

# The Laurens Advertiser.

VOLUME XXVIII.

LAURENS, SOUTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1912.

NUMBER 18

## NEGRO LYNCHED NEAR NEWBERRY

Accused of Assassinating  
White Farmer.

NO CLUE GIVEN  
AS TO PROOF

Masked Men Meet Magistrate's Deputy and Take Prisoner Away at the Point of Pistols. Near a Riddled with Bullets and Left Chained to a Tree.

Newberry, Nov. 23.—Will Thomas, a negro, accused of the assassination of Spurgeon Johnson, a white farmer, several weeks ago, was taken from a magistrate's constable last night by a party of masked men, chained to a tree and his body riddled with bullets. The lynching occurred about 14 miles from here, while the negro was being brought to the jail. The constable declares he at first refused to surrender his prisoner upon the mob's demand and fired his pistol, but his "bluff" did not work. He says he was then surrounded by the crowd, threatened with death if he resisted, and told to get down the road. He obeyed and a few minutes later heard, he says, over 100 shots. The negro's body was found still chained to the tree this morning.

**Charged With Murder.**  
Will Thomas was lynched for the murder of a white farmer, Spurgeon Johnson, at his home, 18 miles west of Newberry, on the night of October 7, last. Johnson was shot through an open window with a shotgun by some person on the outside, while he was sitting in his room with his family.

Will Goggans, a negro, living near the scene of the murder, was arrested ten days ago, charged with the crime in a warrant issued by Magistrate Dorroh of Floyd township and committed to jail. The warrant for Will Thomas was also issued by Magistrate Dorroh and was given to his constable Carey Johnson. Yesterday the magistrate, while in Newberry, telephoned to his constable to get Thomas and bring him directly to Newberry.

**Surrounded by Masked Men.**  
The constable went after the negro, and while returning with him, when near the Workman bridge, was surrounded by a mob of masked men, who took the negro from him and told the constable to go on. After crossing the river, the constable says, he heard about 100 shots fired and supposed they were fired into the negro, but did not go back to see nor make further inquiries. That his supposition was correct was confirmed this morning by persons who came to town by that spot and saw the dead negro hanging by a chain around his neck from the limb of a tree close by the roadside, a few hundred yards beyond the bridge.

What sort of evidence there was against the lynched negro or against the one now in jail charged with the same crime has not been revealed.

The coroner returned this afternoon from holding the inquest over the dead body of the lynched negro. There was no testimony except that of Magistrate Dorroh. He testified in reference to issuing the warrant and his telephoning yesterday from Newberry to the constable to go after the man, thus accounting for the late hour at which the arrest was made. The testimony of the constable himself was that about 10 o'clock last night, about 300 yards beyond the bridge, a crowd of men came out of the bushes on the roadside and demanded the prisoner; that he fire his pistol as a bluff, and was told if he did that again he would be shot; that they took the prisoner from him and ordered him to move on, which he did, and in a short while heard a great many shots. Asked as to how many were in the crowd he said the woods seemed to be full of them.

The constable had the prisoner tied around the neck with a trace chain and another chain was fastened to the handcuffs, and the ends of both chains were in the constable's hands. It was the chain around the neck that the negro was hanged with—suspended from the limb of a tree, with his feet touching the ground and his knees bent. The body was, as one said who saw it at the inquest, "shot to pieces."

As to the evidence against the

## Why They Were Thankful



**AFTER** Thanksgiving dinner  
Laughing May and Clare  
Each made a wish—one for a doll  
And one for a Teddy bear.

**TWO** little girls were thankful  
They had Thanksgiving day,  
But father and mother offered thanks  
That they had Clare and May.

### MEDICOS TO MEET HERE.

Third District Medical Association to Meet in Laurens Next Year. Dr. L. T. W. Bailey, of Clinton, Elected President.

At the meeting of the Third District Medical Association, held in Greenwood last week, Laurens county was honored in two ways. Dr. L. T. W. Bailey, of Clinton, was elected president of the association for the ensuing year and Laurens was selected as the place of meeting a year hence. The physicians of Laurens take great interest in the association and consequently, because of this and because of the high stand they take in their profession, they take a prominent part in the deliberations of the body.

The other officers elected at the meeting were Dr. R. B. Epting, Greenwood, vice president, and Dr. G. P. Neel, Greenwood, secretary and treasurer. The meeting was a very pleasant and profitable one, the Greenwood doctors entertaining in their usual hearty and hospitable manner.

### Appears in Woodruff.

What promises to be a very laughable and otherwise enjoyable entertainment will be given at the auditorium at Woodruff Friday evening by local talent of Gray Court. While several other little specialties will be shown, the main feature of the evening will be the presentation of "Out in the Street." The entertainment will be given for the benefit of charitable organizations of both towns.

### Mrs. Sarah Watts Young.

Upon the receipt of a telegram announcing the death of Mrs. Sarah Watts Young, at Cartersville, Ga., Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Tune left to be present at the funeral Wednesday. Mrs. Young was the mother of Mrs. Tune and a sister of the late Col. J. Wash Watts, of this county. The bereaved family have the sympathy of a large circle of friends in their loss.

negro, there is, so far as the public seems to know, on the vaguest rumors. Among these rumors is one that Thomas was heard to say on the morning of the day that Spurgeon Johnson was assassinated that he intended to kill Johnson that night and then go home and kill his own wife.—The State.

### SCHOOL JOURNAL OUT.

Second Edition of the School Journal of Laurens County Just Issued.

The second or November number of the School Journal is just off the press and was mailed to the subscribers all over the county yesterday. The Journal is a booklet of thirty-six pages and is brimming full of original and interesting stories and essays by the school children of Laurens county. The Journal is gotten out mainly through the efforts of Miss Wil Lou Gray, rural school supervisor and Mr. Geo. L. Pitts, Mr. Hayne Taylor acting as business manager.

When the first number was issued, copies were sent to prominent educators over the state and they wrote back complementing it very highly. This is probably the most ambitious undertaking of its kind yet attempted by the educators of any county in the state.

### U. D. C. Meeting.

The regular December meeting of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be held on the fourth of the month at the home of Mrs. John F. Bolt. At this meeting there will be a general discussion of "Why the Federals were Anxious to Secure Charleston?" The members are especially urged to consider this subject carefully as it is hoped that great interest will be shown in the discussion. A paper on "The Defenders of Charleston" will be read by Mrs. W. G. Lancaster.

### To Aid Orphans.

As is the usual pretty custom of the graded school children, gifts of all kinds will be carried to the school building today and tomorrow to be sent to the orphans at the different church institutions of the state. Gifts of clothing, eatables and other things of need are always received and are always welcome. Because of the generosity of the railroads, these things are sent to the different orphanages at reduced freight rates.

### Oyster Supper at Pine Grove.

An oyster supper will be given at Pine Grove school house tonight, for the purpose of raising money to defray some of the school expenses. A large crowd is expected to attend, the public being cordially invited.

### Song Service Sunday.

The Advertiser has been asked to announce that inasmuch as the pastor, Rev. L. P. McGee, will not be here to hold services Sunday, the Methodist congregation will join with the Presbyterian congregation in a song service for Sunday evening.

### At Warrior Creek.

Thanksgiving services will be held at Warrior Creek church Thursday morning, beginning at 10 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. L. S. Shealy, will preach the sermon. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### Contemplating Improvements.

The ladies of the Presbyterian church are figuring on refurbishing the interior of the church before laying the beautiful new carpet recently bought.

### A Splendid Address.

"Children's Rights" was the subject of a splendid address delivered by Rev. Dr. E. M. Potent, of Furman University at the Second Baptist church Saturday night. A fairly large crowd was present and Dr. Potent made a telling address.

### Stores to Close.

As stated in The Advertiser last week, the stores of the city will close tomorrow to give the people of the city the opportunity to observe the day of thanksgiving. The several churches will have services as usual is the custom on this day.

### Play at Wardsworth School.

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" is to be given by the Wardsworth and Young Schools on Friday night, Nov. 29th, for the benefit of the schools. It will be given at the Wardsworth school house, beginning at 8 o'clock. The public is invited to attend.

### The Care of Wills.

Judge of Probate O. G. Thompson has asked that the people of the county be reminded again of the new act of the legislature relative to wills of deceased persons. According to this act, any person having in their possession a will of any deceased person, is expected to deliver this will to the Judge of Probate within thirty days after the death of the maker of the will.

## \$30,000 FOR CHICORA FROM GREENVILLE

Campaign to Raise Funds for New Dormitory Will be Inaugurated Monday.

Greenville, S. C., Nov. 25.—Beginning this morning a determined effort will be made to raise in the city of Greenville during the week the sum of \$30,000 which is to be used for the erection of a dormitory at Chicora College and perfecting of improvements in the present plant that are considered absolutely imperative.

Members of a volunteer committee will call upon the business men of the city at various times this week in an effort to have them fill out subscription blanks, a copy of which appears below. Among these volunteer committeemen are the following: Mr. John A. Russell, Mr. Geo. W. Taylor, Mr. C. E. Graham, Mr. R. L. Graham, Mr. G. H. Ligon, Mr. L. L. Barr, Mr. G. G. Mayes and Mr. J. H. O'Neal. The Rev. J. C. Shive, of Wilson, N. C., formerly of Greenville, has kindly consented to take charge of the campaign to raise the \$30,000 fund and will be here through next Friday night for that purpose.

### Form of Subscription Blank.

Greenville, S. C., ..... 1912  
On or before the first day of ..... 191... I promise to pay to the Treasurer of Chicora College the sum of ..... Dollars with interest from maturity at the rate of seven per cent. per annum, for the purpose of building a new Dormitory and other improvements contemplated for the college.

It is the understanding and agreement that should the college be removed from the City of Greenville or vicinity at any time in the future, the amount paid upon this note shall be refunded to me by the college. The acceptance of this note by the college shall be deemed an agreement to this provision.

The above is a copy of the subscription blank to be filled out by the subscriber. The amount one subscribed is to be paid in five installments, the first to be paid April 1st, 1913, and the second October the 1st, 1913, and the others every six months. The final payment will be due the first day of April 1915. The installments may be equal amounts or may not, just as the subscriber desires. Five of the subscription blanks, dated six months apart with reference to the time each installment is due, are bound in booklet form.

### Removal of Chicora.

If Greenville people have thought that the recent act of the Presbyteries of South Carolina in voting against the removal of Chicora College from Greenville means that the institution's future location is settled forever, they are badly mistaken. At a conference of prominent Presbyterians held yesterday afternoon at the First Presbyterian church the statement was made by Rev. Dr. T. W. Sloan and ex-Governor M. F. Ansel that in voting on the Chicora College question some weeks ago the various Presbyteries of the state placed a "rider" on their action. That is to say, the Presbyteries voted to "let Chicora College remain in Greenville for the present, and for all time provided the city of Greenville made it possible."

### In the Balance Now.

The intent of this "rider," explained Dr. Sloan and Mr. Ansel was this: The Presbyteries were in favor of the institution remaining in Greenville if Greenville made it possible for it to remain here; but the thing that will make it possible for the college to remain here is financial help from the city of Greenville. The college has debts which it must meet and at the same time make improvements in the plant which are imperative. In order to meet the college debt to raise the sum of \$50,000. For the needed improvements in the plant, the college must look to the city of Greenville. If the city of Greenville does not respond to this appeal, then the institution must accept some proposition from another locality that will enable it to meet these pressing demands.

### Conference Yesterday.

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon several of the most prominent Presbyterians of the city met at the First Presbyterian church and held an informal conference with reference to

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## NEWS OF THE WEEK IN TOWN OF CLINTON

Farewell Sermon by Rev. J. E. Mahaffey.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS  
ON POPULAR PEOPLE

Taylor-McCrory Wedding Center of Interest this Week, Many Entertainments being Given in Honor of Contracting Parties, Other Marriages and Interesting Items.

Clinton, Nov. 25.—The marriage of Miss Marion McCrory to Mr. W. Granville Taylor of Asheville, N. C., is to be solemnized in the First Presbyterian church on Wednesday evening, Nov. 27th at 6 o'clock. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Mr. Taylor, father of the groom. The bride will be attended by her sister, Miss Emmie McCrory, as maid of honor, and will enter on the arm of the Rev. Doctor W. S. Bean. Miss Sara Thomas of Anderson, will carry the ring. The groom's best man will be his brother, Mr. Richard Taylor of Jacksonville Florida. The ushers will be Messrs. R. C. Philson and W. C. Perrin of Asheville, W. Cooper of Greenville and T. P. P. Carson of Clinton.

Immediately after the wedding Mr. and Mrs. Taylor will leave for a wedding trip which will include points of interest to them in the mountains of North Carolina and a visit to Florida. They will spend Christmas in Clinton, and will leave here for New York for several weeks. After March 1st they will go to their own home in Asheville, N. C.

Miss McCrory is one of the most admired young women in Clinton and her wedding has excited unusual interest among the members of visitors from other towns are here for the event. Among them are: Mrs. Ward Thompson and two children of Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Cooper of Greenville, Misses Julia Witherspoon of Yorkville, Holly Brown of Anderson, Eliza Horton of Columbia, Mary Bean of Winthrop College, Mary and Netta Cooper of Wilsack, Mr. R. M. Cooper of Disack, Mrs. Warren Bolt of Laurens, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Philson of Asheville, Mrs. Elliott of Fort Mill, Mrs. McIntosh Noble and three Misses Taylor of Asheville and Waycross, Ga., Miss Ferguson of Spartanburg.

On the eve of the wedding Capt. and Mrs. J. W. Copeland gave a brilliant reception in honor of the bride and groom-elect.

On Monday, Mrs. W. J. Bailey entertained a number of guests at a dinner in Miss McCrory's honor.

On Wednesday Mrs. W. S. Bean gave a dinner for the wedding guests from out-of-town.

### A Linen Wedding.

On Tuesday evening November 19th Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Copeland, Jr., celebrated their twelfth wedding anniversary. It was one of the most enjoyable and truly pleasant events in the social life of this town.

No pains had been spared to add to the pleasure of the guests. The house was charmingly decorated with vines and chrysanthemums; white, pink and yellow being used in the different rooms. During the entire evening the Presbyterian college orchestra rendered sweet music. In the dining room a delicious five-course supper was served.

In the receiving line with the host and hostess were Capt. and Mrs. J. W. Copeland, Miss Corris Copeland, Miss Margaret Parrott, Mrs. Ben Parrott, Miss Nell Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hill, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ferguson, Mrs. Collett Griffin. Serving in the dining-room were Misses Ben Bailey, Minnie Robertson, Maud and Mabel Sumner.

A beautiful display of linen gifts attested in a substantial manner to the sincere good wishes of the friends of the happy pair.

### New County Talk.

The promoters of the plan to secure a county with Clinton for the seat of government are hard at work. Their newest scheme is to issue a "New County Edition" of the Clinton Chronicle which will contain interesting data about the proposed county. This edition will probably be issued within the next two weeks.

There is a growing conviction here

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