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NUMBER 10

BAPTISTS MET WITH PRINCETON CHURCH

Twelfth Annual Session of the Laurens County Baptist Association... Rev. E. C. Watson, Moderator.

The twelfth annual session of the Laurens County Baptist association was held last week with the Princeton Baptist church, in the little town of Princeton, 17 miles west of Laurens, the sessions having opened Tuesday morning and being concluded Thursday at noon. The introductory sermon preached by Rev. J. A. Martin of Cress Hill, from John 3: 7, "Ye must be born again," which was a splendid exposition of the Christian life, and greatly enjoyed by the large, attentive congregation.

The association was called to order by Mr. Chas. B. Bobo of Laurens, in the absence of Dr. John D. Pitts, for many years the honored moderator. Permanent organization was effected by the election of Rev. E. C. Watson of Laurens as moderator; Messrs. C. B. Bobo and B. L. Henderson, secretaries; Chas. H. Roper, treasurer.

The following visiting brethren were extended a welcome by the association to seats in the body: Dr. W. T. Derieux, assistant corresponding secretary of the State mission board; Mr. William Goldsmith, treasurer of the board of ministerial education; Dr. W. W. Keys of The Baptist Courier; Dr. C. C. Brown, secretary of Aged Ministers' relief; and Rev. John L. Ray of the Princeton charge of the South Carolina conference. Report on the order of business was submitted, after which the association adjourned for dinner.

The afternoon session was opened with devotional exercises led by Rev. C. W. Salter of Laurens. The report on woman's work of the missionary societies of the Baptist churches in Laurens county, was submitted by Mr. P. L. Bramblett and the same was discussed by Rev. Messrs. Derieux, Keys and J. O. Martin. The report showed that during the year a gain from \$1,300 to \$2,000 had been made for the cause. The report on religious periodicals was read by Rev. J. O. Martin and briefly discussed by W. W. Keys, C. L. Fowler, E. C. Watson, Dr. Derieux, L. T. Benjamin, W. D. Hammett, C. B. Bobo, C. W. Salter, T. J. Hughes and S. H. Brock, all giving hearty endorsement of The Baptist Courier and The Clinton Pulpit, the latter a new religious periodical edited by Rev. C. Lewis-Fowler of Clinton.

At the evening session "The Layman's Movement" was the subject before the association and the importance and significance of this matter was forcibly presented by Rev. Messrs. Fowler, Ray, Derieux and Bobo. On motion of Rev. W. E. Thayer of Laurens, a committee of five was appointed by the moderator, one from each union in the association, whose duty shall be to present the claims of the Gospel in every church embraced in the association. This committee is as follows: C. B. Bobo, chairman; F. L. Bramblett, W. H. Drummond, W. P. Culbertson and C. H. Roper.

Wednesday morning's session opened with devotional exercises conducted by W. H. Drummond, followed with a report on State missions by Rev. J. T. Taylor and a discussion of the paper by the committeemen, C. B. Bobo, Dr. Derieux and Rev. Mr. Fowler. A collection, amounting to \$26.75, was taken for the cause. C. B. Bobo presented report on aged ministers' relief and Dr. Brown followed with a discussion of it. Collection for this object amounted to \$38.96.

At 11 o'clock the annual missionary sermon was preached by the moderator, Rev. E. C. Watson, from the text, John 7: 38.

At the afternoon session the report on temperance, submitted by Rev. E. C. Watson, precipitated quite an animated and lengthy discussion which was participated in by Rev. E. C. Watson, Rev. J. L. Ray, Rev. W. E. Thayer, Col. J. H. Wharton, J. A. Putnam, W. C. Wharton, Rev. C. W. Salter, W. D. Sullivan, Rev. C. L. Fowler and F. L. Bramblett.

In the evening Rev. W. E. Thayer preached from the text; Hebrews 12: 1, 2, his theme being "The Christian's Race." At the conclusion of the sermon C. B. Bobo presented the report on orphanage and a contribution of \$30.60 was made by the association for this purpose.

The final session of the meeting was held Thursday morning, Mr. T. S. Langston leading in devotional exercises at the opening. H. H. Mahon read the annual report on Sunday (Continued on page Eight.)

J. H. GARRISON CONVICTED OF MANSLAUGHTER

For the Killing of Louis Williamson, Gray Court Man is Given Two Years--Appeal Taken-- Trial of the Case Consumed a Day--Jury Was Out Fourteen Hours Before Reaching an Agreement.

"Guilty of manslaughter with recommendation to the mercy of the court" was the verdict reached by the jury that tried Mr. J. Henry Garrison for the killing of Mr. J. Louis Williamson of Bethesda township, York county. The above verdict was reached at eleven o'clock Friday morning after the jury had been out all night and after it had returned to the court room at 9:30 with the intelligence that an agreement had not been reached. At one o'clock in the afternoon Mr. Garrison received his sentence; these were the words pronounced by Judge Memminger: "The sentence of the court is that the defendant, J. H. Garrison, serve a sentence of two years at hard labor upon the public works of Laurens county, S. C., or a like period in the State penitentiary at hard labor." Before sentence was pronounced and immediately after the verdict was read out in court, Mr. Featherstone for the defense gave notice that he would make a motion for a new trial; the argument was heard but the motion was over-ruled and sentence was pronounced.

The defense gave notice of an appeal to the Supreme Court of the State, and pending the appeal asked for the release on bail of the defendant, which was granted, the bail being \$1,000 the same amount fixed by Judge Watts on August the first day after the shooting. Mr. Garrison is therefore at liberty under bond, pending the appeal which may be heard in January; if not then, in May.

A Memorable Scene.

Among the most sensational cases ever tried in this county, the trial of Mr. J. Henry Garrison, charged with murder committed upon the person of Mr. J. Louis Williamson, fiancé of Mr. Garrison's daughter, Miss Mary, has attracted to it more of the unusual, more of interest, and more of pathos than any of recent years. A young man, lover and fiancé, has been shot down in the home of his affianced, and by the hand of his future wife's father. The father comes into the courts of justice to answer for the deed, his daughter is summoned by the State of South Carolina to testify as to the reasons of the killing; the friends of the deceased come from their homes in a neighboring county to hear the story; and the curious crowds gather thickly about to witness the scene. Thursday, October the first, will be a long-remembered day in the history of the city and county of Laurens.

Story of the Killing.

Mr. J. Louis Williamson, a young farmer of the Bethesda section of York county, met his death in the home of Mr. J. Henry Garrison, a half mile from Gray Court station, at about 11 o'clock on the night of July the 31st of this year. There he had gone to pay court to the daughter of Mr. Garrison, to whom he was engaged to be married. Upon his arrival at the station, Mr. Garrison met him and together they drove to the Garrison home. Continuously on about 1 o'clock that afternoon, until Williamson breathed his last, the couple were together; just where the young man spent the little while of separation is not known. In the evening about sundown, as was customary, the Garrison family had supper, and Mr. Williamson supped with them; in the early hours of the evening together they sat on the porch of the home, and at about nine thirty, the lovers, Miss Mary Garrison and her future husband went together into the parlor, where they remained until the shooting occurred. Mr. Williamson was shot with a double barrel shot gun, the one load that was fired entering the abdomen a little to the left of the center. He was standing at the time of the fatal shot, looking at his slayer, who stood on the ground outside the window of the parlor, with the barrel of the gun thrust inside, meanwhile Miss Garrison seeing the gun and hearing her father's voice had fled to the hall outside. Death relieved the young man's suffering shortly after 2 o'clock that night and his body was taken home for burial Saturday at noon; it was accompanied by some flowers from his bereaved fiancée.

The Trial.

On Thursday morning of last week, the Court of General Sessions took up the case of the State against J. Henry Garrison, charged with murder. Some delay was occasioned by the tardiness of Dr. C. E. Rodgers, of Gray Court, who was late because of the extreme illness of his wife. However, at about ten o'clock the prosecution announced its readiness to proceed and the defense signified the same. The State was represented by Solicitor Robert A. Cooper and Attorney P. H. Nelson of Columbia, with Messrs. J. Lyles Glenn of Chester, F. Barron Grier of Greenwood, Harry P. Grier of Statesville, N. C., and A. R. Williamson of Augusta; all four relatives of the deceased, as advisory counsel. The local firms of Ferguson & Featherstone and Richey & Richey appeared for the defense. Mr. Featherstone examined most of the witnesses in behalf of the defendant's cause, while Solicitor Cooper examined them for the State; in the case of Miss Garrison, however, Mr. Nelson questioned the witness. At the calling of the case the court room was crowded to its capacity, and several times Judge Memminger had to instruct the bailiffs to make the people sit down, as they stood in the aisles and upon the benches, especially while Miss Garrison was on the stand.

Miss Garrison and her father were the principal witnesses, Miss Garrison for the State and the defendant for himself. Although summoned by the State Miss Garrison's testimony was decidedly in favor of her father. The prosecution sought to show that Mr. Williamson was not taking advantage of Miss Garrison; that his conduct was but the legitimate caresses of a lover and a future husband. The defense endeavored to show that these acts were not within the bounds permissible and that they were committed against the will of Miss Garrison, who protested against them and endeavored to free herself. It was shown that Williamson had been drinking, was intoxicated when he arrived at Gray Court, but it was not proved that he had had any whiskey after his arrival and the State contended that he had time to sober up before the shooting took place. The defense held that Garrison did not know that his daughter was engaged to Williamson. The prosecution contended that no harm or injury was committed, while the defense took the position that the indications were sufficient to convince the father that harm was attempted.

The Jury.

The jury was drawn with very little difficulty, neither side exhausting its number of objections; a number of those presented were sworn on their voir dire. Mr. R. P. Adair, who is 66 years of age was presented and excused by the defense, because the age limit is 65; and upon this ground will likely be based one of the pleas before the Supreme Court. The court noted the objection to Mr. Adair. Mr. W. W. Yeargin when sworn on his voir dire said he could not give a fair trial, having formed his opinion, and could not be changed; he was excused by the court. The panel completed was: T. J. Layton foreman, L. B. Bailey, H. R. Pryor, E. P. Milan, J. W. Abrams, Sam. L. Saxon, M. B. Bedenbaugh, G. C. Finley, R. H. Young, (Clinton), G. H. Young, John A. Abercrombie, and A. L. Mahaffey.

The Testimony.

Dr. C. E. Rodgers, of Gray Court was the first witness put up by the State. He testified to having attended young Williamson, after he was shot, and that he had been summoned by Mr. Garrison; said deceased died from gunshot wound inflicted by shot gun, evidently at close range, lead entering abdomen a little to the left of center; said that part of bowels protruding through wound kept death caused by internal hemorrhage; saw no indications of drunkenness; deceased rational for about an hour after his arrival.

Miss Garrison on the Stand.

Miss Mary Garrison, the young lady who was engaged to the deceased, was put up by the prosecution as the second witness. She told the story of the affair with hesitation at times, but showed some resentment at questions propounded by Mr. Nelson, and when the letter of sympathy which she had written to the young man's mother

was handed her to identify, she tore it in two pieces and flung it down at her feet. Later Mr. Featherstone in her behalf apologized for this act, which might have constituted contempt of court, but which Judge Memminger said he would overlook, as perfectly natural under the circumstances. The purport of Miss Garrison's testimony was that Williamson was under the influence of liquor the night of the killing and that he had attempted to go too far in his liberties with her; that her father heard her telling Williamson to stop, and fired through the window, just as she ran out of the room and Williamson jumped up from the sofa where she and he had been sitting. She began her testimony by saying, in answer to Mr. Nelson's question, that she had taught twice in York county, the last time at Bethesda high school, eight or ten miles from Rock Hill, and two miles from the home of Mr. Williamson's father, where Louis Williamson lived. She taught first in York in 1905 in another school, then in Hampton county for four months, and went back to York in September, 1906, and taught there until April, 1908. She came home to Gray Court, this county, on the 2nd day of May.

Williamson came to see her first in June. Came again on July 1st. Was engaged to him since spring. Didn't make known the engagement to her mother. She didn't tell her mother, but her mother knew it after the first visit. Williamson reached there that day about 4 p. m. Came up from the station in the buggy with her father, who had gone to meet him at her request. She and Williamson spent the evening together, part of the time in walking and part of the time at the house. After supper they sat on the porch with her father and sister. Took tea with the family. After awhile she and Williamson went in the parlor, and she described the situation of that room, on the left of the hall as one enters the house. She sat in a chair at first, in front of the window, and on a plat she pointed out the exact location of her chair. Went in parlor about 9:30 and the shooting took place about 11 o'clock.

"Who shot Williamson?" asked Mr. Nelson. The witness hesitated and then replied that he was shot by "my father." Her father, she said, was outside, and fired through the window. At that time witness said she had run out of the room. When asked why she ran, she replied that she saw the gun. Before she saw the gun she was in the corner of the room, sitting on the sofa with Williamson. Williamson was nearer the window than she. He had been smoking cigarettes, she saw the gun first, before Williamson did. Didn't see her father at all and at first didn't know who was outside, but heard his voice later.

Williamson's body was taken from the house Saturday evening, and the killing occurred the night before. She did not accompany the body to York but sent flowers and to Williamson's mother wrote a letter of sympathy.

Before this visit, Williamson had created her with proper courtesy, and she had considered him a gentleman, or she would not have been engaged to him. Mr. Nelson asked if he did anything that night understanding a gentleman, and she replied that he did, that he went entirely too far. He did ask her to marry him. The defendant brought out from the naturally brought witness as much as possible by Mr. Nelson, but with all his tact and courtesy, he did not fail to arouse the woman's resentment, and it was with difficulty that he secured direct answer to his questions. "Did He Attempt Criminal Assault?" Mr. Nelson asked if Williamson had attempted a criminal assault, and she replied that she did not know his intentions. She would not say whether or not he had put his arm around her. The defense objected to some of the questions as leading, but Judge Memminger ruled that under the circumstances the leading was necessary to get out the facts.

Finally she said that Williamson asked her to sit on the sofa with him and promised to get right, but he whistled around and put his hand in her lap, then put his head on the sofa and tried to get her to put her head there also. She was trying to get away from him and begging him to let her go. He pulled her down a great big lap. "I was begging him to let me loose," said Miss Garrison, "and father heard it." She said that Williamson had never come to the house.

While trying to get away she saw the gun, Williamson had his arm around her trying to pull her down. The witness said that she had a gun in her hand, but she didn't know whether it was a revolver or a rifle, and she didn't know whether it was a .22 or a .38. She said that she didn't know whether it was a .22 or a .38. She said that she didn't know whether it was a .22 or a .38. She said that she didn't know whether it was a .22 or a .38.

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CRIMINAL COURT FINISHES ITS WORK

Fall Term of Sessions Court Was Adjourned Saturday--Many Convictions Secured.

The Fall term of the Criminal Court for Laurens county, which was convened Monday morning, September 28, with Judge Memminger on the bench, was adjourned Saturday afternoon, this being the last regular term of Sessions Court for this year. On the first Monday in November the final term of the Common Pleas Court for the year will be called.

The term of the Sessions Court just held, was characterized by the number of cases tried and the large percentage of convictions secured. In fact there was only one acquittal, that of a negro named Furr who was charged with breach of trust, and one mistrial which was ordered in the case of John Thompson, colored, charged with murder.

Before adjournment Saturday the Court heard several motions for new trials, all being over-ruled, after which sentence was passed on those not hitherto disposed of, Albert M. Ruge, convicted of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature, being among these. He was given 6 months or a fine of \$250 which he paid. The motion for the new trial in his case, however, was withdrawn.

Bennie Johnson, convicted of house-breaking and larceny, got two years. Reed Downs, same charge, pleaded guilty, 3 years. Enoch Beeks, violation of the dispensary law, convicted in his absence, sealed sentence. Lawrence Griffin, an old negro, charged with murder, found guilty of manslaughter, with a mere recommendation, 2 years in penitentiary at such hard labor as he may be able to perform. Sam Henderson alias Bub Henderson, colored, murder charge, convicted of manslaughter and carrying concealed weapons, was given ten years and a month. He and Lawrence Griffin, together with a negro named Moses who had been on the chugging for some time, were taken to Columbia Monday.

The Grand Jury completed its work and was dismissed Friday. The six hold-over Grand Jurors for another year are: B. W. Hellams, R. F. Jones, H. F. Tumbler, V. A. White, foreman this year; Duff C. Martin and W. N. Austin.

The next session of the Criminal Court for this county will be convened on the second Monday in March, 1909.

A Compliment for Mr. Bolt.

During the progress of court here last week, Judge Memminger volunteered, in the presence of the reporter, some very complimentary remarks concerning Mr. John F. Bolt, clerk of court. Among the utterances was this: "It is a pleasure to preside over a court where the clerk is such an efficient officer as is Mr. Bolt; the proceedings of a court rest in a large measure upon the clerk, and he can either expedite or retard the work. Mr. Bolt is one of the best clerks in the State, and his methods are a source of pleasure to me in presiding over the Laurens county courts."

Suspected Murderer Held.

Will Griffin, as he gives his name, is in the city station pending an investigation to see whether or not he is wanted in Hope, Ark., for the murder of a Mr. John T. Hamilton, on January 22 of this year. Griffin answers the description given for the man wanted in several particulars, and a thorough investigation is to be made. Mayor Babb has the negro in charge, having sent him to the county chain gang some weeks ago for a petty offense here in Laurens. The mayor has had his eye on the negro since his sentence to the gang, and was waiting until that sentence was completed before investigating. Mr. O. S. Mettrey, deputy sheriff at Hope, Ark., offers a reward of \$750 for the capture of the murderer.

Grand Jurors Visit Abbeville.

The court of general sessions was invited to attend the dedication services of the new court house and city hall at Abbeville last Thursday. Owing to the Garrison trial set for that day the court declined the invitation with thanks, but requested a committee of the grand jury to represent Laurens at the celebration. Messrs. V. A. White, O. H. Beeks, B. W. Hellams, H. Y. Simmons, J. H. Ballentine, A. R. Owens and B. M. Langston, composed the representation.

(Continued on page Eight.)