

# Florida Agriculturist.

SUPPLEMENT.

DELAND, FLORIDA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1891.

## A JUST FATE!

### A NEGRO RAVISHER LYNCHED BY AN OUTRAGED PEOPLE.

#### Lee Bailey Rapes a DeLand Lady and Pays the Penalty with His Life.

#### The Fiend Enters the Residence of J. R. Wetherell at Midnight—Mrs. Wetherell's Sad Story—The Negro's Identification—The Outraged Populace and the Inquest.

It was a ghastly sight that early risers in DeLand gazed upon Sunday morning—the corpse of a negro—the ravisher Lee Bailey, half naked, gagged and bullet riddled, suspended between the God whom he had disobeyed and the earth he had disgraced.

Friday night about 12 o'clock this fiend in human form forced an entrance into the residence of Mr. J. R. Wetherell on Amelia avenue, about a half mile southeast of town, and committed rape upon Mrs. Wetherell, who is occupying the house alone during the absence of her husband in the East.

As soon as possible (about 1 o'clock) Mrs. Wetherell went to the nearest neighbor's house—Ira Whitcombe—about a quarter of a mile distant—and, although in a terrible condition, almost frenzied with fear and mortification, she told her sad story in a clear and concise manner.

#### THE SAD STORY.

She says she was awakened at the time stated by some one jumping on her bed, grasping her by the throat and pressing a revolver to her face. When she attempted to free herself from the ruffian's grasp he choked her almost into insensibility, and while she was in this condition he accomplished his diabolical purpose.

Sheriff Kurtz was informed of the affair by Mr. Whitcomb, and as suspicion pointed to a copper-colored negro named Lee Bailey, who had recently been discharged from Mr. Wetherell's employ, a search was instituted, and Deputy Sheriff J. W. Perkins captured him about noon Saturday near Dr. Mellett's office on New York avenue.

#### POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION.

He was immediately carried before Mrs. Wetherell, who readily identified him. Her identification was positive, and when he was brought into her presence she sprang at him, and with the words,

"YOU HIDEOUS DOG,"

struck him a blow in the face. The negro had the same straight hair, the peculiar shaped head, the woolen shirt and his breath was impregnated with the fumes of whisky. The negro who committed the dastardly deed had all these. Sheriff Kurtz examined the tracks leading to the window through which entrance and exit was made, and Bailey's shoes fitted them like a glove.

The negro was locked up in jail, and, although the feeling against him was intense, it was the general opinion at sundown that he would not be lynched until the return of Mr. Wetherell, who had been telegraphed to.

Our people, however, were unable to restrain themselves even temporarily, and it appears that a crowd began to collect about midnight in the Putnam House or Lance Adams' orange groves and proceeded from there to the jail, where they overpowered the sheriff, took out the ravisher and hung him to one of the three water oaks standing in the center of Rich avenue, midway between the jail and the Terry house. It is evident that as soon as he was "strung up" he was filled with shot, as his face showed no evidence of strangulation. He was completely riddled with bullets.

It is said that the monster confessed to the commission of the crime before he was launched into eternity.

The number and personnel of the crowd is unknown, and the only thing that throws any light on the subject is the testimony of Sheriff Kurtz at the coroner's inquest.

#### THE SHERIFF'S STORY.

The inquest was held Sunday morning. The following citizens were summoned as a jury by Deputy Sheriff Perkins: C. A. Biggers, S. W. Johnston, C. A. Miller, G. N. Messimer, E. L. Bond and S. A. Wood. The jury selected Mr. Biggers as foreman, viewed the body and adjourned to the City Hall.

Sheriff Kurtz was the only witness who testified before the inquest. He said that between 12 and 1 o'clock a body of men broke into the guard room in front of the jail, seized him, bound his hands behind him and covered him with the bed clothes. He said that after he was bound and covered he thinks some one struck a match. At any rate they found the satchel in which he carries the jail keys. They then opened the front door of the jail and after a considerable length of time the crowd succeeded in getting the cell door open. He heard the mob (with the exception of a guard left with him) leave the jail and shortly afterwards he heard a volley of thirty or thirty-five shots. None of the prisoners were allowed to escape and the doors were securely locked and the keys returned to him after Bailey was removed. He said he had no way of correctly estimating the crowd, but thinks there were between seventy-five and one hundred present. He said the guard room seemed to be full, the porch full, and from the noise he thought the jail yard was full of men. He occupied the room alone, and was unable to recognize any one.

#### THE VERDICT.

The verdict of the jury was that "the deceased Lee Baily came to his death by a certain rope and fire arms in the hands of parties to the jury unknown."

#### APPROVED BY ALL.

The action of the mob Saturday night meets with the unanimous approval of our citizens, the only regret expressed by many of them is that they were not present to assist in the good work. Every one, of course, regrets that such a

thing should be necessary, but they one and all appreciate the necessity of such prompt and summary action when so hideous a crime is committed. In such cases only is lynch law justifiable, and on the other hand it is always justifiable in such cases.

The better class of negroes were in hearty accord with the action of the mob. Some mouthy ones, however, made idle threats of vengeance by the torch, and to guard against all contingencies the town was patrolled by forty extra police Sunday night.

The negro Bailey was buried at the expense of the county, his relations refusing to have anything to do with the carrion.

Thus endeth the first lesson which we trust will be all that is necessary to teach our colored population that the men of Volusia county are alert for the protection of their wives, sisters and daughters.

Mrs. Wetherell is one of the most highly respected ladies in the community, and it is hardly necessary to say she has the heartfelt sympathy of every one.

#### MR. WETHERELL HEARD FROM.

The following telegram was received from Mr. Wetherell at 10 o'clock yesterday morning:

WEST PITTSFIELD, MASS., Sept. 29th, —Returning yesterday from Rochester, I saw the first account of the atrocious crime in the Albany papers. I will reach DeLand Thursday afternoon.

JOHN R. WETHERELL.

#### GLENWOOD GOSSIP.

#### Bright and Interesting Items From the City of Orange Groves.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

The pleasant weather we are now having is greatly enjoyed by every one.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Hall left Monday of last week for their Northern home in Ottawa, Ill., with the hope that Mr. Hall's health would be benefited by the change of climate.

Mr. and Mrs. Luce and daughter and Mrs. Andres are spending a few days at the coast.

Mr. Gilmore, of Seville, has moved into the Shoemaker house.

Mr. J. B. Conrad is visiting friends in New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Mann have returned home having spent two months' with friends in Michigan.

School commenced Monday, Miss Martha Owen teacher.

Messrs. Willison and son are plastering the houses of Messrs. Wright and Buell.

Mr. Terwellinger is round buying oranges in bulk.

Mr. S. J. Waits is sick with malarial fever. Mr. Murphy is acting agent during his absence.

Mr. J. W. Bredow left last week for New York to lay in a stock of goods. He will also visit friends in Michigan before his return. Mrs. Bredow returned from the latter place last week.

The picnic at the Spring on the 17th was attended by about fifty Glenwoodites.

Mrs. Moore goes to Hawthorne to teach this winter.

Rev. Mr. Enlow will preach at the church the fourth Sunday of each month.

#### ADDITIONAL LOCALS.

Mrs. Ten Eyck has our thanks for a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Mrs. J. B. Jordan returned last week from her summer visit to North Carolina.

Thirty-nine passengers came in from the North on the mail train Saturday night.

Charlie Lynch was made happy last week by the arrival of his family from Kentucky.

The floor of the Christian Church has been treated to a brand new carpet by the Ladies' Society.

The jury for the next term of the Criminal Court will be drawn next Tuesday at ten o'clock.

Prof. Godfrey's family returned from Georgia Saturday where they have been spending the summer.

Harry Baldwin leaves this morning for Lake City where he will enter the State Agricultural and Mechanical School.

Mr. Adam Correl has moved into his new residence on the Boulevard and Mr. Cleaveland into his new one on Rich avenue.

The gun club had its first shoot of the season last Thursday. Mr. C. M. Buel carried off first honors with a score of sixteen out of a possible twenty.

The DeLand public school did not open last Monday, as the new building was not completed. It is thought it will be finished this week, and if so school will open next Monday.

Supt. N. S. C. Perkins received from the publishers last week \$2,000 worth of school books, which have been distributed to the various schools of the county. The county furnishes all books used in the public schools without charge.

The McAbee case was up before Judge Broome again last week. The Volusia County Bank garnisheed a deposit in the Titusville bank, through its attorneys, Hamlin & Stewart, and Mr. McAbee's attorneys, Miller and Abrams, moved to quash the writ: The motion was overruled.

Are you going to build this summer, if so, you will find it to your interest to purchase your lumber of the Bond Lumber Co? We have now on hand one half million feet of seasoned lumber. This, together with our latest improved machinery and skilled workmen, makes us better prepared than ever to fill orders intrusted to us on short notice. We have also started our shingle machines and are making a first-class cypress shingle. Also turning scroll sawing and all kinds of mouldings. All orders by mail will receive prompt attention. Address, Bond Lumber Co., Glenwood, Fla.

#### Select School.

I will open a select school, in the City Hall, Sept. 28th. The best attention and instruction will be given to pupils in all grades taught. Kindergarten work will be made a specialty. A competent instructor in the "Tonic Soh-Fa" system of singing, has been secured. This method has undoubtedly many advantages over the old; by means of it, the art of singing is much more easily acquired. For terms and further information inquire of

HENRIETTA RICHARDSON, Boulevard.