

The County Record.

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THE COUNTY RECORD, KINGSTREE, S. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1921.

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FAY POSTON KILLED; HIS FATHER INJURED

YOUNG MAN SHOT TO DEATH WHILE ON FOX HUNT—BENTON SURRENDERS.

Fay Poston, eighteen year old son of Fin Poston, was shot to death last Thursday, December 1, it is alleged by Jim Benton, both citizens of the Johnsonville community. In addition to the killing of Fay Poston, Alger Poston, a brother, and Fin Poston, father of the two boys was also shot and painfully if not seriously wounded. Immediately after the shooting Benton made his escape into the swamp and remained at large until Saturday when he gave himself up to Magistrate McKnight at Cowards, in Florence county.

The following account of the killing of young Poston and surrender of Benton is taken from the Charleston News and Courier:

"Fay Poston, aged eighteen, was killed and his brother, Alger Poston, perhaps mortally wounded in a shooting at Johnsonville, about thirty miles from Florence this afternoon. Three others are said to be wounded, including Jim Benton, who is said to be responsible for the killing of Poston and the wounding of his brother.

"It was reported late tonight that Benton was surrounded in a swamp by a posse and that his escape was impossible. News of the shooting was brought to Florence this afternoon by a messenger who came to procure ammunition for the posse of Johnsonville citizens who had set out to capture Benton. This messenger was able to give only meager details of the shooting which occurred some distance from the town of Johnsonville.

"It appears from his story that Poston and his brother were members of a hunting party organized by Dr. R. L. Cockfield, a prominent physician and president of a bank at Johnsonville, for the entertainment of a friend from Virginia visiting him. The party had strayed on the fifteen-acre tract of land owned by Jim Benton and it is stated the latter opened fire on the party with a rifle as soon as they crossed his line. Young Poston is reported to have been shot from his horse. Alger Poston was struck by a bullet as he was bending over the prostrate form of his brother. Immediately after emptying his rifle Benton fled to the swamp, it is alleged. Citizens organized a posse as soon as they heard of the shooting, surrounded the swamp and sent to Florence to notify the sheriff's office.

Johnsonville is without telephone communication. The Poston family is prominent in that section of Florence county. It is reported that the people of Johnsonville are greatly aroused over the shooting.

Benton Surrendered.

J. C. M. (Jim) Benton, who, it is alleged, shot and killed Fay Poston and wounded others when they went upon his lands Thursday while hunting near Johnsonville, surrendered himself to Magistrate O. W. McKnight, at Cowards this morning.

He was brought to Florence immediately after he gave himself up. Barefooted and hatless and weak from the lack of food. Benton presented a pitiful spectacle when he alighted from an automobile at the jail.

Several special deputies rode in the car with Benton as a matter of precaution. As soon as he passed the jail doors Benton asked for a physician to examine his wounds which he declared were giving him considerable pain. It was discovered that five deer or buckshot had entered his back and were buried in the muscles.

Arriving here just at dinner time a plate containing wholesome food was placed before Benton and he attacked it savagely.

"I haven't had a mouthful to eat since Thursday," he said, "except for one biscuit which I ate on the road from Cowards here."

According to Benton's story he has been trying to get to Florence to surrender since he learned he had killed young Poston. When the second party arrived at his home and a battle ensued between himself and the father of Poston and one or two friends, in which he was wounded in the back and his hat shot from his head, Benton declared he realized that it would be necessary for him to hide for a time and then to make his way to the sheltering arms of the county prison. This he was able to do because of his intimate knowledge of the swamps. Several times, he said

KINGSTREE LIGHT CO. TO QUIT.

Give Notice that They Will Shut Down Plant January 1st.

At a meeting of the Town Council of Kingstree Tuesday night notice was served on the body by Mr. P. G. Gourdin, president of the Kingstree Electric Light and Ice Co., that their plant would shut down and forfeit their franchise January 1, 1922. It is claimed by the officers of the Company that they have been running their plant at a dead loss for some time, and a few months ago the day current was discontinued. By their proposed action on January 1, the town will be entirely without current unless something is done in the meantime to keep the plant going.

POTATOES TO BE SHIPPED.

Mr. T. E. Arrowsmith Receives Order From Washington for Car Load.

A car load of sweet potatoes will be shipped from Kingstree to Washington, D. C. tomorrow by Mr. T. E. Arrowsmith, proprietor of the local curing plant. This will be the first car load of sweet potatoes to be shipped from this place. This order for the shipment was received through the South Carolina Sweet Potato association which has its headquarters at Florence. A car of potatoes was shipped from that point to Washington last week.

ENTERPRISE BANK REOPENS

Business Resumed Today. Depositors Make This Possible.

Charleston, Dec. 1.—The pledges required by the state bank examiner of the depositors of the Enterprise Bank having been filed with practical unanimity, as stated in the examiner's official report, the bank was turned over to the board of directors on Monday evening and under their orders, the doors of the bank were opened as usual this morning, after remaining closed since November 1st.

As practically every account was pledged to remain in the bank for one year, there could be no withdrawals, to speak of, the only business done was the opening of several new accounts and the collecting in of outstanding loans, on which the bank is largely to devote itself in the coming months, so as to make available the money now loaned out.

Very many friends of the bank stepped in to congratulate the officials on the reopening, and to wish the bank continued success.

President Wilson G. Harvey expressed gratification at the evidences of good will on the part of the thousands of depositors and by the public as well, and pledged his efforts in behalf of the bank's patrons throughout the months to follow.

At The Churches Sunday.

Services at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning will be conducted by Mr. W. C. Davis, a prominent lawyer of Manning. His subject will be "Tithing."

The evening services will be conducted by the pastor, Rev. Jno. W. Davis.

The Rev. Mr. Derrick will preach at the Methodist church Sunday morning and night.

At the Baptist church, the Pastor Rev. Mr. Hawkins will preach morning and evening, at the usual hours.

The Billy Sunday Club will meet at 3 o'clock, p. m. as usual in the Baptist church.

today, the posse was within striking distance of him. Benton still had his rifle and a supply of ammunition when he reached Cowards this morning. He contends that he had repeatedly warned everybody about hunting on his lands and that before the shooting which resulted in Fay Poston's death and the serious wounding of his brother, he gave the men plenty of warning. Benton would make no statement for publication. He is 55 years old and married, but has no children. Deputy Sheriff Joe Connor, who returned to the city this morning, declared that the posse which had been searching for Benton had practically disbanded, except for men stationed at various points in the Johnsonville section and on the roads leading to Kingstree where Benton was supposed to have been making his way.

Reports from Johnsonville are that Alger Poston's condition remains satisfactory. Fin Poston, the father of the two boys, has a gunshot wound in his hand.

M. E. CONFERENCE ASSIGNS PASTORS

REV. C. C. DERRICK RETURNS HERE—INABINET TO KINGSTREE CHARGE.

The Methodist Conference of Lower South Carolina closed its annual session at St. George Sunday night after the assignment of Ministers for the ensuing year and selecting Marion as the next place of meeting.

It will be noted that a number of changes have been made in the Kingstree district assignments. It will be gratifying to our readers to know that the Rev. C. C. Derrick has been returned here as presiding elder of the Kingstree district.

The appointment of the Rev. J. P. Inabinet to the pastorate of the Kingstree Methodist church will be gratifying news to the congregation and friends of the church. Mr. Inabinet is a man of middle age and has quite an interesting family. He is an able preacher, a good pastor, an excellent "mixer" and a most lovable gentleman.

Kingstree District.
C. C. Derrick, presiding elder; Andrews, E. H. Beckham; Black River, B. S. Hughes; Cades, J. R. Johnson; Cedar Swamp, J. W. Jones; Cordisville, A. C. Corbett; Georgetown, Duncan Memorial, R. H. Jones; West End, J. W. Elkins; Greeleyville and Lanes, W. F. Dukes; Hemingway, B. J. Dukes; Honey Hill, A. J. Howle; Johnsonville, W. A. Massabeau; Kingstree, J. P. Inabinet; Lake City, W. A. Beckham; McClellanville, J. C. Inabinet; New Zion, T. E. Derrick; Hampton, T. P. Hudson; Pinopolis, J. E. Clark; Rome, G. K. Way; Sampit, D. O. Spires; Scranton, F. A. Lampson; Thurgood, A. V. Harbin; Trio, G. T. Rhoad; Superannuates, R. W. Spigner, W. A. Betts, and D. H. Everett.

Charleston District.
F. H. Shuler, presiding elder; Allendale, S. W. Henry; Appleton, W. R. Jones; Beaufort, Cararet Street, A. D. Betts; Bethel circuit, C. G. Gardner; Black Swamp, J. K. Inabinet; Bluyton and Ridgeland, T. W. Godbold; Charleston, Bethel, C. F. Wimberly; Hamstead Square, D. Busbee; Hampton Park, E. G. Coe; Spring Street, J. H. Danner; Trinity, H. J. Caithen; Cottageville, H. W. Whittaker; Cypress and Wando, J. W. Hilton; Dorchester, W. T. Patrick; Early Branch, H. T. Morrison; Ehrhardt, Hamlin Etheredge; Estill, J. W. Davis; Hampton, R. W. Humpries; Hendersonville, L. D. B. Williams; Lodge, R. F. Hucks; Meggetts, N. M. Byrd; Ridgeville, J. A. Graham; Summerville, S. D. Coyle; Walterboro, P. A. Murray; Port Royal and Soldier Pastor, C. B. Burns; superannuates, S. A. Webber, J. W. Willing, J. L. Stokes, S. B. Harper.

Florence District.
L. L. Bedenbaugh, presiding elder; Bennettsville, W. I. Herbert; Bennettsville circuit, N. W. Hook; Brightsville, J. A. Campbell; Bethlehem circuit, W. D. Henderson; Blenheim, S. D. Bailey; Cheraw, W. B. Duncan; Chesterfield, L. E. Peeler; T. B. Owen, supernumerary; Darlington circuit, H. D. Shuler; East Chesterfield, S. P. Chewing; Florence Central, G. T. Harmon; Hartsville, M. L. Banks; Jegerson, W. V. Jeriman; Lamar, G. A. Teasley; Liberty, T. G. Phillips; Marlboro, J. B. Prosser; McColl, W. J. Snyder; McColl mission, J. O. Bunch; McBee, R. R. Tucker; Patrick, H. W. Shealer; Pageland, G. L. Ingram; Timmons-ville and Pisgah, W. R. Phillips; Timmons-ville circuit, J. A. White; superannuates, J. H. Moore, J. N. White, O. N. Rountree, W. L. Wait, A. S. Leslie, W. W. Williams, G. R. Whitaker.

Marion District. D. A. Phillips, Presiding Elder—Aynor, E. K. Garrison; Brownsville, J. L. Mullinix; Bucks-ville, W. L. Guy; Centenary, B. H. Covington; Conway, Atkinson; Conway circuit, W. L. Parker; Clio, B. G. Murphy; Dillon, G. F. Kirby; Floyd-dale, P. K. Crosby; Curley circuit, T. W. Williams; Lake View, S. E. Led-better; Latta, W. C. Kirkland, J. B. Bethea, supernumerary; Little River, K. S. Carmichaels; Little Rock, E. Z. James; Loris, W. M. Mitchell, H. L. Singleton, supernumerary; Marion, D. M. McLeod; Marion circuit, J. E. Cook; Mullins, G. P. Watson; Mullins circuit, T. J. White; Nichols, C. W. Burgess; Waccamaw, T. F. Scoggins; president Horry Industrial Institute, S. C. Morris, Aynor, Q. C.; superintendent department young people's and adult work, W. C. Owen, Dillon, Q. C.

JURY SAYS CLARKE WOMAN IS INSANE

"NOT GUILTY BECAUSE OF INSANITY," SAYS VERDICT.

Orlando, Fla., Dec. 2.—Lena M. T. Clarke was found "not guilty because of insanity" on a charge of killing F. A. Miltimore, Orlando restaurateur on the night of August 1, last, in Circuit Court here today, Baxter H. Patterson, jointly indicted with Miss Clarke was acquitted without reservation as to sanity. The jury retired at 3:26 p. m. and entered the court room to announce the verdict at 5:45.

Judge Andrews said he would continue to hold Miss Clarke in jail here until he had gone further into the evidence in the case. The action of the court in holding Miss Clarke until investigation of evidence, is taken to indicate that he may order her incarceration in the State Insane Asylum at Chattahoochee, but he refused to say what action might be taken.

The jury retired at 3:26 this afternoon, after listening to Judge Andrews' instructions, the reading of which occupied nearly half an hour. At 5:51, thirty minutes before the verdict was rendered, the jury re-entered the court room and requested Judge Andrews for further information relative to the wording of a verdict and that part of the instruction pertaining to this phase of the case was read again. Once more the twelve men filed out of the chamber and their next appearance marked the close of the trial.

Miss Clarke received the verdict calmly and after embracing her aged father, who has been with her throughout the trial, turned to receive the congratulations of scores of women who have faithfully attended each session of court through the ten days and who rushed to grasp the hand of the woman as soon as the verdict was read and the jury discharged. Her first remark following the reading of the verdict by the clerk of the court was:

Orangeburg District. Peter Stokes, Presiding Elder—Barnberg, S. O. Can-ty; Bamberg Mills and Embree to be supplied; Barnwell, F. L. Clannan; Branchville, J. A. McGraw; Cameron, B. L. Knight; Denmark, W. E. Wiggins; Edisto, C. T. Easterling, Jr.; Elloree and Jerusalem, W. P. Way; Eutawville, Woodrow Ward; Fort Motte, W. P. Perry; Grover, Paul T. Wood; Harleyville, W. E. Sanders; Holly Hill, J. P. Attaway, J. F. Way, supernumerary; Norway, R. R. Doyle; North and Limestone, J. J. Stevenson; Olar, C. M. Peeler; Orangeburg, T. Paul, T. G. Herbert, W. S. Stokes, supernumerary; Orangeburg circuit, J. W. Aerial; Orange circuit, S. W. Danner; Providence, A. M. Gardner; Rowesville, Gobe Smith; St. George, W. D. Gleaton; St. Matthews, J. T. Peeler; Smoaks, W. T. Bedenbaugh; Springfield, A. Sassard; Spring Hill, W. A. Youngblood. Conference secretary of missions, A. J. Cauthen, St. Paul, Q. C.; conference educational secretary-treasurer, G. E. Edwards, St. Paul, Q. C.; Sunday school field secretary, J. E. Ford; Professor Columbia College, Masoß Crum; superannuates, R. W. Barber, J. C. Counts, A. C. Walker, D. D. Dantzer, P. B. Ingram.

Sumter District.
E. L. McCoy, presiding elder; Bethune, J. R. Sajourner; Beaulah, M. G. Arant; Bishopville, Bethlehem, W. V. Doble; Camden, Littleton Street, W. H. Hodges; College Place, W. S. Heath; Columbia circuit, J. B. Weldon; Elliott and Wells, L. T. Phillips; Heath Springs, W. G. Elwell; Jordan, F. E. Hodges; Kershaw, F. A. Buddin; Lynchburg, J. M. Rogers; Manning, J. T. Fowler; Oswago, C. S. Felder; Pinewood, G. W. Dukes; Providence circuit, W. G. Aerial; St. John's and Rembert, D. D. Jones; Sumter, Trinity, J. W. Daniel; Broad Street, J. G. Ferguson; Summerton, T. E. Morris; Wateree, L. W. Shealey; West Kershaw, D. T. Smoaks; Wesley Chapel and Hebron, P. K. Rhoad; secretary Federal Council of churches, E. O. Watson; College Place, Q. C.; professor Columbia College, D. H. Munson; College Place Q. C.; business manager, Southern Christian Advocate, J. H. Noland; College Place, Q. C.; transferred to North Carolina conference: E. W. Hurst; to Alabama conference: W. F. Cann; superannuates, A. R. Phillips, G. H. Waddell, J. S. Beasley, J. C. Chandler.

WILLIAMSBURG SOCIETY

Local Organization for the Gathering of Historical Data.

A number of people of Kingstree who are interested in the history of Williamsburg county, met in the Carnegie Library Friday afternoon, and a temporary organization for the Williamsburg Society, which proposed society has for its purpose a study of Williamsburg history and the collection and preservation of historical data relating to the county in particular and South Carolina in general, was formed. Colonel Philip H. Stoll presided and Mr. W. W. Boddie acted as secretary of this meeting.

Colonel Stoll said he had been thinking for some time of the importance of organizing an historical society in this county; that Williamsburg is rich in historical material and that no organized effort has heretofore been made to preserve this data; and that if the people of the county are interested, and will join in this organization, that it will do a real service. The social side of the organization would appeal to many. The idea is to have a meeting every two months, at which some member shall present a paper upon some subject relating to the history of the county, and once a year the society shall have a big dinner and some speaker of prominence make an address. Colonel Stoll asked those persons present to express their opinions as to the feasibility of the plan proposed.

Mr. E. C. Epps said that he has an abundance of historical material scattered all over this section and it is our duty to collect and preserve it. He heartily favored the organization of the society and pledged his enthusiastic support.

Mr. P. G. Gourdin said that many people in the county are deeply interested in the move for the organization of an historical society and it would be a success. He knew where many records of great value and historical interest to the county could be found and he believed that the matter of preserving them is one that merits and would have, when properly presented, enthusiastic support.

Mr. David Silverman said that he is a Russian by birth and is exceedingly anxious to learn more about Williamsburg county, his chosen homeland, and that such a society would prove very valuable to him as it would to a great many other people who have come into the county in recent years. He said, in response to request from persons present, that he would be glad to contribute the best musical talent he had to the society at its meetings.

Mr. W. W. Boddie said that all present knew of his great interest in the organization and that when Colonel Stoll first proposed the organization to him, that he had joined in with Colonel Stoll and that he and Colonel Stoll had been working to the end in view. He said that he knew of a great many people deeply interested in the proposed organization and was sure of its opportunity for service to the county.

Mr. Epps moved that the organization of the society be effected. Mr. Gourdin amended the motion to the end that a temporary organization be had and that a meeting be held on December 20th, 1921 for the permanent organization of the society, and that a committee of five be appointed to present the matter to the people of the county and secure as many members as possible before the organization meeting. The amendment was accepted and the motion carried. It was agreed that the charter membership fee be fixed at \$1.00 and that all members enrolled on or before December 20th be regarded charter members. Colonel Philip H. Stoll was elected president, pro-tem, Mr. W. W. Boddie, secretary and Miss Marian McFadden, treasurer. Mr. P. G. Gourdin, Mr. E. C. Epps, Mrs. T. O. Arrowsmith, Miss Agnes Erckmann and Mr. W. W. Boddie were appointed committee on membership and organization.

The society will be glad to enroll as a charter member, at any time on or before December 20th, any white person who is interested and will send his name and address with \$1.00 charter membership fee, to Wm. W. Boddie, Kingstree, S. C.

The municipal election held at Georgetown Tuesday of last week resulted in the election of J. W. Wingate for mayor, H. W. Hucks, L. M. Overton, H. W. Frazier, alderman. The vote of the women was a decisive factor.

GREAT MEETING AT AUDITORIUM

COMMUNITY WELFARE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN KINGSTREE DECEMBER 15TH.

Under the joint auspices of Clemson College, Winthrop College, University of South Carolina, State Board of Health and the South Carolina Sunday School Association there will be a one-day conference at the school auditorium in Kingstree on Friday, December 16. The conference is of county-wide importance in scope and will be devoted to the consideration of the problems of country life and rural betterment by some of the best and most experienced representatives of the above institutions, whose aim is "To make agriculture profitable, Home work reasonable, Social life possible, Education efficient, and Religion vital."

The meeting here on December 15 is for the benefit of every citizen of Williamsburg county and ever nook and corner of it should be represented. The day, in fact, promises to be one of the most important ever held here. Special efforts should be made by our citizens, men and women, boys and girls, to attend. We feel sure that every one will profit by what they hear and see. Come and fill the auditorium. The program for the day is given below:

Morning Session.

- 10:00 a. m.—Call to order; Song, by school children; Welcome, by school principal, Mr. J. W. Swittenburg; Response, by County Supt. of Education Mr. M. F. Montgomery.
- 10:30—"Making Agriculture Profitable," Dr. D. W. Long, Director Extension Service, Clemson College.
- 11:00—"The Status of South Carolina, Economic and Social," by Dr. Wilson Gee, of University of S. C.
- 11:30—"Practical plans for the Country Sunday School," by Leon C. Palmer, Gen. Supt. S. C. Sunday School Ass'n.
- 12:00—General Discussion. Questions and answers. Business. Adjourn for dinner.

Afternoon Session.

- 1:30 p. m.—Devotional Exercises, Rev. J. W. Davis.
- 1:45—"How the Farm Women can be economically independent," Miss Christine N. South, of Winthrop College.
- 2:10—"How to Improve our Country Schools," D. L. Lewis, acting State Rural School Supervisor.
- 2:35—"Health and Happiness," Mrs. Ruth Dodd, of State Board of Health.
- 3:00—"South Carolina's Fundamental Problem," Prof. Geo. McCutcheon, of University of S. C.
- 3:25—"The Bible and How to Study It," Leon C. Palmer.
- 3:50—Adjourn.

The Country Life Conference has decided to serve lunch at the meeting to be held at the Kingstree school auditorium on December 15th.

The community chairmen are requested to ask their respective communities to prepare lunch and bring it to the Kellahan hotel, where a general lunch will be served. Each community chairman assisting the county chairman in the entertainment of the people. In order to promote sociability and good fellowship, it has been decided to have a general lunch in the dining room of the Kellahan hotel.

Mrs. W. G. Gamble is chairman of the lunch committee and the community chairmen are as follows:

Mt. Vernon, Mrs. S. W. Mims; Bethel, Mrs. Lula Burgess; Rock Branch, Mrs. C. A. Heins; Gamble, Mrs. W. H. Wingate; Mouzon, S. K. Mouzon; Never Fail, Mrs. J. W. McColl; Cedar Swamp, Mrs. G. O. Epps; Greeleyville, Mrs. R. T. Gibbons; Indiantown, Mrs. H. M. Cooper; Trio, Mrs. John Rowell; Belsers Cross Roads, Mrs. J. E. Baker; Salters, Mrs. Netta Cooper; Hemingway, Miss Annie Burney; Cades, Mrs. V. G. Arnette; Rough Branch, Mrs. W. O. Thomas; Workman, Mrs. J. R. Barrow; Heineman, Mrs. J. P. Gamble; Lanes, Mrs. S. W. McClary; Mulberry, Mrs. A. B. Spivey; Warsaw, Mrs. R. W. Marshall; Boyds, Mrs. W. T. Boyd; Hebron, Mrs. Furman Williamson; Central, Mrs. S. S. Mitchum; Bloomingdale, Mrs. R. W. Smith; Ox Swamp, Mrs. Ed McCullough; Earles, Mrs. Vance Wheeler.