

VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER RETURNED AGAINST TIMMONS AND WILLARD

Judge Wilson Gives Each
10 Years

CASE APPEALED TO HIGHER COURT

After a Three Day Trial Two Clinton Men Charged With Murder of Hosea Martin Found Guilty of Manslaughter with Recommendation to Mercy.

"Guilty of manslaughter with recommendation to mercy" was the verdict returned by the jury Saturday afternoon at 5:45 o'clock in the case of the State against Luther Timmons and Monroe Willard, young Clinton men, tried for their life last week in criminal court for the death of City Policeman Hosea Martin, killed on the night of December 14 when Martin, in company with four other peace officers, attempted to intercept Timmons and Willard on their return from the mountains of North Carolina with a cargo of whiskey en route to Clinton. They were given a sentence of ten years each by the presiding judge, John S. Wilson, and after a motion for a new trial was denied were granted bond in the sum of \$5,000 each pending an appeal to the supreme court.

Thus ended the first chapter in the struggle which the two confessed liquor runners are putting up to gain their freedom from the charge of murder laid against them by the state. The next chapters will be written as the case progresses through the supreme court unless they decide to abandon their appeal and accept the verdict of the lower court.

Called for trial Thursday morning, the case has attracted more interest than any other trial in the county in years, such crowds pressing into the court room on the first day of the trial that the presiding judge had to hold up the machinery of the court for over a quarter of an hour at one time until the bar of the court could be sufficiently cleared to allow court officials, jurors and witnesses to find seats and until the doors and windows had been sufficiently cleared to allow proper ventilation. Many spectators were here from time to time from outside the county, among them being Chief of Police M. B. Chandler, of Greenwood, and Sheriff Eugene S. Blease, of Newberry.

The trial was marked by sharp legal clashes from the time that Dr. S. C. Hays, first witness for the state, was put on the stand until the defense closed with its last witness in rebuttal. Solicitor Blackwell was assisted in the prosecution by J. Robert Martin, of Greenville, and James H. Sullivan and Phil D. Huff, of the local bar. The defense was represented by the firm of Featherstone & Knight, of the local bar, with W. R. Richey, associate counsel. Mr. Richey was unable to address the jury in the case when he was expected to Saturday morning on account of a bereavement in his family the night before.

After the jury was dismissed Saturday afternoon, it was currently rumored that on the first ballot six jurors stood for conviction in various degrees and six for acquittal. By a process of compromise and dissection of testimony, the ratio was changed so that advocates of conviction gained a decided majority, but a resolute stand on the part of a small minority led to a report to the presiding judge from the jury that they were hopelessly disagreed. After instructions from the judge to deliberate further, the minority was finally brought over by compromise to the verdict which was finally rendered. The jury remained out for five hours and ten minutes.

It appeared early in the trial that the state would base its case on the facts as related in the testimony at the inquest, substantially in effect that either Timmons or Willard deliberately shot down the police officer in their attempt to evade arrest and that both, in the absence of a confession, were parties to the crime.

The main plea of the defense was that neither Timmons nor Willard shot on the night of the tragedy, but that the death of Policeman Martin was due to a stray bullet fired by one of the police officers themselves, the intimation by the introduction of firearms experts being that the stray bullet was fired by James T. Crews, Laurens chief

of police, who was a member of the raiding party. The defense's other contention was that Martin, a city policeman, was without his authority in doing police duty on the county highway and that Timmons and Willard, although on an unlawful errand, were not subject to arrest by him and that, even though they had known who he was, which they denied, they had the right to defend themselves. It is said that the latter plea had strong weight with the jury in its deliberations.

To substantiate their case, the state introduced the examining physician on the night of the tragedy, Dr. S. C. Hays, who gave the course of the bullet from the left abdomen in a slightly inclining direction to its exit in the rear about four inches to the right of the median line, and the four other officers, Rural Policemen C. L. Owens and T. D. Abrams, and City Policemen Jas. T. Crews and Robert Wham, two of whom testified to seeing the flashes from the Timmons car which brought the deceased officer to his death.

Outside of the general denial as to taking part in the shooting that night and the attempt to show the impracticability of either of the defendants having shot with precision under the conditions as they existed when they passed Policeman Martin, the defense attempted to support its theory that Martin was killed by a fellow officer by proving that the bullet which killed Martin and was later found in a local undertaking establishment came from the same gun which fired the bullet found lodged in the back of the defendant's car the next morning. As Chief of Police Crews admitted firing the latter bullet the inference, though never directly brought out in the testimony, was that he also fired the Martin bullet. It was on this point that the greatest struggle of the case was fought. The two bullets were admitted by the state to be of the same calibre, 45 steel jacketed, and that Chief Crews fired such a bullet on the night of the killing. But, the defense had the obstacle to overcome of a dissimilarity in the bullets themselves. On the butt end of the Martin bullet a letter "U" was found imprinted, but there was no such letter on the butt end of the bullet found in the Timmons car and admitted by Chief Crews as having been fired by him. The inference of the defense was that some one interested in Chief Crews' behalf, realizing the hazardous position of the state, had willfully tampered with the Martin bullet by stenciling the letter "U" on it to make it different from the other bullet. To lend color to this inference, the defense introduced four witnesses claiming expert knowledge of firearms and ammunition, including three ex-army officers and a former ammunition dealer, who testified that in their experience they had never known before of a bullet having any kind of letter imprinted on the butt end. Each of them, also, testified that the flash of a smokeless powder bullet, such as caused the death of Martin, was shorter than that of the old fashioned black powder, and that a person standing some distance away could not tell, as the police officers claimed in this case, from what direction the bullet was fired.

The defense's expert bullet testimony was introduced Friday morning. The state evidently took advantage of the noon recess to secure further information on the bullet question, for during the afternoon, in its re-direct examination of Chief Crews and its introduction by reply of W. P. Hudgens, local ammunition dealer, it sprang a surprise by having these witnesses open bullets of the Remington Arms Munition Company plainly showing the letter "U" imprinted on the butt end. Replying to a question from Solicitor Blackwell, Mr. Hudgens said that he did not have this kind of bullet in stock now though he had handled it at one time. Replying to Mr. Knight, Mr. Hudgens was unable to say whether or not Mr. Crews had made a purchase of bullets of this make and calibre from him previous to the night of the homicide. He was now carrying, he said, only the Western Automatic Arms Company shells of this calibre, Mr. Crews having previously testified that this was the make of bullet which he bought from Mr. Hudgens some time last year, these

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C. E. PARKER DEAD

Son-in-Law of W. R. Richey Died Suddenly in Birmingham Early Saturday Morning.

News was received in the city Saturday morning of the sudden death in Birmingham, Ala., of Claude E. Parker, son-in-law of Mr. W. R. Richey, of this city. Mr. Parker, who was on a tour of inspection of government buildings, arrived at his hotel in Birmingham Friday night complaining of what physicians called in to see him diagnosed as acute indigestion. He showed signs of recovery, however, and was left in his room with medicine to take. A hotel clerk going to his room later in the night found that he had passed away.

The remains were brought to Laurens via Clinton Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon interment took place in the Laurens cemetery, services being conducted by Rev. C. T. Squires, assisted by local ministers. Among those attending the services was a representative from the office of the supervising architect in Washington, the office force also sending a beautiful floral wreath to place on his grave.

Mr. Parker was an inspector out of the office of the supervising architect in Washington and held a responsible position with the government. While supervising the construction of the local post office building a few years ago he married Miss Annie Richey, of this city. Since that time the nature of his profession has prevented them from living here very much of the time, but by occasional visits he had retained many friendships which were made during his residence here. He is survived by his widow, who was visiting her parents here at the time of his death, and two children, besides his father, Robert E. Parker, formerly of Washington and Virginia but now a resident in New York with one of his daughters.

ANNOUNCES FOR RE-ELECTION

Supervisor Watts States Definitely That He Will Be in the Race This Summer.

Supervisor J. D. W. Watts stated definitely yesterday that he would be in the race this summer for re-election as supervisor of the county. He said that his platform would be the record he has made during his term of office. There have been until now, no other avowed candidates for this office.

AUGUSTUS HUFF PASSES AWAY

Prominent Citizen of Laurens Passes Away Shortly After Midnight Sunday.

Augustus Huff, for thirty years identified with the business interests of Laurens, passed away at his home in this city shortly after midnight Sunday night. Mr. Huff had been in declining health for over a year, but had a sudden turn for the worse during Saturday night. Sunday morning he appeared better, but during Sunday evening he sank rapidly and shortly after twelve o'clock passed away.

The funeral services were held at the house Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock and from there the body was carried to the Laurens cemetery and laid to rest. Services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. P. F. Kilgo, of the First Methodist church, assisted by other pastors of the city. The active pall bearers were mainly selected from among the stewards of the Methodist church and the honorary pall bearers were a number of his business friends and associates.

Mr. Huff was born in Greenville county, but early in life took up farming in the western part of this county, where he married a Miss Sullivan. His first wife died many years ago and he later married a Miss Richardson, of the Mountville section. About thirty years ago he moved to Laurens and entered the fertilizer business, representing the Virginia Carolina Chemical Company and its predecessors continuously since that time. By close attention to his duties and square dealing with his customers, he built up a very large business in this county.

Besides his widow, the deceased is survived by E. A. Huff, of Greenville, a son by his first marriage, and the following sons and daughters by his second marriage: P. D. Huff, of Laurens; Otis Huff, a law student at the University of South Carolina; Mrs. H. E. Cartledge, of Augusta; Mrs. Dan Sawyer, of Salley, and Miss Annie Huff, who is teaching at Lumberton, N. C.

'BOND MONEY ARRIVES

City Fathers Pay Off Debts Made in Anticipation of Bond Sales.

City Council met in extra session Monday night to dispose of part of the \$55,000 water, sewerage and street bond money which was received from the purchasers last week.

Mr. Lamar Smith, secretary of the Laurens Mill, had been asked to be present with an account of the money advanced by the mill for sewerage and street work in the mill village and he was present with a statement showing a total of around \$31,000 expended. On motion of Alderman Dial the mayor and clerk were instructed to repay the mill the entire amount voted for sewerage, \$20,000, and approximately \$9,000 for street work. Mr. Smith intimating that it would be satisfactory to the mill to carry the balance and the small amount needed for completion of the work until it was convenient for the city to pay it.

A motion of Alderman Dial's was also carried to repay the Watts Mills the \$6,000 advanced for North Harper street work and also to repay the city's general fund \$9,000 used on this street.

With the \$11,000 left in the street bond issue and the \$9,000 carried to the general fund, council estimates that it will have sufficient funds to complete the work in view on Laurens, Church, Gordon and Lee streets.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY ACTIVE

Officers of Women's Auxiliary to American Legion Elected and Plans Made for the Future.

The Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, which secured its charter only a month ago, is now a live and active organization boasting of a membership of fifty of the wives, mothers and sisters of ex-soldiers.

At a recent meeting of the auxiliary the following officers were elected: Mrs. Dave Childress, president; Miss Henry Wright, vice president; Miss Rebecca Lake, secretary, and Mrs. J. D. M. Smith, treasurer.

One of the plans of the auxiliary for the future is to conduct a lunch stand on Saturdays on the court house grounds. The first of these stands met with considerable success last Saturday. Mrs. Childress, president of the auxiliary, expects that in the future the lunch stands will furnish the means for the auxiliary to carry on an extensive program.

CIVIC LEAGUE TO PLANT MORE FLOWERS

City Divided by Wards. Flowers in Large Numbers to be Planted.

To make a good city better and a pretty city prettier, are the motives behind the Women's Civic League, who after making the Court House grounds as attractive as they are now, are planning to make the city at large as attractive as is possible.

The league has divided its activities along these lines according to wards, each ward having a leader and a ward flower. It is planned to have the selected flower in each ward planted in large numbers.

In Ward 1, where Mrs. S. D. Childress was elected leader, "Red Verbena" has been selected as the flower. In Ward 2, "Nasturtium" has been agreed upon as the flower, and the program there will be led by Mrs. M. H. Hunter. No flower has yet been chosen in Ward 3, but Mrs. F. M. Smith, its leader, expects that planting will begin soon after a flower is accepted. Ward 4, led by Mrs. William Solomon, will plant the "Petunia" and Ward 5, where Miss Sadie Sullivan is leader, the "Salvia" will be planted. In Ward 6 Mrs. Albert Dial was elected leader and the flower accepted is the "Balsam" or "Touch-Me-Not".

The officers of the Civic League are: President, Mrs. J. S. Bennett; Vice-President, Mrs. W. L. Gray; Secretary, Mrs. B. L. Jones; Treasurer, Mrs. J. N. Hudgens, and Publicity Chairman, Mrs. L. G. Balle.

Mr. Lamar Smith, secretary of the Laurens Mill, states that his company has set out 750 water oaks along the new streets recently completed under the village beautifying plan which his company is carrying on. With the new houses, new streets, shade trees and the interest which the people of the community are already taking in a "village beautiful," Mr. Smith predicts that in a few years the Laurens Mill village will be one of the prettiest spots in the country.

'FREE CONCERT SATURDAY

Watts Mills Band Will Play on Public Square.

By special arrangements, the Watts Mills Concert Band of more than thirty pieces will give a free concert in Laurens next Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock on the public square.

The band, organized several years ago, has earned an enviable reputation for itself as a musical organization. Under the leadership of Director W. S. Nickerson, who gained musical reputation and proficiency while with Sousa's Band, the Watts Mills Band promises to compare favorably with the more widely known organizations.

The following program has been arranged for the free concert that will be given next Saturday:

March—"Liberty Lads" O. L. Smith
Overture—"Determinator" F. Dewell
Oriental—"March to Mecca", F. Dewell
Baritone Solo—"True Love Polka" W. H. Keifer
Trombone Rag—"Raggy Trombone" W. H. Keifer
Oriental—"The Rajah" Steinberg
Serenade—"Midnight Echoes" Haugh
March—"Battle of the Winds" Bable

NEW COUNTY AGENT ARRIVES

C. L. Vaughn, Who has Had Wide Experience in Boll Weevil Territory, Took Up His Duties Monday.

C. L. Vaughn, an agriculturist of excellent training and varied experience, has been appointed county agent for Laurens county to take the place of J. E. Trevathan, who resigned recently to take up county agent work in North Carolina, according to announcement just made by Director W. W. Long, of the Extension Service. In Mr. Vaughn Laurens secures an unusually strong man, who is in position to lead a strong fight against the oncoming boll weevil in that county.

Mr. Vaughn arrived in the city Monday and entered upon his duties immediately. His office will be in the same room in the court house formerly occupied by Mr. Trevathan.

Mr. Vaughn is a graduate of Clemson college in the class of 1915, and has had two years' experience in teaching agriculture in Darlington county and in North Carolina; one year's experience in county agent work in North Carolina; two years' experience in cotton breeding work for a large South Georgia farm company; and two years' experience as county agent in Georgia in the midst of the boll weevil infestation. He is therefore well fitted for leadership in agricultural affairs in Laurens county under present conditions.

Having spent several years in the Georgia boll weevil territory, Mr. Vaughn is particularly alive to the needs of farmers in the presence of the boll weevil. In his county agent work in Georgia, he was very successful in arousing the interest of business men and corporations in helping to fight the battle of diversified farming, and had much success especially with livestock work, sweet potato storage house work, boys' club work, etc.

SCHOOLS WILL BE AIDED

Rural Graded Schools in Laurens County to Receive State Aid.

R. T. Wilson, County Superintendent of Education, has been notified by the State Department of Education that all applications for state aid of rural graded schools in Laurens county will be paid, probably before the end of this month.

In spite of this, however, several schools in the county may have to close due to lack of funds, Mr. Wilson stated, although he was unable to say at this time how many and which of the schools will be affected.

MRS. SUE MYERS

Mother of Mr. Boyce Myers, of This City, Died in Gastonia, Friday.

Mrs. Sue Myers, widow of the late R. C. Myers, and mother of Mr. Boyce Myers, of this city, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bolster, at Gastonia, N. C., last Friday, and was buried in the cemetery of that city.

The deceased moved to Laurens from Greenville about 35 or 40 years ago and was a resident of this city until a few years ago, when she and her husband moved to Anderson, where Mr. Myers died about three years ago. The deceased was 78 years old and leaves six children, three sons and three daughters.

She was a good woman, and the older people who knew her deeply sympathize with those left behind in their sorrow.

THOS. G. McLEOD TO ADDRESS FARMERS

Another Big Mass Meeting
Friday

TO DISCUSS COTTON MARKETING

Meetings to be Held in Laurens and Clinton Friday of this Week. Farmers Urged to Attend the Meeting and be Informed on Marketing Plans.

Thomas G. McLeod, of Bishopville, one of the state's ablest speakers, has been secured to address the farmers of Laurens county at two public mass meetings which will be held Friday, March 24th, at 11 a. m. in this city and at 2 p. m. the same day in Clinton.

The meetings are being arranged by J. S. Craig, chairman for Laurens county of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative association, and are being called for the purpose of enabling Laurens county farmers to further acquaint themselves with what the cotton marketing plan of the association is, and what it intends to do for the individual farmers joining with it.

Mr. McLeod is a farmer and has signed the contract of the association himself. He will tell at these meetings why he has done so, and what it will mean to others who join in the sign-up campaign.

The plans of the South Carolina association are to secure pledges of 300,000 bales of cotton by May first, in order that the program for cotton pooling may continue. Mr. McLeod will tell what co-operative marketing of cotton has meant for the farmers of Texas, Oklahoma and other states, where more than 125,000 farmers have already pledged 2,000,000 bales of cotton.

Having made a study of the co-operative plan of selling cotton, Mr. McLeod is in an excellent position, those in charge of the meeting state, to tell farmers how the association will save every penny lost through weather damage, market dumping, under grading and other wastes in the present system of selling, and all farmers are urged to be present at either or both of the meetings to hear him.

BANKER ENDORSES COTTON MARKETING ASSOCIATION

C. H. Roper Sees Advantages to Farmers of Co-operative Selling.

That the Southern farmer knows how to grow cotton and needs no cotton growers organization, but a marketing association to profitably sell his cotton after it is grown, was the opinion of Mr. C. H. Roper, cashier of the Enterprise National Bank, who, when interviewed on the subject by the Advertiser reporter, endorsed the marketing plan of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association.

Mr. Roper has made a careful survey of the farmers' problems and was of the opinion that the selling end of cotton was of as much, or more importance than that of its growing, and that this important part of the business of farming has been sadly neglected.

"The marketing plan of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' Co-operative Association is at present the only movement that can remedy the conditions now existing, and will result in inestimable good by minimizing the weather damage of cotton, since one of its plans is to have the cotton that is pledged to the association, shipped to their warehouses as soon as it is ginned," said Mr. Roper.

When asked what possible effect the association may have on the price of cotton, Mr. Roper stated that while that was hard to ascertain, he was inclined to believe that cotton sold through the association would return a better price than cotton sold otherwise, since the association would sell in large quantities of a specified grade and few individual farmers are able to sell in that manner.

"It would be well," concluded Mr. Roper, "for every farmer to acquaint himself with the purpose of the marketing association, and realizing its great possibilities, give it his full cooperation."

Winthrop Daughters

The Winthrop Daughters are to meet Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock with Miss Lilly Miller.