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TALKING GHOST IN HOME OF FARMER.

Conversational Denizen of the Spirit World Has Principal Residence in House in Historic Harnett County Neighborhood Strange Story Told.

Dunn, May 9—A ghost stalks through the peaceful valley of placid Little River in the neighborhood of historic Linden and not very far from old Avasboro, where North Carolina thought once to build its capital.

He has his principal residence in the home of L. A. Smith, a sturdy farmer who purchased the place about a year ago. Not only does he knock on walls and do the other stunts usually attributed to denizens of the spirit world, but he actually, according to Mr. and Mrs. Smith and some scores of neighbors who aver that they have held conversation with the shade.

According to stories told by the Smiths, the ghost first began his visits last September. Then he confined his manifestations to knocks on the ceiling. He became so noisy that Mr. Smith determined to investigate. Mr. Smith sawed through the ceiling, and was greeted by a welcome sight. A few days afterward, the stories say, the ghost began to talk.

Here is the story as it is told by one who professes to know it.

Some Ghostly History.

Eight years ago Jim Reeves, a half wit, disappeared from the ken of his neighbors around Linden. Nothing has been seen of him since. The ghost now haunting the Smith home, claims, according to his audience, to be the spirit of Jim Reeves, and states that he will continue residence upon earth until his murderer is punished.

Two hundred yards from the Smith home is an old wood-pile. It lies to the northwest of the home. The ghost is declared to have said that he was murdered in the hall-way of the home and buried under this wood-pile. A party will this week dig at this spot in an effort to find the man's bones.

In the hall-way of the Smith home is a large, dark spot. Mrs. Smith believes this to be the blood of Reeves. She says she cannot cleanse the spot no matter how hard she tries.

It is noticed that the ghost never makes his presence heard until a little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith is asleep. During the past week thousands of visitors have gone to the home in the fearful hope that they might witness the manifestations. Some claim to have heard the knockings; a few say they heard ghostly words coming from nowhere. All agree, however, that this was noticeable only when the little girl slept.

Daughter Not a Medium.

Little Miss Smith does not claim to be a spiritualistic medium and she knows nothing of things psychical. She is just a plain little country girl and has never heard the name of Sir Oliver Lodge. In fact she knows nothing of the Reeves' affair and is not conscious of any part she may play in the seances that are attracting so many to her father's home.

Saturday night when a large number of visitors were there, the little girl was so excited she could not sleep. It was suggested that a purse be made up to induce her to attempt to sleep. She slept, but the ghost did not appear. Later, when the child slept naturally, the spirit is said to have declared that he was not interested in money and would not allow himself to be made a show. He is interested in having the man who killed him punished as the story goes.

It has been found necessary to place guards around the Smith home to keep curious visitors from the place.

CHURCH CASE ORIGINATES IN LATTAS.

Colored Brother Sues Bishop for Defamation of Character.

The following is from Tuesday's State:

Negro churchmen from various parts of the state were in the Richmond county court house yesterday when the case of the Rev. H. D. Delaine against Bishop Chappelle was called for trial. Every seat in the negro section was occupied by witnesses and spectators. The plaintiff is asking for \$45,000 in three causes of action.

Witnesses for the plaintiff testified that they attended a conference at Latta last November and that they heard the bishop make what they thought improper statements about the plaintiff who at that time was pastor of a church at Bishopville. In answer to a question one of the witnesses said "he was not exactly a preacher, but he gets in the pulpit sometimes." Another witness declared that he heard some one say something about putting out the Rev. Delaine and that the marshal said, "Bishop I am here to do what you tell me to do, but I want to say I ain't going to put my hands on that big nigger."

The plaintiff alleges that the defendant uttered defamatory statements which injured his reputation and standing in the church.

FARMER RELATES STORM'S TERRORS

R. P. Elliott Tells of Havoc Wrought in Horry County Friday Afternoon.

Marion, May 15—The terrific tornado which swept sections of Horry county Friday afternoon, leaving death and destruction in its wake, was graphically described by R. P. Elliott, a farmer living on the plantation of E. M. Meares, apparently the point of greatest damage.

"I was out in the yard" said Mr. Elliott, "shortly before the tornado came. I am naturally uneasy upon the approach of a storm and thought it best to get out and look around a bit. My wife and two boys were in the house.

"It grew blacker and blacker until it was almost as dark as night, and soon in the woods across the field behind the house I heard the most crashing and shrieking noise I had heard in all my life. I was too terrified at first to know what was happening and almost believed judgment day was at hand.

"I ran to the house and shouted to my wife and children to come out. We started for the other big open house. Just at that moment a Ford car came into sight. The driver seemed to be trying to outrun the storm and was racing along at a high speed.

Races With Storm.

"Get out! Get out! I shouted undertaking frantically to wave him down. At first he paid no attention to me, probably unable to understand what I said for the noise in the woods. Then he seemed to understand his danger and scarcely waiting to stop the machine jumped from it.

"By that time the wind was clearing the woods. It came shrieking and whirling across the field, a cloud of foliage, branches and dirt in its embrace. My wife and children and myself were in the big field across the road by this time. We ran as fast as we could, hardly knowing where we were going or what we were doing. We became separated and I tripped and fell.

"The storm was upon us by this time. The noise was deafening—a crashing, splintering, rending and tearing filled the air. Boards and planks, stove wood, bits of clothing and all sorts of things sailed overhead. I tried to rise but the violence of the wind hurled me to the ground as if I had been a fluttering autumn leaf. My wife and children, too, were down.

"I buried my face in the dirt, expecting each minute to be the last. For the life of me I couldn't say how long the storm lasted. My anxiety and fright were such that I was unable to think. Then the storm passed. Everything was quiet once more and the stillness seemed almost deathly after the hubbub.

Home Blown Away.

"What a sight greeted my eyes as I looked around. With the exception of the kitchen and dining room, my home was a complete wreck—literally twisted into bits. As I looked upon this heap of debris, I thought of what would have happened to my wife and children if I had been inside.

"They were coming toward me—my wife and two boys—from their burrows in the field and apparently uninjured. This at least was comforting.

"The Ford car had been lifted out of the road and dropped over in the field. Part of Mr. Meares' barn was gone. An apple tree in the field had been uprooted. Over in the woods whence the tornado had come a well defined path could be seen. The tops of pine trees had been snapped, oaks bent and broken and branches stripped of their foliage.

"John Floyd's house just a little way down the road was a shapeless pile of splintered timber. And from it, I realized for the first time, came piteous cries for help. It was John's wife. I could tell her voice.

"By this time people began to collect. Some of them came from the big house and some of them came from up the road. We all went to Mrs. Floyd's help. Pretty soon another woman's voice started up and somebody said it was Mrs. Sam Jones, sister-in-law to Mrs. Floyd.

Pinned Under Wreckage.

"We found that the two women were pinned under a piece of the roof. After a while we got them out. They were badly bruised up and about crazy from fright.

"Mrs. Floyd began to scream: 'Where is my baby! Where is little Francis! He was on the bed with us.' We began to look for her little four year old adopted son and before long found him caught under some timber. He was still and quiet and we feared for the worst. Sure enough the life had been crushed out of him.

"We began to discuss the extent of the damage on the place. Levi Elliott's house was lifted unharmed off the pillars, somebody said. Fletcher Causey's house is gone and so is Chancey Sugg's, somebody else informed the crowd.

"It was learned soon that little Flossie Elliott, daughter of Mrs. Dolie Elliott, who lived not far away was badly hurt. Gomery Causey and Russ Mincie, men on the place, were

Revival Services At Baptist Church



Dr. John E. White, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Anderson, S. C., Who will Conduct the Revival Services at the Baptist Church, Beginning Sunday, June 12th.

Revival and evangelistic services have been announced by the pastor, Rev. W. C. Allen, to begin at the First Baptist Church, of Dillon, on Sunday, June 12th, and continue for ten days or longer. Dr. John E. White, pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Anderson, S. C., will assist the pastor and do the preaching during the meeting. Dr. White is pastor of one of the largest churches in the state, his membership numbering fifteen hundred and he is a preacher of national reputation, and has been quite successful as a pastor-evangelist. He is a native of North Carolina, and was formerly Secretary of State Missions in North Carolina but for a number of years he has been actively in the pastorate having been pastor of the noted Second Baptist church

of Atlanta, Ga., for quite a while before coming to Anderson where he has now served for six years as pastor of the First Baptist church. The people of the community will be fortunate in having an opportunity of hearing this distinguished minister. Mr. J. B. McCravy of Laurens, S. C., has been engaged to lead the singing. Mr. McCravy has had considerable experience as an evangelistic singer and has recently returned from Chicago after completing a special course to better prepare him for this work. Other announcements of the meetings will be made later, but from the above it will be seen that plans have been perfected for holding a meeting which it is hoped will prove helpful to the church and community.

"TOMBSTONE PICTURE" EASILY AND SENSIBLY EXPLAINED.

What Some People Regard as a Great Sight This Visitor Thinks is Naturally and Simply Explained.

To the Editor of The Robesonian. Please allow me space in your valuable paper to say something in regard to the picture on the tombstone at Fair Bluff. I went to see it Sunday, May 8th.

It is a great sight to some folks, but I want to tell you just what I think about it. It is a stone made of chemicals and other mixtures and there is a crack in it, and the air and water has got into it, and has circled and splashed it. You can turn a cup, for instance and look at it and imagine great things. So you need not worry about it.

I made a careful inspection of it, but I can't make anything out of it other than what is stated above.

L. P. NYE

Fairmont, N. C., R. F. D. No. 2 May 9, 1921.

Big Money in Berries.

Pee Dee Advocate.

J. E. Spencer has three white orpington hens from which he commenced counting the eggs two weeks ago. Since then he has gotten three eggs every day except four.

Mr. Spencer is also a successful truck and berry grower, as well as a fine photographer and printer. He has a strawberry patch five by 50 feet from which he has already gathered 55 quarts of berries this year. This would be at the rate of 9580 quarts per acre, and would amount to \$3353 per acre at 35 cents a quart, the average price at which Mr. Spencer has sold his berries.

Kiss Expert Urges Ban.

Washington—If you want to die an old maid, kiss your sweetheart good night. This was the cheerful information conveyed to girls of America by Dr. Charles E. Baker, eminent psychologist in an address here. More girls have been robbed of future husbands as a result of the good night kiss than for any other reason.

also reported injured. So a doctor was sent for at Nichols, a town about seven miles away.

"And this afternoon," stated Mr. Elliott, winding up his account of the tragedy, "the only actual casualty I have heard of so far is little Francis Jones, although the wife of Liston Goodyear, a negro man living over the branch, is in a mighty bad way. Her legs are crushed and they have taken her to the hospital in Mullins."

BIGHAM'S PLEA DENIED BY COURT.

Body Refuses to Grant the Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Columbia, May 13—The State Supreme Court, in an opinion handed down yesterday afternoon, refused to grant the writ of habeas corpus asked by Edward D. Bingham, convicted at Florence, March 28, this year, of the murder of Smiley Bigham, his brother, at Pamphico, Florence county. At the time that Smiley Bigham was murdered, his mother, sister and his sisters two adopted children were killed. Edmund D. Bigham, has been indicted for the other alleged murders, but has not been tried for them yet.

Through his attorneys, Bingham pleaded that the court that convicted him lacked jurisdiction, in that it was held two days over the statutory limit; or that it should have ended March 26, but instead Judge R. W. Memminger, continued it through March 28, when he was scheduled to open court at Georgetown. The opinion brushed this reasoning aside with a question from the court which allows a judge to extend the time or his court for the trial of the cases, and the chief justice has to appoint a special judge to open his other court.

Bigham's petition likewise contended that, if the court granted his habeas corpus plea, then he would have to be freed; for, as he had already been convicted by a jury, his life could not be jeopardized for the same offense by another trial.

COUNTY NEWS.

Sellers

Rev. S. L. Watson preached at Antioch Sunday afternoon. Rev. Watson will preach at Latta, Catfish and Antioch for a while.

Mrs. J. C. Sellers, and daughter Kathleen and little granddaughter Annie Grace, will attend the commencement exercises at Columbia College this year. Mrs. Seller's daughter Elizabeth being a member of the graduating class.

The negro school building is about completed. They now have a large modern building on a two acre plot. This community now has three modern school buildings, and there is no excuse for any boy or girl growing up in ignorance.

School will close Friday, June 10th. Rev. S. L. Watson who received his elementary training here, will deliver an address on Monday, June 13th.

For many years it has been the policy of this school to have a nine months term, and there has probably been a larger per cent of college bred men and women from this school than any other in the county. We have two graduates this year, Mary Edna Haselden, a descendant of Major James Haselden one of the original trustees and Kathleen Sellers, daughter of the late John C. Sellers, who spent his life in and for this community.

Friends and relatives will be interested to learn that Miss Bessie Godbold and Mr. John A. Sheppard were married at Tallahassee, Fla., recently. They will make their home at Beaufort, S. C.

Miss Jeanette Aiken and Mr. J. Howard Dabbs of Camden were also recently married.

Fork.

Mrs. John Bracey of Hamer is visiting Dr. and Mrs. N. N. Schofield.

Miss Rhoda McDuffie of Marion spent the week end here with friends.

Mr. C. M. Taylor of Melrose, Va., is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Taylor.

Misses Annie and Effie Jackson of Rowland, N. C., are the guests of Mrs. Ira McCormac.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Rogers of Dillon and Mrs. and Mrs. Oscar Rogers of Mullins spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Rogers.

Miss Marguerite Goodyear of Lake View is visiting Miss Julia Rogers.

Miss Margaret McLaurin of Clon spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Colon Pearce.

The Fork School Improvement Association met at the school house Friday afternoon. Refreshments consisting of ice cream and cake were served.

Inspection by Gen. W. W. Moore of the National Guard Company.

The Coast Artillery Company of National Guards being organized here will be inspected the first of next week by Gen. W. W. Moore. The full enlistments for the Company have almost been completed and the physical examinations are being completed.

Anyone desiring to enlist or to secure information get in touch with the recruiting officer at once.

J. C. Henagan, Jr., Recruiting Officer.

J. L. Bridgers, local A. C. L. agent, announces in an advertisement published elsewhere that beginning May 23rd, No. 82, the northbound fast train, will arrive at 8:52 instead of 9:20 p. m. as at present. The change of schedule puts No. 82 in New York one hour earlier. No. 78, Fayetteville northbound local, will arrive at 9:10 P. M. instead of 8:50 p. m.

PEE DEE BRIDGE PROJECT UNDER FIRE.

Col. Monroe Johnson Alleges that Wiggins Landing Crossing is Impractical.

Work on the steel bridge over Big Pee Dee river is being held up while the engineers and commissioners are making investigations as to the probable cost of building the bridge at Wiggins Landing as compared with the cost of building it at Mars Bluff Ferry. Col. Monroe Johnson of Marion claims that \$100,000 will be saved by building the bridge at Mars Bluff.

Several weeks ago the commissioners from the several counties and the engineers held a joint meeting at Florence and decided to build the bridge at Wiggins Landing. This landing is on the west side of the A. C. L. railroad bridge at a point near the mouth of Toby's Creek. This site was selected because there was a high bluff on the Florence county side of the river. On the Dillon county side there is considerable swamp. It was proposed, however, to build a causeway through this swamp with concrete bridges at several places to take care of high water. Bids were asked for and the contract given to a bridge builder.

Monday a week ago the contractor began to unload material at Pee Dee. Several car loads of material had arrived and several cars were in transit. It was a foregone conclusion that the bridge would be built at Wiggins Landing.

Then came the announcement that Marion county was opposing the Wiggins Landing location. An informal meeting was held at Florence and Col. Johnson stated that after going over the two sites he was convinced that a mistake had been made and that it would mean the wasting of probably \$100,000 to build the bridge at Wiggins Landing. It was pointed out that while the swamp at Wiggins Landing was narrower than at Mars Bluff, the causeway at the former place would have to be built up to a considerable height to avoid overflows during freshets. The government and state highway engineers held that it would be more economical to build a high causeway to the Wiggins Landing crossing than to build a long crooked causeway through the swamp to the Mars Bluff crossing.

Following the controversy between the engineers, the commissioners held a meeting at Florence last Wednesday and after a four-hour session decided to leave the matter entirely to the engineers. They are making further investigations as to the two sites under discussion and their reports will be submitted to the commissioners. In the meantime work on the bridge is suspended.

Dillon county's part of the cost of constructing the bridge is \$25,000. This agreement was reached with the understanding that Marion was to build a road from Sellers to Pee Dee to connect with the highway from Marion to Pee Dee. Some changes, it is understood have been made in this agreement. If the road is not built from Sellers to Pee Dee the only way to reach the bridge will be by way of Marion. The government road now under construction from the Marlboro line to the Marion line by way of Dillon and Latta runs straight from Latta to the Marion line where it connects with the Marion road at a point about six miles out from Marion. The new road runs by Sardis church and through the plantations of Sheriff Bethca, Carl Bass and others, thus cutting the distance from Latta to Marion down about two miles.

No further move will be made on the bridge project until the commissioners reach a definite decision as to its location.

Voters Honor Dillon Boy.

In the city election at Winston-Salem last week Lawrence H. Cottingham, a former Dillon boy, was elected a city alderman. Mr. Cottingham is a son of the late H. K. Cottingham and a brother of Mrs. C. C. Graham of Dillon. After graduating from a Richmond business college Mr. Cottingham kept books for E. L. Moore. Several years ago he went to Winston-Salem where he accepted a position as bookkeeper for a tobacco manufacturing establishment. He is at present bookkeeper for the Winston-Salem Journal, an afternoon paper.

Services at The Methodist Church.

Main Street Methodist church, Dr. Watson B. Duncan, Pastor. Sunday School at 10 A. M., Mr. W. H. Muller, Superintendent.

At 11 A. M. the Commencement Sermon for the Dillon Schools will be preached in the school auditorium by Dr. R. E. Stackhouse. At 8 P. M. Dr. Stackhouse will preach at this church.

Junior Epworth League at 3:30 P. M., Miss Sarah Hargrove, President. Senior Epworth League at 7 P. M. Miss Lella Braddy, President. Prayer Service on Wednesday at 5 P. M.

Public cordially invited to all services.