

## Mattie Fugate

Died May 16. Mrs Mattie Fugate, wife of John D Fugate, whose illness had been mentioned in the post. See obituary elsewhere in this issue.

### Obituary

Despite the willing hands, and earnest devotion of many friends – husband, father, mother, brothers, and sisters, who were at her bedside at all time, Mrs. Mattie Fugate passed from the shifting scenes of this life unto death at four o'clock Tuesday evening, May 16, 1899, after a long and lingering illness. She entered calmly into that long, long, slumber – yes, as peacefully as an infant going to sleep, wrapped in its mother's arm – leaving a complete assurance that her sins had been forgiven, and that she would occupy a revered seat mid the pearly gates of Paradise, The hearts devotion which linked this couple together is forever severed. To die is human. All things natural must succumb and fall to dust- "to dust thou returnest." The wailing mind, the bleeding heart is dire consolation of the parting between husband and wife. The Great Ruler of the Universe – He rules and none can hinder – guides our every step, but doeth all things well. Mattie was a favored help-meet of the entire vicinity, and always spared no pains in lighting the burdens of the afflicted, speaking a word of good cheer when she could do so. At all times she was a firm believer that the God of all grace would be merciful unto her in her declining days; and shortly before her sad demise she called her husband to her bed and told him great things concerning her future prospects for reward. At length she passed from the earth of trials, rejoicing in the faith once delivered to the Saints. What a glorious thought! She is now basking around the sun-light shore of eternal Paradise as a white-winged angel. The little infant of but a few weeks, that Mattie left here in a world of sorrow, will be cared for by never tiring and tender hands. What a blessing, if it could only be removed hence in its weak infancy, for Jesus says: "Suffer little children to come unto me, forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. Two other children are left to meet the stern realities of life but they will be tutored and cared for by faithful hands, who will bring them up in the way they should go.

On the little mound, overlooking mouth of Thornton, Mattie's last remains were calmly rested by the side of two sisters and relatives gone on before, where they will await the resurrection morn. W B Webb, Sergent KY May 20, 18

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J H Duff 10/10/1890

Mr. Jerome H Duff dies Tuesday morning, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at his home on Clinton Ave, of typhoid-malaria fever, after a protracted illness of six weeks. He was born in Lee county, Virginia, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 1838 and moved to Wise county a number of years ago and has lived at Big Stone Gap since it was founded. He leaves a wife and six children, two boys and four girls, to mourn his loss. The funeral services were held at the church on Wednesday afternoon, under the auspices of the Masonic order, of which he was a member. Rev. Wool, the Presbyterian minister, preached the funeral sermon, choosing for his text the 5<sup>th</sup> verse of the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of John; "Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazareth." A large concourse of friends and "relaties" followed the remains to their last resting place.

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Miss Laura Slemph Dead 11/8/1900

The many friends of Miss Laura Slemph will regret to hear of her death at this place Sunday morning at 3 o'clock after a lingering illness of many months. Miss Laura was the youngest daughter of Col. C Slemph, formerly of Lee county, and a young lady much esteemed by all who knew her.

Funeral services were held at Col. Slemph's home Monday at 12 o'clock, after which the body was taken to the family burying ground in Lee county and interred. Miss Laura was very popular among the people at this place and a great number of persons attended her funeral.

Her brother Prof. C B Slemph was unable to reach the Gap in time for the funeral services.

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Mrs. Margaret McLin Dead 2/25/1902 Richmond Dispatch

Bristol Tenn., February 24

Mrs. Margaret McLin, mother of Rev. John D Naff, presiding elder of the Big Stone Gap District, Methodist Church, South, died at Mr. Naff's home at Big Stone Gap yesterday in the 70<sup>th</sup> year of her age.

She was formerly a Miss Hope, a native of Washington county, Va. And was a woman of high Christian character.

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Death of Mary Willis 2/25/1902 Richmond Dispatch

Big Stone Gap, Va. 2/24/1902

Mrs. Mary Willis, aged 50 years, and the wife of James Willis, a farmer living near East Stone Gap, died suddenly at her home at 7 o'clock yesterday evening.

The immediate cause of her death was dropsy.

She leaves a husband and eight children, five grown and three of tender age.

The remains were interred in the cemetery at East Stone Gap this afternoon.

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John W Morris Times Dispatch 11/9/1917

Big Stone Gap, Va 11/8/1917

John W Morris, who had a stroke of paralysis about a month ago, died last Friday at his home in Big Stone Gap. Mr Morris was seventy-two years of age. Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon on the Morris farm on Powells Mountain, Rev. William Robinette of Powells Valley conducted the services.

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Reginald Smith Dead The Post 6/5/1918

The whole town of Big Stone Gap is saddened by the death of Reginald Smith, oldest son of Mr. And Mrs. Malcom Smith, who dies at six-thirty Tuesday afternoon at the home of his parents from blood poisoning.

Reginald just returned last Tuesday a week ago from Blackburg, where he attended school at the VPI this year and passed all his examinations successfully. He was eighteen years, ten months, and 19 days old.

Funeral services will be held Thursday from the Southern Methodist Church, of which he was a member. His remains will be interred in Glencoe Cemetery after the funeral services by the side of his sister Esther.

James T Smith Times Dispatch. January 5th, 1910.

Big Stone Gap VA. January 4<sup>th</sup>

the body of James T Smith. He died at Bluefield last week after an illness of three days of pneumonia was brought here and interred in the Glenwell Cemetery yesterday. Mr Smith, a well-known traveling salesman. In this section. A son of Captain Joseph Smith. Of near here was about 40 years old. He is survived by a widow and three children.

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Death of little Sarah Kelly. Tazwell Republican February 24th, 1910.

Sarah, the little 10-year-old daughter of Doctor James Kelly. A Big Stone Gap VA. Died Saturday attendance. Addison was buried Sunday at the. Her father, Doctor Kelly. The native of this County, the son of the late judge Kelly and a brother to Mrs. Henry Preston of this city. Mrs. Preston left on Saturday to be with and console, her brother's family, and their great sorrow.

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J W Kennedy The Post. March 29th, 1911.

J W Kennedy, after an illness of a complication of disease. Extending over a period of several months died at his home E Stone Gap. On last Sunday evening. At 7:30 o'clock. The funeral conducted by Reverend. JW Schuler of this place and Reverend WH Wampler of Eastern Gap. Took place Monday. Afternoon. The deceased was buried in the Cemetery at East Stone Gap. east stone gap

Mr. Kennedy was about 78 years of age and had lived in Big Stone Gap for more than 50 years. He was a member of the Southern Methodist Church at East Stone Gap, a conscientious Christian man, well-liked by his neighbors and friends, all of whom regret his taking away.

He is survived by a widow and eight children, as follows. WT Kennedy Of Umatilla, Florida. JB Kennedy of Cleveland Va. RE Kennedy, PH Kennedy, Mrs. W G Lane, Mrs. Charles Bird of this place and Mrs. Wheeler of Knoxville, all of whom were present at his time of death except the first named, who returned to his home in Florida about ten days ago from a visit to his father.

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Uncle Boston Cloud is Dead The Post 2/26/1919

"Uncle" Boston Cloud, one of the oldest colored citizens of Big Stone Gap, died at his home here last Wednesday at noon after an illness of Bright's disease for six months. He had been in declining health for three years. Funeral services were conducted at Davidson's Chapel M E Church, Thursday afternoon by Rev A C Michell, the pastor, and Rev B C Hood, pastor of the Presbyterian church.

"Uncle" Boss has been a citizen of this place for 24 years coming here from Gate City. He was born in slavery in Sullivan Co TN and was owed by George Cloud.

He is survived by a wife and seven children.

Card of Thanks

"Aunt" Ellen Cloud and children wish to thank the people of Big Stone Gap, both colored and white, for their sympathy and kindness shown during the illness and death of husband and father.

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Mrs. Hannah Pobst Dead The Post 11/30/1921

Mrs. Hannah Pobst, who for the past two months has been suffering from heart trouble, passed away at her home in the Gap last Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock. Although Mrs. Pobst had been sick for some time, her illness did not seem to be of a serious nature until about two weeks ago when she was confined to her bed. Mrs. Pobst was 54 years of age, has lived in the Gap for the past thirty years. Before her marriage she was Miss Hannah Price and was born and reared on the Price farm in Blackburg VA. Funeral services were held Thursday morning at 10 o'clock at the Christian Church by Rev, James M Smith and Rev F. N. Wolfe. During the services both ministers paid a beautiful tribute to Mrs. Pobst's great honesty and how she always paid her debts, her willingness to help the sick and those in need. Mrs. Pobst, during revival meeting three years ago professed religion and joined the church.

After funeral services at the church her remains were carried to Glencoe cemetery where they were buried in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives.

Mrs. Pobst is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Myrtle Pobst Potter and Miss Jennie Pobst and one sister, Mrs. Tom Griffin, of the Gap and two brothers in West Virginia.

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Mrs. Mahaffey Dead The Post 11/30/1921

Mrs. Sarah Mahaffey dies last Friday morning at the home of her son, C L Mahaffey, following an illness of only a few days. She was 74 years and 5 days old at the time of her death. Mrs. Mahaffey has been making her home in Big Stone Gap for the past 17 years living with her sons, following the death of her husband in Wilkes county N. C. 18 years ago. She had been declining somewhat in health lately, but her illness was not regarded as serious until just before her death. She professed faith in Christ when a small girl and lived a faithful Christian life.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of C. L. Mahaffey Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock by Rev. Padgett, pastor of the Baptist Church, after which the remains were interred in Glencoe cemetery.

The deceased is survived by the following children: W. T. and C. L. Mahaffey, of Big Stone Gap; A. F. Mahaffey, of Kingsport, Tenn.; J. W. Mahaffey and Mrs. Lee Hess, of Exceisior, W. Va., all of whom were here to attend the funeral.

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Uncle Lisha Tate Dead The Post 11/30/1921

Perhaps the oldest man in the county or this part of the state, Elisha Tate, died at the home of his son Robert, near East Stone Gap on November 25.

Mr. Tate was born in Russell county on December 27, 1927, making his age 93 years, 10 months, and 28 days. On February 14, 1845, he married Miss Mary Laudedown, of Wise county. To this union ten

children were born, none of which are living- ages respectively 71, 69, 67, 65, 63, 60, 57, 54, 51. Surviving him are 59 grandchildren, 117 great grand children, and one great great grand child, two great great grand children being dead. Making a total of his posterity living 186.

At the beginning of the Civil War Mr. Tate enlisted under the banners of the Confederate army, and made a splendid record, he engaged in many hard fought battles, was never wounded, although captured several times, each time he outwitted his captors and made his escape.

Uncle Lish lived a straight, honest moral life but did not profess faith in Christ till about his 90<sup>th</sup> year.

Funeral services were conducted on the 27<sup>th</sup> at the home of his son Bob, by the Rev. J. M. Smith, and at the Methodist church at East Stone Gap by Rev. Henry Wampler, after which remains were laid to rest in the East Stone Gap cemetery by the side of his wife who preceded him to the grave 14 years.

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Mrs. Sue Elizabeth Hamilton

Death claimed Mrs. Sue Elizabeth Hamilton, wife of E. P. Hamilton of Norton, at noon March 16<sup>th</sup>, after a brief illness. Her death was caused by blood poisoning, the cause of which is not known. It came from a small abrasion on her hand, which seemed of no consequence but which grew steadily worse until death ensued. She was dangerously ill for only two or three days.

The funeral services were conducted at the home by Rev. Benton, of the Methodist church, and Re. Hackler, of the Holiness church, and was attended by a vast concourse of sorrowing neighbors and relatives. The floral offerings were many and beautiful, the designs being of the most original and effective character. The singing was tender and low and the great crowd sobbed its response of sorrowing tender sympathy.

One of the most striking features was the pallbearers, they being six stalwart sons of the departed mother, all wrought upon with sadness unspeakable and they tenderly bore her who bore them to last long resting place. The daughters were clad in white, each alike with white hats and veils, and their grief was "two" sad for words. They presented a beautiful vision of hope and faith and love as they paid their last sweet homage to their mother. The entire audience took cars and followed the hearse to Highland cemetery, where the body was interred in the extreme upper side of the city of the dead. There the last rites were said and the flowers piled high and the sorrowing multitude turned their faces back to life's accustomed walks.

Columns could be written in praise of the virtues and Christian character of the departed wife and mother, but it seemed to one present that the outpouring of grief and numberless tokens of love and devotion shown by those who knew her best.

All of the funeral arrangements were beautifully planned and carried out by Fred H. King

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and sympathy shown us during the sickness and death of our dear wife and mother; also, for the many beautiful floral offerings. E. P. Hamilton and family.

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Dies From Operation (Waldo McClannahan) 5/11/1921

Waldo McClannahan; age 15 years, dies at the home of his brother, H. H. McClannahan, in Big Stone Gap, Saturday afternoon at three o'clock following an operation from appendicitis on Friday morning, it is said his death resulting from heart depression following operation for appendicitis, physicians entertaining little hope for his recovery from the onset.

The young man came here last December from his home near Grundy, Buchanan county, to enter school and was staying at the home of his brother.

Funeral services were conducted at the McClannahan home Sunday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock by Rev. J. M. Smith following which burial was made at Glencoe cemetery.

Card of Thanks

I wish to thank the people of Big Stone Gap for their sympathy and assistance rendered during the illness and death of my brother. Also wish to thank those who provided cars for the funeral service. H. H. McClannahan.

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Mystery Surrounds Death (S. V. Davenport) The Post 5/11/1921

Mystery surrounds the death of S. V. Davenport, whose body was found on the Southern Rail way track at Appalachia Tuesday morning at 1 o'clock by a train crew. Apparently life has only been extinct for a short while as his body was warm when found. A severe blow had been dealt on his head, but it not known whether it was by a train or some person. Davenport was about 30 years of age and leaves a wife and two small children. He made his home at Appalachia.

Later – It is thought by many that he was murdered and robbed and four men were arrested yesterday suspected of the crime and are being held for a preliminary trial on Thursday.

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Mrs Richmond Dies (Polly Ann Richmond) The Post 8/23/1922

Mrs. Polly Ann Richmond, aged 61 years, wife of the late J. B. Richmond, of East Stone Gap, died at the home of her brother, Jonathan Kilbourne at Cadet last Wednesday evening. She had been suffering for a period of two years from a cancer but it did not prove of a serious nature until within the last few weeks. She was taken to Louisville two weeks ago for treatment but was advised by physicians that her

case was hopeless. The trip proved very strenuous for her and she only lived a few days after returning home.

Mrs. Richmond was born and reared in this section, her father and mother being among the first to settle in Big Stone Gap. She is still survived by her mother, Mrs. Louisa Kilbourne, who lives at Cadet. Mrs. Richmond's husband died two years ago and since that time she has made her home with her children nearly all of whom live in Wise county. She had only been at the Kilbourne home a month prior to her death.

Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist church at East Stone Gap Thursday afternoon by Rev. Henry Wampler to which a large crowd of relative and friends from this section attended. Bural was made in the cemetery at that place.

Beside her mother, brothers, and sisters the deceased is survived by the following children : Isaac Richmond of Appalachia; Frank Richmond and Mrs. George Johnson, of Osaka; Mrs. Lura Anderson, of Stonega; and Mrs. Walter Rice, of Abingdon.

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Child Dies Of Burns (Edith Viola Winston) The Post 8/23/1922

Edith Viola, the two and one-half year old daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Mack Winston, who live at Dunbar, met a very unexpected accident on Wednesday morning of last week which resulted in almost sudden death. The mother was washing while Viola and a neighbor child were playing through the banisters. A tub of boiled clothes had been placed on the floor near the child, Mrs. Winston had just removed the clothing from the tub and turned to do another task when the child fell into the hot water. The burn was so severe that it lived only a few hours.

A short burial service was conducted at the grave by Rev. F. N. Wolfe after which the body was laid to rest in the Glencoe cemetery at this place Saturday, August 18, 1922.

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Will Bury Mr. Cochran Here (C C Cochran) The Post 10/25/1922

Mr. C. C. Cochran died at his home in Big Stone Gap Sunday evening at 10 o'clock. Funeral services will be held from the home this afternoon (Wednesday) at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in Glencoe cemetery.

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Death of Mrs. R. L. Coldiron The Post 10/25/1922



The community was shocked by the death Saturday night of Mrs. R. L. Coldiron, which occurred at her home on Tenth street. Mrs. Coldiron before her marriage was Miss Ella Brown. She is survived by her husband and one bright little son. Paul Brown Coldiron, and two brothers and two sisters, C. H. Brown, of Norton; R. L. Brown of Middlesboro; Miss Mayme Brown, of Norton; and Mrs. W. E. Gilmer; of Lebanon.

Mrs. Coldiron has been a sufferer for some time from tuberculosis, and for a long time was a patient at Catawba sanitarium. Everything that loving care could devise was done to save and prolong her life, but the end was inevitable. Mrs. Coldiron was a loving wife and a loyal neighbor and friend.

The body was taken to Jonesville where interment took place Monday afternoon. - Coalfield Progress

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Mrs. G. E. Gilly Dies At Norton The Post 10/28/1922

Mrs. G. E. Gilly, who was taken to the hospital at Norton a week ago for treatment, died Monday at 12:30 o'clock after lingering at the point of death for three days. Her death came as a great shock to the people of Big Stone Gap as it was not generally known that her condition was so serious. Following her removal to the hospital she appeared to be improving but on Saturday it was noticed her condition had taken a decided turn for the worse after which it appeared that death was only a matter of a few hours. A desperate effort was made to save her life by blood transfusion which was given by her 16 year old son, Charles.

Mrs. Gilly had been in declining health for the past four or five months which did not appear to be of a serious nature until within the last two weeks. During the last hours of her illness she conversed freely with members of the family who were constantly at her bedside.

Mrs. Gilly was 47 years of age and was a daughter of Dave Williams, who is now residing in West Virginia. Thirty one years ago she married Gordon E Gilly, of Big Stone Gap, and to this union were born ten children all of whom are living with the exception of one which died in infancy. All members of the family were at Norton during their mother's illness with the exception of one daughter; Mrs. Joe Martin, of Denver, Col. She will arrive here this morning in time for the funeral. Mrs. Gilly realized a mother's one great ambition in that she has lived almost long enough to help rear her family to manhood and womanhood. Her Christian life and gentle manner had won her many friends in this section all of whom deeply regret to learn of her apparently untimely death.

Besides her husband she is survived by the following children. Mrs. Joe Martin, of Denver, Col., John, William, Mary, James, Margaret, Charles, Ralph, and Martha Lena Gilly. The funeral services will be held at the Methodist church at about 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

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"Aunt" Callie Bradley, Well Known Colored Woman Passed Away Sunday Morning The Post 1/20/1926

"Aunt" Callie Bradley, wife of Henry Bradley, one of the oldest colored women in Big Stone Gap, died at her home here Sunday morning at 3 o'clock after an illness of three or four months which resulted from a stroke of paralysis. She had been a resident of this place for 30 or more years and had many friends both among the white and colored people. She was a faithful member of the Zion Methodist Church.

The body was held up until Tuesday awaiting the arrival of a daughter from Charlotte N.C. and burial was made in the colored cemetery that afternoon.

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Wise County Man Killed in Mines at McRoberts Ky The Post 1/20/1926

A L Keesee, Formerly of Keokee and Exeter, Killed instantly on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

A L Keesee, aged 43 years, a well known citizen of this community, who for 12 years was employed with the Stonega Coke and Coal Company at Keokee and Exeter, was instantly killed in the mines at McRoberts, Ky. On Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, while operating a machine cutter. Details of the accident are not available but it is understood he was hit in the head with a piece of machinery and only lived a few seconds. A companion working by his side was uninjured.

Mr. Keesee and family had only been living at McRoberts a few months having moved there from Exeter last September. On April 23, 1910, he was married to Miss Alice Phipps of Rogersville, Tenn., who is sister of Miss Josie Phipps of Stonega, Va. The body was brought to Keokee for burial Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, where funeral services were conducted at the cemetery by Rev. Simpkins.

The deceased is survived by a wife and three children, three sisters, and four brothers. His father and mother also survive, their home being in Evington, Va.

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Preston G Wallace The Times Dispatch Richmond 7/1/1926

Big Stone Gap Va June 30

Preston G Wallace died at his home at Big Stone Gap, Saturday. He was born in Rockbridge County near Lexington, on December 12, 1845. His parents moved to Monroe Co, Va., when he was a small boy, and during the War Between the States volunteered (illegible) Confederate Army and fought until the end of the war.

(illegible) conducted at Christ Episcopal Church by Rev. Claudius Smith, assisted by Rev. J M Smith, Sunday afternoon and burial took place in Glencoe Cemetery, witnessed by a large number of relatives and friends. Mr. Wallace is survived by his wife, Susan Bond Wallace and six living children, namely, N D Wallace, of Taneyville, Mo., C P Wallace, of Princeton, Va., George W Wallace, Harry C Wallace, editor of the Appalachia Independent, and Misses Kate and Mary Wallace, of Big Stone Gap and Appalachia, besides several brothers and sisters in Virginia and West Virginia.

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Mr. Jackson Drops Dead at Home Here    The Post 7/7/1926

J. H. Jackson, aged about 55 years dropped dead while chopping woos at his home near the furnace on Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. It is thought that heart trouble was the cause of his death as he was apparently in good health at the time.

Mr. Jackson was a native of Kentucky but had been living on the Nickels farm in Wild Cat Valley until about three or four months ago when he moved to Big Stone Gap. He is survived by several sons and daughters.

Funeral services were conducted at the burying ground on the Nickels farm Monday by Rev. J M Smith, of Big Stone Gap, and Rev J Hood and Rev, Lawson.

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Mrs. Sam Hale Shot by 14 Year Old Son    The Post 7/7/1926

Norton Va., July 1 - Mrs. Sam Hale. 33 years of age, who lived on a small farm about two miles from here, was shot through the heart and instantly killed by her 14 year old son, Odell, yesterday afternoon. The boy, who had been shooting birds with a .22 "calibre" rifle, started to reload his gun when it went off accidentally, he relates, the bullet burying itself in his mother's (illegible).

There was no one else there at the time except a year old baby who was playing nearby. The boy who handled the fatal weapon is heartbroken over the tragedy.

Mrs. Hale is survived by her husband, who was working nearby at the time, Odell, her oldest child, another son age ten and the year old baby.

According to the story as related by the boy to his father and neighbors between sobs, Odell returned from out in the back yard where he had been shooting at birds with his rifle and had put the weapon on a shelf. His mother, who was on the porch stringing beans for super, seeing more birds, called to him to come quickly and shoot them. He ran out with the rifle in his hand and started hurriedly to load it. He had just shoved a shell into the chamber when in some manner the gun fired and his mother fell dead.

An examination of Mrs. Hale's body showed that the bullet had entered her left shoulder and had pierced her heart. The far, of the Hales is located near Dorchester, Va. Mrs. Hale was the daughter of Lige Robertson, of Dorchester.

The funeral services will be held tomorrow at Esserville, Va.

So far it is not known that any official investigation of the tragedy will be made.

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Mrs. R C Osborne Buried Thursday The Post 7/14/1926

Daughter of Chief of Police Marshall Belcher Dies in Tazewell County

Mrs. R C Osborne, ages 31 years, daughter of Marshall Belcher, chief of police at Big Stone Gap, was brought here for burial last Wednesday night. The body was conveyed to the home of the deceased's father where funeral services were conducted Thursday morning at 10 o'clock by Rev. T R Wolfe and Rev. A M Stone. Internment was made in Glencoe Cemetery.

Mrs. Osborne has been in poor health for several years, having undergone four serious operations. Two weeks ago, however, she was able to walk about and visited in Big Stone Gap for a few days. She was born in Big Stone Gap where she spent the earlier part of her life. She was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church and had lived the life of a Christian since 12 years of age. Several friends from Tazewell County accompanied the remains to Big Stone Gap, the body being conveyed here in a hearse.

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Funeral for E P Duffy at Stonega Catholic Church The Post 10/6/1926

Funeral services for E P Duffy were conducted by Father Celestine in the Catholic Church at Stonega Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock, burial in the new American Legion Memorial cemetery near Big Stone Gap.

Mr. Duffy's death came as a great shock to the entire community, he had only been sick a few days. He had been in declining health for several months but had never been confined to his bed until 10 days before the end came.

Mr. Duffy was prominent in business, a public spirited man always ready to help put the worth while things over. He was vice president of the Peoples Bank, a dealer in real estate, and a member of the town council.

He is survived by three daughters and three sons, Misses Rose Helen and Catherine, and Mrs. Ted Donnelly, E P Duffy Jr, Melvin Duffy, and Joseph Duffy, all of Appalachia. Melvin being a student a VPI. Mr. Duffy is also survived by two brothers, M H Duffy, Superintendent Stonega Coke and Coal Company mines at Osaka, and C G Duffy, of Cincinnati, Ohio, formerly Superintendent at Stonega, and two sisters, Mrs. Rose Forkin, of Akron, Ohio, and Mrs. George McCue, of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Duffy was widely known in this section being one of the first to settle here and will be greatly missed by the entire community.

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Mrs. Silvesta Hamblen The Post 12/15/1926

Mrs. "Silvester" C Hamblen, daughter of Silas and Martha Flanary, was born near Dryden, Va. June 6<sup>th</sup>, 1847, and died at her home in Big Stone Gap, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1926, being in her 80<sup>th</sup> year.

Only one of six brothers and sisters survive – Mrs. Elizabeth Pennington of Dryden, Va.

She “as” married to Mr. Charles L Hamblen, December 8, 1868 and was buried on the 58<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their wedding.

She was the mother of four children, Sarah Martha, John S, William C, and Auburn P Hamblen, all of whom are living.

The funeral was held at the Southern Methodist Church at 1:00 o’clock Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, by the pastor, assisted by Rev, T J Eskridge, and Rev H S Hamilton, of Jonesboro, Tenn.

Mrs. Hamblen was converted and joined the church when she was sixteen years of age, and kept the faith to the end.

Those who have known this woman through the years will read between these brief lines which sketch the bounds of her earthly existence, a record which is ‘On High.” She was familiar with those virtues which we think of as belonging to the strong souled men and women who grew up in the midst of the toil and hardships of the Civil War, and in the school of discipline of adversity attained a superiority of spirit – the strength that grows gradually into character.

In the plain path of virtues, as mother, as neighbor, as wife, as friend, as faithful servant of God she has walked with willingness and unbroken fidelity of her duty and never sought the things that are applauded in the eyes of men. She became a part of the household of God, whose names are written in heaven,

And at the end of her day, when her task is finished, she falls asleep.

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Frank Sturgill, Citizen of Big Stone Gap For 25 Years Died Thursday Morning The Post 1/12/1927

Frank Sturgill, age 73 years, for 25 years a citizen of Big Stone Gap, who was born and reared at Roaring Fork in Wise County, passed away at his home here last Thursday morning at 3 o’clock following an illness of several months from what is ordinarily termed as muscular rheumatism. There was probably not a man in Big Stone Gap or the county who was more widely known than “Uncle Frank”. His fine hospitality and congenial manner made a distinct impression on every person he came into contact with and the news of his death was received with deep regret.

Mr. Sturgill came to Big Stone Gap in the year 1901, purchasing what was known at that time as the Duff House and operated a hotel there for fifteen years or more. This hotel was mentioned several times in one of John Fox’s favorite books, “The Trail of the Lonesome Pine, “ where it claimed by the writer that June, one of the principal characters stayed during her school days in Big Stone Gap. Uncle Frank fed his guests in the old fashioned way with a long table heaped with the choicest eats and his reputation soon became known among the traveling men who patronized his hotel for many years.

At one time Mr. Sturgill owned about 1100 acres of coal land at Roaring Fork where he was born and reared to manhood, and he also owned several acres on Cane Patch. He was a great hunter during his

boyhood and those who were fortunate to visit his home during that time were always fed with a bountiful supply of beat and deer meat. He was also very successful with the bee industry and at the time of his death possessed about 50 hives.

Mr. Sturgill was married twice, his second wife being Miss Martha A Johnson, a daughter of George W Johnson formerly of Scott county, but who moved to Wise county in the early nineties, who survives together with their only son, Albert Sturgill, of Big Stone Gap. Jim Sturgill, aged 80 years, of Roaring Fork, is seriously ill therefore could not attend the funeral. A sister, Mrs. Will Stidham, 87 years old, of the Pound, was also unable to attend. Son and daughters surviving by Mr. Sturgill's first marriage are: Mrs. Malissa Hughes, of Norton, Mrs. Rosa Sprinkle, of Wilder, and Mrs. Mary J Willis, of Norton.

A large number of relatives and friends from this section and other parts of the county attended the funeral services conducted at the home Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock in charge of Rev W M Robinette, of Big Stone Gap. Interment was made in Glencoe Cemetery.

The pallbearers selected were: Mr. Sturgill's staunchest friends with whom he had enjoyed a long acquaintance: W B Kilbourne, G E Gilly, Marshall Belcher, J P Wolfe, J M Willis, R P Barron, O F Kilbourne, and G F Jones.

\*

Mrs. Nancy Blanton Died Sunday Morning The Post 1/12/1927

Mrs. Nancy Blanton, aged about 70 years, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Bill McKenzie, at Crackers Neck Sunday morning after an illness of some time from a stroke of paralysis. Burial was made at East Stone Gap Monday afternoon.

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Johnny Gilly's Earthly Career Closes Near 77<sup>th</sup> Birthday The Post 2/27/1927

Johnny, Gilly, who has been suffering since last summer from what attending physicians finally determined as an ulcerated stomach, died at his home in Turkey Cove, Lee county, Friday morning about 1 o'clock, after lingering at the point of death for the past several days. Realizing that death would occur at most any hour in the past two weeks, hundreds of Mr. Gilly's closest friends visited him and offered their assistance in any way that would comfort him. Skilled physicians and a trained nurse were constantly in attendance and done every possible to relieve his suffering.

Mr. Gilly was popularly known in this part of the state as one of Lee county's most successful cattle raisers. Possessing a 450 acre blue grass farm he stocked it with some of the finest cattle that could be had. At the time of his death he still possessed a 125 head majority of which will average from 1000 to 12000 pounds. He was son of the late Elkannah Gilly both of whom were born and reared in Big Stone Gap, his father being among the first settlers of this section. Mr. Gilly purchased a farm in Lee County and moved there about 38 years ago where he reared a part of his family. He was married twice, his first

wife being a sister of James Collier, of Turkey Cove, and a son and daughter serve this union, Mrs. Sarah Thompson, of Big Stone Gap, and James E Gilly, of Jonesville. Those surviving his second marriage are: T Q Gilly, Dillard Gilly, and Mrs. Hagan Ely, of Turkey Cove, Mrs. Robert Carter, of Appalachia, and Mildred Gilly, of Gate City. Brothers and sisters surviving are as follows: Mrs. Beulah Davidson, of Pikeville, Ky., Mrs. Hiram Shepherd, Rogersville, Tn., Mrs. John Moody and Mrs. S A Collier of Santiago, Ca., Miss Rebecca Gilly and Mrs. J M Willis, of Big Stone Gap.

Despite adverse weather conditions Saturday several attended the funeral service which was held at the Seminary Church where impressive services were conducted by the deceased's pastor, Rev Hart, Rev A M Stone, of Wise, and Rev J B Craft, of Gate City. Mr. Gilly was a member of M E Church, South, having renewed his faith in Christ at a big meeting conducted at the Seminary two years ago by Rev Stone and Rev Akers.

\*

High School Boy Killed by Freight Train at Coeburn The Post 2/2/1927

Worley McConnell, Aged 19, Suffers Crushed Skull Attempting to Board Train

Norton, Va., Jan 29 – Funeral and burial services for Worley McConnell, 19, son of Pat McConnell, South Coeburn, who was fatally injured Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock when he was thrown from a fast Interstate freight train near Kilgore's store in South Coeburn, were held yesterday at 3 o'clock.

The funeral services were conducted at the home, Rev J D Matheson officiating. Interment was in the Coeburn Cemetery. Besides his grief stricken parents, the youth is survived by several brothers and sisters and many friends and relatives who mourn his tragic departure.

According to witnesses of the accident, young McConnell, who was riding on a truck left the truck at the railroad crossing at Kilgore's store and attempted to hop on the fast Interstate train that was passing. The youth's footing slipped and he was thrown from the train and rolled several feet, The lad evidently lighted on his head as his skull was badly crushed and a part of the brain had oozed out when help arrived.

He was rushed to the Coeburn hospital where an emergency operation was performed, a part of the skull bone being removed. Physicians, however, held no hope for his recovery. The lad never regained consciousness, succumbing Thursday afternoon about 6 o'clock.

The tragedy was one of the saddest that has taken place in this county for some time, and the entire population of Coeburn was saddened by the tragic death of the lad.

Young McConnell was a student at the Coeburn high school, and had many friends. The basketball game between the Coeburn and Norton high school was called off because of the tragic death of the young student.

\*

Mrs. Horton Dies in St Paul Minn. The Post 3/27/1927

Former Gap Lady Succumbs to Attack of Pneumonia- Visited Here Last August

The numerous relatives and friends of Mrs. Rebecca Horton, of this section, were greatly shocked to learn of her sudden death which occurred a few days ago in St Paul, Minn., after a brief illness of pneumonia. Her brother J R Kilbourne, of Big Stone Gap, was notified by telegram, but details were lacking until a letter was received by other relatives.

It will be recalled that Mrs. Horton spent about six weeks here last summer where she called on account of the serious illness of her mother, Mrs. Louisa Kilbourne, who died Thanksgiving Day. She returned home in August, stopping in Chicago to attend the wedding of her son, B F (Judge) Horton, after her mother had improved considerably.

Mrs. Horton was planning to return here this year and spend the summer. She was about 70 years of age and was born and reared in Big Stone Gap, having spent nearly her entire life here with the exception of the fifteen years she had lived in St Paul. She was living at the home of her daughter when death occurred.

\*

Miner Killed      The Post 3/9/1927

Norton, March 5 – Charlie Belcher, 34, coal-loader employed by the Blackwood Coal & Coke company at the Pardee Mine was fatally injured a few days ago and died within a few hours. He was buried in the family burial ground on Powell's Valley.

\*

Death of Mrs. J M Robinson    The Post 3/9/1927

Mrs. M H Garrison and brother, Dave Patton, of Bis Stone Gap, were called to Castlewood Va., Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> on account of the death of their sister, Mrs. J H Robinson, who had been in declining health for some time.

Besides her family, Mrs. Robinson is survived by an aged mother, Mrs. W S Patton. She also left a beautiful testimony that she was ready to go. She was 65 years of age and had lived a Christian life for many years, being liked by all who knew her. Mrs. J C Smith, of this place, also attended the funeral.

\*

Child Dies From Burns at Abingdon    The Post 3/9/1927

Sneade Child Lives Four Hours After Clothing Ignited from Fire Place

Bristol, Va. March 5 – Mary Rachel Sneade, aged seven years, died at the home of her parents in Abingdon, Va. At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The child died as the result of burns sustained when her clothing was ignited by flames from a piece of burning paper she had thrown into the fire place. The accident occurred about eleven o'clock in the morning and the child lived until three in the afternoon.



The little girl is survived by her father, mother, three brothers, and six sisters.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 2:30 o'clock with Rev C W Johnson in charge, assisted by Rev T H Francisco.

Pall bearers will be: T Musick, Woodrow Orfield, Raymond Carico, and Jack Atkins. Flower bearers were: Catherine Musick, Ruth Atkins, Noma Elam, Freda Owen, Helen Price, and Garnett Boughton.

\*

J W Willis Dies At Age of 76 The Post 3/16/1927

Had Been A Resident of Big Stone Gap For Many Years – Born in Tennessee

J W Willis, a well known citizen of the Gap who spent the greater part of his life here engaged on the mercantile business, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H M Edens, Friday, March the 4<sup>th</sup>. He was 76 years of age but suffered a fractured hip in a fall February 22, and this coupled with a bad heart hastened the end. However he appeared to be improving from fracture until March 3<sup>rd</sup>, when he suffered a relapse. Mr. Willis was born in Hancock county, Tenn. He had been living at the home of his daughter for the past ten years.

The following sons and daughters survive: Mrs. Paralee Spears, of Inman; Mrs. Alica Plasters and Mrs. H M Edens, of Big Stone Gap, Larkin and Charlie Willis, of North Carolina; Cleveland Willis, of Kansas City, Mo. And Mrs. Willie Newman, of Illinois.

\*

J C Neal Dies Following Attack of Pneumonia The Post 3/16/1927

Funeral Held at Big Stone Gap Thursday – Was Employed With Interstate Railroad

J C Neal, aged 43 years, who had been employed at Andover as a mechanic for the Interstate Railroad Company for the last ten years, died at his home last Tuesday about midnight from an attack of pneumonia which he contracted a week previous. Mr. Neal was formerly located in Big Stone Gap where he resided several years, having come here from Greeneville, Tenn. His death was a great shock to his many friends in the Gap and elsewhere.

Funeral services were held in the M E Church, South, at Big Stone Gap Thursday morning in charge of the pastor, Rev T R Wolfe, and Rev J M Smith, of the Presbyterian Church. The funeral consisted of many cars from Andover, Appalachia, and Big Stone Gap, and the flowers were numerous and beautiful. Among the many floral tributes were special designs from the Moose and Odd Fellows Lodges, Polly Ann Club of Andover, Rebecca Lodge, railroad shops, engineers, and trainmen. Burial services were in charge of the Moose and Odd Fellows of Appalachia.

Mr. Neal was one of the best mechanics in this section and he held a very responsible position with the Interstate Railroad Company. For the past two years his health had been failing somewhat but not enough to keep him confined.

He is survived by a wife, who was formally Miss Dona Collier, of Big Stone Gap, and three daughters, Miss Kathleen Neal, of Greeneville, Tenn., Mrs. Jack Coleman, of Andover, Va., Mrs. C O Farley, of Montcam, W. Va. His mother and five brothers and sisters survive: Charley Neal, of Maben, W. Va., Walter and W H Neal, of Bristol, Mrs. George Church, of Bristol' and Mrs. Ernest Susong, of Greeneville, Tenn.

\*

#### Aged Colored Woman Dies    The Post 3/24/1926

"Aunt" Bettie Reasor, aged 76 years, dies here yesterday morning following an illness of two years from asthma. For the last week her condition had been serious and death was expected at any hour. She was born in Hawkins county, Tenn., but moved to Big Stone Gap nearly thirty years ago.

She was a faithful member of the A M E Zion Church where funeral services will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock. She was also a member of the Household of Ruth and the Eastern Star Lodges. A husband, Charlie Reasor, one brother, and an adopted daughter survive.

\*

#### Little Girl Dies From Injuries    The Post 3/24/1926

Vivian Owens, 7 year old colored child died last night at the Appalachia Hospital following injuries received here when hit by an automobile driven by William Livesay, Jr., on the Cemetery Road. She suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries from which she never rallied, dying on the operating table while physicians were making a desperate effort to save her life.

The Livesay boy claims the accident was unavoidable as the child ran out into the road very suddenly. Her parents live in Harlan, KY., but she was staying at the home of Della Williams, who had adopted her. The injured child was taken to the office of Dr. W A Baker where first aid treatment was rendered. Her condition was hopeless from the beginning.

\*

#### Card of Thanks    The Post 3/24/1926

To those who showed us every consideration of kindness and sympathy at the death of our son, we wish to heartily thank the colored and white people of Big Stone Gap and Williamson W. Va. Their Many kind acts done much towards relieving out suffering.

Ben O Wood and Family

\*

#### Bill Mullins Killed In Mines    The Post 2/24/1926

### Body Found Under Heavy Load of Slate in Mines at Dorchester

Bill Mullins, aged about 30 years, a faithful coal miner of this section, was found dead in the mines under a heavy load of slate in the mines at the Wise Coal and Coke Company at Dorchester, Va., near here, one afternoon this week.

The miners were leaving the mine having finished the loading of their coal for that day and in doing so had to pass by the section where Mullins and his companion were working, but did not notice the large pile of slate laying there. After waiting some time for Mullins to come out of the mine, his companion decided to go back and see what was detaining him. When he reached the section, he found the large pile of slate and saw one of Mullins' feet sticking out from underneath. He immediately ran for help, but Mullins was dead when they succeeded in getting him uncovered, being horribly mashed.

Roy Davis, another young miner was also seriously injured the day afterwards in the same mines, but was removed at one to the Norton Hospital where there is a chance of his recovery.

\*

### Tucker Dies at Appalachia      The Post 3/24/1926

#### Former Policeman Passed Away at Home of Son-in-Law Friday Night

Policeman W Y Tucker, who is well known in this section as an officer of the law where he served many years as policeman at Appalachia, Norton, Pennington Gap, Jonesville and other towns, died at the home of his son-in-law, John Cress in Appalachia last Friday night from an attack of rheumatism. He was at one time chief of police at Harlan, Ky.

The body was taken to Pennington Gap Monday afternoon for burial accompanied by numerous friends from this section.

\*

### Dies at Age of 94 Years      The Post 4/28/1926

Mrs. Annie Wade, aged 94 years, died at the home of her son, Charlie Wade, near Big Stone Gap last Friday morning at 8 o'clock after a few weeks of illness caused by a general break down. Burial was made at the Wade Cemetery in Lee county Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock where services were conducted by Miss Maybrey Evans.

The following sons and daughters survive: Charlie Wade, Mrs. F G Yeary and Mrs. Jack Ely, of near Big Stone Gap; Henry Wade, of Station Creek; Bonnie Wade, of Illinois; Leondas Wade, of Minnesota; John Wade, of Kingsport, Tenn.; and Fayette Wade, of Turkey Cove.

\*

### J M Potter Dead      The Post 1/5/1921

Joseph M Potter. Died at his home here Saturday morning at 6:10 o'clock after being confined to his room for about 3 weeks, being stricken down with a strange malady. The exact nature of which has never been determined by several leading physicians who were called in for consultation. He had been declining in health for some time, particularly so after another attack of influenza.

Mr Potter was 39 years old and had been living in Big Stone Gap for about 23 years. For the past 10 years he had charge of the local waterworks, which position he took up following the death of his father, and in addition to this, he conducted a plumbing shop of his own. He had many warm friends in Big Stone Gap who were deeply grieved to learn of his untimely death.

The 24th day of December 15 years ago, he was married to Miss Effie Baker, daughter of Mr and Mrs W F Baker, and to this union were born two children., Gilmer and Cecil, age 14, and 8, respectively, by whom he is survived.

Impressive Funeral services were held at the Christian Church Sunday afternoon by the deceased pastor, Reverend FN. Wolf, assisted by Reverend CW Dean, Pastor of the Methodist Church, which was attended by the large number of friends, the church being crowded to its capacity. Following this, the body was conveyed to Glencoe Cemetery for internment.

\*

Mrs T W Goodloe      The Post 1/5/1921

Charlottesville, Dec 29 - Mrs TW Goodloe. Aged 80 years, of Locust Dale, near Afton, Albemarle County, died yesterday at the home of her daughter, Mrs WP Lipscomb, in this city, after an illness of three weeks. She was before marriage Miss Mary J Mills of Baltimore. She had made her home in this County since 1870. Her husband preceded her to the grave 13 years ago. 10 children survived, 4 sons and 6 daughters, John M, William T, and Edward E. Goodloe of Big Stone Gap, Henry B Goodloe of New York City, Mrs WP Lipscomb and Mrs WT Cloud of this city, Misses NTA Munder of Baltimore, Mrs DD MacGregor, of Lynchburg, Virginia, Mrs. Jim Bowen of Greenwood, Virginia, Miss Georgia Goodloe of Afton. She also leaves two brothers and one sister Isaac O and Samuel S Mills and Mrs CFP, all of Baltimore.

\*

Birth and Death of Infant Son of Mr and Mrs I C Taylor      The Post 1/5/1921

Last Tuesday evening, December 28th, a little son, was born to Mr and Mrs Isaac C Taylor at their home, Beechmont in the gap. The little fella only lived six hours, dying early Wednesday morning. He had been named William Matthews. Taylor, for his two grandfathers, Mr WW Taylor and Mr JH Matthews.

The little remains were carried to Glencoe Cemetery Thursday morning at 10:00 o'clock and were buried, following a sweet short service by Reverend CW Dean.

The baby is survived by his grandparents, parents, and one little sister. Erma Lucille Taylor, who have the deepest sympathy of their many friends.

\*

Dies at Dante      The Post 1/5/1921

WF Baker received a message Monday night stating that his son, in law, Charles M. Kaiser, who had been seriously ill with tuberculosis, had died at his home at Dante. Monday afternoon. Mr Kaiser was 32 years old and survived by a wife and 1 child. He had been employed for the past 3 years as an electrician for the Clinchfield Coal Corporation period the body was taken to Odd Fellows, of which the deceased was a member. Those attending the funeral from here were Mr and Mrs WF Baker, and daughter, Miss Virginia., Paul Chestnut and Nick Seals.

\*

Held for Murder

Body of Wealthy Farmer is Found in Field on Christmas Day      The Post 1/5/1921

Harry Lawson, aged 26 years, exservice man was arrested yesterday at his home near Rye Cove, Virginia, charged with the murder Saturday, of Ira N Taylor, wealthy farmer, age 74 years, after bloodhounds went from the field where the murder was committed to the Lawsons home, according to advices reaching in Bristol last night.

The body of Mr Taylor and acentric old Bachelor was found in a field near his home about 4:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon. He had been wounded in the face with a shotgun, and his head had been beaten with a heavy blunt instrument. It is believed he had been dead for about 2 hours when the body was found.

Robbery is thought to have been the motive, Mr. Taylor usually carried from \$3000 to \$4000 and currency on his person and about \$1865 was found in his pockets. The deceased is said to have been worth about \$100,000, which included one of the largest farms in Scott County.

Lawson. Who lives about a mile from Mr. Taylor's home was seen to enter the field where the body was found a short time before the murder took place witnesses say. It is said the body was found with a bundle of fodder clasped under one arm. The killing is thought to have taken place about 2:00 o'clock Saturday afternoon. The body was found about 2 hours later. He had gone to the field to feed cattle. Lawson, said to be the son of S E Lawson who lives on the Taylor Farm, is now in jail in Gate City.

The bloodhounds were taken to the scene of the murder by TB Crockett of Pulaski, their owner, and Officer JB Bowman of Wytheville. They arrived in Bristol about midnight Saturday and reached the Taylor farm about 8:00 o'clock yesterday morning. The dogs held a straight course to the Lawson home and the young man was arrested by Sheriff Creed Frasier of Scott County.

Mr Taylor was shot with No 5 shot from a gun and a gun belonging to Lawson said to have been found in his home was loaded with No 5 shot. Empty shells found near the scene of the murder corresponded to those in Lawsons single barrel gun. No money was found on the prisoner. It is declared that Lawson was seen to visit the Taylor home a short time before the aged farmer went to the field, where he was found dead. Lawson is unmarried and saw service with the American forces in France it is reported. The prisoner denied having committed the crime information reaching here last night said. He is said to have one special honors as a marksman while in the Army.

Mr Taylor is survived by two brothers, Samuel and Albert Taylor and one sister Mrs Powers, a widow. He lived with his relatives. - Bristol Herald Courier

Lawson was released on \$1500 bond Saturday.

\*

Pioneer Citizen Passes Away The Post 1/12/1921

Joshua Mullins Dies at the Age of 75 Years

Joshua Mullins, aged 75 years, who had been a resident of Big Stone Gap for nearly 40 years, died at his home here Saturday morning following an illness of about three weeks. Mr. Mullins had been in declining health for the past few years, but owing his sturdy constitution he remained actively at work until a short time ago. Following his illness of three weeks, he suffered a stroke of paralysis on Friday evening and death resulted in a few hours. Mr Mullins was born in Letcher County, Kentucky on January 29th, 1845 and was one of The Pioneers citizens of Big Stone Gap, having come here from Kentucky 40 years ago. He was a Carpenter by trade, which he made a lifetime profession for some time. He was associated with his son JF Mullins. as a building contractor and to many fine structures in Big Stone Gap and surrounding towns stand as a monument to his great skill. He was a man of excellent. Habits fine, moral character and sturdy constitution and he continued to be active in his accustomed pursuits. Till long past the age of which men ordinarily drop out of the ranks of workers. Mr. Mullins was a devoted member of the Methodist Church and had lived the life of a Christian for 31 years. His last words were expressive of peace and God and a willingness to depart and be at rest with him. Mr. Mullins was also a member of the local chapter of Masons, which membership he held for 30 years and he became known all over Southwest Virginia as one of the most learned and devoted members of this fraternity for several years. He was a deputy grandmaster of the district and as an instructor in Masonry. He traveled over much of the state. He was on several occasions a delegate to the Grand Lodge, Grand Commandry, and Grand Chapter, held at Richmond, and was also a delegate to the Tri Annual Conclave of Knights Templar, held in Denver Co several years ago.

The Funeral services were held at the Methodist Church Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, Reverend CW Dean officiating and paying beautiful tribute to the memory of the deceased. The body was escorted by a large concourse of Masons from Big Stone Gap. Appalachia, and Norton, who conducted the last rites at the grave. The deceased is survived by his wife, one daughter, Miss Callie Mullins of Big Stone Gap and four sons, John F. and Isom Mullins of Big Stone, William Mullins of Hazard, Kentucky, and JP Mullins of Richmond.

\*

Bertha Rutherford The Post 1/10/1901

Bertha E Rutherford the 8 month old daughter of Mr and Mrs Jno T Rutherford departed this life January 1 at one o'clock AM 1901 near Dewey, Virginia. Bertha, the darling of the home, was too pure to stay in this world, but it's a happy thought to know she is passed through the gates of the Celestial City's rejoicing on the beautiful banks of the River that flows by the throne of God, where sorrow and sickness never come. Dear parents, weep not for little Bertha but prepare to meet her in that home that is more to be desired than all the rubies of Earth. The following day, the remains were laid to rest among the lofty peaks of the Cumberland Mountains to await resurrection morning when the grave will burst asunder and Bertha will meet Jesus Dewey, Virginia, January 1st, 1901.

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Man Killed The Post 1/31/1901

Sam Lawson Falls in Front of a Moving Log and is Crushed to Death

Last Friday, January 25th, in the logging of Goodloe Bros at Wildcat, 6 miles from this place. Sam Lawson, a teamster, fell in front of a rolling log, was crushed to death. Mr Lawson was a young unmarried man from Lee County and been in the employ of Goodloe Bros about four months. He had the reputation of being an upright, sober, industrious, young man.

\*

William Flanary Killed at Stony Creek Tuesday Night The Post 2/21/1901

Tuesday night at Fort Blackmore. This County William Coots Flanary was shot in the neck and instantly killed as best we can learn. The particulars are as follows. Flanary returned Tuesday evening from attending court at Gate City. He and Bent Brickey and a woman named Sallie Hensley were in a room together when the homicide occurred. Brickey and the woman claimed Flanary accidentally dropped a pistol from his pocket which was discharged, inflicting the fatal wound. An inquest was held over the remains Wednesday from the evidence adducted, it was decided by the jury that there was sufficient grounds for placing Brickey and the Hensley woman under arrest. They were accordingly taken into custody Wednesday night.

The murdered man was middle age and leaves a family.

It is a singular coincidence that about 20 years ago. Flannery, while passing through a pair of bars, accidentally struck the lock of a gun he was carrying against a rail, causing it to be discharged, killing the moth of Brickey. - Gate City Leader

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Died At Gate City     The Post 3/14/1901

Miss Janie Johnson, the 14 year old daughter of Mr and Mrs JM Johnson, of Gate City, died at that place Monday morning is 7:00 o'clock of fever. Miss Johnson was a bright young lady and very popular throughout the section. Her many friends will receive this sad intelligence with profound regret. She is the niece of Mrs R A Ayres of this place. Her remains were interred at Gate City on Tuesday.

\*

One of Scott County's Respected Women Sucicides     The Post 6/27/1901

Our town and community was shocked Wednesday morning when it was announced that Mrs Sarah Pierson. Wife of JP Pierson of big cut, 5 miles West of Gate City had committed suicide by hanging herself the night before. Mrs Pierson had been in ill health for quite awhile, but her condition seemed to be about the same when she retired Tuesday evening. Sometime during the night she silently stole out of bed, secured a rope, and hung herself in the porch between the kitchen and dwelling house where she was not discovered till next morning in cold in death she was about 65 years old and was a consistent member of the Primitive Baptist Church.

\*

Rev J P Horton Dead     The Post 8/1/1901

Reverend JP Horton died at his home in Ryco, Scott County, on Monday afternoon of this week after a short illness of chronic troubles. Mr Horton was 76 years of age and was well known throughout the section and his many friends were great to hear of his untimely death. He was a brother of Mrs. Eliza Barton of this place. Here his remains were interred in Rock Cove Tuesday.

\*

Fatally Shot     The Post 8/8/1901

At Coburn about 1:00 o'clock Thursday, says the Pulaski News Review, Samuel Mullins, 17 years old, shot E S Dean four times. It seems that Dean and Mullins had some trouble Wednesday night over a woman and yesterday when the shooting took place, Dean was in the house of William Stanley sitting on the foot of a bed and Mullins appeared at the door and called him a liar. As Dean rose up, Mullins, shot him. Dean's probably fatally wounded. Mullins is under arrest.

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Murder at Coeburn The Post 8/15/1901

Chief of Police Instantly Killed in Court Room

Coeburn, Va. - Aug. 8 - At 4:00 PM this afternoon, R D Hudson Chief Police for the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company at Toms Creek was shot and instantly killed by Magan Carty, a boy 16 years of age. The troubles seemed to arise during a trial for one James Massey over carrying a pistol. George Carty, father of the boy who did the shooting, got mad and swore he wanted to fight Hudson. One hour after the evidence had been closed, and as the justices were retiring to take their decision, George Carty followed after them causing trouble. Thereupon the justice called upon Hudson to arrest Carty and tie him. Hudson in obedience to the officer's command, attempted to stop the trouble. James Massey, the prisoner who justices were trying, grabbed Mr Hudson. when young Carty walked up without a word and shot Hudson a 12 gauge shotgun, the discharge entering the left side of the neck Carty attempted to fly to the mountains, but was captured and has been sent to jail.

\*

Killing At Tom's Creek The Post 6/13/1901

Georgel, Va, - June 11

John Fugate colored of this place. Shot and killed Martha Wells, also colored about 4:00 o'clock PM Friday. The shooting occurred at the turn table about one-half mile below the commissary. Martha Wells was about 26 years of age and formerly lived at Stonega, from which place she moved to Georgel about three months ago. Fugate is from Bedford City and has been employed in the mines of Toms Creek for some time. He was arrested at Tip Top Saturday morning while endeavoring to make his escape into West Virginia and brought back to Coeburn where he was given a preliminary trial and taken to jail at wise that night.

\*

Hanged

John Hubert Fuqua Pays the Penalty of His Crime – Makes Full Confession The Post 8/29/1901

Wise Va., Aug 26 – At 1:37 o'clock p m last Friday, John Fuqua, alias Fugate, (colored) was according to the law at this place, for the murder of Martha Wells at Bon Town on the 6th of June, 1901. And 11:00 o'clock the condemned man was taken from cell to the front entrance of the courthouse, where he addressed 2000 people assembled to see and hear all that would be enacted on the occasion. And there he made a full confession.

He spoke for 33 minutes and gave a full account of the crime, for which he was soon to be hanged, and confessed that the deed was done in cold blood and without a shadow of justification. His voice was strong and clear. It could be heard for considerable distance. Contrary to expectations he displayed remarkable nerve. And if he realized his terrible position, his voice and actions did not show it. Among

other things, he said he had left his old mother three years ago and came to Toms Creek of there fell in love with a mean woman who he loved to distraction and afterwards killed because she left him for another man. "I told her. If she ever left me for any other man, I'd take my gun and blow her down and the day she left me would be the day of her death. I kept my word and his brought me back to my hanging ground".

Speaking of the crime, he said that after she left him, he laid his plans to carry out his threat and repeatedly tried to get her to go with him to Bondstown. And after much persuasion, she went with him on the day of the murder. He bought whiskey and beer and made his victim drunk and drawing his gun told her that her time had come, she fell down and pretended to be in a faint, but this did not stop him, and he fired at her, striking her lower lip. She jumped up and ran screaming for mercy, but he followed until she stumbled into a creek and then throwing his arm around her neck, placed the gun against her neck and fired the fatal shot. "I told the court, when brought to trial that she had a gun on me and I killed her in self defense, but it was all a lie. I killed her in cold blood because I was mean".

His closing remarks were addressed to the young men whom he warned to avoid the causes of his trouble mean women, whiskey and pistols and bad companions. He expressed firm belief in his pardon by the great judge and said he was willing, ready and anxious to die.

He returned to the jail at 11:35 o'clock and partook of a hearty meal.

At 1:00 o'clock, Reverend WD Thornton held a short service with him in his cell. The service was very touching and impressive. The minister read the 19th Psalm and with others sang "I'm going home to die no more", in which the condemned man joined with the other inmates of the jail.

After services he gave to the Reporter a letter to be sent to his mother after his death and requested also write to her about his execution.

Jailer Hultbrooks soon came in and with the Sheriff and guards conducted Fuqua to the scaffold. The short service was held on the scaffold, conducted by Reverend Thornton, after which the condemned man offered a short prayer full of thanks to God for preparing him for eternity and for the assistance of hope beyond. Concluding he said "Kind friends is all I have to say. I'm ready to go, please get it over as soon as you can and don't let me suffer long". The noose was adjusted by deputy CW Renfro, the black cap was drawn over his face and all was ready for the execution..

At 1:37 Sheriff killing step to the lever, exclaiming, "May the Lord God have mercy upon this poor unfortunate man's soul", pulled the lever in the body was hurled down 7 feet through the trap. Dr H M Miles pronounced Fuqua dead at 1:47 and at 1:54, deputy Renfro cut the body down and turn it over to Undertaker. Miller immediately placed it in a coffin. The was body was buried at 4:00 PM at the Poor Farm, one mile east of here.

His crime is too well known to need repetition. Fuqua in his confession said he had committed rape, robbery and a number of other offenses, for which he received short terms in jail. The laws of the land have been vindicated. The "how crime shall be stopped" question has been answered.

\*

Instantly Killed    The Post   9/19/1901

Wm Anderson Shoots Ed Wheeler, Near Ewing

On Sunday evening, about 6:00 o'clock, near Ewing, Lee County, Ed Wheeler of this place was shot and instantly killed by William Anderson. William and Anderson, it is said had been drinking and had gone to the house of Lizzie Farris, a woman of ill repute and there became involved in a difficulty which cost Wheeler his life. The trouble came over the woman.

Wheeler was shot 3 times, once in the left breast, once in the right breast and once in the left arm, either the first two shots would have caused instant death. Anderson claims he shot Wheeler in self defense and immediately gave himself up to the officers. Both men were employed at the ore mines of the Big Stone Gap Iron Company at Ewing, Wheeler as a locomotive engineer and Anderson as a miner.

Wheeler was son of N C Wheeler of East Stone Gap, and his remains were brought to this place Monday morning by "Messrs" J P Lovell and J M Johnson and taken to East Stone Gap for burial. He was about 23 years of age. Anderson is about 26 years of age and hails from Hawkins County, Tennessee. He has been committed to the jail at Jonesville to await the action of Lee County Court.

\*

Killed in Wreck    The Post   11/7/1901

Bradley Loyd, Engineer on L & N Instantly Killed at This Place

About 2:00 o'clock Saturday morning a wreck occurred on the L&N R R at this place between a freight train pulled by an engine No 747 and the local train operating between this place and Norton, and pulled by engine No 720, in which Bradley Loyd, the engineer of the local train was instantly killed.

It seems that though the freight was standing on the main track of the depot, taking water when the local train came in from Norton with 46 loaded cars, the air on the local train became unmanageable before the train could be stopped the crash came. The fireman of the local train jumped and was uninjured and has just as the engineer started to leave his engine, the crash came and he was caught between the engine and tender, almost severing his legs from his body, killing him instantly. Loyd had only been promoted to engineer a few days ago and came here to take charge of the night train operating between this place in Norton. He formerly lived at this place and as well known by many of our readers, but for some time has been living at Corbin, where he leaves a wife and several small children.

His remains were taken to Lee for internment. The two engines that came together were considerably mashed up and did not leave the tracks.

\*

Wise Department    (A section for the town of Wise)    The Post   12/12/1901

\*

A little child of Mr and Mrs R J Smith died Sunday night and was buried Monday.

\*

The infant son of Mr Mrs W E Kilgore died last week.

\*

Commodore Nottingham died and Clemmons store on Saturday at noon. He had been drinking heavily for a couple of days, which caused his death. His remains were buried at 4:00 PM Sunday. Deceased was the son of the late WD. Nottingham.

\*

Child Died The Post 12/26/1901

Little Lola Kilgore. daughter of Mr and Mrs W E Kilgore died of fever Thursday night and was buried Friday. She was six years of age and a very bright little girl and will be sadly missed by her relatives. Although the weather was extremely cold, there was a large crowd at the burial services which were held at the me church conducted by Reverend's Suthers and Kilgore.

\*

Tragedy at Tom's Creek The Post 12/26/1901

On last Friday at Toms Creek at the office of the Cranes Nest Coal and Coke Company, Robert Foy a negro shot. Mr Dayton H Miller and Mr Charles Williams, both white men. On Saturday night at 7:00 PM, Mr Miller died. The Negro was in the office of the company making a settlement and the trouble came up over some house rent. The Negro had rented a house and claimed he had not lived in and when the amount of the rent was deducted from his wages, he became very abusive and Mr Miller, who was the treasure of the company, ordered him out of the house. He shot him in the breast with the above result.

We understand the Negro made some threats previous to the shooting against Mr Miller, and the chances are he will be hung, provided a mob which is expected anytime does not let Jim the Negro is in jail at this place in the officers would doubtless make a stubborn resistance should a mob attacked the jail, but we doubt if any guard could save him should a determined mob appear. We understand that Mr Williams will recover. Mr Miller was a native of Philadelphia and a brother to Mr Hobart Miller, who died at Coeburn about three years ago.

Different article on the above in the same paper.

Dayton H Miller treasure for the Cranes Nest Coal and Coke company who was shot on last Friday afternoon by Charles Floyd, a drunken negro, died Saturday night at 7:00 o'clock. At the same time, Mr Miller was shot, Charles Williams, missionary clerk, was also shot and seriously wounded by the same negro. The difficulty arose over the Negro's time and when he was ordered to leave the house, he drew a gun and shot Miller and Williams. The Negro was at once captured, spirited away by the officers and landed in jail at wise Saturday morning. Great excitement prevailed after the shooting in an effort was made to Lynch the Negro and only for the fact the officers escaped with him before a crowd could be organized, he surely would have been lynched.

Mr Miller was a single man 28 years of age and was very popular. He came to Virginia from Philadelphia several years ago and was formerly auditor for the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company, which position he resigned to accept the position of treasurer for the Cranes Nest Coal and Coke Company. He was a brother of Hobart Miller, a prominent young attorney who died in Coeburn about two years ago.

\*

Burned to Death The Post 12/26/1901

Was A Little Three Year Old Child in Lee County

The three year old daughter of Mr and Mrs John Collier was burned to death at their home near Turkey Cove in Lee County on last Thursday morning. The child was left alone in a room while the mother had gone to milk and some way it's clothing caught on fire before the flames could be extinguished. The child was burned so badly that it died about an hour later.

\*

Killed Whole Family The Post 2/6/1902

Freeling, Va. - Jan. 31

A sad occurrence took place on Crane Nest Creek, this county, a day or two since. Noah Mullins, a man of about 35, shot and killed his wife and three children, then put an end to his own unhappy existence in the same way.

It is understood that jealousy was the motive that prompted the deed. There had been trouble between the man and his wife for some time.

The affair has created a sensation.

\*

Local and otherwise section The Post 2/6/1902

Little Nannie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Charlie Cox, died at the home of her parents near town last Thursday night and was buried Saturday. Another daughter was very ill at the same time but is improving now.

\*

Wise Department The Post 3/20/1902

Mrs Counts Dead

Mrs Counts, wife of attorney C Q Counts, died suddenly of heart trouble last Thursday. Mrs Counts had been apparently well during the morning and when Mr Counts went home at noon he found his wife almost lifeless and in a few minutes she had expired. Deceased leaves two small children, one of whom is only a few months old. The remains were taken to Coeburn and interred Friday. Mr Counts has the sympathy of the entire community in his sad bereavement.

\*

Charles Hickok Dead The Post 4/3/1902

News reached here last Saturday to the effect that Charles Hickok of this place died in the Philippine Islands on the 16th of February. Charles was the soldier in the US Army company, 128th infantry and news came in a letter from the captain of his company to Mrs A B Fritz, Charles's sister. Charles Hickok listed in the regular army about six years ago, saw service in Cuba and later was sent to the Philippines where he served about two years returning to this country about a year ago and after spending a short time in this country reenlisted again. It was immediately sent back to the Philippine where he had been until his death. Charles was an excellent soldier and served his country well.

\*

Mr. Compton Dead The Post 5/8/1902

Mr C B Compton night operator for the Virginia and Southwestern Railway at this place died at the residence of Mr Case, near the depot on last Thursday morning of plura pneumonia after an illness of only a few days, He was first taken sick with a severe throat trouble which resulted in the above disease, causing his death. His remains were taken to Gate City Thursday morning, from which place they were taken to his home near Nickelsville for burial. Mr Compton was an unmarried man of about 20 years of age, was well liked by all who knew him.

\*

Died of Small Pox The Post 5/22/1902

Ex Sheriff Wilson Holdbrook at Wise took smallpox on last Thursday and on Tuesday died. Mr Holbrook was jailer the county jail and contracted the disease from a prisoner. We understand there are several cases in the jail.

\*

Instantly Killed at The Extract Works at this Place 6/19/1902

Willie Parsons, the 18 year old son of D Z Parsons of Easton Gap, was instantly killed at the Extract Works at this place last Wednesday morning. The boy had a position as oiler at the works and was caught in a large belt and carried around a flywheel, killing him instantly. His body was taken to the home of his parents as soon as possible after the accident and was interred in the Cemetery at East Stone Gap Thursday morning. The entire community sympathize with the parents and the sad loss of their son.

\*

Drowned The Post 6/19/1902

In South Fork of Powell River Monday

On Monday about noon, Thomas Kilbourn, age 22, lost his life in the South Fork of the Powell River, just below the Woolen Mill dam. Just how he lost his life is not known, but is supposed he sat down on a log on the edge of the deep pool of the water and went to sleep and fell in. He had been at work in the mountain getting out stone for Charles Johnson and had come down to the spring to eat his dinner. His empty dinner bucket, coat and hat were found nearby and it is supposed that after getting his dinner he sat on the log to rest and went to sleep and fell in as above stated.

A search was made for him, but his body was not found until Tuesday morning when it was found in the deep pool of the spring.

The young man whose right name was Roberts was taken on a child and raised by Peter Kilbourn, deceased, father of WB Kilbourn of this place, but he was always known as Tom Kilbourn. An inquest was held over the body and it was decided that he lost his life by drowning, but just how the drowning occurred was of course not known. His remains were interred in Glencoe Cemetery Tuesday afternoon.

\*

Obituary Margaret Flanary The Post 6/26/1902

Mrs Margaret A Flannery died at her home in Lee County, Virginia, May 20th, 1902. She was the eldest daughter of HN and Ellen Horton. She was born in Stone Gap Virginia May 12, 1858, married to AC Flanary January 13, 1876. She was in every way a model, kind, and affectionate in her family and not only there for her heart went out to sympathy to the distressed and her willing hands were never idle. She had many friends who attended her during her illness, who will mourn her loss. Her children were a tentative and untiring in all that they could do was not enough to satisfy them. We cannot always understand why God takes from us the sweetest in the best, but he knows best and we must submit to his will. Among her last words were " I shall soon be in Glory". To her bereaved husband and six children we extend our deepest sympathy and trust that the death of this devoted wife and loving mother may be sanctified to the salvation of the souls of those who have lived under her influence.

Servant of God well done! The battle's fought, the race is won and thou art crowned at last. A Friend.

\*

Mrs. King Dead The Post 6/26/1902

Aged Wife of Joseph King Passes Away

Ms. Sarah Ann, wife of Mr. Joseph King dies at her home, No 617 Broad Street, at 10:45 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The deceased was in her 81<sup>st</sup> year, and had she lived would have been 81 years of age on the 8<sup>th</sup> of next March.

She was a consistent member of the Methodist Church South, and for a number of years her membership has been with the State Street Church. She died happy in the faith that her death was but the opening of Heavens' gate.

The deceased was a native of Russell County, Virginia having been born and reared at Lebanon, where nearly 63 years ago she became the wife of Joseph King.

Mrs. King came to Bristol years ago with her husband. They afterwards went to Lee County, Virginia but returned to Bristol twelve years ago. Ten children were born to them, nine of whom survive, including John King, who conducts a shoe-repair shop on Sixth Street. With the exception, this is the first death in the family.

The funeral will take place from the residence at 11 o'clock this morning and the services will be conducted by Dr. W S Nerighbors – Bristol Courier.

\*

Death of Mrs. A N Kilgore The Post 7/10/1902

On Thursday morning the sad intelligence passed from house to house that Mrs. Kilgore had died at 4:30. Mrs. Kilgore had been sick for some time and her death was not unexpected. The deceased was born September 6, 1872 and she was a daughter of Jonathan and Vina E Wells.

Mrs. Kilgore was a lady of splendid Christian character, bore her suffering without complaint, and expressed herself as willing and prepared to go when it was Gods will to take her. She leaves four small children- three boys and a little daughter. Mrs. Kilgore's death has brought sorrow to the entire community. The remains were taken to the old family burying ground on Guse River where she desired to be buried. We extend to the bereaved husband and children our heartfelt sympathy. Norton Free Press.

\*

A Good Boy Dead The Post 7/10/1920

Charles Malcom Quillin, age twelve died at his home in Stonega Sunday, and his remains were brought here and were interred in Glencoe Cemetery Monday afternoon.

The funeral services were held at Christian Church, on Wood Ave., at one thirty o'clock and were conducted by Rev Mr. Shoemaker of the "Babtist" Church. Malcolm was a very promising boy having made an excellent record at both day school and Sabbath school. He won the respect of all whom he came in contact. His relatives, in their sad bereavement have the sympathy of numerous friends.



\*

Mary E Bryant The Post 7/24/1902

Mary E Bryant was born in Russell county, Va., July 28 1838, died in Big Stone Gap, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1902. She made a profession of religion at the age of ten and joined the M E Church South, in which communion she lived "constitent" and died triumphant.

She was married to J J Bryant on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1856 and was the mother of seven children, five sons and two daughters. She leaves the husband and five of the children to mourn their loss. She was a faithful wife, a good mother, a kind neighbor, and a sincere friend.

The sun of life set in cloudless sky and Heaven opened to her more gloriously than a beautiful summer morning.

\*

Aged Man Dead The Post 7/31/1902

Mr. Peter Brickey, of Stoney Creek, died of old age last Thursday and was buried Friday. He was about 99 or 100 years old. For several years he had a presentiment that would die in 1903. In his day he was a noted bear hunter and had many thrilling experiences with bruin. He was a good man. His parents each lived over a century. Gate City Leader

\*

Mrs. Quillen Dead The Post 7/31/1902

Mrs. Quillen, widow of the late William Quillen, of Gate City, died at her home in Stonega on last Saturday, after an illness of some time of erysipelas. Her remains were interred in Glencoe cemetery at this place Sunday afternoon, funeral services being held in the Christian Church, conducted by Rev D M Austin, prior to the burial.

Mrs. Quillen leaves several children to mourn their loss, and in the loss of their mother they have the sympathies of the entire community.

\*

Miss Downs Dead The Post 7/31/1902

After an illness of several months of consumption, Miss Stacia Downs, daughter of Mr. And Mrs. Marshall Downs dies at this place on last Friday night. Funeral services were conducted at Christian

Church Saturday afternoon, after which the remains were interred in Glencoe Cemetery. The entire community sympathize with the bereaved parents in the loss of their daughter.

\*

Infant Dead The Post 8/7/1902

The infant child of Mr and Mrs E P Duffey, of Stonega, Va., died there Wednesday, of this week. Its remains were brought to Bristol yesterday, accompanied by the parents and friends and the family, and was interred at the Catholic cemetery at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. - Bristol Courier

\*

George Robinson Pays The Death Penalty The Post 8/7/1902

George Robinson, who was, at the June term of Wise County Court, convicted of the murder of Tom Bates was hanged at this place last Friday.

A large crowd, variously estimated at between 2,000 and 3,000 were present and heard the negro make a statement from the court house at 11 o'clock, in which he confessed that he killed this man Bates without provocation, and that he had been a bad man and was getting what he deserved.

Robinson said he had killed one man before this one, his brother-in-law had been killed by him several years ago, but he had been acquitted; said he had been a drunkard and a gambler and even a robber. He was returned to jail to await the hour set for his execution.

At 1 o'clock pm he was led from the jail by Deputy Sheriff Renfro, and taken to the gallows, and after offering prayer on the trap door, the noose was placed around his neck and the trap sprung.

The ½ inch sea-grass rope proved too weak to sustain his weight, and broke about half way between the beam and the negro's neck, and Robinson fell to the ground with blood flowing from his nose and mouth.

He did not lose consciousness and when he was taken back to the scaffold, where a doubled rope had been prepared, he asked that he be allowed a few minutes in which to rest and cool off, but as the time was short he was placed upon the trap and again hauled into space, this time the rope held it's strangling burden and in 19 minutes he was pronounced dead.

It is hard to conceive of a more horrible spectacle than a half dead man being hung – a man twice hung inside of the short space of fifteen minutes, but such was this negro's fate. Hard though it was, still it is just and the law of the land.

Accidents like this can not be foreseen. The sheriff got the best rope he could procure, which looked equal to the task before it, but it proved too weak.

Robinson claimed he had received pardon for his sins, and certain it was the hope he had sustained him in the hour, for the fear that had possessed him left, and he stood up like a man.

Many expressions of pity were heard on all sides for the negro, and it does seem like he was rushed through the proceedings in short order, only about six weeks having elapsed since he committed the crime for which he was hung, while Foy who was to have been hung also, for the murder of Dayton Miller about eight months ago, is still alive and has hopes that the Governor will commute his sentence for a term in the penitentiary.

Justice should be swift, to carry out the spirit of the law, but it should be meted out alike to all, and while Robinson got what her, no doubt deserved, still it seems that he should have had such opportunities to have had his case investigated as did Foy, and we are sure that the effect that this execution should have had on other evil-doers has been destroyed. And while law and society are satisfied they are not bettered.

\*

Infant Dead The Post 8/28/1902

Little Walter Grubb Passes Away Sunday at Stonega

Walter, the fourteen months old son of G B Grubb, died at Stonega at 4:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon. Death was caused by acute indigestion.

The remains were brought Bristol yesterday. The funeral services will be conducted at the residence of Mrs R L Grubb, 1110 Shelby Street, Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock.

\*

Robert Foy Hanged The Post 9/4/1902

Executed at this Place Friday for the Murder of Dayton Miller

Robert Foy, colored, the murderer of Dayton Miller, was hanged here on last Friday, August 29.

The negro made a statement from the courthouse to a large crowd in which he expressed his willingness to be hung and that he was ready for death.

He said that the crime for which he was to be hung was mostly forced upon him, but he had pistols ready to do the shooting if he had to do it.

The trap was sprung at 12:35 pm and in 14 minutes the negro was dead, but was not cut down for several minutes after he died.

The physicians of this town made application for the body of Foy, but for some reason or other this denied them, and the body was buried at the poor farm Saturday.

Foy was represented in his trial by Messrs, Bond & Bruce of this place, who did all they possible could to save his neck, but they met defeat at every point.

At the first trial one of the jurors refused to find him guilty of first degree murder, and the court "empanelled" a new jury which found him guilty of murder in the first degree.

The case was taken up to the Circuit Court and to the Supreme Court, but these courts refused to disturb the verdict, and the Governor was appealed to for the executive clemency, and he was granted a respite for 30 days, but after looking into the case refused to interfere.

The crime for which Foy was executed was the murder of Dayton Miller at Toms Creek lase December.

Mr. Miller was treasurer of the Crane's Nest Coal and Coke Company, and had made a mistake in Foy's account, so Foy armed himself and went down to the office to have his time corrected. He was boisterous and Miller tried to put him out of the office, whereupon the negro fired, fatally wounding him.

It is to be hoped that the execution of these bad characters will have a good effect upon others, and the time will soon come when juries in Wise County will not have to render verdicts that require the lives of their fellow men.

Just before going to the scaffold Foy made the following speech:

Ladies and gentlemen. Please look at the trouble I have gotten into in my life and all of you people. The one thing the best thing that I have no for you to do is to try and keep out of places like this. I wish you good people there for death and if you will the Lord will bless you and he will prepare a place for you. The good Lord above knows since my mother died I have run and throwed myself away. And another thing I wanted to say to you all when you're out of this world, whiskey and guns are not made for people to use, but they're made for mean, lowlife people. And if you will let the whiskey alone, you will be a heat better off than what if you had followed rude crowds and rowdy people and women. Since I happen to go to the western coalfields, I have quit going to preaching and when I would see anybody about drinking and playing the banjo and dancing, I would go to this place, I want to advise you to go to church and pray my last grandmother got into the mostly forced on me. I went to the company store to get my money straightened up I didn't get it straightened up but I got worse off in the world. the Lord above knows that I didn't go in there with the intention to kill that man. I know that I had guns and could fight if there was any fighting to be done. the Lord knows I had not had that gun, I have not been in this fix today. While you people may look at it hard and unjust. I look at it as justice and fair and I do not think that the crime I have done is why I'm standing here, but I think that it's the Lord's will that I should come today.

And as the Lord Willing, I want me to all of you good people in a better world and I can say another word, leaving to these people here why there are some good people in the world. There are some bad people which each of you know that. and I could say I have found good people, and I have found that ones I could say again that there have been. Some white people that have been friended me and there have been some colored people have been my friends, but I found some enemies that I did not know anything about since I have been in this trouble. Since I've been this trouble for my account, if I don't make any mistakes, it has been close onto nine months.

And I am thankful to know that I have found friends in this country and I am thankful to know that I have found the Lord in this country and you old people who are in this country and have children, do all you

can to keep them at home with you, make them go to church and Sunday school, not follow after bad women like I have.

Mr Charlie, here's a word I can speak for you if you'd like to hear it. I can say that while I have been in prison you have felt more like a friend of mine than any other who had anything to do with it. Some of you men who are out there today have got whiskey in your pocket. If you do what is right, you'll take it out and break it. If any of you have anything to ask me, I'm ready to answer it. Well, I am ready.

He offered a prayer.

He said goodbye and shook hands with all present. H stepped upon the trap door 12:36 pm when the rope was placed around his neck, the black cap over his face and his hands and feet ties, the lever was pulled at 12:38, and he dropped into eternity.

\*

Mr. J H Bickley      The Post 9/25/1902

A prominent and wealthy citizen of Scott County, passed away last Thursday morning at three o'clock. Mr J H Bickley. Prominent merchant farmer died of consumption is home on Clinch River. Near Dungannon, Scott County. Mr. Bickley had been in failing health for a number of years, and for the last few months have been gradually sinking and while his death was expected it was a great shock to the many relatives and friends. He was 65 years old and lived a true Christian life for many years. Having joined M E Church South when quite young. A wife, four sons, two daughters and one brother and sister are left to mourn the loss of a devoted husband, loving father, and faithful brother. His remains were interred Saturday in the family Cemetery with Masonic honors, in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. The deceased was an uncle of the Bickley Bros of this place.

\*

J A Brown Dead    The Post 11/6/1902

J A Brown brother of R L Brown, the contractor of this place, died at the home of his father A M Brown, in Jonesville, on last Sunday, after a lingering illness of consumption. Mr. Brown was a carpenter by trade and until recently lived "as" Mud Lick, where he had charge of the carpenter work in the erection of the new coke plant at that place for the Stonega Coke and Coal company. He was taken to Jonesville only a few days before his death. He leaves a wife, who is the daughter of G Davidson of Spears Ferry, and three children and a host of relatives and friends to mourn their loss. Mr Brown was about 45 years old and was a member of the Presbyterian church. He was buried at Jonesville on Monday in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends.

\*

Shooting At Wise    The Post 11/13/1902

Wise Va., Nov 6 - At 10:00 o'clock Monday night. Three men Enoch "Right", Eve Hobson and Bob Mullins all white, entered the yard of John Salyer, a farmer living about 3 miles from here for the purpose of stealing chickens, Salyer heard the disturbance and went to the door to see what was the matter. Upon discovering the thieves fired two shots at them in the meantime, receiving a wound in the side supposed to have come from Rights pistol, which is most probably fatal. The outlaws have been captured and are now in jail. If Sawyer should die the opinion is the men will pay the death penalty.

From Wise The Post 11/20/1902

"John Salyers, who was shot last week Wright, Mullins and Hopson, died from the effect of his wounds Tuesday morning at 3 o'clock. The above named parties went to Salyers house one last week to steal chickens and Mr Salyers came out to see what was going on and was hit by a rock thrown, it is supposed by Mullins. Salyers opened fire and about the time he fired he was shot, a .45 calibre bullet striking him near the hip and entering his bowels. The guilty parties are now in jail awaiting indictment, and have confessed to having been at Salyers' house to take the chickens, but each denies doing the shooting.

Hopson Will Hang The Post 6/11/1903

Governor Montagne has refused to interfere in the case of E A Hopson, sentenced to be hanged for the murder of John Salyer near that place last December. He will be hanged at Wise on Friday of this week, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

\*

Two Men Died From the Effects of Drinking Bitters The Post 2/19/1903

On Monday of last week Dave Bryant, Nelson Bogg, and J P Nickels, at Preacher Creek, drank some bitters and shortly afterwards became very sick, and on Wednesday Mr Bryant and Mr Bogg died from the effects of the poison, and Mr Nickels has been a very sick man ever since, but will recover. The men evidently drank more of the stuff than they thought they did, not knowing it contained poison. Mr Bryant was a painter by trade, and formerly lived at this place. He was 28 years of age and leaves a wife and two children. Mr Bogg was a young man, and was up to the time of his taking sick a clerk in J P Nickels' store at Preacher Creek.

The friends of the unfortunate men will regret very much to hear of their untimely death.

D H Bryant Obituary The Post 3/5/1903

D H Bryant was born near Saltville, Va., March 11, 1871 and died at his home at Osaka, Va., February 11, 1903 aged 31 years and 11 months. He leaves a wife, two children, an aged father, one brother and two sisters to mourn their loss. He was an affectionate husband an obedient son, and a kind and loving brother. His remains were taken to his old home at Mendota and interred in the cemetery at that place.

\*

Killed At Duffield Virginia Monday of Last Week The Post 4/2/1903

At Duffield Monday morning another horrible murder was committed. With little apparent provocation James Barker sent Dutch Neely into eternity.

James Barker Sr, father of the young man who committed the deed, went to the mill of the Tug River Lumber Company Monday morning and asked permission of the manager, Mr Offut, to haul away some slabs and strips for wood. Another man also asked for some of them. Offut told them they could have them.

Dutch Neely was working with the mill bearing off lumber and slabs. Bringing out a load of slabs, he stated to the men he had to have some of the strips. An altercation arose between him and Barker, and as he went back to the mill, he stated that he would have some of the strips or die.

Barker went some distance away and met his son whom he told about the trouble. Young Barker took a double barreled shotgun and went to the mill in company with his father about 10 o'clock. Passing between two freight cars they came upon Neely who was packing lumber. Young Barker asked him if he had threatened his father and he replied he did not. Barker immediately shot Neely in the shoulder, who bent down out of sight of his assailant and attempted to draw his pistol. As he raised up Barker shot him in the face, mangling him horribly. He fell over in an unconscious state and died within a short time.

The two Barkers were arrested by Wilson Hood, John Bishop and Lilburn Hill a short time later. They were tried the next day and sent on to the grand jury. The elder Barker, who is a justice of the peace, was released on bond.

Young Barker was brought to jail here yesterday by deputy sheriff J W Ausban.

Dutch Neely was about forty years old and leaves a wife and several children. He was a hard working man.

James Barker is about 25 and is married.

The affair has created a profound sensation at Duffield and vicinity. - Gate City Herald

\*

Killed His Brother The Post 5/28/1903

Fatal Shooting Affray at Pennington Gap

A shooting occurred at Pennington Gap yesterday at 12 o'clock in which Thomas Mullens killed his half brother, Elkanah Mullins. Thomas is a young man, probably 23 years old, while his victim was only about 20. There were no eye witnesses as far as we can learn, except some small children, over which the difficulty occurred. Thomas was tried by Mayor Tubbs at Pennington yesterday evening and sent to jail. He claims that he thought his brother was going to kill him, and he shot in self defense. - Jonesville Virginian

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Sudden Death The Post 6/4/1903

Of Mr Tom Gent Alderson, Great Shock to His Many Friends

The news of the death of Mr Tom Gent Alderson, at Wise, on last Friday, came as a great shock to his many friends in Big Stone Gap. His death was due to an attack of appendicitis. He was ill only a few days, but each day his condition became worse until Thursday, when the physicians abandoned hope and his death followed on Friday at noon.

Mr Alderson was a son of Thomas M Alderson, until recently United States District Attorney for the Western District of Virginia. His mother was Miss Ada Davis, of Knoxville, Tenn. The deceased was born at Lebanon, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1875 and was in his 28<sup>th</sup> year. His early schooling was at Baker and Himel's preparatory school at Knoxville and later he entered Emory and Henry. He studied law under his father at Wise and by a special act of the legislature was admitted to the bar prior to his reaching age of majority.

During his father's term of office he was his assistant and made many friends. Mr Alderson was a man of sterling traits and of noble character and a lawyer of exceptional ability, and by his death the Wise County Bar loses one of its most brilliant members. Mr Alderson married a daughter of the Hon. C. F. Flanary, of Wise, formerly a member of the Virginia State Senate and one of the wealthiest men in his community. Besides his wife two children, Virginia and Creed, survive. Mr Alderson was a brother-in-law of Mrs J W Kelly of this place.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, and Wise has seldom witnessed so large a funeral procession. Revs Stanley, Hutchinson, Kilgore, and Barney Thompson, of Lebanon, a fellow student of the deceased at Emory and Henry, together with the Masons, conducted the funeral services.

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Double Shooting    The Post 6/4/1903

One Man Killed, and the Other Shot Through the Leg

Gate City, V., May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Near Dungannon, Scott County, Sunday, Drayton Salyer shot Lelura Ramey through the head, inflicting a fatal wound, and was himself shot through the leg. Salyer operated a moonshine distillery on Ramey's land, and the trouble arose over a notice to vacate. Salyer had not been arrested at last accounts.

Lilburn Ramey, who was shot by Drayton Salyer a few days ago, died Sunday afternoon and was buried Monday. He was shot through the head and it was a surprise to his friends that he lived more than a week.

Drayton Salyer, the slayer, was arrested by Sheriff F C Ketron, at Portsmouth, Ohio, Tuesday. Requisition papers have been asked for and as soon as they come J D Broadwater will go after him. Gate City Leader

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From Wise    The Post 6/18/1903

E A Hopson, who with Enoch Wright and Bob Mullins, killed John Salyer near Glamorgan last November, was executed on last Friday the 12 "inst" at this place.



The condemned man was taken from his cell in the county jail at 12:30 pm to the court house where he talked to the large crowd that had assembled, for more than an hour, during his talk he displayed a wonderful nerve, and seemed to be less affected by the solemn occasion than any one present.

In his talk Hopson claimed to the very last that he was not the man who killed Salyers, and that he was about to suffer and die for the crime of other parties. He said he was prepared to die and expected to meet God in peace.

Referring to his trial he said that his life had been sworn away by the others who has committed the crime, and the Prosecuting Attorney had believed Bob Mullins' statement as though an angel from heaven had made it, and did not give him, Hopson, credit for a single statement he had made. He denounced the attorney who prosecuted him in very strong terms, but expressed the kindest feelings for Jailer Renfro, who had had charge of him since the trial, and also said he did not think hard of Sheriff Killen for what he had to do at the scaffold.

During the progress of the talk a guard accidentally discharged a shot-gun which caused a stampede in the crowd, which came "near resulting seriously to some women who were present".

The condemned man was then taken to the scaffold, and at 1:15 pm after offering a short prayer, he was sent through the trap door to his death. He was pronounced dead at 2:05 pm, but the body was left hanging fifteen minutes longer. The fall did not break his neck, and he died of strangulation.

The body was turned over to his friends who took it to Dickenson County for burial.

There was a large crowd of people present to hear the talk, probably 2,500 and it is safe to say that three-fourths of those present believed that Hopson did not fire the fatal shot that killed John Salyers, and that while he was guilty of murder and probably deserved the fate that overtook him, still it was decidedly wrong to execute one of three guilty men and allow the others to go to the penitentiary for 18 years.

Hopson was defended by attorneys Hughe and Patterson, who did all in their power to save his neck. The case went to the supreme court, and a writ of error refused to commute the sentence.

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Chief of Police at Stonega Shot and Killed Instantly The Post 7/30/1903

Stonega Va., July 27 – Jas H King, Chief of Police here for the past five years, was shot in the breast and instantly killed by Tom Daniels, an outlaw, on the top of Black Mountain on Saturday morning at half past four o'clock.

The Wise County Court has issued capiases for five of the outlaws who were engaged in illegal liquor selling on the border line dividing Kentucky and Virginia, who has become so bold as to publicly defy the courts both of Kentucky and Virginia, and openly defied the officers of the law to arrest them.

These capiases were sent to Mr King by Judge Nathews with instructions to take sufficient force to capture the parties.

Accordingly about 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, accompanied by his son Carson, Gorden E Gilly, Wm Brown, Joe McKinney, A M Horn, and six other, he proceeded to the top and after having posted his men he proceeded to the house in which Daniels put up, and called him out. Daniels came top the door in his stocking feet, and apparently submitted to arrest, but asked as a favor hat be permitted to go back to the house and put on his shoes, and with his well known generosity and confidence, Mr King granted the request following him in when the outlaw seized his pistol which was lying on the table and turned and fired the bullet striking Mr King in the breast penetrating his heart and killing him instantly. Daniels then made a dash over the prostrate form of his victim and out of the door but had only gone a short distance when a shot from Joe McKinney's weapon brought him down and supposing him to be killed the officers turned their attention to their chief, but too late to render aid, as the spirit had taken its flight.

Two others of the gang, via: A C Napier and Ike Cornett were captured. Also two women Lottie and Bird Hagy were found on the premises and arrested all of whom are now in jail awaiting trial in the County Court.

Daniels although fatally shot is not dead. The ambulance was dispatched to the scene of the murder as soon as word was received and the wounded outlaw and he body of the dead sheriff were brought to the hospital.

Mr. King's body was embalmed and prepared for the casket and removed to his late home in the afternoon, where his heartbroken wife awaited his return.

The feeling of sadness that pervades the community is intense and the grief stricken throng that turned out Sabbath morning at the church service, to honor his memory, testified to the esteem and affection in which Mr King was held. In addition to the lodges of which the deceased brother was a member, the lodges of the Hungarian and Polish societies as well as the colored lodges all in uniform turned out in full force and followed the bier to the train at 8 o'clock which was to carry the funeral "cortage" to his former home in Scott county, where the final obsequies were conducted and the remains were interred in the family burial plot.

Mr King was born on his father's farm in Scott county, near gate city, and has "filed" many important positions since attaining his majority and is widely known and highly respected all over Wise and Scott counties. His father and mother are still living. He has also a married sister living in Bristol and he leaves a wife and one son to mourn their loss.

Later – Tom Daniels, alias J E Stanfield, the outlaw who was shot Saturday, died at 9 o'clock Monday night.

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Joseph P Lovell The Post 7/30/1903

Accidentally Killed Last Friday at Ewing

Joseph P Lovell, superintendent of the Union Iron & Steel Company's ore mines, at Ewing, was instantly killed last Friday afternoon. He was out on the works, and in stooping down for something his pistol fell

from his coat pocket, and in striking a railroad rail was discharged, the ball passing through his heart, killing him instantly. The affair was a very sad and shocking one and his many friends greatly deplore his untimely death. Mr Lovell had been superintendent of the mines at Ewing for a number of years, and was very popular. He was about 30 years of age and leaves a wife and three children.

His remains were brought to Big Stone Gap on Saturday night and taken to the home of his brother, Mr G W Lovell, and on Sunday at noon were laid in their final resting place in Glencoe Cemetery in the presence of a large number of relatives and friends. The burial ceremonies were conducted under the auspices of the Masonic lodge at this place of which the deceased was a member.

Mr Lovell lived at this place, and his sudden death was a great shock to his friends and acquaintances.

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“Accidetally” Killed The Post 9/24/1903

Norton Va., Sept 29 – At the St Charles Hotel in this place Sunday two dining room boys were in their room in the hotel with another colored boy, when Harry Bradley was fooling around with a 32 caliber pistol which “accidentall” discharged, the ball entering the right breast of Clarence Wolfe, from which the effects of which he died in about 12 minutes. This occurred at about 10:30 am. Harry was not arrested, so apparent was it that shooting was clearly accidental. Both the boys were well behaved and satisfactory help. The deceased had not but recently come to Norton from Rogersville Tenn., where Harry was also raised.

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W A R Roberson Dead The Post 10/22/1903

The Clintwood correspondent of the Bristol Herald says:

It is reported that W A R Roberson, who at one time had the most valuable of the coal land in this county under his control, has passed the divide. Shortly before his death, broken in body, and impoverished in goods, he came to visit the place where in palmier days he was a king and sought to get somewhat from his wrecked fortunes. A “kindher”, more courteous old gentleman never plac3d a hazard with Fate; and people in this county will long and kindly remember “War House” Roberson and his eccentricities.

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Little Boy Killed The Post 10/29/1903

A correspondent writing from St Paul, in this county, on the 19 inst., says:

On last Wednesday evening about 4 o’clock, little Arthur, ten year old son of George Scott, section foreman on the N & W at this place, was accidentally killed by the discharge of a double-barrel shotgun

which Mr Scott set down on the steps of his grocery store and leaned against the door, thinking it was locked and no one was in. Arthur, however, was in the store, and hearing his father outside, proceeded to open the door. As he did so the gun slipped off the steps, the hammer striking the steps as it slipped down, discharging one barrel right in his face. The charge struck him between the eyes and the base of nose, tearing the entire top of his head off. He was buried at the Banner graveyard Thursday at 5 pm. A large crowd of his schoolmates and friends attended the burial.

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Mr T M Smith The Post 11/12/1903

At 5 o'clock this morning Mr Thomas M Smith dies at his home near McConnell postoffice. He has been ailing during the night but had become easier. Mrs Smith arose and started to light a fire, and asked him how he was feeling. He replied that he felt strange but was not suffering. In a short time he called her but before she could reach his bedside he was dead.

The burial will take place tomorrow at 10 o'clock.

Mr Smith was a splendid citizen, probably about 60 years old. He was a gallant Confederate soldier. He is survived by a widow, one son, and two daughters. Gate City Herald.

### **Election Judge The Post 11/5/1903**

Killed at Fairview, in Scott County,

A horrible affair occurred at Fairview, in Scott County, on Tuesday morning, as a result of dissatisfaction over the judges of election. It seems that John Catron and John Barnett, two Republican politicians objected to the Republican judge, Calloway Roler, the electoral board had appointed for the voting precinct at Fairview, and wanted Ira Robinette to take his place. The Democratic judges, one of whom was Eck "Njckels", objected to Robinette and would not let him serve. After wrangling for some time over the matter Catron and Barnett went away, but returned in a short time to a back door of the house in which the election was being held, rushed in upon the officers and commenced firing at them. Catron shot Nickels and Barnett shot Osborne. Nickels being shot in the back of the head and Osborne in the back near the heart. When the firing began, and after being shot Nickels drew his gun and shot Catron through the neck. The firing continued for some time and when the smoke cleared away Nickels and Osbourne were dead and Catron seriously wounded and two other men whose names we failed to learn, hit with stray bullets.

Immediately after the shooting Barnett fled and has not yet been captured.

Catron is seriously wounded and his recovery is doubtful.

The affair is a most deplorable one and from the reports of the occurrence there seems to be little doubt that the attack to the election judges was planned. The community is greatly excited over the affair and there is likely to be further trouble.

Another of the report of the affair is that Nickels fired the first shot.

Osbourne, one of the men killed, was a deputy sheriff and had gone to the polls to help reserve order.

**The Norfolk Landmark 11/14/1903**

A A Keys, one of the Republicans shot in the election day riot at Fair View, in Scott county, died last night. He was one of four men under indictment for killing "Asburn" and Nickels. John Catron who was severely wounded, is at his home improving but not able to be moved. John "Bartlett" ia in jail and Kine Scott has fled the county.

**To Prevent Friends Attacking the Jail THE NORTH CAROLIAN 1/14/1904**

By the Associated Press

Bristol, Tenn. Jan 12 – To prevent his friends attacking the Gate City, Va jail to release John H Catron, who is held on a charge of murdering Deputy Sheriff Eck Nickels and John Osbourne, election judges, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, last, the prisoner was tonight removed to the county jail at Abingdon Va., for safe-keeping. Sheriff C C Broadwater and Deputies W W Bond, J W Broadwater and J L Pendleton had the prisoner in charge.

For several days past the tough element of the Kentucky-Tennessee border has been planning to effect Catron's release from jail by force, but Sheriff Broadwater frustrated the scheme by removing Catron to a safer jail.

**Change of Venue The Times Dispatch, Richmond 2/13/1904**

Special to the Times-Dispatch

Bristol Va., Feb 12 – A change of venue has been granted to the defenant in the case of the Commonwealth of Virginia against John Catron and the case will be tried in Lee county, Virginia, instead of Scott county. Catron is the man who is charged with having shot and killed two Democratic election judges at the Fairview Precinct in Scott county, Virginia last November.

The feeling is so intense in Scott county over the affair that is deemed advisable to transfer the case to Lee county. Catron and Barnett, the latter being his alleged accomplice, have been in jail at Abingdon, Va., since the killing.

**The Times Dispatch, Richmond 2/21/1904**

Special to the Times Dispatch

Bristol, Tenn., Feb 20 – The trial of J H Catron charged with a triple murder at Fair View in Scott county, Va., on election day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, last, will begin at Jonesville, Lee county, Monday.

On account of the intense feeling and excitement in Scott county over the tragedy, the case has been transferred to Lee county for trial.

There will be about one hundred and fifty witnesses examined at the trial. Fifteen of the most prominent lawyers in Southwest Virginia will appear.

**The Times Dispatch, Richmond 4/19/1904**

## Catron Under Knife

### Man Recently Acquitted of Murder Undergoes an Operation

Special to the Time-Dispatch

Bristol, Tenn., April 18 – John H Catron of Scott county, Va., who was recently acquitted of the charge of having murdered the election judges of Fairview Precinct, in this county, underwent a surgical operation in Bristol today to relieve him of a dangerous “abcess” in his head. The operation was successful and it is thought he will recover.

Catron, who has been very ill since his trial claims it is due to exposure to cold while he was in jail. He is being nursed by his brother from Lee county.

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### Shot and Killed His Blind Wife The Post 6/5/1903

#### Wise County Outlaw Commits Many Crimes

Freeling, Va., May 30, 1903

Clifton H Branham, who murdered his wife, Nancy Branham, at Pound, Wise Co., Va., was arrested near Lexington Ky., a short time ago and will be brought to Wise County for trial in a few days. Branham is about 40 years of age and his life has been full of interesting events for several years back. In the early eighties he was a terror to the people of Wise and Dickenson Counties, Va., and Pike and Letcher Counties in Kentucky. His criminal career dates back to the time he waylaid and shot a Mr. Smallwood in Pike County, Ky., while around his fireside with his family not dreaming of danger. Branham slipped to a crack in the house and fired the ball which took effect in Smallwood's arm, he sank to the floor and Branham, believing him to be dead left. Smallwood recovered but was a cripple the remainder of his life. Next, while Henry Vanover, a farmer of Letcher county, Kentucky, was in the field at work, Branham brutally murdered him. For this crime he was tried, found guilty, and sentenced to imprisonment for life in the penitentiary; he remained in the pen of fourteen years and six months and was granted a conditional pardon by Gov. Beckham.

While in the pen he professed religion and became a minister of the gospel; upon his liberation, he returned to Wise County, Va., and upon his return he found his eldest daughter had married one David Fleming, and trouble arose between Branham and Fleming. Branham immediately pulled his gun and fired at Fleming, the ball cutting a lock of hair from his head; Mrs Branham begged him not to hurt Fleming, whereupon he levelled his gun at her and fired, the ball lodging in her side; she sank to the ground and almost instantly expired. Branham then took up his abode in Kentucky, but the news of his brutal murder followed him and he was taken into custody by the officers of the law. The murdered woman had some time prior to the killing become almost totally blind. Branham has long been noted for his desperateness and upon one occasion is said to have remarked that he would kill a man for a biscuit. His father is living near here and at the advanced age of 90 years and has always been considered an honest, law abiding citizen.

From Wise The Post 8/6/1903

Wise, Va., August 1 – The jury in the case of the Commonwealth versus Clifton Branham, charged with the murder of his wife, returned a verdict of murder in the first degree, at 3:30 o'clock this p.m. A motion for a new trial was made and will be argued next week, there being 25 to 35 witnesses for the defense and about the same number for the Commonwealth. The defendant was represented by Judge T M Alderson, John A Hughes, J F Alley, Hon R P Bruce and W H Bend, while W W G Datson, Attorney for the Commonwealth, and O M Vicars looked after the interests of the Commonwealth. There are several other cases of importance on the docket among which is the case of the Commonwealth versus Wesley Hicks, charged with the murder of Dav Dykes and George Fowler at Glamorgan on last Sunday morning. These cases will be called next week and it is more that probable that they will be tried. Hicks was refused bond.

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A "Mullin" Died This A.M. The Post 6/5/1903

Expired Suddenly in Front of Central Hotel.

Austin Mullins, of Falls Mills dropped dead in front of the Central Hotel here this morning about 6:30. Mr. Mullins had been in town for several days in the interest of a law suit which, it is said has given him a great deal of worry. He arose early this morning, and after taking a walk returned to the hotel and say down in a chair in front of the public room and fell over.

Friends came to his side at once and after examination found that he was dead. Mr. Mullins was a straight forward, upright citizen, and his sudden death is a shock to his large number of friends in the country. He was a relative if Grant M Mullins, Assistant Cashier of Tazewell National Bank. The cause of death was pronounced as heart trouble.

