

*Paper: The Gaffney Ledger*

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*Victim(s):*  
*Frank Whisonant*  
*Joe Brinson*

*COVERAGE:*  
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# THE GAFFNEY LEDGER.

A NEWSPAPER IN ALL THAT THE WORD IMPLIES, AND DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF CHEROKEE COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED, FEB. 16, 1894.

GAFFNEY, S.C., TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1912.

\$1.50 A YEAR.

## ANGRY BLACKSBURG MOB LYNCHED TWO NEGROES

### NEGROES' AWFUL TREATMENT WHITE MAN IS AVENGED

MADE HIM INTOXICATED AND  
THEN FORCED HIM COM-  
MIT FEARFUL CRIME.

### IMMEDIATE PUNISHMENT INFILCTED BY CITIZENS

Blackburg is the scene of Double Lynching, Two Negroes Being Put to Death for Their Treatment of a Respectable Laboring White Man Who Was Put Into an Intoxicated Condition and Then Taken to a Cemetery Where Crime Was Committed.

Peaceful little Blackburg, just across the Broad from Gaffney, was the scene of the first lynching ever known in Cherokee county and this affair which took place on Thursday night was a double harbored occurrence. Frank Whisnant and Joe Brinson, both negroes, lodged in the city jail of Blackburg, were removed by a mob sometime near midnight Thursday night and within one hundred yards of the jail, they were strung up to the rafters of a blacksmith shop. Although no exact information has yet been obtained, it is believed that the lynching took place near midnight.

The two negroes were in the Blackburg jail on charges of carrying concealed weapons, assault with a deadly weapon, selling whiskey, highway robbery in the night time, and a fifth offense.

The beginning of the trouble was on Wednesday night when a white man named Jim Childers arrived in Blackburg on Southern railway train No. 40. He was accosted near the station by the two negroes, who offered to sell him a pint of whiskey. According to Childers' tale, he demurred at buying the liquor but finally agreed to purchase it. He was taken away from the main part of town by the negroes and then at the point of a gun, they forced him to drink practically the entire pint of whiskey. After this they took what money he had, a small amount of silver. They then forced him to accompany them to a cemetery, where they again used force with the pistol and made him commit an unnatural action.

As soon as possible, Childers reported the matter to the police officials of the town and they started on a search for the negroes. They were unable to locate them on that night but Thursday morning the two negroes were captured and taken before Mayor Ramsour for trial. After hearing the evidence in the case of selling liquor, the mayor adjudged the negroes guilty and fined them \$20 apiece. Being unable to pay the fine they were returned to jail. Meanwhile, news of "the crime" had spread and word came of the impending lynching via rifle. However, little credence was given this report by the Blackburg officials and the general opinion was that this was mere talk. Blackburg police say that they did not anticipate any action by white people but were a little afraid that the friends of the negroes might possibly attempt to jail delivery and release the negroes before dawn. The word was kept. Police Commissioner went on duty at 10 o'clock at night and he stated that no one could be seen on the street at that time and things in the town were generally quiet. Practically all of the business houses of the town were closed.

Friday morning when the stores were opened, Mr. E. D. Johnson, who is connected with A. Whisnant's store, went to the public well to get a bucket of water and it was then

discovered that the well rope was gone. This excited suspicion and a trip was made to the jail. It was there discovered that the door to the council chamber had been knocked open with a sledge hammer and inside, the two negroes were found. The doors had been torn away. The prisoners were gone. Notification of this was sent the mayor and the postman and they came at once, finding the bodies of the negroes hanging to the rafters of Caldwell's blacksmith shop. The shop is directly in the rear of the jail and scarce a stone's throw away.

The job had been executed in a most workmanlike manner. The negroes were bound, hand and feet, one was gagged with absorbent cotton while the other was tied in a manacle so that the rope prevented his making any outcry. When first reached the bodies were already cold and it was evident that they had been dead for some hours.

Sheriff W. W. Thomas, of this city, was notified as quickly as possible and the sheriff, accompanied by Deputy Sheriffs Henry Lockhart and Joe Watkins and Coroner Vinesett caught the first train for Blackburg. Numbers of Gaffney people, actuated by curiosity, accompanied the officials to Blackburg. It had been expected that Solicitor J. C. Ottis, of Spartanburg, would come to the scene and then, that the coroner would be present. At the morning service, Mr. Ray administered communion.

Mr. Fred A. Kerr, who has been conducting the examination of the condition of the National Bank of Gaffney, had completed his work and departed. Mr. Kerr reports that the condition of the bank is thoroughly

sound.

The approach of summer is noted by the fact that the soda fountains of the city are now beginning to serve ice cream and milk shakes. The heart of the small boy is glad and the "cones" are much in evidence.

Rev. John L. Ray, of Spartanburg, spent Sunday in the city, filling the pulpit at the Limestone Street Methodist church both morning and evening. At the morning service, Mr. Ray administered communion.

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The Snowflake Marchion which will be seen in this city tonight, under canvas on the hotel lot, come to Gaffney with a good reputation and the show is said to be of a high class variety. Singing, dancing and jokes mainly compose the programme.

At a meeting of the directors of the Gaffney Starling Bank, held in the parlors of the bank last Friday, Mr. P. T. Hawkins, of the Red Front Hackett, was added to the directorate by a unanimous vote. Mr. Hawkins will be quite a valuable addition to the weekend with Mr. James Blalock.

Miss Lois Hurley, of Gastonia, N.C., is spending a week with her sister, Mrs. C. W. Painter.

Miss Orrie Flack, of Shelby, N.C., stopped over here Sunday on her way to Gaffney.

Mrs. David Beam and Miss Lena Baker, of Faletown, N.C., stopped over Sunday. Mrs. Beam was returning from Dr. Steedly's hospital where she has been taking treatment for a few days.

Mr. T. E. Sossoman, of Clifton, spent Friday in town.

Miss Lucy Thomson spent Thursday in Gaffney.

Mr. C. C. Robbins, of Gaffney, spent Friday in town.

Mr. John Whisnant, of Charlotte, N.C., spent Sunday in town with friends.

Mr. J. N. Norton, of Walhalla, spent Sunday in town.

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Messrs. Frank Sossoman and Geo. Hayes, of Gaffney, spent Friday in town.

Miss Mary Whisnant, of Due West, is visiting her parents.

Mr. James Shiver and children, of Rock Hill, spent several days in town this week.

Mr. George English, of Shelby, N.C., was in town Sunday.

The quarterly meeting of the W. M. U. was held at Mt. Paran Saturday, March 30. The opening session began at 10:30 o'clock. Mrs. J. E. Saepoch presiding over the meeting and holding the devotional exercises. Miss Mollee Sapoch made the address of welcome. Her address was cordial and appropriate in bidding the W. M. U. members well. She was responded to very eloquently by Miss Emma Cornwell, of Blueburg.

Work of the union was taken up by Miss Addie Brown, of Gouche. She made a brief address on the marked-up side of the union.

Woman's sphere in the church.

Mrs. B. L. Hoke read a splendid paper on the subject.

Mrs. C. E. Watson, of Greenville, spoke on a subject more than a truly composed woman can along many lines. Particulars were the talks interesting on home missions.

The Sunbeam exercises conducted by Miss May Wells were very interesting. Miss Emma Cornwell made them a splendid talk. How can my society be more helpful to my church and to missions? Mrs. L. T. Newton read a paper on this subject. After which the ladies gave some help on thoughts on the subject.

Rev. B. L. Hoke, pastor of the Paran church, was present and made several short but to the point talk.

Mrs. B. L. Hoke thanked the Mt. Paran ladies in behalf of the union for so royally entertaining the meeting.

A great feature is the excellent singing. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Butler have this branch of the service in charge and their singing is proving to be quite popular.

Something that looks suspiciously like Underwood plate matter is making its appearance in some Georgia paper.

### SHORT NEWS ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST

#### EVENTS IN GAFFNEY AND CHEROKEE

Recent Happenings in and Around the City and Other Events Gathered by the City Editor.

Rev. E. E. Gillespie, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Yorkville, spent Friday in the city in the interest of the educational endowment fund of the Presbyterians of South Carolina.

A feature of the services now being conducted at the First Baptist church, was the morning prayer-meeting, held at the church at 7 o'clock Sunday morning. The service was large; it attended and very beneficial.

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### THE LATEST NEWS FROM BLACKSBURG

#### DOINGS OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS LITTLE CITY.

Personal paragraphs and News Notes of Interest Related by The Ledger's Correspondent.

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### OLD COMMISSIONERS STAND BY THEIR GUNS

### WILL NOT YIELD TO THOSE SELECTED BY GOV. BLEAISE

TOOK DEFINITE STAND YESTER-  
DAY AND STATED THEIR  
POSITION.

### MATTER MAY GO TO THE COURTS TO SETTLE

R. H. Mitchell, W. I. Jones and J. A. Harris Refuse To Yield To The Demands of Dr. W. L. Settemyer, B. L. Hoke and O. D. Hancock, Took Action on Advice of Senator W. S. Hall. Attorneys To Be Employed To Fight the Case to the End.

Some times the expected happens and again it is the unexpected. Yesterday the affairs "which had cast their shadow before them" hold up on the horizon and when Rev. M. L. Hoke, of Blacksburg, O. D. Hancock and Dr. W. L. Settemyer, of this city, the Board of Registration for Cherokee county appointed by Governor Bleasie to the place of the present board, made due application for the books of registration, they were informed that they could not obtain same.

The old Board of Registration, as appointed by Gov. Bleasie, had made their appearance at 9 o'clock and had secured the books of registration from Clerk of Court T. M. Caldwell. At about 9:30 the new board arrived on the scene and made the following formal application to the Clerk of Court for the books:

Gaffney, S. C., April 1st, 1912.  
Office of Board of Registration of  
Cherokee County.  
Thomas M. Caldwell, Esq.,  
Clerk Court Common Pleas,  
Gaffney, S. C.

Dear Sir:—This is to notify you that at a meeting of the Superintendents of Registration of Cherokee county, held this day, the new Board of Registration of Cherokee county was organized by the election of W. L. Settemyer as chairman, the said Board being composed of B. L. Hoke, W. L. Settemyer and O. D. Hancock, all of whom have been duly and legally appointed and qualified for your information and also to be filed in your office the commission of the said members of the said Board of Registration of Cherokee county.

By this time, the old board, composed of Messrs. R. H. Mitchell, J. A. Harris and W. I. Jones were hard at work and had already registered 5. Following the formal application of the new board for the books Mr. Caldwell made the following answer to their application:

Gaffney, S. C., April 1, 1912.  
W. L. Settemyer, B. L. Hoke, O. D. Hancock.

Gaffney, S. C.

Gentlemen:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 1, 1912, with reference to the books of the Superintendents of Registration. The books were taken charge of this morning by J. A. Harris, W. I. Jones and R. H. Mitchell, who composed the

(Continued on page four.)

(Continued on page 4.)

