. Russ vice-president, and W. P. Hardwick cashier and George Officer assistant cashier. I cannot name the directors.

"I was here at a meeting of the stockholders when they voted to pay a dividend of 4 per cent. I cannot give the date. There was no other dividend ever paid. I think all the directors were present when the dividend was declared.

"A report was made at that meeting to the board in words. I got \$20 and a little over for my share of the dividend. At this meeting George W. Hardee asked Percy Hardwick if the bank was out of debt. Hardwick answered that it was. He was then asked if the building had been paid for and if the safe had been paid for and he answered yes. He was then asked if the Walter Porter property had been paid for and he said that it had been. He said that the bank was entirely out of debt and had made 8 per cent, but they would only pay 4 per cent. W. R. Lewis, or someone else, made a motion to keep the 4 per cent in the bank, but this was voted down and they decided to pay the dividend. These statements by Hardwick at that meeting were not questioned by any person present. I can not remember whether W. B. Chestnut was present, but recall that W. R. Lewis and W. P. Hardwick were both there. Myself and W. R. Lewis were brothers-in-law. I came to Conway often at that time, oftener than I do now. We were the best of friends. I went to the bank sometimes when I came to Conway to see Mr. Lewis. I usually found him in the bank. I was here one night and saw Percy Hardwick and Percy wanted me to come around to the bank on the following morning to see how they did business. I went. They were certainly taking in the money, and I saw them taking it in; but I never did see how it got out.

I did my banking business at that bank. I did more there than I did at Aynor. I was in both banks but did most of my business at Conway, as I had confidence in this bank.

I cannot give the exact date, but shortly before this bank broke, I met H. L. Buck on the street, and said something about the prospects of the Bank of Aynor, the Farmers' State Bank, and Mr. Buck said that the condition of the Aynor Bank was nothing to compare to the bad condition of the bank at Conway. This was the first time I had heard of this bank being in a failing condition. Before the Aynor bank became involved I had heard some rumor that the Farmers' State Bank was not so good and about the first statement I heard about this bank in Conway was the one made by Mr. Buck. It was a short time before the bank was closed. I left Buck and went hurriedly into the bank and found in there Mr. Lewis and Mr. Officer. I spoke to Mr. Lewis about my money on deposit, and he and Mr. Officer both got on their feet and said the bank was all right and to let them alone and not withdraw the funds. Mr. Lewis pulled out a bank statement and said that it was sworn to. I did not look at it. He said the bank was in good condition

and that they had plenty of money. I told him that what I wanted was not money but wanted to know that it was in good shape and feel satisfied. I then went to the depot to take the train home but the train was one-half hour late. This gave me more time and as I was not satisfied I went back to the bank and called W. R. Lewis to the front while Mr. Officer remained on the inside and could hear what we said. I told him that I was not satisfied. He said to go and ask Frank Burroughs if I did not believe what he said. I told him that. Lewis, was in better condition to know the bank and its condition than F. A. Burroughs and that I had come to him. He repeated that the bank was all right. I went home and in a few days I heard it was closed.

When the 4 per cent dividend was paid it was stated by some present that it should have been done in order to keep the men in heart.

Both W. R. Lewis and George Officer told me when I deposited my money in the bank, and also afterwards, that the bank was all right. I do not think I had more than two or three hundred dollars in the bank when it failed. I had intended to check the balance out when Hal L. Buck told me what I said he did, and I went at once to Lewis and Officer and wanted to take it out but I did not check it out because they said the bank was good."

On cross-examination, Mr. Page stated that The Farmers' State Bank of Aynor, of which Percy Hardwick was president, had failed before the Farmers' & Merchants did that he, Page, had been a director of the Bank of Aynor and tried very hard to get Percy Hardwick out of it and that Hardwick was induced to tender his resignation and witness thought that it was accepted but later Steve Lewis, who seemed to favor Percy, managed to get the resignation withdrawn and Percy remained on until the bank failed.

Mr. Page also told in a very amusing manner a story of one occasion when he had gone to Aynor to attend a meeting of directors at the bank at that place and while he was standing nearby, Percy Hardwick and George Officer had come up to attend the meeting also. The bank examiner was expected to be present but it turned out that he did not come. No meeting was held. Mr. Officer had in his hands a small canvas bag, described by Mr. Page as resembling an old time shot bag, and according to him, it was about one foot long and four to five inches in diameter. Witness did not see the money on the inside of the bag but it looked like it contained money and if it had been eggs in the bag he would have known it from the impression on the canvas. He stated that it was a money bag and looked like it had money in it and that it was full to the very brim. He went on to say that when it was decided that the examiner would not be there and that no meeting would be held that Mr. Officer turned to Mr. Hardwick and said, "Well, what do you want me to do with this?" and that Hardwick answered and said: "Take that on to Conway; we will not want that here any longer now."

Witness stated that he had every confidence in the world in W. R. Lewis. He said he had not the least idea that W. R. Lewis profited one cent at the expense of the funds of the Farmers' & Merchants Bank and that W. R. Lewis was his friend and relative, and worthy of being trusted, or words to that effect. He said that he could not tell who got the money or where it went. He had seen some of it deposited and he knew that the stock had been paid in, but he never saw it paid out and he did not know who got it.

After the examination of two witnesses, Messrs W. A. Freeman and William Page, the reference was continued until ten o'clock on Wednesday morning, January 17th, when the hearing will go on.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS TO BE TAKEN

The religious census of the town will be taken by the three Sunday schools next Sunday afternoon. The visitors consists of fifteen from each church and will meet at the Methodist church at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon and there will go out three together, representing each of the Sunday schools of the town. The committees have the work mapped out in fine shape and expect to complete the work in about three hours.

MILLIGAN-COOPER

Mr. J. Perley Cooper, of Dunn, N. C., and Miss Zella Milligan, of Allsbrook, S. C., were happily married Sunday, December 24th, at 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon. The marriage was quite a home affair and only a few relatives and close friends witnessed the ceremony. Mr. L. W. Cooper, uncle of the groom officiated. The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Harriet Milligan and is one of the most popular young women of her community. Mr. Cooper is manager of the Southern Marble Works, of Dunn, and is a promising young business man who has made many friends here since moving to Dunn about a year ago. The bridal couple spent the holidays

B. B. VAUGHT J. T. BOOTH

Free Shampoo!

We are giving a free shampoo with each haircut, except Friday and Saturday, beginning next Monday, January 15th. Look up the shop next to Candy Kitchen.

Come one—Come all—To VAUGHT & BOOTH BARBER SHOP This offer lasts till February 15th

MAN STRIKES CHILD WITH AUTOMOBILE

While on his way from school, little Paul Quattlebaum, Jr., was struck by the left fender of an automobile driven by Beaty Gillespie, and came near being run over. The Chief of Police, who was standing nearby, on Main Street, immediately placed Gillespie under arrest on a charge of reckless driving and placed him under a bond of \$10.00. In the Mayor's court Gillespie drew a fine of \$7.50.

STARTING OFF RIGHT

The Conway Baptist Sunday school of the first church made a good year's start last Sunday, having every officer (seven in number) present, every teacher (twenty-two in number) present, and eighty-four per cent of the total enrollment present.

The Primary department was full and running over, having 64 present out of an enrollment of 70. The Senior and Intermediate department, with 12 classes had perfect attendance in six and only one absent in each of the other six. The adult ladies class were all present except one and she was sick. The Annex class was forced to get more chairs in order to seat the number present.

The folks were there on time with a smile and seemed to be happy on the first Sunday of the new year. Even the pastor could not keep still.

It had been previously announced that Miss Lucy Spivey would have charge of the opening exercises. She being in the W. M. U. Training school at Louisville, of course was not present, but she had her program there, including songs, prayer and a short address to the Sunday school. The program was carried out by Miss Wolf and Miss Evelyn Snider. Her prayer and address were both short, but impressive.

When Mr. Chon, our secretary made his quarterly report, it showed a perfect attendance of all the officers except three and they had only missed one Sunday each; teachers average of 88 per cent and a long list of pupils who had been present every Sunday for the quarter.

The Annex Class will have charge of the opening exercises next Sunday morning and the ladies of the choir have been asked to give the singing over to the men on that day. We understand that the boys of the Annex Class have been asked to bring every musical instrument from the whistle of the mocking bird to the base drum.

We are looking forward to one of the best programs we have had recently. Everybody is cordially invited to be with us next Sunday.

J. C. SPIVEY, Supt.

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY

Ike Johnson was before the Mayor on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. He contributed \$10.00 to the town in the way of a fine.

WIFE-BEATER FINED

Steven Palmley was up before the Mayor on a charge of beating his wife. He was fined \$10.00 and was warned not to come up again for that offense.

Trespass signs on stiff card board will protect your land in 1923. Buy these cards at The Herald office.

Writing tablets that are different at The Herald office.

with friends in Horry and Marion Counties, S. C., returning to Dunn Saturday, December 30th, where they will make their future home. Their friends wish for them a long and happy life.

TAX RETURNS FOR 1923

The County Auditor of Horry County will attend the following places at times specified for the purpose of taking returns for the fiscal year 1923, of all personal property, also all transfers of Real Estate which have been made since last return. All able bodied male persons between the ages of 21 and 60 years are required to return poll tax. Executors and Administrators are required to make returns of all property under their control. Failure to make returns within the time specified subjects the delinquent to a penalty of 50 cents on the dollar.

Monday, January 15th.	
Gallivants Ferry	9:00 to 12:00
Aynor	1:00 to 3:00
Cool Spring	4:00 to 5:00
Tuesday, January 16th.	
Wampee	9:00 to 11:00
Little River	1:00 to 2:00
Brooksville	3:00 to 4:00
Wednesday, January 17.	
Daisy	9:00 to 10:00
Thursday, January 18th.	
Stalvey	10:00 to 11:00
Burgess	12:00 to 2:00
Cooper's Store	3:00 to 4:00
Friday, January 19th.	
Bayboro	9:00 to 10:00
Allsbrook	11:00 to 12:00
Loris	2:00 to 4:00
Tuesday, January 23rd.	
Rehoboth	9:00 to 11:00
Mt. Pisgah	12:00 to 3:00
Hinson's Store	2:00 to 4:00
Wednesday, January 24th.	
Stevens X Rds.	9:00 to 11:00
Jollies X Rds.	12:00 to 1:00
Floyds Schoolhouse	2:00 to 4:00
Thursday, January 25th.	
Spring Branch	9:00 to 11:00
Grassy Bay	1:00 to 2:00
Friday, January 26th.	
Green Sea (Buffkin's Store)	9:00 to 12:00
Jern. X Rds.	1:00 to 3:00

The balance of the time at the Auditor's office in Conway. Remember the time is out on February 20th. N. C. ADAMS, County Auditor.

WALK A BLOCK AND SAVE A DOLLAR

BANKRUPT SALE

NOW GOING ON AT THE CONWAY DEPT. STORE

BARGAINS GALORE

BY THE ORDER OF THE TRUSTEE THIS STOCK MUST BE SOLD REGARDLESS

MEN AND WOMEN

This is your opportunity to save money!— Don't let it slip by you!

You know as well as we do that a merchant must make a profit on his goods, —otherwise he couldn't stay in business.

This store does not ask any profit,— IT WAS ORDERED TO SELL the STOCK AND SELL WE MUST.

No matter what you buy in this store you pay no more than the biggest merchant pays for it at wholesale,—but in some cases you buy it for less, because we bought it for less.

THIS STORE IS LOADED WITH NEW GOODS.

ABOUT 5000 PAIR SHOES, and more than 1000 MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS and LADIES AND CHILDREN'S COATS TO SELL.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

CONWAY DEPT. STORE

BANKRUPT

Upper Main St. New Spivey Block, Conway, S. C.

50 GOOD CIGARETTES 10¢

GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM TOBACCO

