

THE GAFFNEY LEDGER.

A NEWSPAPER IN ALL THAT THE WORD IMPLIES, AND DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED FEB. 16, 1884.

GAFFNEY, S. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1909.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

ARGUMENTS MADE IN JONES MURDER CASE

DEFENSE SPRANG BIG SURPRISE BY OFFERING NO TESTIMONY.

Sensational and Damaging Evidence Introduced by the State—Townsend Opened Arguments for Defense.

Union, Feb. 5.—The unexpected happened today in the trial of W. T. Jones, charged with killing his wife by administering poison, when it was announced that the case would be given to the jury without a witness being introduced for the defendant.

When court convened this morning at the usual hour the court room was packed with interested listeners. The examination of witnesses was begun at once and at eleven o'clock Solicitor Stevens announced that the state rested its case. To the surprise of everyone present the attorneys for the prisoner stated that no witnesses would be put on stand in behalf of the defendant. A conference was then held by the lawyers on both sides and it was agreed to limit the arguments to 2 1/2 hours each. There will be three arguments for the defense and four for the state. Bea Townsend, for the defense, opened the argument and was followed by J. A. Sawyer, for the state.

The testimony this morning was at times sensational. The bottle of strichnine was offered in evidence, the coroner stating that it has been in his possession since the day of the inquest. Dr. Montgomery testified as to the effects of strichnine. When taken by a person the patient is often unable to talk, though in conscious condition. This evidence was introduced to show that this was the reason Mrs. Jones did not answer the question put to her by the physician and Jones before her death.

Arthur English, a colored witness, was recalled today. During his testimony the jury was excluded for the purpose of allowing the judge to say whether his evidence would be admitted. He told of having worked in the garden and that he was summoned to the house. Mrs. Jones came in and kept looking back towards the butler's pantry. He said she came up to him and placed her hand on his shoulder and said something to him. What she is alleged to have said was not allowed to go in evidence, though it is known that it was of a revolting nature.

William Vaughn said he had been living in Spartanburg and Union; that on the day of the inquest he was at Sanctus and saw Mrs. Jones. The witness stated that he told the defendant it was bad about his wife's death and that Jones replied he did not know whether it was so bad or not.

The first witness was Coroner Hames, who told of going to Jones' house the day after Mrs. Jones died, of how he found there the bottle which contained the strichnine which bottle he has since kept in his possession. At the inquest the statement made by W. T. Jones was taken down by L. M. Rice, but this statement was not sworn to. The coroner told of how on arrival at Sanctus he went to Jones residence, where he found with Jones, James Munro, an attorney, and W. J. Halle. Jones asked Hames if he was the coroner, and told him he might have the inquest held in one of the rooms of the house. Jones said that he had never had anything to do with an inquest and told the coroner that he would appreciate anything done for him. On the next day when the inquest was to be held, Jones asked Hames to wait awhile until his attorney arrived, which was acceded to.

J. C. Crocker, the next witness, testified to having served on the coroner's jury at the inquest and that he recalled hearing Arthur English in his testimony at the inquest swear that Jones said he was at home all day.

Mr. J. T. Jeter, the family physician, on being recalled identified the bottle of strichnine and said that it looked as it did on that occasion, about ten grains of strichnine had been removed from the bottle. He testified that as much as one third of a grain of strichnine has killed a person. On cross examination by counsel for defense, Dr. Jeter said that he heard Jones tell his wife just before she died to tell him (Dr. Jeter) what was the matter.

Mrs. M. A. Brock, wife of Rev. R. A. Brock, testified that she lived in the old Jones residence, and that during the two months that she lived there, on one occasion she heard the sound as if some one was striking or inflicting blows on another. The sound came as if from the cook room.

Mrs. Charmer Stevens told that when she lived at the old Jones place, she saw Mr. Jones slap Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Stevens was in her garden when the incident was observed. Arthur English, colored, was then recalled and the jury was sent out of the room in order to ascertain if the testimony that he would give was competent. The court ruling that it was, the jury returned and the examination proceeded. English said that he was at Jones place on the Sunday that Mrs. Jones died and that while he was out in the yard he was summoned to the house. Going into the kitchen he saw no one but in a minute Mrs. Jones came into the room through a door leading from the butler's pantry. She was very much excited and looked dark in the face and

hesitated as she came in and looked backward all the time she was talking.

She came near him and put her hands on him. That she said anything to him or the nature of it which was brought out at the inquest and which was of a very sensational nature, was not allowed to be brought into evidence. Witness said he left shortly after this and went out and did not know that Mrs. Jones was dead until he reached Union. All of his testimony was objected to by the defense and was so noted.

William Vaughan, the next witness, told how that he was at Sanctus on the day of the inquest, that he saw and talked to W. T. Jones. Witness condoled with Jones about his wife's death and said that it was so sad, to which Jones replied that it was not so sad. Witness said that he said to Jones that they were trying to prove that he, Jones, had poisoned his wife, to which it is alleged by witness, that Jones replied that they were not sharp enough to catch him that time and that Jones continuing said that he had been laying off to do this for some time.

At this point the State rested and after consultation the defense announced that they would put up no witnesses. It was then announced that arguments on both sides would be limited to two hours and a half, that the defense would make three arguments and the State four.

Union, Feb. 6.—After being out eight hours the jury in the Jones case brought in a verdict of guilty with recommendation to mercy. Sentence was suspended pending the hearing of a motion for a new trial, which was made by counsel for defense. The jury stood nine for murder in first degree and three for recommendation to mercy.

FOSTER IS HANGED.

Negro Who Killed Well-Known Citizen Pays the Penalty.

Spartanburg, Feb. 5.—Will Foster, colored, who was twice convicted on the charge of murdering John Young, a well known white man of the county in November, 1907, was hanged in the county jail this morning. The drop was sprung at 11:30 and his neck was broken by the fall.

Foster went to his death declaring his innocence. After the black cap had been adjusted he was asked if he desired to make any statement and he replied all he had to say was that he was innocent. He was perfectly calm and displayed no signs of nervousness. About two weeks ago Foster attempted to saw his way out of jail. He removed from the inside of the sole of his shoe a piece of flat steel used for a spring, and out of this he fashioned a crude saw and had cut through one of the bars of his cell before being discovered.

Lunch Bill Killed.

Columbia, Feb. 5.—The Rucker bill to prohibit any city or town to make it unlawful to sell lunches on Sunday had another fight and was finally killed by a vote of 63 to 48.

When third reading bills were reached Mr. Richards moved to recommit the bill. He said he knew it was unlawful but he felt he would be doing himself and those who believe in Sabbath observance if he did not protest against such a bill. The legislature had not the right to enforce a law of that kind on towns that might want to prohibit lunch selling on Sunday.

Mr. Doar remarked that Mr. Richards had changed his views on local option.

Mr. Richards said his views on local option were perfectly sound.

Mr. Rucker said his bill simply allowed a hungry man to get something to eat when he traveled on Sunday. He had no patience with the smug believer in Sabbath observance who denied a lunch to the traveler while enjoying a hot dinner at home.

Press Association.

Columbia, Feb. 5.—The executive committee of the South Carolina Press Association held a meeting here today for the purpose of outlining a program of the next annual meeting which is to be held in Greenville the latter part of May or during the early part of June, the exact date not yet having been decided. Present were: Col. E. H. Aull, president; Col. William Banks, vice-president; Col. August Kohn, treasurer; Mr. R. L. Freeman, secretary, and executive committee; C. M. Galloway. An attentive programme was arranged, which will be announced at a later date. Hon. Legenderer Walker, of Georgetown, was elected as the annual orator. Other distinguished speakers will be invited. President Aull was appointed a committee of one to make arrangements suitable to the people of Greenville.

At the Theatre Tomorrow Night.

The attraction at the Star Theatre tomorrow night will be that unsurpassed military drama, "A Soldier's Sweetheart, or the Confederate Spy." It is a charming story of love, hatred and loyalty, and the bills say it will be presented by an incomparable company of artists. However, we do not believe that it will be fairly well presented and that those who attend will be repaid for their time and money. The prices are 25, 35 and 50 cents.

Card of Thanks.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to all who so kindly rendered us service and sympathy during the illness and death of our beloved wife and mother. May God's blessings rest on everyone of the kind people of the Gaffney Mill Company.

W. B. Williams and Family.

HOLE IN THE FENCE AND HIS GIRL GONE

RESULT OF "PAPA'S OBJECTION" TO DAUGHTER'S BEAU.

Good Joke on a Neighbor With Several Pretty Daughters—Thefts in the Lower County—Other Items.

Wilkinsville, Feb. 5.—A good joke is told on one of our over-the-river neighbors who several years ago had a family of good looking daughters who were smart and good workers. They, of course, grew up and the boys, as is natural, took a fancy for them and wanted to marry them but the old gentleman for some reason (perhaps best known to himself) objected and used every precaution to prevent any of them from marrying and especially one young fellow who was distasteful to the old man. As time passed on this young fellow and his girl went on with their courting "unbeknowning" to the old man. The old man had the house surrounded with a strong paling fence and there was no means of ingress or egress except through the gate which he kept pretty well guarded both night and day. They knew they would have to run away if they got married. So one morning he awoke to find a hole in an unguarded part of the fence and his girl was gone—gone to get married against his will or wish. He was at his wit's end. None of the family claimed any knowledge of the elopement but the old man thought differently. Turning to his other girls whom he suspected would soon follow suit he said: "If you want to go, go now, while the way is open."

Several wagons have lately come down from the upper part of the county and gone over on the York side and got pigs, which they find ready sale for in their neighborhoods.

The first real winter weather we have had came last Friday 29th ult.

The cold wave was preceded by an intensely dark cloud and high wind which at times reached the velocity of a hurricane. Last Monday as Sam J. Strain was on his mail route between Gowdewayville and Sarratts he met Messrs. Horn and Worthy, of Trouth Shoals, with a drove of beef cattle they bought from Mr. W. R. Walker. One of the bees had given out and could go no further. They tied its legs together and got Sam to help them put it into a wagon in which they had a large hog and went on their way rejoicing. One of the men said it would weigh 1,000 pounds. How three men could lift an animal of that kind into a wagon is more than we can understand unless they had a derrick.

Report came over the phone line Tuesday morning that a horse and buggy had been stolen at Jonesville which had been tracked in the direction of Yorkville. Unless our people, both in town and country, see to it that every idle vagabond wandering about or lying round is put to work just such work is going to go on.

Those who have good horses and mules would do well to put them under lock and key at night and had better watch them carefully in the day time.

We are indebted to The Ledger for a lot of stationery for which it has our thanks.

Mr. Ed. H. DeCamp in speaking of a bridge at or near Howell's Ferry made a very sensible remark—"Give those people a bridge and a good road to Gaffney and secure the trade from the York side." That will do better. We know whereof we speak and have thought it for a long time. No town or city in the Piedmont section can cope with Gaffney when its people set their heads to do anything.

Honest people don't care for watching and rogues need it to keep them straight.

Mr. W. R. Walker is on his Sunny-side farm this week. He has sold several beef cattle. These cattle seem not to drive well in large droves. But in smaller groups—say ten or twelve head—they drive very well when gently worked with.

On the same night a horse and buggy was stolen from Jonesville we learn that one of the county mules was stolen from the convict camp. It was, we learn, stopped in Union.

"Unc'l Levi" Wood, colored, will, if nothing happens to break it up, be a married man before long, if all reports are true. Levi is one of the annual orator. Other distinguished speakers will be invited. President Aull was appointed a committee of one to make arrangements suitable to the people of Greenville.

There is likely to be a marked fall of the temperature in Washington about the 4th of March.

This is always a dirty world to those who dabble in mud. The man who thinks too much has only himself to blame for it. The "smart Aleck" finally bumps up against something that fools him.

We are told that those people who live too fast find themselves out of breath when they come to die.

Frequently we hear the remark "If the shoe fits you put it on and wear it." But when a shoe fits a woman she takes it off for she says it's too big.

If the man who wants the whole earth be weighed he will be found still wanting.

Mrs. Maudie Lockhart, of Hickory Grove, who has been sick for a long time, died last Wednesday night.

She was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, and leaves a husband, father and mother and a host of

friends and relatives to mourn her death.

Leaves have their time to fall, And flowers must wither at the north wind's breath Sun, moon and stars will rise and set, but after all,

Thou hast a season of thine own, O death!

We regret to learn that Mr. Forest Higgins, the efficient and gentlemanly mail carrier on R. F. D. route No. 6, from Gaffney, was taken very ill last Tuesday while on his route and was taken to the hospital at Gaffney for treatment. His many friends hope for him a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Willie and Misses Maude and Mary Blackwell spent last Wednesday day with the family of Mr. J. A. M. Estes.

Mrs. Leila Fowler and Mrs. Matie Blackwell spent last Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Estes.

Mr. Ben Hope, according to the chronological arrangement of Bible history we say you are correct.

The seed of the cockle-bur is said to be good feed for parrots. We thought somebody would discover a use for these farmer's pests.

Messmates Ethel and Jessie Blackwell spent the day with us yesterday. Another crowd of trappers have located at Owen's ford on Thickety and gone to work. They have caught a few muskrats and minks. They claim that the furs are only serviceable at this season of the year.

Mr. Sam. W. Foster, of Union, was in this section yesterday buying chickens, eggs and butter for the Union market.

Farmers are turning their lands and sowing oats. We don't suppose it will take a great deal of talk to hold them down in planting a large cotton crop this year.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Blackwell spent one night with us last week. Mrs. Blackwell (nee Miss Orrie Farr) was one of the Union Times' party which made a trip to Washington, D. C., last year and took in the sights there, at Mount Vernon and many noted places in Virginia, including some of the battlefields and Confederate cemeteries about Richmond. She is a good talker and it is interesting to hear her tell about her trip. They had a very enjoyable time with Rev. L. M. Rice, editor, who went with them, looked after their interests and made their trip a pleasant and profitable one.

What a delegation of young ladies and young men go to work and run The Ledger's subscription list up to such a point as to justify Mr. DeCamp in giving them such an outing as Bro. Rice did? It takes work and money but the good part of it is it don't cost the readers anything. They pay only for what they get in reading matter.

To our plank question we have not yet received a correct rule by which to determine where it must be sawed in two in order to get equal quantities of lumber in both pieces. This is the rule: Square both ends and take half the sum of these squares; extract the square root, and you have the width where it must be sawed.

Thus carrying the work to four places of decimals it will be seen that a plank fifteen inches wide at one end and nine inches at the other must be sawed at a width of 12.3693 inches.

It seems that a great deal of fuss has been raised about the electoral vote of South Carolina not reaching Washington in the time some people thought it ought to, and that the world would go backward in consequence of it. Col. T. B. Butler, the messenger, knows his business too well to be found napping, and doesn't need any instruction from his would-be advisers or critics. It will be a cold day when "Both" Butler gets left.

We have received a copy of the minutes of the 23th annual session of the Thickety Mountain Missionary Baptist S. S. Convention held with the Bethel Baptist church (colored), July 23, 24, 25 and 26, 1908. It is a nicely gotten up pamphlet of twenty-four pages and speaks well for the enterprising spirit of our colored brethren. We have read it through and carefully noted the systematic manner in which they conduct business. We thank our colored friends for so kindly remembering us with a copy of the proceedings and bid them God-speed in their commendable work.

J. L. S.

Constable's Vanishing.

Columbia, Feb. 5.—Magistrate Lebey Clement, of Wadmalaw, is here today asking the governor to offer a reward for the discovery of the murderers of two constables acting under him, and for the arrest of the parties who are setting fire to buildings on two of his places.

Judge Clement says he had had five constables to disappear mysteriously since his appointment as magistrate, two of them within the past four months.

He attributes the situation to the organization of a negro secret society, and the aversion of negroes to any of their race serving as constables, whose main duties are arresting law-breaking negroes.

He says he is obliged to use negro constables because of the scarcity of white men on the island. There are only forty-three white men, and there were over twelve hundred negro voters in Republican times, and so many now that there is no counting them, for they cannot vote. His present constables have received warning that they must quit.

He has offered to duplicate any rewards the governor may offer, and has employed private detectives.

The situation is becoming unbearable and really alarming.

Subscribe for The Ledger. \$1.50.

THE LATEST NEWS FROM BLACKSBURG

DOINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR SISTER CITY.

Brief News Notes and Personal Paragraphs Gathered by Our "Iron City" Correspondent.

Blacksburg, Feb. 8.—Miss Celest Webber, of near Spartanburg, visited her sister, Miss Mabel Webber, from Friday till Sunday.

Mrs. Jane Whisnant spent Monday at Patterson Springs, N. C., and attended a birthday dinner given in honor of Mrs. J. A. Roberts.

Mr. J. B. Ross spent a day or two last week in Spartanburg on business.

Mrs. J. B. Ross and Mrs. Carlton spent last Wednesday in Gaffney shopping.