

# The Smyrna Times.

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SMYRNA, DEL., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 15, 1904.

WHOLE NO. 2,519.

## INFURIATED NEGRO KILLS FARMER WITH PITCHFORK

### JAMES LETHREM COMES TO HIS END AT HANDS OF EDWARD BROWN IN CLAYTON

The Negro Without Any Provocation Struck Him Back of the Head With a Pitchfork Smashing in His Skull—Inquest Held.

A dastardly murder took place at the Bingham House stables at Clayton between seven and eight o'clock Saturday evening when Edward Brown, colored, without any provocation whatever dealt James Lethrem a blow back of the head, crushing the skull and causing his death less than an hour afterwards. The murdered man was a well-known farmer in the vicinity of Delaneys, about seven miles from Clayton, and resided on the Dr. Clark farm. A widow and seven little children survive him. Lethrem had been spending the day in Clayton and with some friends had visited the Bingham House. While there, it appears that he and William Gorton, another white man, got into some altercation, when Edward Brown, colored, stepped up and said "Who are you cursing?" thinking he might have been the victim of the abuse. Gorton, it is said, replied in sharp language, but Lethrem said not a word. Brown threatened to knock Gorton's head off and then went into the stable and emptied the straw which he was carrying on his pitchfork. In a few moments he came out again with his pitchfork and advancing toward Lethrem, who was about to move off, dealt him the fatal blow. Dr. J. S. Cobb was summoned and worked on the unconscious man, but to no avail. He was dead in less than an hour after the blow was struck.

### Brown Gave Himself Up to Policeman Jones.

Edward Brown fled, and his brother George, who it was supposed had struck the fatal blow, was arrested. The latter was kept in custody until Sunday morning, when Edward Brown surrendered himself to Policeman Jones of Smyrna, confessed the crime and, after a preliminary hearing before Magistrate Cummins of Smyrna, was committed to the Kent County Jail. Edward Brown made the following statement to Constable Jones and Sheriff Melvin: "Lethrem with four or five other men came to the stables at the Bingham House, where I was helping my brother with his work. The men became abusive, and Lethrem advanced toward me with a knife or some other weapon. Thinking he meant to do me harm, I raised the pitchfork, which I had in my hand, and struck him over the head. I did not think I struck him hard enough to knock him down, or render him unconscious."

An inquest was held Monday on the body of James Lethrem. Brown was brought from Dover jail and testified before the jury. Rev. Albert Chandler was foreman of the jury, and Edward T. Porter was the secretary. When called to the witness stand Brown said he struck Lethrem in self-defense, but several other witnesses said Lethrem did nothing to offend him; that it was another man who used sharp language toward him. The jury rendered the following verdict: "Resolved, That James Lethrem came to his death on June 11th, 1904, by being struck in the head by a pitchfork in the hands of Edward Brown, without provocation."

## CHESWOLD GIRL WINS SCHOLARSHIP PRIZE

### Miss Clara B. Savin Gets \$50 For Meritorious Work at Conference Academy at Dover

At the close of the conference Academy commencement exercises at Dover Thursday the following prizes were awarded to the students: General scholarship prize, offered by A. B. Magee, of Dover, of \$50, Miss Clara B. Savin, Cheswold, Del.; special prize offered by the Alumni Association for best scholarship, \$45, Leslie W. Stout, Dover. General scholarship prizes offered by the Wilmington Annual Conference, as follows: \$25, Miss Elizabeth Cooper, Camden; Miss Elizabeth Burchinal, Canterbury, Del.; Miss Etta Mathews, Chestertown, Md.; Miss Inez Noble, Preston, Md.; Tilghman Smith, Oak Grove, Del. Fifteen-dollar prizes: J. W. Long, Delmar; Grover C. Parvis, Milford; Miss Tilghman, Newark, Md.; Miss Hester Poole, Farmington; Miss Ruth Watson, Onancock, Va. Ten-dollar prize scholarship, Miss Ethel G. Short, Farmington, Del. The oratorical contest prizes were won by Miss Nina Pearl Prettyman, Dover, \$10; second prize, tie between Leslie W. Stout and W. W. Banks, \$2.50 each.

## DEATH RECORD OF THE PAST WEEK.

Mrs. R. E. Hough, Wife of the Late Rev. John Hough, Passes Away at Her Home in Smyrna—Death of Samuel W. Walls.

Mrs. Rebecca E. Hough, wife of the late Rev. John Hough, a prominent minister of the Wilmington Conference, died yesterday afternoon at 1.30 o'clock after a brief illness, in the 71st year of her age. She was taken ill a week previous from a slight stroke of apoplexy and was apparently recovering when she suffered another attack yesterday. She "fell to sleep" peacefully, almost without any warning to those at her bedside, when her spirit left its frail tenement and passed to its eternal reward. The life of Mrs. Hough was one of deep and constant devotion to her home and to her church which she dearly loved. At the early age of twelve years she was converted and joined the Methodist Church, and all through her life she continued to have a deep and abiding interest in its various societies. Besides being a member of the Mite Society, she was a charter member of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, the Woman's Home Missionary Society and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. While interested in church and society, she never aspired to public life; her interests were centered in her home and her children, where she was a faithful wife and a good mother.

The deceased was a daughter of the late James and Mary Boone Dukes, of Denton, Md., where she spent her girlhood days and lived until 1852, when she was united in marriage to Rev. John Hough. Her life in the itinerancy was one of deep devotion to her husband's interest and when death robbed her of his companionship while he was Presiding Elder of Dover District, in March 1879, she was living in Smyrna and has since continued to make this her home. She is survived by five children: Mrs. James P. Hofferker, Miss Anna D. Hough and Miss Emma Hough, of this town; Mrs. Clayton W. Fisher, of Dover, and Mr. Olin I. Hough, of Philadelphia. Funeral services will take place at her late residence on west Commerce street Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock, in charge of Rev. Robert Watt, pastor of Asbury M. E. Church; interment at Glenwood Cemetery.

### S. W. Walls, Brother of E. G. Walls, Dead.

Sunday morning Samuel W. Walls, the largest man in Queen Anne's county, if not on the peninsula, died at his home at Prides Station, Md., where he was a merchant. He was a brother of Edward G. Walls the well-known clothier of Smyrna. Deceased was taken with a severe coughing spell and died on account of his inability to recover his breath after an unusually protracted attack. He weighed but a few days before his death 350 pounds. Notwithstanding his great weight, he was very active, enjoyed excellent health and attended to business promptly. He was 60 years old and leaves a widow and two children, whose ages are respectively, 10 and 12 years. He was buried Sunday afternoon at Churchhill Md., Methodist Episcopal Church. Mrs. and Mrs. E. G. Walls of this town attended the funeral.

### Appoquinimink Hundred Farmer Dead.

Samuel Townsend, aged 69 years, died yesterday morning at his residence near Townsend. Death resulted from stomach trouble, with which he was stricken on Saturday. Deceased was a son of Samuel Townsend, who was one of the most prominent men in the county in his time, known for years as the "Democratic war horse of Appoquinimink hundred." He leaves five children: Samuel and John of Philadelphia, and Howard, of Townsend, and Mrs. Walter Gill and Miss Mary Townsend.

## BLACKBIRD TROUBLED WITH THIEVES.

### Attempted to Enter the Home of James Fortner But Were Quickly Scared Away.

Blackbird and vicinity are again troubled with thieves. Sunday evening an attempt was made to enter the home of Mr. James Fortner, at two o'clock in the morning. After being aroused, Mr. Fortner drove off the undesired guests by firing out the window. An attempt was made last week to remove the large iron grate from Mr. Watson, the local merchant's store window. They were frightened off before they accomplished any thing.

### Walter Shelton Sells His Farm.

H. D. Boyer, real estate broker has sold the farm of Walter Shelton near Golts Station, Md. which contains 126 acres, to Mr. Joseph Jones of Golts for \$1600.

## MUSICAL EVENING SPENT AT DISTRICT PARSONAGE

### WOMANS HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY EN- TERTAIN AT FINE MUSICAL.

Watkins Orchestra Discourse Popular Airs and a Splendid Program Was Given—Rev. and Mrs. Koons' 10th Wedding Anniversary.

A delightful musical was given at the District Parsonage, the home of Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Koons, Friday evening under the auspices of the Woman's Home Missionary Society. The members and guests numbered over a hundred, who were given a cordial welcome by the hostess and other members of the Society. Incidentally it was also the tenth wedding anniversary of Presiding Elder and Mrs. Koons. The program consisted of "an evening with music" and Smyrna talent was brought to the front and rendered to the pleasure and enjoyment of all who were privileged to hear it. In the absence of Mrs. Edward G. Walls, chairman of the Program Committee, Mrs. Clarence Prettyman presided and the following interesting and entertaining program was given: Overture, Watkins Orchestra; piano solo, "Gondolieri," Miss Hynson; recitation, "Rodney's Ride," "Katherina," Miss Emily Spruance; vocal duet, "Breathe Soft and Low," Messrs. J. E. Hofferker and L. M. Price; vocal solo, "Carmena," Miss Mary Roberts; selection by orchestra; vocal solo, "Slumber Song," "By Your Side," Mr. Townsend; instrumental duet, "Sun Flower Dance," Misses Edith Beck and Bertha Price; instrumental solo, "Palms," Mrs. Coverdale; reading, "Aux Italiens," Miss Katherine Beckett; male quartette, "In the Gloaming," Juanita, Messrs. Walter O. Hofferker, J. A. Hofferker, J. E. Hofferker, L. M. Price. A social evening followed the program, during which Watkins Orchestra discoursed several popular airs. At a seasonable hour refreshments were served and the company adjourned with hearty compliments to the Woman's Home Missionary Society for the splendid social evening afforded.

## CORKRAN INVESTIGATION NEXT TUESDAY

### With Dr. Baker He Must Answer Charges Before Committee of Wilmington Conference.

On Tuesday next the formal investigation of the charges of stock buying against the Rev. Wilbur F. Corkran, D. D., and the Rev. Charles S. Baker, D. D., will be made by a Committee of ministers appointed by Presiding Elder A. S. Mowbray. If the charges which have been preferred by the committee of the Methodist preachers of the Wilmington district are sustained the offenders will be removed from their churches and obliged to move out of the parsonages so that their successors, appointed by the presiding elder may occupy them. Later in the day Dr. Corkran and Dr. Baker called upon Dr. Mowbray. He presented to them the charges that had been presented and advised with them as to the appointment of the committee and arrangements for the date for the investigation which will take place in Union Church on next Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock. The committee appointed by Dr. Mowbray is composed of the Rev. C. W. Prettyman, New Castle, the Rev. H. G. Budd, Centreville, Md.; the Rev. H. A. G. Westerfield, North East, Md.; the Rev. J. M. Mitchell, Zion, Md.; the Rev. Alfred T. Smith, Dover; the Rev. J. T. Richardson, Denton, Md.; and the Rev. W. O. Bennett, Sudlersville Md. The counsel for the church will be the Rev. William Wirt King, of Grace Church, and the Rev. A. W. Lightbourne, of Epworth Church. The counsel for the accused men has not been definitely settled, but it is probable that one of them will be the Rev. J. D. C. Hanna, of West Chester. Dr. Mowbray, will act as Judge. The whole matter will be gone over and conducted on lines similar to a civil trial.

## CAUGHT AND DRAGGED BY A HARROW.

### Charles Gladdens Employed By S. J. Brock- son Narrowly Escaped Instant Death.

BLACKBIRD, June 14—Charles Gladdens who is in the employ of Mr. S. J. Brockson, narrowly escaped instant death on Tuesday last. He was "harrowing" and had stopped to clean his machine, when the horses became frightened and caught him in the harrow, and dragged him some distance where it struck a tree and he became dislodged. He escaped with a dislocated shoulder.

## CHILDRENS DAY AT JERMAN CHAPEL.

### Large Crowd Attends the Annual Celebration Sunday Evening at Which the Children Take Distinct Part in the Program.

Little Jerman Chapel, the live denomination of Smyrna Circuit, located at Spruance City, was crowded to its doors Sunday evening to witness the Children's Day exercises. In fact, it is said that as many were standing outside at the door as were in the church. Flowers, and other spring flowers predominated in the tasty decorations and from the time Superintendent Archer called the meeting to order until the close, there was close interest paid to the little children who took part. The singing was under the direction of Mrs. Joseph Brinton, and the organ was presided over by Mr. Alfred Johnson. During the exercises Rev. Albert Chandler made some interesting remarks in keeping with the day. The program was as follows: Opening chorus, "With Garlands of Beauty," school; prayer by pastor; introductory address, Edith Smith; "Children's Day," Eva Faries; song; "The Happy Children's Day," exercise, "Sun Beams," Beulah Bailey, Georgia Palmer, Margaret Hurlock, Alice Skaggs; recitation, "The Bower," Lillie Palmer; recitation, "Summer Time," Mana Shelton, Edith Tucker; song, "Our Hearts To-day," school; recitation, "What a Little Boy Drinks," Paul Smith; exercise, "See the Flowers Brightly Beaming," Annie Robinson, Willie Palmer, Willie Foraker, Carrol Brinton; recitation, "Your Words," Beulah Ransom; song, "Children's Jubilee," school; recitation, Lola Jones; exercise, "What Flowers to Bring," Bertha and Ethel Archer; recitation, "The Thank Offering," Mrs. William Stevens; reading, "Giving Like a Little Child," Miss Annie W. Sutton; hymn; reading, "Her Tithes," Mrs. Robert Watt; reading poem, "Inasmuch," Miss Anna Bell Beckett; hymn; reading, "My Becky's Thank Offering," Mrs. Joseph Smithers; hymn; address by Dr. Watt on "Why Christian Women Should be Interested in the Women of Heathen Lands;" hymn; benediction by Dr. Watt.

## THANK OFFERING AT THE PARSONAGE.

### Annual Affair Monday Evening Was a Delight- ful Success and a Number Were Present.

The annual Thank Offering meeting of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Asbury M. E. Church was held at the Parsonage Monday evening. The program was as follows: Hymn in Church Hymnal, with Miss Ara Hynson as pianist; prayer, Mrs. Mary Hynson; Scripture Lesson, read by the president of the society, Miss Mary Thompson, who presided; reading, "The Thank Offering," Mrs. William Stevens; reading, "Giving Like a Little Child," Miss Annie W. Sutton; hymn; reading, "Her Tithes," Mrs. Robert Watt; reading poem, "Inasmuch," Miss Anna Bell Beckett; hymn; reading, "My Becky's Thank Offering," Mrs. Joseph Smithers; hymn; address by Dr. Watt on "Why Christian Women Should be Interested in the Women of Heathen Lands;" hymn; benediction by Dr. Watt.

## S. A. COLLINS MOVES TO TOWNSEND.

### Will Discontinue the Undertaking Business in Smyrna and Locate in Townsend.

Mr. Sherbourne A. Collins, the undertaker, who succeeded the late J. Benjamin Krusen, and recently moved to the Catts Building on Main street opposite the National Bank, has decided to locate in Townsend where he thinks a more promising field is opened for him. He is moving this week and has rented a building opposite the Hotel. Mr. Collins leaves with the best wishes of his Smyrna friends who wish him success in his new field of effort. In connection with undertaking and embalming, he will still continue the upholstering and picture business, which he carried on quite successfully in Smyrna. He will be succeeded by Mr. Charles H. Workman of Camden, N. J., who will conduct a cigar and tobacco store. The residence will still be occupied by Mr. Collins' mother and his brother Wm. A. Collins.

## Club Women Will Give Elaborate Supper.

The ladies of the Twentieth Century Club are preparing to give an elaborate supper Tuesday evening next the 21st inst, to be held on the lawn at Mrs. W. W. Tschudy's. Supper 25 cents beginning at five o'clock. Ice cream, cake, home made candy, dairy supplies, music and other attractions.

## DISTRICT STEWARDS HOLD FINE SESSION IN SMYRNA

### DISCUSS AND SETTLE FINANCIAL AFFAIRS PERTAINING TO EASTON DISTRICT.

Stewards Were Present From Nearly all the  
Churches and After Business Session at the  
Church were Entertained Rev. Koons.

An interesting meeting of the stewards of Easton District was held at Asbury M. E. Church yesterday There was a large number present. The meeting was called to order by Presiding Elder W. G. Koons at 10 o'clock a. m., after which one hour was spent in a fervent experience meeting. Following this was a business session during which the Elder made report of the work of the district, and the stewards set the salary for Bishops, at 1 1/2 per cent. of the amount raised for pastors support. A rearrangement of apportionments for the Presiding Elders salary was made among the various churches and the total increased \$30 making \$1775. The work of the district was found to be in good condition. At 1 p. m. all were invited to the Presiding Elder's home where a bountiful dinner was served. Following were those present: A. G. Cox, Middletown; R. M. Cooper, Cheswold; Rev. D. S. Clark, Kenton; Albert Chandler, Smyrna; Jas. P. Hofferker, Smyrna; Geo. M. D. Hart, Townsend; Spencer Walls, Sudlersville; Alga Smith, Cordova; R. E. Baynard, Wye Mills; Jas. Brice, Chestertown; W. R. Moore, Oxford; John Seney, Church Hill; Geo. D. Collins, Smyrna; Chas. H. Jefferson, Crumpton; B. F. Rash, Fairlee; J. E. Catts, Clayton; C. B. Krusen, Still Pond.

## STRAWBERRIES ARE VERY UNPROFITABLE

### R. M. Cooper of Cheswold Discharged His Berry Pickers and Plowed Patches Up.

R. M. Cooper, a large berry grower, near Cheswold, discharged his berry pickers last Tuesday and plowed his berry patches up for other crops owing to low prices. Many other farmers in this vicinity are discouraged over the situation and some will doubtless follow Mr. Cooper's plan. Nor does the condition prevail in this part of the state. Down in Milford growers are also becoming low priced. The Milford Chronicle says: "Never in the history of fruit growing in Delaware have the growers had such an absolutely total loss in a strawberry crop, as has fallen to their lot this year. The yield has been satisfactory in most cases, but the prices have been but little above the cost of picking and the crate; which leaves the grower out the cost of phosphate, labor of cultivation and the hauling, or about thirty cents for every crate of berries grown. The weather has been bad ever since the season opened, but that will not account for the low prices. The main trouble appears to be over-production, and many will plow up their acreage until the business gets back to a normal condition. For two years past the growing of strawberries has been with out profit to the fruit growers."

## BRIEF SESSION OF TOWN COUNCIL.

### Held Friday Evening With Just a Quorum Present—Request for Phone Service.

There was barely a quorum at the meeting of the Smyrna Town Council last Friday evening when President Reynolds called the meeting to order, the absent members being Messrs. Stockley, Robinson and Hudson. Little business however was transacted. Secretary Harry B. Grieves reported that he had communicated with the Diamond State Telephone Company with reference to charging the town authorities for phone rent. He pointed out that the Council wished a phone at the Town Hall and one at the Power Station but out of consideration for the free franchise which Smyrna had granted them, it was nothing more than right that they should be given free service for phones in its municipal offices. Mr. Grieves said he had received a reply from Secretary Walker stating that the matter had been placed in the hands of Manager Baker. Town affairs were reported to be in good shape and after a brief session Council adjourned after allowing the following bills: Joseph R. Cummins for killing 11 dogs, \$8.25, Garlock Packing Company, \$32.76; For sundry bills at the direction of the Board of Health \$97.10; Total \$128.11.

## Lecture at Asbury Church Friday Evening.

Rev. W. T. Lewis, D. D., will give his interesting and entertaining lecture entitled "From the Hudson to the Jordan," Friday at Asbury Church.

## FURBUSH DEATH A KENTON MYSTERY

### Mr. and Mrs. Frank Furbush Both Die in a Peculiar Manner and Puzzle the Coroner's Jury as to the Probable Cause.

KENTON, June 14—The death of Frank Furbush, aged 50 years, a well-known farmer of this vicinity, which occurred last Thursday, so soon after his wife's, has caused considerable interest from the fact that both occurred under peculiar circumstances and may reveal foul play. Mrs. Furbush died last Thursday, June 9. Mrs. Furbush lived but a few minutes after being taken ill and was in intense agony. Before dying her body swelled to unusual proportions and her face became discolored. After hearing testimony of her physician and members of the Furbush family, the Coroner's jury held that her death was due to "natural causes." Her body was buried last Saturday week without further examination. The death of Furbush so soon after that of his wife and under almost similar conditions excited comment. Several members of the Coroner's jury wanted an autopsy performed, but a majority held that death was due to "causes unknown to the jury."

Charles S. Foreaker, a constable at Kenton who conducted the inquest over the body of Furbush, said he was not satisfied with the jury's finding, and after consulting with authorities wired to Kenton to stop the funeral until Attorney General Ward and State detectives could make an investigation. The funeral, however, was over when the dispatch reached Kenton and the body had been taken to Churchhill, Md., for interment. It is possible that the bodies of Mr. Furbush and his wife will be disinterred and autopsies performed to determine whether or not they were victims of poison, but so far no step has been taken in this direction.

## OLD LAPHAM MANSION BURNED DOWN.

### Building Which For Years Was the "Lapham Homestead" Near Clayton, Destroyed.

Friday morning between one and two o'clock the old Lapham Mansion now used as a tenement house on the farm of Mr. E. W. Lapham near Clayton was burned to the ground including much of the contents at a loss of about \$8000. The old brick structure was for years the home of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lapham, parents of Mr. E. W. Lapham, and continued to be the family homestead until the present large and commodious residence was built. The fire was discovered by Mr. Luther Lapham but too late to be of any avail. By the time helping hands arrived on the scene the building was too far gone and attention was turned to saving the grainery, drying house and stables which were in close proximity. Had it not been for a driving rain storm which kept up incessantly all night, it is possible that the fire would have swept everything. The colored family who were tenants, lost nearly all of their household goods. The origin of the fire is supposed to have been from a defective flue.

## PRETTY HOME WEDDING NEAR CLAYTON

### Miss Fannie Darrah, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Darrah Married to Mr. Henry Miller.

A quiet but pretty home wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Darrah near Clayton at one o'clock to-day when their daughter Miss Fannie Christine Darrah was married to Mr. Henry Miller of Philadelphia. Only the immediate families were invited. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. G. Valerie Gilreath rector of St. Peter's Church, Smyrna. A reception followed during which Caterer George M. Stevenson served a good repast.

## MRS. BOTKIN FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY.

### Despite the Fact She Has Been Convicted Twice She Hopes For Freedom.

Mrs. Cordelia Botkin, of San Francisco, appears to have unlimited financial resources. After fighting her conviction for murder for five years, she was again convicted. Yet she is to continue her fight, and in August a motion for a new trial will be argued. She has spent 5 years or more in jail, yet she appears to have the faculty of securing assistance from some outside quarter.

## Kings Daughters Picnic Postponed.

The Kings Daughters Picnic which was to have been held to-morrow Thursday afternoon and evening at "Font Hill" has been postponed until next Thursday evening the 23rd and should the weather be unfavorable that day it will be held the next day, Friday the 24th.