

## **SPHEX PRESENTATION SEPTEMBER 2019**

**BY JOE STINNETT**

*(Note: Meant to be read and referred to as notes for slide show, not published as is)*

Learning more about the history of newspapers in Lynchburg is sometimes painful but always illuminating for me.

The history of today's newspaper traces back to 1808, when a Lynchburg preacher got mad at an editor and founded his own paper. Later, the Carter Glass family owned both the morning paper — The News — and the afternoon paper — The Daily Advance — for nearly a hundred years.

For almost 50 years now, the newspaper has been one of the institutions in Lynchburg that has tried to treat everyone equally. But some of its history reflects the worst of the South in general and Virginia in particular, when it comes to race and racism and contempt for African Americans. That was true of many Lynchburg institutions until the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Some Southern newspapers began to change in the 1960s. Unfortunately, in that decade, the Lynchburg papers doubled down on the hate/racism.

The attitude of the 1960s newspaper was far from new, but was in fact deeply rooted in 19th century Lynchburg journalism.

Sen. Carter Glass was publisher of The News and The Daily Advance for more than 50 years. He was born in 1858, lived until 1946, and claimed to have seen the first Union troops ride into Lynchburg in 1865, a few days after the Confederate surrender.

His grandson, Carter Glass III, was responsible for much of the 1960s attitude of the Lynchburg newspapers, but his attitude was nothing new.

The newspapers editors and publishers here, especially in the 19th century, had super-sized personalities, and played important roles, now forgotten, in state and sometimes national politics. So I want to talk about them as well as the racial attitudes of the papers.

**SLIDE WITH CHRONOLOGY OF PAPERS**

You can get a sense of how papers came, went, and combined in Lynchburg in the 19th century from this slide, in which I trace the lineage of today's paper. And there were at least this many papers not listed — for example, I couldn't fit the multiple papers from the late 1700s and early 1800s on this slide, but I want to take a brief look at one of them next.

#### 1798 — SLAVE AD IN LYNCHBURG WEEKLY MUSEUM

Slavery and newspapers had a symbiotic relationship. Without slave labor, especially in the tobacco business, the city would not have prospered, resulting in the advertising that kept the papers open and their owners well-off.

All the antebellum newspapers ran advertisements in almost every issue for the sale of enslaved people — men, women and children.

If you escaped, you would likely end up in the paper again, because escaped slave ads were another constant in the local newspapers. All these ads meant revenue for the publishers — not a huge percentage of their revenue, but maybe 5 percent or so according to my best guess, probably a bit more in the 1830s-1860s.

More importantly, these ads were an important cog in the cultural machinery that kept slavery going — other than handbills, there was no other way to advertise in those days. Except for word of mouth, the newspaper was the chief way slave dealers and masters could get the word out. This is a 1798 ad from one of the several papers published here in the 1790s.

#### 1807-1808 SLIDE LYNCHBURG STAR (trial of Aaron Burr)

The first semi-daily in Lynchburg was the Lynchburg Star. In 1806, James Graham, editor of the Star, squared off against the Rev. Stith Meade, an evangelist who grew up in New London, and frequently preached against the poor morals of Lynchburg.

Graham said he conducted his newspaper, “Unbiased by any fear, and unbiased by any party — a fair, honest and impartial array of facts and circumstances, with inferences and deductions, agreeable to the best lights of our understanding and judgment ... and unaided by **either Monk or Minister.**”

Editor Graham called out Rev. Meade by name in the paper, referring to him as “a devil ... an infamous wretch ... a contemptible, vamping itinerant brawler ... a greater disgrace to humanity than the most dissolute man in Lynchburg.” (That's worse than anything we ever said about Jerry Falwell, by the way.)

The late Phil Scruggs, one of my favorite Lynchburg newspapermen (and a Sphex member), wrote about all this in his 1940s history of Lynchburg. “Editor Graham was much concerned

with separation of church and state, following the end of a state church ... and not wishing the authority of any church officially imposed upon the people.”

### **1808 THE PRESS AND QUOTE 1808**

Well, Preacher Meade was so incensed by Editor Graham’s attacks that he started his own paper, The Lynchburg Press, which actually outlasted Graham’s Star, which closed up shop in 1811. This is the paper that through a series of mergers, buyouts and combinations with others led to today’s N&A.

Mead was born in 1767 at New London. His father, William, ran Mead’s Tavern there which is currently being restored by LU. Stith Mead, regarded as the founder of Lynchburg Methodism, was also a slave owner.

One writer said, “He wielded the sword of the spirit with telling effect. The natural resentment of stricken consciences followed his preaching. He encountered tremendous persecution. He was reviled, maligned, and even threatened with flogging.”

Meade was also associated with Lorenzo Dow, who came to Lynchburg in 1802. He’s the guy who called Lynchburg “the seat of Satan’s Kingdom.” This was way before Lynchburg became known as the city of churches.

### **1808 SLIDE WITH TJ QUOTE AND BOOK PAGE — SAMUEL K. JENNINGS**

Samuel Jennings, who was primarily a physician and author of medical books, appears to have been the actual editor of Stith Meade’s The Press, from 1808 until around 1815. A graduate of Queen’s College, now Rutgers, in New Jersey, he had moved to New London where his father was living.

At some point in the early 1800s, he freed John Charlsson, a 39-year-old African American minister who had been sold to him by Stith Mead. In 1804, he bought Toby and Sally, who were to remain his slaves until 1815 and then be emancipated, but he actually freed them in 1806.

In 1808, he wrote and published “The Married Ladies Companion, or Poor Man’s Friend” which, amazingly, you can still buy via print to order from Amazon. He wrote a number of other medical books and essays.

In 1814, he received a patent for “portable warm and hot bath” for people suffering from rheumatism and other ailments. He’d sent Jefferson a pamphlet about this invention which apparently TJ kept in his second library which was sold after his death. Here’s part of Jefferson’s letter back to Jennings.

In 1815, Jennings moved to Norfolk, then Baltimore, where he became president of the Medical Society of Baltimore, and later anatomy professor at the Maryland Academy of Fine Arts.

## 1822 PLEASANTS

The Virginian, which would become the city's dominant newspaper through the Civil War years, was founded in 1822 by John Hampden Pleasants, a young journalist from Richmond whose father was governor in the mid-1820s. He consolidated The Press and another local paper, The Gazette. He corresponded with Jefferson, as you can see from this slide.

Pleasants moved back to Richmond in 1825 and founded another newspaper, The Constitutional Whig. He became the leader of a group of Virginia reformers, seeking a closer connection between the state and federal governments.

Pleasants, who was not a slave owner, is the only journalist who actually went to the scene of the Nat Turner rebellion in Southampton County in 1831. He condemned marauding white lynch mobs and reported that the conspiracy only involved Turner and his immediate followers, not a broad swath of enslaved people.

Pleasants himself was killed in a duel in 1846 with a political and newspaper rival, Thomas Ritchie Jr. It was apparently a not-very-well organized duel, carried out with pistols, swords and knives. Ritchie was cut, but Pleasants was shot and died two days later.

## 1825 ELIJAH FLETCHER AND THE VIRGINIAN

The *Virginian* was the first Lynchburg paper to really prosper, along with the city, after it was acquired by Elijah Fletcher in 1825 in payment of a debt he was owed by Pleasants.

Fletcher, a native of Vermont who had moved to Amherst County in 1811, married the wealthy daughter of a local plantation owner, and inherited his property when he died a few years later.

He began buying more land and people, and soon became one of the largest slaveholders in Central Virginia, owning 110 enslaved men, women and children when he died in 1858. By then, he owned and lived at the Sweet Briar plantation in Amherst. Previously, he lived in Lynchburg where he was on city council and served as mayor in 1831. He helped found St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Many years later, his daughter Indiana's bequest founded Sweet Briar College.

For better or worse, I confess to feeling a bit of a personal connection to him, because our family farm in Amherst was originally part of his Tusculum plantation near Clifford, and I went to Clifford Elementary School for a couple years, on the site of New Glasgow Academy where he taught. I often think about the families who were enslaved on the Tusculum plantation.

Fletcher had supported John Quincy Adams in the presidential elections of 1824, which he won over William Crawford. This was even though, in the small world of the white Virginia elite, his wife Maria was Crawford's cousin. (Crawford was born in Nelson County.)

We know a lot about Fletcher because his letters were published by Sweet Briar's Martha Von Briesen in 1965.

He too had contact with Jefferson. In fact, Fletcher stopped by Monticello on his way down here from Vermont in 1810 or so and noted in a letter back home, "The legend of Black Sal is no farce." That's a pretty early reference to Sally Hemmings, who we now know was the mother of seven of Jefferson's children.

Enslaved people were an important part of Fletcher's business interests: "A great traffic is carried on here by some, who are called Negro Traders, in buying slaves and carrying them to the western but principally the Southern States — George, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana &c. Slaves are always a cash article, still not so high as they were several years ago."

In another 1825 letter, he showed the callous nature of the slave society here, expressing no remorse for the death of an African American child other than concern about his monetary value: "We have had a seasonable Spring and summer and a general time of health. I had a Negro Boy about 10 or 12 years old die last week. He had been sick some time. Such a Boy is worth in case from \$350 to \$400. This kind of property is now rising. The great demand for them in the south

for making cotton and the improvement of Tobacco here will make money more plenty and property will rise.”

### **RICHARD TOLER OF VIRGINIAN**

Richard Toler was the actual editor of The Virginian, with Fletcher the owner and publisher, heading the business operations. He did not own slaves, and was a leader of the local colonization society.

Anne Royall, the national society/gossip writer, called him “the Adonis of Lynchburg” in her 1830 book. I couldn’t find a picture of him. She described him: “A young man, of a light figure, and middling height, with inimitable features, of the Grecian cast. His countenance is keen and intelligent, yet mild and suasive, and a most penetrating eye. He is a man of high literary attainments, and to all this he unites the most amiable disposition and manners.”

Like Pleasants, Toler came to Lynchburg from Richmond in the 1820s. Toler grew up around the Richmond newspapers, living as a youth at a printing office where he work.

“Guided by the trenchant pen of Richard Toler, The Virginian soon became the leading and most influential newspaper in this section of the state,” Phil Scruggs writes. He represented Lynchburg in the House of Delegates for many years.

Toler was opposed to slavery, mostly as an economic and social system, but sometimes expressed humanitarian concerns as you can see here, making him unique among Lynchburg’s pre-war editors. The Virginian continued to profit from slave ads throughout his tenure here in the 1830s and 1840s.

### **1831 JEFFERSONIAN REPUBLICAN AKA THE JEFFERSONIAN, AND RICHARD CRALLE**

What a nameplate, it even includes God!!! Or at least an angel. And Lady Liberty. And a globe on a stand. And clouds. And light rays. And a shield with mysterious initials. etc.

This Lynchburg paper was a political rival of The Virginian and endorsed Andrew Jackson over JQAdams. It was founded in 1828 by John J. Cabell. He was of the Swedenborgian faith as was Richard Cralle, an attorney and William and Mary graduate who married Cabell’s daughter, and carried the editorial burden.

Cralle was a friend and supporter of friend states-rights and slavery advocate John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, whom he may have been related to. In fact, with financing from Virginia governor and future U.S. President John Tyler, Cabell and Cralle moved the paper to Richmond

in 1832 where it became “The Jeffersonian and Virginia Times,” for the purpose of “furthering (Calhoun’s) theories on state sovereignty,” according to historian Richard K. Ellis.

At some point Cralle moved from Richmond to Washington, D.C., where in 1837 he edited “The Reformer,” a 19th century version of today’s The Hill online journal — it covered Congress when in session, every day of the week except Sunday. Cralle became chief clerk of the U.S. State Department when Calhoun served as secretary of state in 1844 and 1845, and edited the multiple volumes of Calhoun’s papers after he died.

By 1849 he was back in Campbell County. Cralle was a slave holder and, like Elijah Fletcher, ranked his human possessions as he would livestock.

He reported on a Roanoke area auction to a friend who couldn’t attend, noting that the enslaved people were sold for very high prices despite not being “top quality” — very few would pass for what the traders called “No. 1,” he wrote. Still, he was delighted with the auction because it was “open, frank and undisguised.” That’s an odd choice of words because some of the bidding was on behalf of unnamed buyers.

## **COWARDIN AND THE JEFFERSONIAN**

In Lynchburg, still in his teens, James Cowardin became “foreman” of Cabell and Cralle’s Jeffersonian Republican here. Foreman of a newspaper in those days was generally the man in charge of the press, typesetting, and production of the paper, but Cowardin also sometimes wrote for the paper.

He too moved to Richmond where in 1850 he founded The Dispatch, the predecessor of today’s Times-Dispatch. The Dispatch deemed slavery an economic necessity, editorializing that “the whole commerce of the world turns on slave labor.” In 1854, Cowardin helped found the Virginia Mechanics Institute, arguing in favor of creating a skilled Southern class of craftsmen and industrial workers to populate an industrial city in the image of New York or Philadelphia, but in a slave society.

## 1840 GLASS AND REPUBLICAN

A competing paper to The Virginian had appeared in 1840, The Lynchburg Republican. In 1845, Robert Henry Glass, the father of Sen. Carter Glass — became its editor.

In addition to serving in elected office, editors in this era were often also postmasters. This enabled them to control the distribution of their product and perhaps impede the delivery of rival papers. It was a sought-after position and liable to change hands with changes in the political party in power in Washington. Robert Glass was publishing The Lynchburg Republican and also serving as postmaster by 1860. The Virginian had printed some complaints about the delivery of its papers and some of the Republican editors took offense. So, they shot it out at the corner of 12th and Main on June 23. A Virginian editor was killed.

He was not a slave owner.

## GEORGE BAGBY (1828-1883)

In his time, Bagby was the best known of all the journalists hatched in Lynchburg. Has anyone here heard of him I wonder?

Virginius Dabney describes him as “a humorist of almost unique (national) stature, but at the same time an incisive commentator on the passing scene in editorials written before, during, and after the Civil War.”

I imagine that his national fame was probably equivalent to that of David Sedaris, for example, but not in Mark Twain territory.

He grew up in Lynchburg where his father operated a store. His father who left his son with lifelong emotional scars. He wrote to George, age 6, about little girls being burned alive, for refusing to recant their Christianity, and even threatened him, “You are in danger every day. You may die soon.”

When Bagby excelled in school (Edgehill Academy in Princeton, N.J.) his father told him he was becoming too reliant on academic prowess. Not surprisingly, Bagby suffered from depression and had an emotional breakdown when he was looking for work in NYC after the war.

He received a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1849, had a few patients in Lynchburg, but became friendly with the local reporters — uh-oh — and by the early 1850s was running the short-lived Lynchburg Express.

Bagby began writing for the *Virginian* in 1854. He also began contributing to Harper's, including *The Virginia Editor* (see slide) in 1856. That essay, which seems good-natured today, provoked another editor to challenge him to a duel that was averted at the last minute.

He left Lynchburg in 1857 to work as Washington correspondent for *New Orleans* and *Memphis* newspapers. He also wrote for the *Atlantic*, and edited the *Southern Literary Messenger* — for which he wrote a series of purposely and humorously misspelled letters. These were from a “semi-literate bumpkin,” which readers of the age apparently loved, resulting in Bagby being called “Mozis” for the rest of his life. He was also “renowned for his skill at portraying the antebellum Negro and his dialect.” (Dabney.)

In 1859, he moved to Richmond and in 1860 became editor of *Southern Literary Messenger*, writing pro-Confederacy stuff: “Let us fight for our wives, our children, our aged sires, whom the mercenary hordes of the North would fain deliver over to the sword of the invader and the pike of the Negro insurrectionist.”

### **SLIDE WITH PIPE SMOKING MAN**

Virginius Dabney, himself a 20th century Richmond editor, wrote in 1987 that Bagby was “A realist who took pains to describe the old life as it was.” Hmmm. I don't think so. Or maybe he was revealing more than he intended, as in this quote comparing Southern slave holders to the ancient Greeks.

I don't think most of his writing is very good, although he was good at straight description when he wasn't putting on dumb hick stuff or writing in African American dialect.

I thought this was a pretty good sketch, which

I found in a collection of his writings published in 1948. Interestingly, my copy of this book was at different points owned by both the old Carver-Price High School library, the pre-integration black high school in Appomattox County, and Seven Hills, the private school for white girls here in Lynchburg.

## **CHARLES BUTTON 1861**

Charles Button, from Harper's Ferry, purchased *The Virginian*, the dominant paper in Lynchburg, in the later 1850s. His brother had been killed in the gunfight with the Glass editors.

He was not a slaveholder, and opposed secession, mostly for economic reasons, right up until the day it happened, but then he got quickly on board. By late in the war, he was suggesting that Union officers who led blacks into combat should be hung, and that Confederate troops should begin flying "the black flag," like a pirate flag, meaning that they would offer no quarter to Union prisoners white or black.

In editorials, *The Virginian* termed Abraham Lincoln "an ape." *The Dispatch* referred to him as "His Sable Excellency."

## **1866 WITHERS AND WADDILL — first paper**

By early 1866, Lynchburg business was recovering from the war, creating a need for advertising, so a third daily paper, *The News*, was founded after a chance meeting on the street.

*The Daily News*, as it was first called, was founded by an unlikely triumvirate — a lawyer, a doctor, and a printer. The printer was Albert Waddill, who would go on to own the paper outright and publish it until 1887, when he sold it to his editor, Carter Glass.

The doctor, Robert E. Withers, recalled the founding of the paper in his 1907 "Autobiography of an Octogenarian." Withers, who lived in Danville, was passing through Lynchburg when he encountered a boyhood friend, Edward D. Christian, a lawyer, on the street in late 1865.

Christian told Withers he was starting a new newspaper, likely to take advantage of the advertising market.

He already had one partner, Waddill, the longtime chief printer of the *Daily Virginian*, who was jumping ship to the new paper.

But Christian also needed an editor and he thought Withers fit the bill, despite Withers' utter lack of experience in journalism. He had a medical degree from the University of Virginia. Nonetheless, Withers agreed, partly because he had just gotten into debt buying a farm in Russell County.

Withers was a Confederate veteran who had been severely wounded. The lead story on the front page Jan. 15, 1865 was a reprint of a letter from rebel general Jubal Early, who was on the run in Havana, bound for Mexico City. Early, later a longtime Lynchburg resident, wrote that rumors that he had taken the oath of allegiance to the United States were untrue.

Withers, who was editor of *The News* until 1868, ran for governor in 1866. He wrote of his campaign, "I told them I cared not a jot whether they were Whigs or Democrats, Unionists or Secessionists, all I asked of them was to show by their votes that they were white men, willing to

stand with white men in driving back the horde of blacks and their Carpet Bag allies who wished to rule Virginia.”

Withers (1821-1907) ended up withdrawing from the gubernatorial race. In addition to later serving in the U.S. Senate, he was also lieutenant governor of Virginia and U.S. consul in Hong Kong.

A few years after the Civil War, the Underwood Convention adopted a Virginia constitution giving rights to African Americans. Most Virginia newspapers ridiculed the black delegates and termed the convention itself “monstrous.” The formerly enslaved were portrayed as too ignorant to hold political office — this was taken as gospel among the white elites and was something I myself was taught in Virginia’s public schools in the 1960s. 1866 THREE CLIPS OF STORIES

The News was much worse than The Virginian as far as racism. Charles Button, editor of The Virginian, published multiple slave ads every day. But he rarely mocked individual African Americans, and I can recall seeing only one use of the N-word over the five years of papers I read for my newspaper stories on Lynchburg in the Civil War.

Not so in the first edition of The News:

- “thick-lipped daughters of Afric’s sunny clime” arrested for fighting’
- ... “loafing negros” blocking the sidewalks
- ... drinking and thieving ...

**(next slide) 1866 THE RAVEN POEM WITH N-WORD**

The Virginia elite — the white male ruling class — was fearful of the power that African-Americans could wield if they were treated as equals. So they combined legal repression with mockery and contempt.

A poem published on Page 4 in the first edition of The News was a takeoff on Edgar Allen Poe’s “The Raven,” titled “The Blackbird.” It told of an untrustworthy black man, using the n-word instead of “the raven” in the famous lines like, “Quoth the raven, never more.”

It’s beyond horrible that this was in first edition of our paper.

### 1883: WHITEHEAD SLIDE *The Daily Advance*

In 1880, *The Daily Advance*, the city's longtime afternoon paper, was founded by Thomas Whitehead, (1825-1901) then editor of *The News*, and prior to that founder of the Amherst Enterprise (now the *New Era-Progress*), and a former member of Congress.

A Confederate cavalry captain, he was born in Lovington and began practicing law in Amherst despite limited formal schooling, according to his congressional biography.

This front is from 1883, when Whitehead was chairman of the Lynchburg Democrats. It's mostly devoted to a report on the recent state Democratic Convention, including Item VI: "No Mixed Schools ... We oppose the mixing of the white and colored ... in public schools."

The 1883 gubernatorial election took control of the state away from a coalition of Readjusters, Republicans and African Americans and returned it to the white Democrats.

Whitehead said at a meeting just before the election: "We intend to carry this election if we have to carry it through blood."

But it gets worse: His assistant editor, a man named Marye, commended the white people of Danville for killing five black people in the recent Danville Massacre, and said, "Don't shoot the poor negroes - (emphasis on poor) ... commence with the office-holders first and kill down; kill every devil of them ..."1883 PAGE MCCARTY OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN

In 1883, Page McCarty edited, or published in Lynchburg a short-lived but influential newspaper called *The Democratic Campaign* which was part of the white elite's successful attempt to regain control of Virginia.

Note this cartoon of black teacher beating a white girl.

As far as I am concerned, McCarty's chief claim to fame today is that he was one of the editors featured in a series of tobacco trading cards.

In 1886, McCarty helped found the *Daily Times* of Richmond. Joseph Bryan took over the paper in 1887, later merging it with Cowardin's *Dispatch* to form today's *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

McCarty had fought a famous duel in 1873 in Richmond over his fiancee, who left him for another man. McCarty was convicted of manslaughter but pardoned by the governor. Supposedly he never recovered psychologically from killing his rival.

He looks good on the trading card, but a Richmond politician once attacked him thusly:  
 “Unmarried, penniless, without any fixed employment, dissipated, with nothing to lose, he seems possessed of a devil and would not doubt esteem it a mercy for some gentleman to kill him and ease his tortured brain and conscience ... (his) wasted talents and miserable life I truly pity.”

Bryan, who fired McCarty when he took over the Dispatch, said many times, “ ... I unhesitatingly put lawyers at the top and newspapermen at the bottom of all the men I have even known, and preachers next to newspapermen.”

### **SLIDE WITH IRVING PENN LABORING MAN**

Wooahoo, another native of New Glasgow - Clifford — in Amherst County.

I haven't seen any copies of this paper.

**THE GLASS ERA 1888-1979— THE OLD FLAG — EXPLAIN THE REBUS means Lynchburg ...**

Now we get to the Glass era. — Each morning when they looked at their newspaper, generations of Central Virginians saw a detailed engraving at the top of the front page. This artwork, called a “rebus,” was an artistic representation of the word, “Lynchburg.” I had seen this image all my life but never knew that's what it meant.

### **1888: SLIDE OF NINTH STREET, GLASS, HE BOUGHT THE PAPER IN 1888 AFTER THREE YEARS AS EDITOR.**

Carter Glass become editor of The News in 1885 (the same year his father became editor of The Daily Advance) and then bought it from Waddill in **1888**. He bought The Daily Advance in 1895, merging the business operations, but keeping news and editorial separate.

Carter Glass consolidated the Lynchburg newspapers into a near-monopoly on news and advertising.

### **SLIDE WITH TWO GUYS**

I love this photo, which is from the old newspaper office on Ninth Street where city hall is today. I think it was taken around 1900. I wish I knew who these two people were.

I find it an encouraging image, just two newspaper people smiling and looking relaxed.

## **1902 DOWNTOWN pics, Main Street with racist quote:**

By this time, 1902, Carter Glass was in the Virginia Senate, helping re-write the state constitution to disenfranchise black voters and take away rights they had been granted after the Civil War.

Read slide.

These images are from longtime N&A journalist and SpheX member Phil Scruggs' book about the history of Lynchburg.

## **1900s OLD OFFICE INTERIOR 1932 FDR ELECTION STORY,**

Glass was both a friend and foe of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who called Glass an “unreconstructed rebel,” working with him on the banking reform measures, although Glass went on to oppose the New Deal.

When Roosevelt was elected in 1932, the newspaper flashed results via telephone to the armory, where a couple of editors — including H.L. Johnson, who I worked with in the 1970s briefly — he wore a green eyeshade — read out the results to a large crowd.

## **1936 GLASS, BYRD AND SLEEPING MAN**

Talk about photo, briefly then:

Carter Glass was one of the best-known American figures of the era which stretched from before the Civil War to after World War II.

Towering accomplishments in banking reform coupled with a fiery manner and sharp pen brought the bantam-weight Lynchburg newspaper publisher great fame. He served in the Virginia Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, as Secretary of the Treasury, and as a longtime U.S. Senator.

His reforms to the way money changes hands and banks operate earned him gratitude across the country, landing him on the cover of Time Magazine twice, earning him at least 10 honorary degrees, and prompting an explorer to name a mountain range in Antarctica for him.

Not as well-publicized was his lifelong opposition to voting rights for African Americans.

More than 50 years after it was ratified, the Lynchburg senator remained opposed to the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which granted African Americans the right to vote. Glass said in the 1920s that it “constituted an attempt to destroy white civilization in nearly one-third

of the nation and to erect on its ruins an Ethiopian state ignorant, profligate, corrupt, controlled by manumitted slaves.”

His racist attitudes were reflected in the pages of *The News* and *The Daily Advance*. The 1936 Sesquicentennial Edition, possibly the largest Lynchburg newspaper ever published, included less than a half-page of information about the city’s African American population, buried deep inside.

Also in this year, the U.S. Mint issued a commemorative half-dollar with Glass’s likeness. That same year, while making a political contribution to a Roanoke congressional candidate, Glass, 78, wrote, “I desire to insist upon a single reservation and that is that no part of my contribution be used to qualify negro voters.”

One of his relatives once told me that he was an “intellectual racist,” whatever that is. I assume it means he had no problems with African Americans as long as they stayed in their place.

### **1943 CLARENCE SEAY**

I find some good things about the papers in this era while doing the research for this paper. Clarence Seay was a contemporary of Glass, sort of, although not nearly as old. He’s pretty well known around here himself.

I just love this photo, which I found in the old files at the paper. I am not sure if it was ever published, though.

I’ve coupled it with some straight forward coverage of Dunbar High School here.

I think that prior to CG III taking over from CG Jr, who succeeded his father but died in the mid-1950s, the paper might have been on track to move away from the worst of its racist attitudes.

## 1949 MASS MEETING COVERAGE

Here's more straightforward reporting on black community, which surprised me. Read Weeden comments.

Dr. Weeden was first husband Of Pauline Maloney, well known Lynchburg educator, who I learned a lot about from Hermione's Sphex presentation a couple years ago.

This reporter, a WWII vet and UNC grad, went on to become one of the top labor reporters in the country, primarily for the LA Times.

### 1949 — THE JAMES MADE BEAUTIFUL AGAIN

James River, possibly the first environmental writing as such in the paper ...

Too bad that paper couldn't stick with this stuff instead of turning inward to social news, race hate, anti-communism, and the like by the 1960s. It really held the paper and the community, back.

### 1950s — MAC AND PAGE STINNETT

Mac and Page — highlighting again the long connection between Amherst-Nelson and Lynchburg. J.B. "Mac" McDearmon (Carter's first wife was a McDearmon) was the publisher/owner, my Dad was linotype operator and printer ... — I worked there, my dad worked there, retired editorial page editor Bob Wimer worked there, Bob's mother worked there, current editorial page editor Logan Anderson worked there.

Mac, the owner from the 50s through the 80s was a former Lynchburg city editor. He was an influential local politician and member of the Board of Supervisors. He opposed the integration of Sweet Briar College and Amherst County public schools and in the 1970s once jokingly brandished a shotgun in the newspaper office when told that federal officials were coming to check up on something the county was doing.

Covering your boss's political activities is not something I would wish on my worst enemy. As a young reporter at the Amherst paper, I once spoke up during a supervisors' meeting to question a decision to go into closed session citing FOI law. Mac said to me, "So sue us."

Which I put in my story and which Mac published, thus completing the circle of absurdity.

### **1950s — DEL SMITH (unsure of date, might be 1960s)**

I started at the paper in 1974. Del P. Smith, my first boss, was the longtime managing editor of the paper.

Normally very mild mannered, he once once tossed a radio out third floor window of the old office downtown when the Pirates lost ...

Polio ... supposedly got someone to haul him to work on a sled down Rivermont Ave when it snowed really deep. Learned a lot from him.

These guys I respected and admired and looked up to all just went along with the racism of the publisher, CGIII, in the 1960s. I wish I had talked to them about it. It makes me sad now.

The papers continued to oppose equal rights for African Americans into the late 1960s.

For example, "Photos of black brides were rejected and photographers were advised not to include black and white athletes in the same photo," noted the late Ken Morrison, a former copy editor at the paper, in his 2006 history of the Lynchburg public library.

### **1961 SIT IN STUDENTS**

Tumultuous 1960s in Lynchburg begin — Total of six college students, the Patterson Six, charged with trespassing over sit in at Patterson Drug Store "in an attempt to persuade the owner to integrate his lunch counter."

Segregated seating was ordered by the judge at their trial.

**1962 — JIM HODGES, EDITOR OF THE ADVANCE**, and others — you cubs need to quiet down — to me and my friends.

Hodges defined "gruff."

**1962 — CARDWELL AND WOODRUFF**

Owen Cardwell and Lynda Woodruff on first day of school at glass, as photographed by the N&A. A great photo. How brave they were. Can't imagine. ... As they years passed, we interviewed them maybe every five-ten years or so for something or another.

Each time, I noticed they felt a little more comfortable revealing how awful it must have been as they tried to fit in ....

**1962-63 TALL PROTESTOR AND NEWSROOM SCENE**

Tall protestor with cigarette and tennis shoes, and newsroom scene from downtown. Note what he says on sign!!!

Jim Hodges, H.L. Johnson, Jim Murdock, Hutter Williams (I think) in background.

When Martin Luther King Jr. spoke before a mixed crowd at E. C. Glass High School in 1962, newspaper accounts stressed his link to communist organizations.

How did the editors put up with this? Had it all been normalized by then, I guess? I certainly wrestle with this in my own memory, because of my fond memories of them.

note spike.

**1967 LYNCHBURG TENSE**

By 1967, Lynchburg was attracting national attention for its racist ways. Wansley and William Kunstler story from New York Times, showing crazy, almost rabid, overblown inaccurate coverage by Lynchburg paper.

## 1967 RACIAL BIAS ASSAULT AND COVERUP

More national press, this time a story in Newsday, the big New York daily, infuriated Carter Glass III. The story talked about how the Lynchburg papers were refusing to cover anything to do with Dunbar High School.

CGIII wrote a long response on the editorial page to the Newsday story. Today, it reads like the ravings of a crazy commenter on Facebook.

Glass claimed that the city was failing to protect the newspaper staff, because of something that happened during an impromptu student demonstration at Dunbar. He said that its employees had been attacked while the police stood by.

This involved photographer George Smith. A great shooter in his early days, he wasn't a nice person. He was not someone I revered. I have no proof of this, but what I always heard that was that George had kicked one of the students, who then tried to grab George. So this was the "assault" that sparked Glass's tirades.

## 1967 RACIST social news POLICY

### Read some of the slide

Carter Glass III and the contorted reasoning used to justify racism:

" ... which is what the Negroes desire."

### SLIDE WITH NO DATE — just this:

Dr. Heywood Robinson, longtime pastor of Diamond Hill Baptist Church, said, "**The newspaper was against everything that a black kid wanted. Many white people were afraid of it. The paper got its power from being the voice of the community and that's what's so frightening about it.**"

## 1967 OPEN LETTER STORY

From Ken Morrison's history of the public library: "There were cracks in the newspaper's hard line, though, and it finally collapsed in the late 1960s under public pressure from the same group of citizens who formed the backbone of efforts to start a public library."

This is a story from the New York Times about the "open letter" a group of "prominent white Lynchburg citizens" signed attacking the paper for its racist activities.

Everyone at the NYT wasn't particularly enlightened at this time either. Apparently the headline writer at the Times thought the letter itself constituted a "racial smear."

The open letter helped, and for a time, some of those same people including advertisers like Schewel's threatened to withhold or did withhold their advertising which really helped. In fact, they started a short-lived competing weekly newspaper here. <sup>23</sup>

## 1968 —PEANUTS

By this year, things began to improve.

**This was the** first appearance of Franklin, an African American Peanuts character, in July-August, 1968. I looked it up to make sure it was published here, and it was, in The Daily Advance ...

CGIII was eased out or replaced by the family, and control of the papers paper passed to family members — Red, Tommy. Phil Scruggs, who was a supporter of the United Negro College fund, became director of the editorial pages.

## **1971 — CECIL**

Cecil Mullan — What a job she had corralling the social hoi-polloi of Lynchburg — of which she was a member — as we transitioned from covering the entire community rather than just the elite/white part. She handled it with aplomb and grace and wit.

I first met her only three years later, in 1974, she was great, so knowledgeable and friendly and funny and a real professional. Another person I wanted to emulate.

## **1974 THE NEW NEWSROOM**

So to wrap up, here's a look at the new newsroom, part of the current newspaper building off Lakeside Drive near the University of Lynchburg in 1974, with the old building, and me and Bob.

## **1974 — PHIL AND TYPEWRITER AND COVER OF BOOKLET.**

I wanted to close out with this guy: Phillip Lightfoot Scruggs.

Phil Scruggs and his book — They say that newspapers are the first draft of history — in that case Phil wrote the second draft too! — he wrote Carter Glass's obit in 1946 ...

Phil was one of my first mentors at the Lynchburg newspaper, a terrific writer, a friendly though feisty, one-armed guy, a veteran of the New York pulps of the 1930s, who welcomed the coming of computers by describing the company official in charge as "a god-damned mechanic."

He retired just before the papers moved from downtown. I worked with him for only a few months.

My desk was stuck in a corner of a room in the old telephone company building next to the main art-deco newspaper building alongside Monument Terrace. Phil had an actual office, and was an editorial writer at that point. I was talking with him about his New York experiences when he said he wanted to show me something.

He turned around, raised the blinds of the window behind him. This being the Hill City, there was only a steep hillside just outside. Not that you could see it. The window was filthy. There was one small, slightly less-filthy circle.

Phil pointed to that and said, "See that? I wiped that dust off 20 years ago and the window hasn't been cleaned since." END

# “A Notable Hatchery”



Joe Stinnett  
The Sphex Club  
Sept. 20, 2018

1808: The Press founded

1820: The Gazette founded

1822: The Virginian founded from merger  
of The Press and The Gazette

1840: The Republican founded

**1866: The News founded**

1875: The Virginian buys The Republican

**1880: The Daily Advance founded**

1888: Carter Glass buys The News

1893: The Virginian merges with The News

1895: Glass buys The Daily Advance

---

The Glass family owned The News and The Daily Advance with combined business operations but separate news and editorial until 1979.

# LYNCHBURG WEEKLY MUSEUM

PRINTED BY JOHN DAVIS, at Co. (Virginia)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1798

**ARTICLE I**  
 Of the Constitution of the State of Virginia.  
 The General Assembly do hereby declare that the rights of the people of this State shall be secured by the following Constitution.

Section 1. The Executive Power shall be vested in a Governor, who shall hold his Office for four Years, and be eligible for a second Term.

Section 2. The Legislative Power shall be vested in a Senate and House of Delegates, who shall hold their Offices for one Year, and be eligible for a second Term.

Section 3. The Judicial Power shall be vested in a Supreme Court, and such inferior Courts as the General Assembly may from time to time ordain and establish.

Section 4. The Electors shall be qualified by Birth, or one Year's Residence in this State, and by the Qualifications required for Representatives in the House of Delegates.

Section 5. The Electors shall be qualified by Birth, or one Year's Residence in this State, and by the Qualifications required for Representatives in the House of Delegates.

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Section 11. The Electors shall be qualified by Birth, or one Year's Residence in this State, and by the Qualifications required for Representatives in the House of Delegates.

Section 12. The Electors shall be qualified by Birth, or one Year's Residence in this State, and by the Qualifications required for Representatives in the House of Delegates.

**Advertisement**  
 Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has taken possession of the premises situated in the County of Loudoun, State of Virginia, and is now ready to receive the same.

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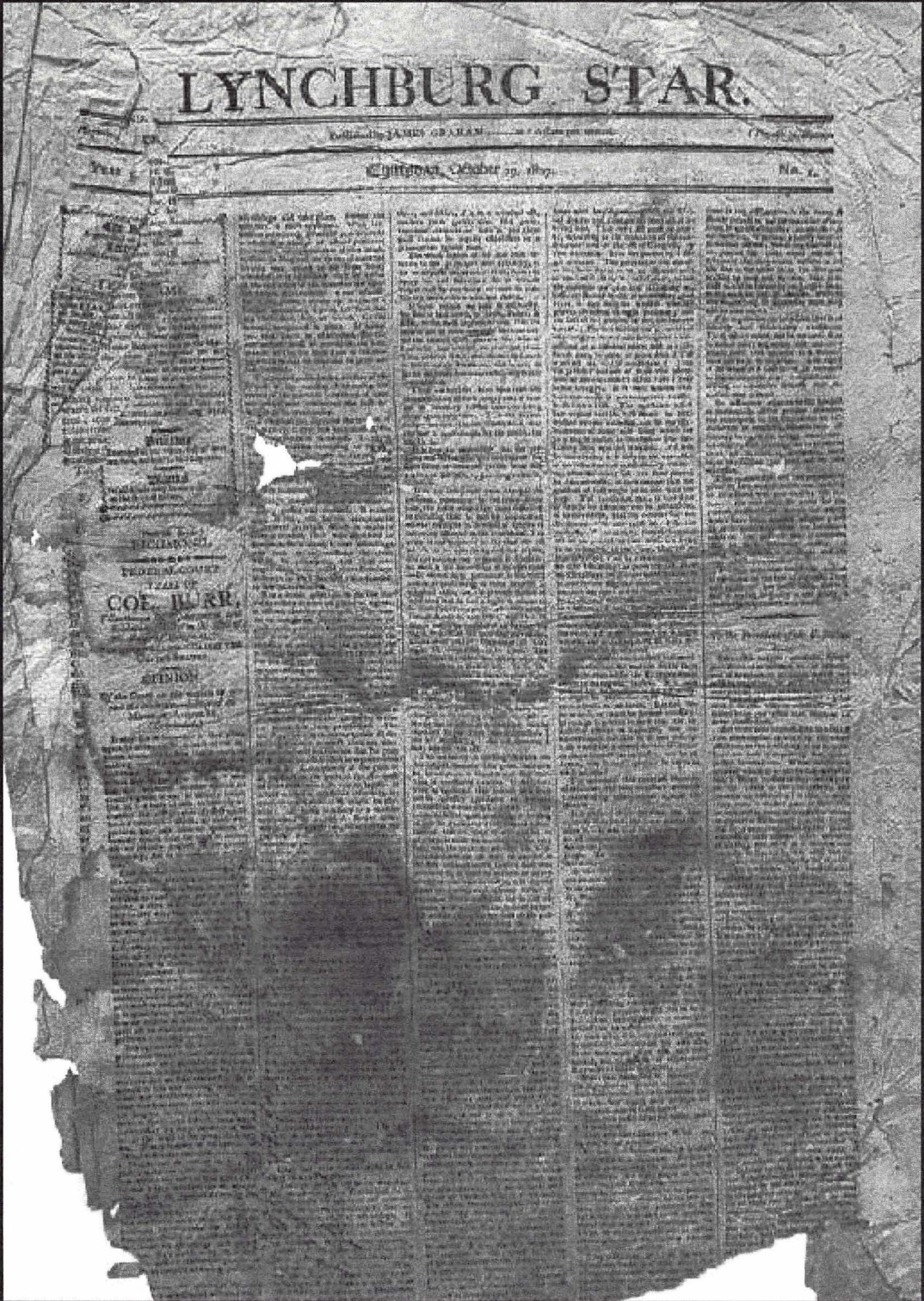
of the same of the Virginia Gazette for two months successively, & published at the front door of the courthouse of the said county two several court days.

A copy Teste,  
**WM. ALEXANDER, D. C. C. C.**

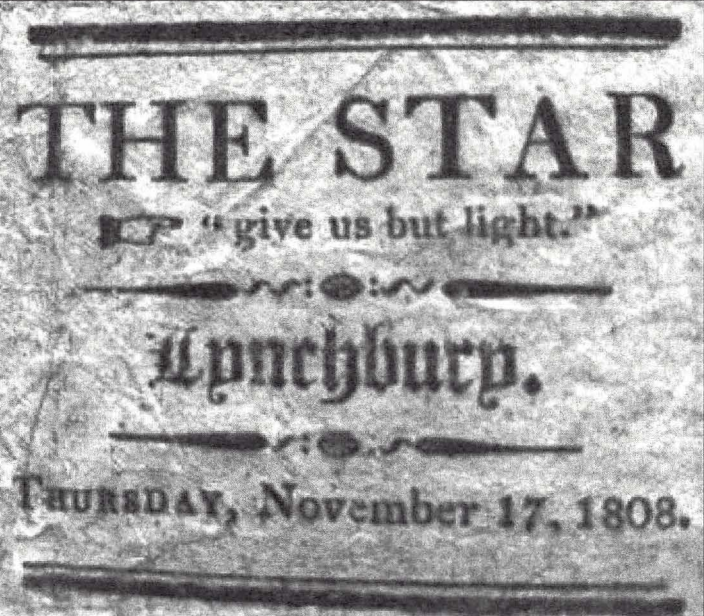
 I have a very likely  
**NEGRO WOMAN,**  
 and Child for sale.

And a very likely FELLOW to be hired for the ensuing year.

**WILLIAM ROBINSON, (Post)**  
 December 24, 1797.



1807, 1808



James Graham,  
Editor and publisher,  
The Lynchburg Star

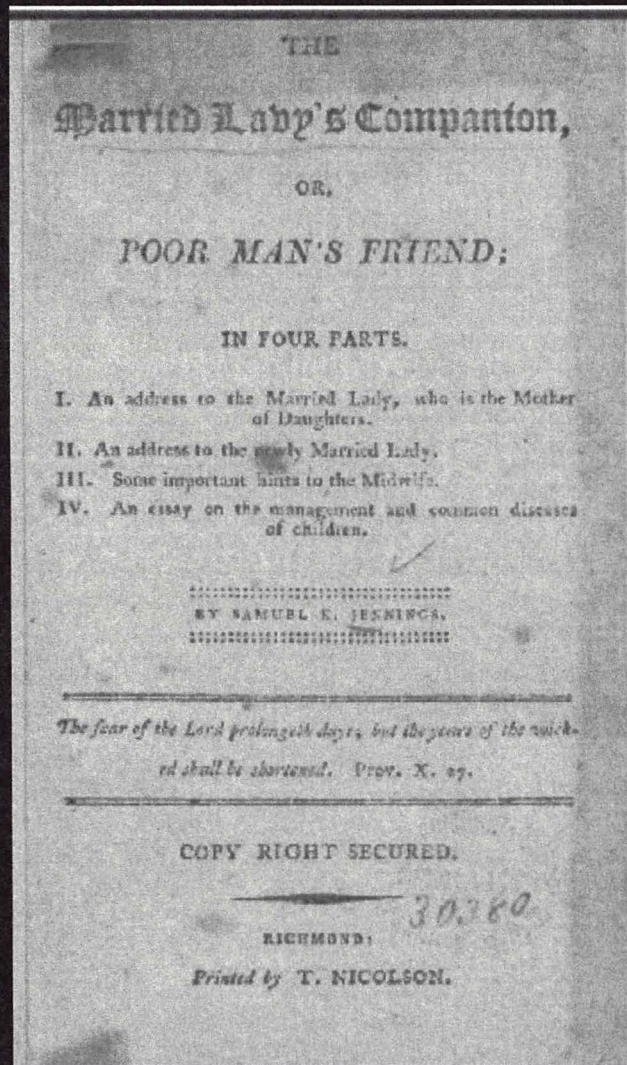


Lynchburg in the 19th century was  
“a notable hatchery  
of prominent journalists.”

— *‘Pistols and Pointed Pens’*  
Virginius Dabney

1808

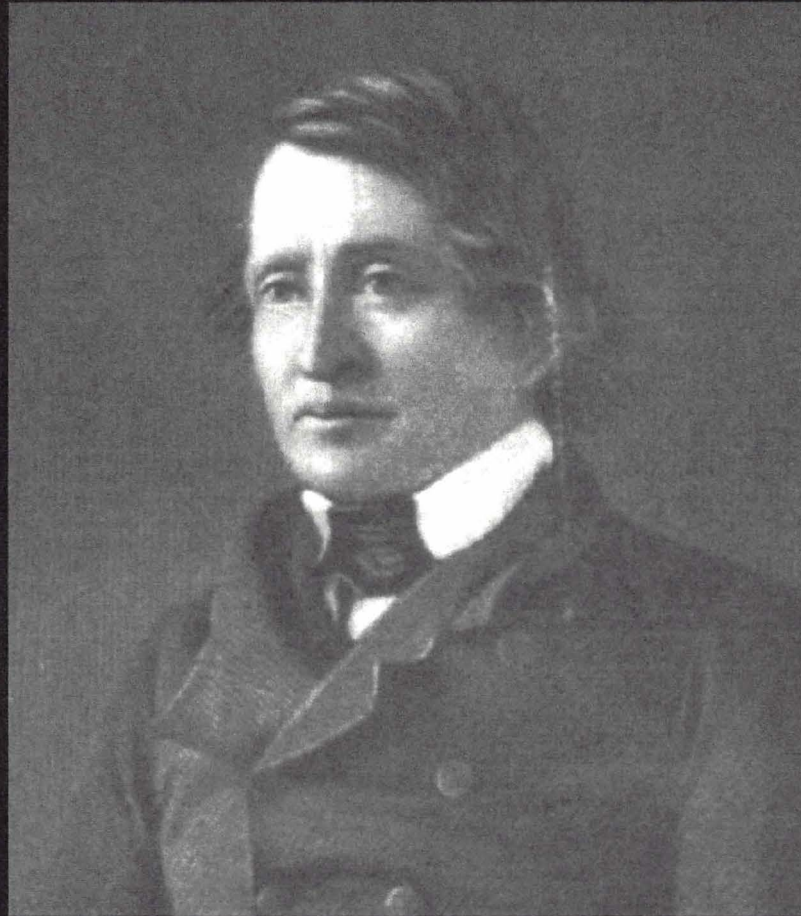
Dr. Samuel K. Jennings, editor of The Lynchburg Press



*Thomas Jefferson to Jennings on his patent for a portable warm bath to treat rheumatism:*

“ ... Your theory is ingenious, well developed, and worthy of an acute observer, but when I consider the many theories which within the last century or two have succeeded each other, all plausible, all rested in facts ingeniously applied, I am obliged to remain in indecision ...” (1815)

1822



John H. Pleasants,  
founder of The Virginian

Thomas Jefferson to  
Pleasants:

“The basis of our (state) constitution is in opposition to the principle of equal political rights, refusing to all but free holders any participation in the natural right of self-government ... it is believed that the Non-freeholders compose the majority of our free & adult male citizens ...” (1824)

# THE VIRGINIAN.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1825.

**THE VIRGINIAN.**  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1825.**

**THE VIRGINIAN.**  
 Published weekly, except on Sundays and public holidays, by E. FLETCHER, at the Virginia Office, No. 10, South Street, in the City of Richmond, Va. Price, per annum, in advance, \$5.00. Single Copies, 10 Cts. No. 10, South Street, Richmond, Va.

**Advertisements.**  
 For the first square, one week, 25 Cts. For the second square, one week, 20 Cts. For the third square, one week, 15 Cts. For the fourth square, one week, 10 Cts. For the fifth square, one week, 7 Cts. For the sixth square, one week, 5 Cts. For the seventh square, one week, 3 Cts. For the eighth square, one week, 2 Cts. For the ninth square, one week, 1 1/2 Cts. For the tenth square, one week, 1 Cts. For the eleventh square, one week, 7/8 Cts. For the twelfth square, one week, 5/8 Cts. For the thirteenth square, one week, 3/4 Cts. For the fourteenth square, one week, 1/2 Cts. For the fifteenth square, one week, 1/3 Cts. For the sixteenth square, one week, 1/4 Cts. For the seventeenth square, one week, 1/5 Cts. For the eighteenth square, one week, 1/6 Cts. For the nineteenth square, one week, 1/8 Cts. For the twentieth square, one week, 1/10 Cts. For the twenty-first square, one week, 1/12 Cts. For the twenty-second square, one week, 1/15 Cts. For the twenty-third square, one week, 1/20 Cts. For the twenty-fourth square, one week, 1/25 Cts. For the twenty-fifth square, one week, 1/30 Cts. For the twenty-sixth square, one week, 1/40 Cts. For the twenty-seventh square, one week, 1/50 Cts. For the twenty-eighth square, one week, 1/60 Cts. For the twenty-ninth square, one week, 1/80 Cts. For the thirtieth square, one week, 1/100 Cts. For the thirty-first square, one week, 1/120 Cts. For the thirty-second square, one week, 1/150 Cts. For the thirty-third square, one week, 1/200 Cts. For the thirty-fourth square, one week, 1/250 Cts. For the thirty-fifth square, one week, 1/300 Cts. For the thirty-sixth square, one week, 1/400 Cts. For the thirty-seventh square, one week, 1/500 Cts. For the thirty-eighth square, one week, 1/600 Cts. For the thirty-ninth square, one week, 1/800 Cts. For the fortieth square, one week, 1/1000 Cts. For the forty-first square, one week, 1/1200 Cts. For the forty-second square, one week, 1/1500 Cts. For the forty-third square, one week, 1/2000 Cts. For the forty-fourth square, one week, 1/2500 Cts. For the forty-fifth square, one week, 1/3000 Cts. For the forty-sixth square, one week, 1/4000 Cts. For the forty-seventh square, one week, 1/5000 Cts. For the forty-eighth square, one week, 1/6000 Cts. For the forty-ninth square, one week, 1/8000 Cts. For the fiftieth square, one week, 1/10000 Cts. For the fifty-first square, one week, 1/12000 Cts. For the fifty-second square, one week, 1/15000 Cts. For the fifty-third square, one week, 1/20000 Cts. For the fifty-fourth square, one week, 1/25000 Cts. For the fifty-fifth square, one week, 1/30000 Cts. For the fifty-sixth square, one week, 1/40000 Cts. For the fifty-seventh square, one week, 1/50000 Cts. For the fifty-eighth square, one week, 1/60000 Cts. For the fifty-ninth square, one week, 1/80000 Cts. For the sixtieth square, one week, 1/100000 Cts. For the sixty-first square, one week, 1/120000 Cts. For the sixty-second square, one week, 1/150000 Cts. For the sixty-third square, one week, 1/200000 Cts. For the sixty-fourth square, one week, 1/250000 Cts. For the sixty-fifth square, one week, 1/300000 Cts. For the sixty-sixth square, one week, 1/400000 Cts. For the sixty-seventh square, one week, 1/500000 Cts. For the sixty-eighth square, one week, 1/600000 Cts. For the sixty-ninth square, one week, 1/800000 Cts. For the seventieth square, one week, 1/1000000 Cts. For the seventy-first square, one week, 1/1200000 Cts. For the seventy-second square, one week, 1/1500000 Cts. For the seventy-third square, one week, 1/2000000 Cts. For the seventy-fourth square, one week, 1/2500000 Cts. For the seventy-fifth square, one week, 1/3000000 Cts. For the seventy-sixth square, one week, 1/4000000 Cts. For the seventy-seventh square, one week, 1/5000000 Cts. For the seventy-eighth square, one week, 1/6000000 Cts. For the seventy-ninth square, one week, 1/8000000 Cts. For the eightieth square, one week, 1/10000000 Cts. For the eighty-first square, one week, 1/12000000 Cts. For the eighty-second square, one week, 1/15000000 Cts. For the eighty-third square, one week, 1/20000000 Cts. For the eighty-fourth square, one week, 1/25000000 Cts. For the eighty-fifth square, one week, 1/30000000 Cts. For the eighty-sixth square, one week, 1/40000000 Cts. For the eighty-seventh square, one week, 1/50000000 Cts. For the eighty-eighth square, one week, 1/60000000 Cts. For the eighty-ninth square, one week, 1/80000000 Cts. For the ninetieth square, one week, 1/100000000 Cts. For the ninety-first square, one week, 1/120000000 Cts. For the ninety-second square, one week, 1/150000000 Cts. For the ninety-third square, one week, 1/200000000 Cts. For the ninety-fourth square, one week, 1/250000000 Cts. For the ninety-fifth square, one week, 1/300000000 Cts. For the ninety-sixth square, one week, 1/400000000 Cts. For the ninety-seventh square, one week, 1/500000000 Cts. For the ninety-eighth square, one week, 1/600000000 Cts. For the ninety-ninth square, one week, 1/800000000 Cts. For the hundredth square, one week, 1/1000000000 Cts.



Elijah Fletcher:  
 publisher,  
 slavemaster

## Richard Toler of The Virginian (The Adonis of Lynchburg)

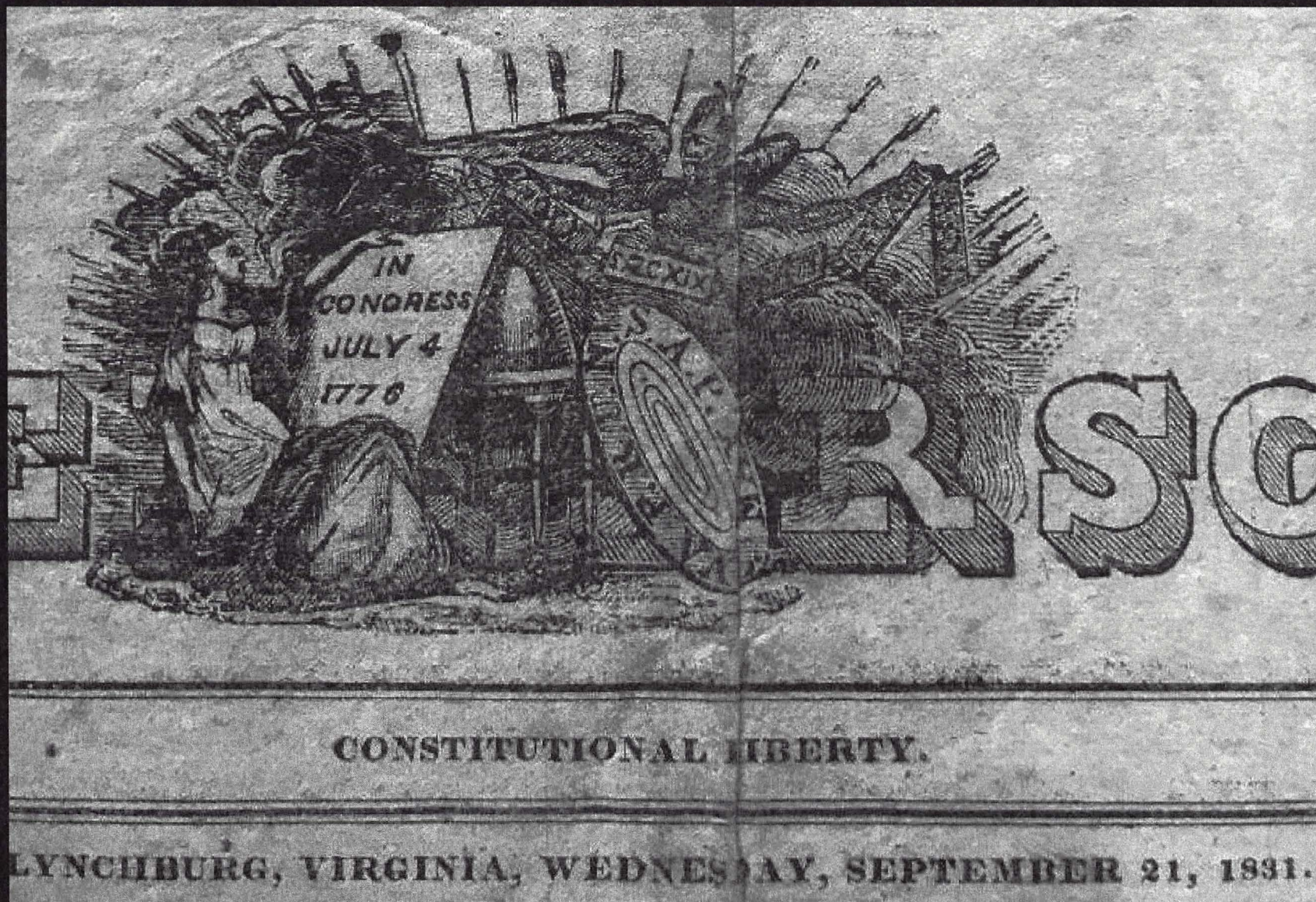
**70 or 80 Negroes wanted.**  
**T**HE Subscriber wishes to purchase from  
 70 to 80 likely young Negroes, of good  
 character, chiefly young men—for which the  
 highest cash prices will be given.  
**SETH WOODROOF,**  
 at the Washington Hotel  
 Dec. 31

**R**UNAWAY from Saml. Hancock in Ber-  
 tord county, Virginia, a negro man named  
**BEN.** about 27 years old, he is a black, well  
 looking boy, one of the ends of one of his fin-  
 gers is cut off, and I think the toes on one foot  
 stand crooked which I expect were hurt when  
 he was young, I expect he will aim for the free  
 State. I will give ten dollars if any person will  
 deliver him to me, and five dollars if he is se-  
 cured in any Jail, so that I can get him.  
**SAML. HANCOCK.**  
 Dec. 31

Toler on SC governor's  
 description  
 of slavery as beneficial:  
 "Let him go to Tunis or  
 Algiers, and sell  
 himself and his  
 posterity as slaves —  
 put on the yoke, and  
 subject himself to the  
 lash and the thousand  
 other indignities ... and  
 he will discover the  
 fallacy of his doctrine."

1831

Richard Crallé, editor of The Jeffersonian





1840

# THE LYNCHBURG REPUBLICAN.

LYNCHBURG, VA. WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1862. VOL. 11. NO. 51.

**THE LYNCHBURG REPUBLICAN.**  
 PUBLISHED WEEKLY, EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING, AT THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER, IN THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, VA.  
 TERMS: \$3.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE. Single Copies, 10 CENTS.  
 THE LYNCHBURG REPUBLICAN IS PUBLISHED FOR THE PROPRIETOR BY ROBERT H. GLASS, EDITOR.  
 OFFICE: No. 100 N. 10th St., Lynchburg, Va.

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R.H. Glass

## Republican.

RO. H. GLASS, Editor.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DEC. 24, 1862.

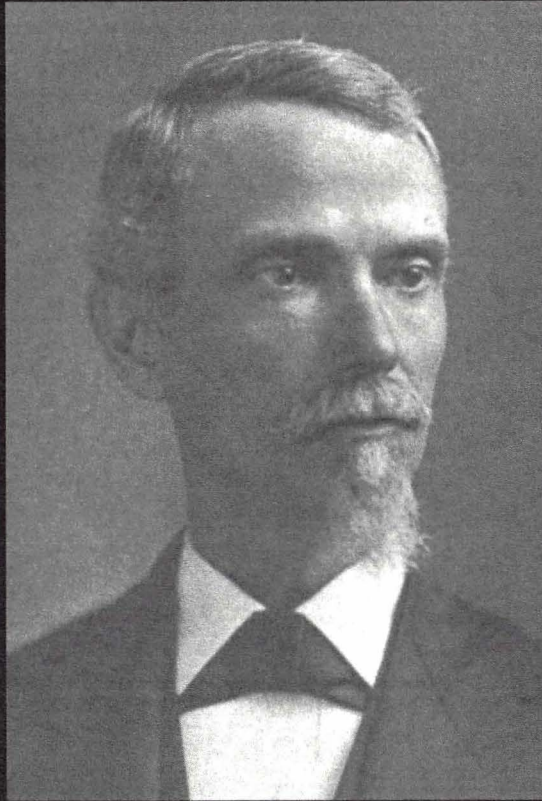
**TERMS OF THE REPUBLICAN.**  
 DAILY \$8 per annum; \$5 for six months; \$3 for three months, and \$1 per month for a shorter period.

**TRI-WEEKLY \$3 per annum; \$1 for six months; \$2,50 for three months. No subscription received for a less time than three months for the Tri-Weekly.**

### HOWL OF THE YANKEE NATION.

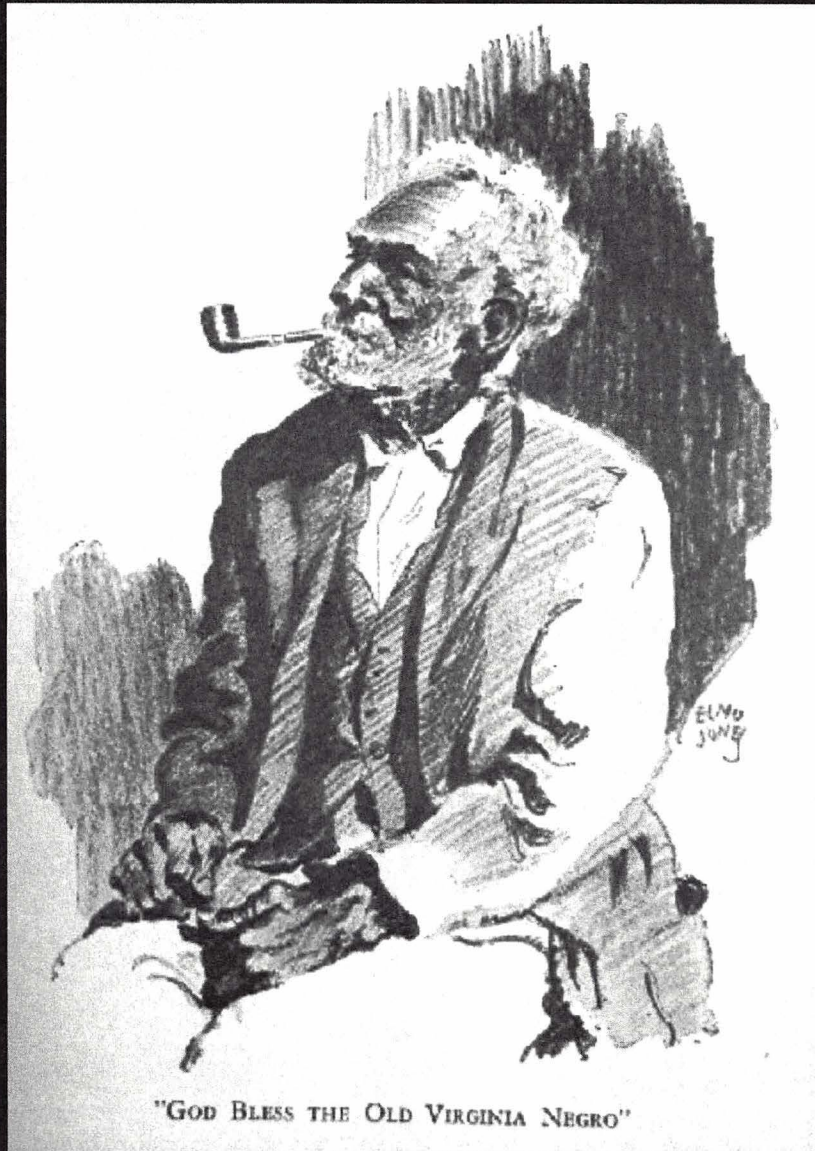
The news from the North is of the most important and interesting character which the war has yet developed. The defeat of Burnside at Fredericksburg was a severe

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 This material is the property of the University of Virginia Library. It is loaned to you for research purposes only.



George Bagby,  
Aka 'Mozis,'  
The Lynchburg  
Express

“In his personal appearance, the Virginia editor vibrates between positive gentility and absolute shabbiness, and this irrespective of his condition as to ‘funds.’ At times he is smooth and clean of face, immaculate in shirt, perfect of boot and hat; at others he is great in beard and dirt, resembling an uncleansed pressman and or a pirate who has cruised for years upon oceans of ink.”



“ ... the conduct and the conversation of Virginians were little if at all hampered by the presence of the family servants. They were as unmindful of them, nearly, as were the Greeks of their household slaves.”

— *George Bagby*

1861



Charles Button,  
Lynchburg's  
Civil War editor

*“The Virginian has battled so ably and so bravely for the Union since the Country has been in so much danger the Editor is entitled to the thanks of every true patriot ... You know he has suffered much here in having his brother shot like a dog before his eyes, and seeing nothing done to the murderers.”*

*Mary Blackford, April 1861*



IN TROUBLE.—Frances Poindexter and Eliza Stratton, two thick-lipped daughters of Africa's sunny clime, were arrested Saturday night, charged with fighting. They plead most eloquently to be released, but Capt. Preston, with exceeding hardness of heart, turned a deaf ear to their piteous appeals, and looked them up to await the action of the Freedman's Court, this morning.

THE young bloods of the town are now perambulating the streets with their pants turned up at the ankles about a "feet," more or less. Upon inquiry, we learn that they have introduced the fashion as a set off to the looped & crosses of the ladies. Go it "fellers," we'll back you.

We believe there is an ordinance of the City Council prohibiting the obstruction of the side-walks, and we call upon the police to see that it is properly enforced. There is not a moment in the day that crowds of loafing negroes are not assembled upon these walks; and to pass through them is an utter impossibility. They create an "obstruction," within the meaning of the ordinance, and we trust Capt. Preston will so instruct his men as to abate the nuisance.

The proceedings before the Freedmen's Court Saturday were unimportant. Four negro men were brought up, charged with drunkenness and riotous conduct, and, after a hearing were discharged with a reprimand.

Cornelia Rogers, charged with stealing, was found guilty and sentenced to jail for ten days; but the punishment was commuted to a fine of \$5, which Neely forked out, and went on her way rejoicing.

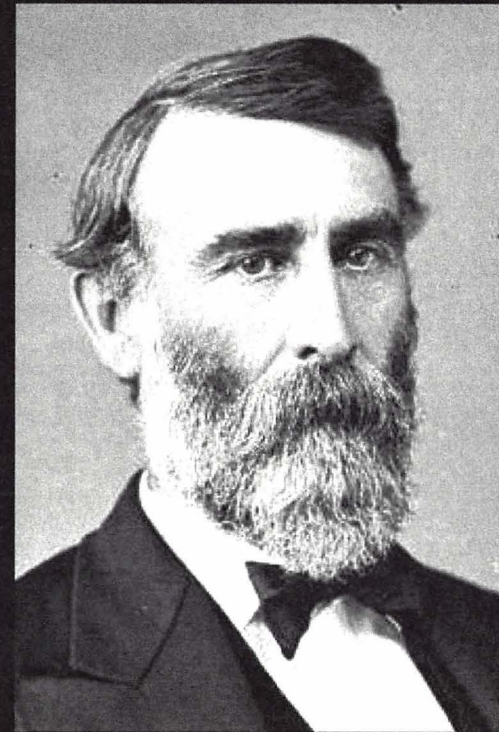
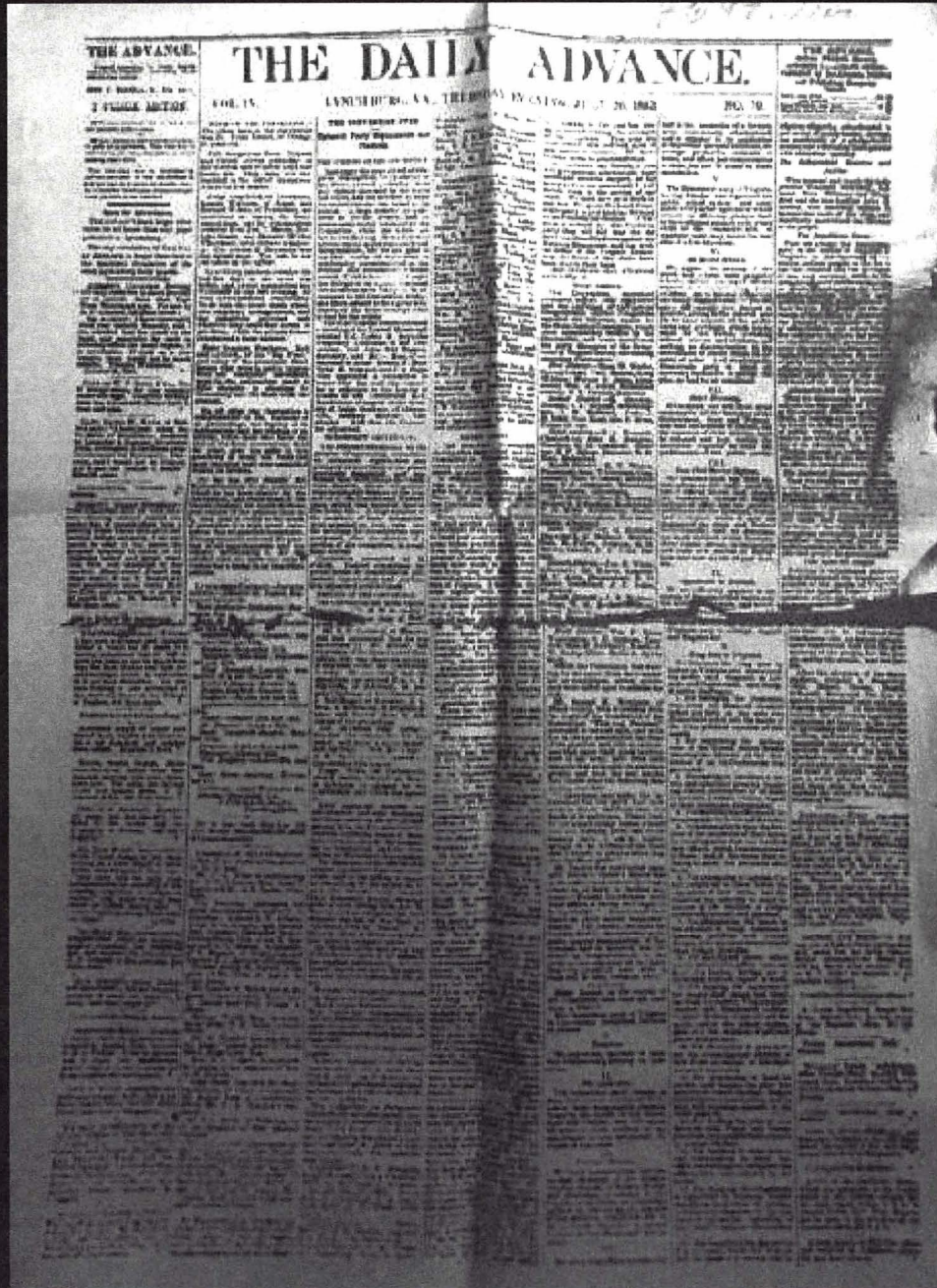
“Quoth the N —— : ‘Nevermore’ ”

“Nigger,” said I, “thing of evil, quit my room, go to  
the devil—  
Or, if you say you’ll work, I’ll bring your supper to the  
door;  
Tell me truly, I conjure you, for the last time I im-  
plora:  
On your honor, as a nigger, will you labor as before?”  
Quoth the nigger: “Nevermore.”

“Ho that word our sign of parting, nigger man!” I  
cried, upstarting—  
“Get thee back to where thou cam’st from—let me see  
your face no more;  
Join the army—go to Texas—never come back here to  
vex us—  
Ne’er return again to vex us—never let us see you no  
more;  
Take your gaze from off my meat, and take your car-  
cass from my door!”  
Quoth the nigger: “Nevermore.”

1883

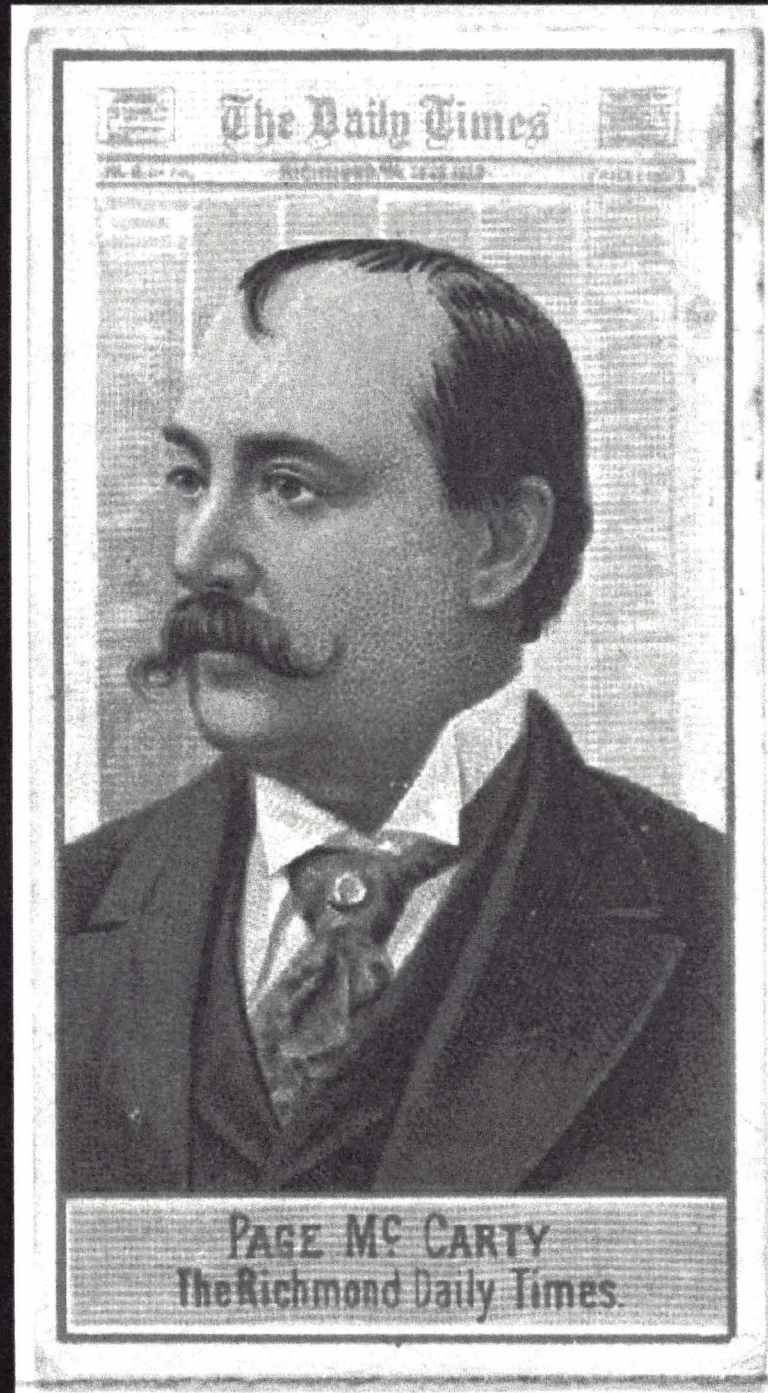
# Thomas Whitehead, founder of The Daily Advance



“We intend to carry this election if we have to carry it through blood.”



*From McCarty's  
The Democratic  
Campaign*



1883

'I unhesitatingly  
put lawyers at the  
top and  
newspapermen  
at the bottom of  
all the men I have  
ever known, and  
preachers next to  
newspapermen.'  
— *Joseph Bryan,  
Richmond  
publisher*

1886



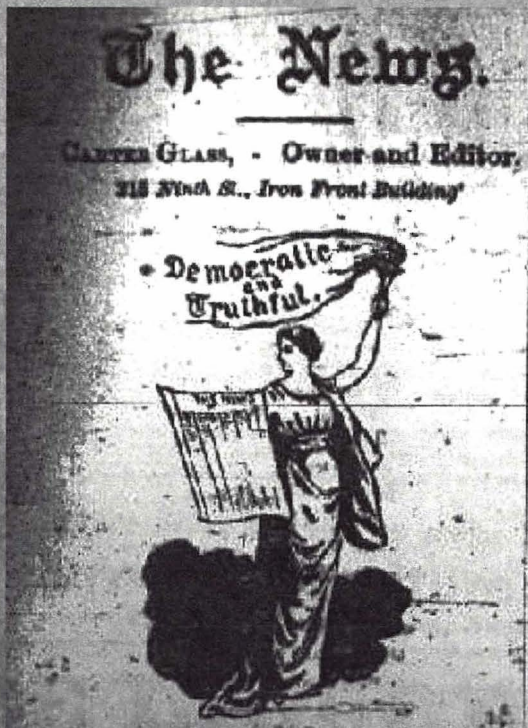
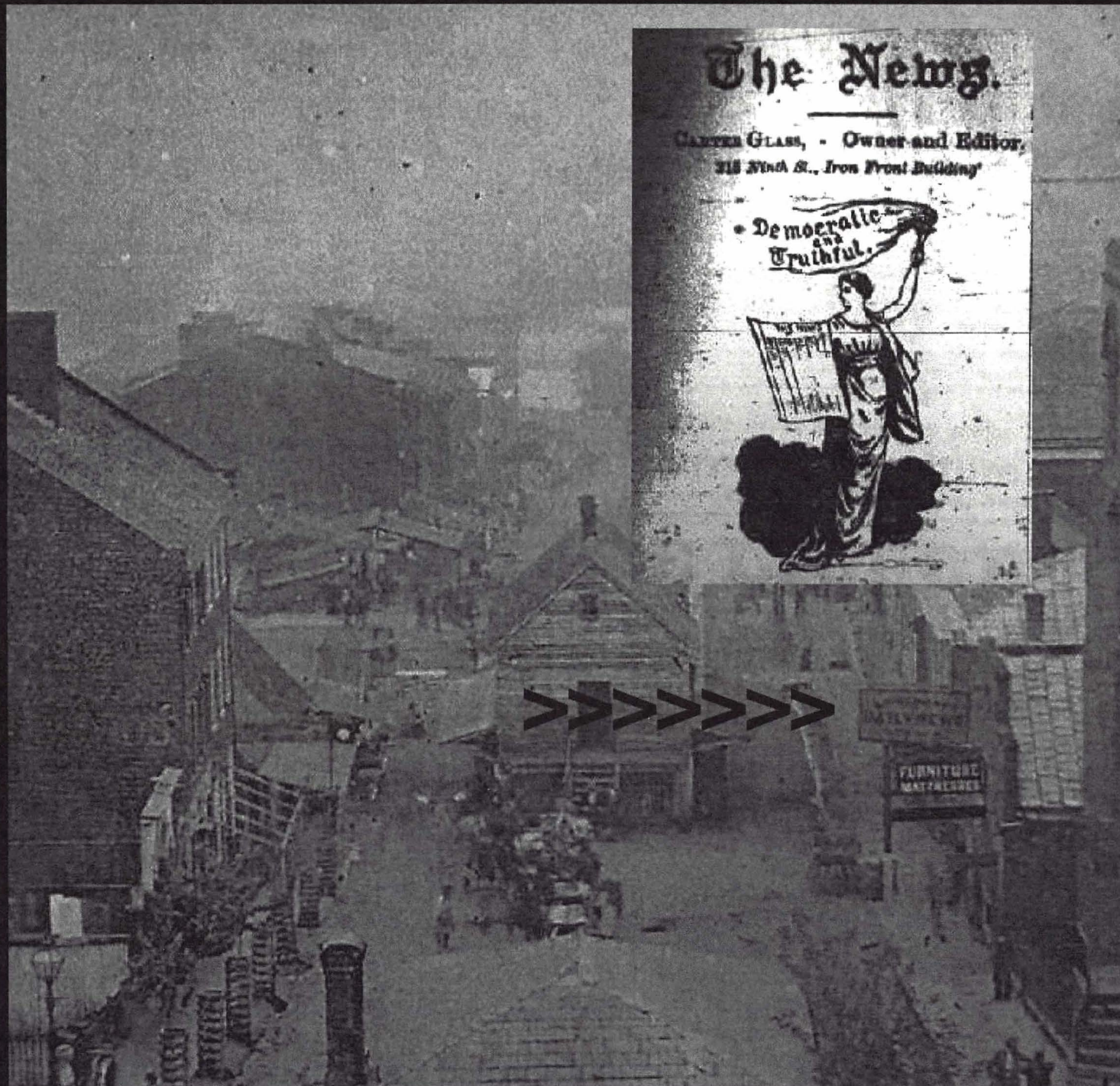
Irvine Garland Penn, 20, of Lynchburg became editor of The Laborer, later The Laboring Man, the first black newspaper in Lynchburg, in 1886. The Daily Advance said, “We most cheerfully commend The Lynchburg Laborer to all sons of toil.” Penn also wrote for The Richmond Planet, the Knoxville Negro World, and The New York Age. In 1890, he edited the first comprehensive history of the black press in America.

— *The Life and Times of Irvine Garland Penn*,  
Joanne and Grant Harrison.

# The Glass era: 1888-1979



1888

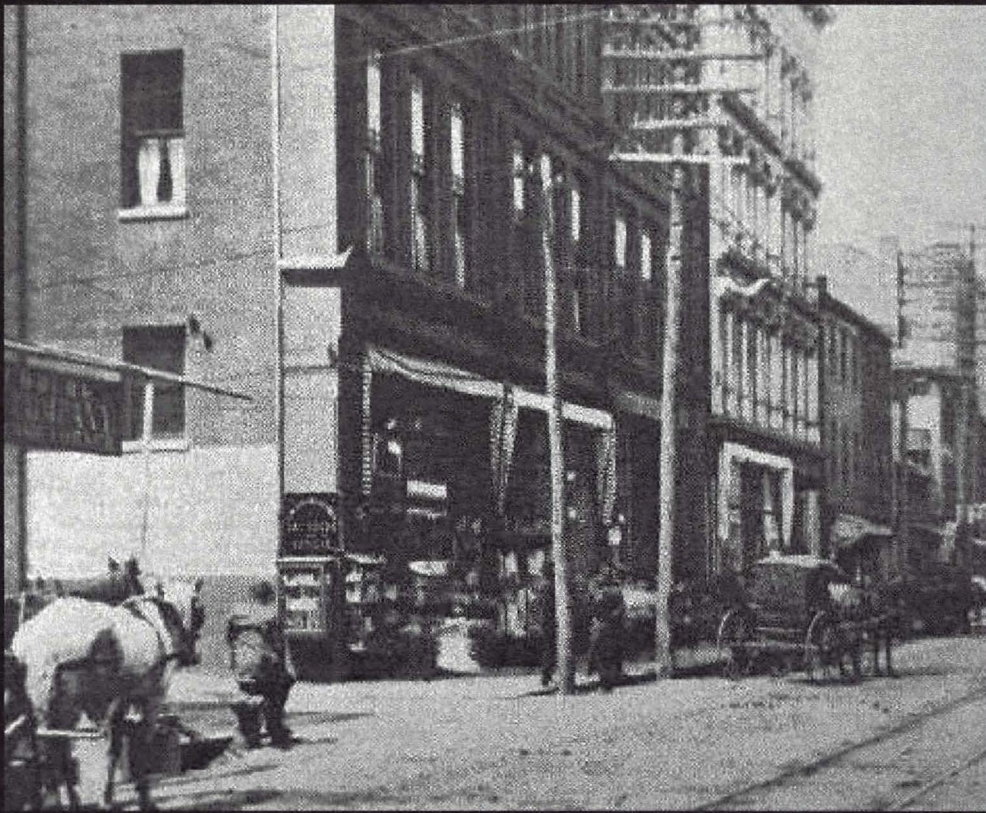


Carter Glass bought The News in 1888 when its office was here on Ninth Street.

ca. 1900



1902



Publisher and State Sen. Carter Glass declares his purpose in helping write the new State Constitution:

“To eliminate the darkey as a political factor in this state” and to ensure “the complete supremacy of the white race in the affairs of government.”

<<< Main Street

ca. 1900



The Ninth Street offices had a telephone but no typewriters, yet, in this undated photo.



1935

## Lusty Voices Cheer Returns

Enthusiastic Crowd Gathers  
At Armory To Get News  
And Advance Reports

Democrats Dominate  
There As In Nation

Bedlam Breaks Loose As New  
York Is Conceded; Com-  
ments Are Happy

"Hoorah for Roosevelt!"

That was the shout set up by more than a thousand lusty voices at City Armory last night when before 10 o'clock a midwestern republican newspaper conceded victory for the democratic standard bearer.

Early until late, throngs of Lynchburg voters surged in and out of the armory, nearly all hearty supporters of Governor Roosevelt, frequently breaking forth in rounds of cheering as election returns were megaphoned from the observation tower.

It was a gay, holiday throng. Little, if any, work was done yesterday by the majority of the populace, the principal pleasure being voting and swapping yarns with friends as to what states the governor would carry and how badly Hoover would be licked.

All banks, the city hall and principal courts in Lynchburg were closed all day. Eager to mingle with their fellows, to rejoice with them and comment upon what the national returns showed, men and women came by the armory, some remaining only a few minutes, and others remaining to whoop it up in a gala fashion until nearly midnight.

1932

1936



Virginia's other senator, Harry F. Byrd Sr., owned the Winchester paper. Man, right, not impressed.

1943



Clarence Seay, Dunbar principal and later the first African American elected to City Council since reconstruction.

## Negro High School Praised By Colson

### Carmichael Asks For Report On Missing Pupils

SEP 28 1943

The even distribution of pupils in classes at Dunbar High School and the fact that teachers hold master degrees, are contributing factors in maintaining the high level of training at that school, according to C. M. Colson, acting State Negro education counsellor.

He was also commendatory about the work in guidance planned for the year by all Dunbar teachers.

Mr. Colson observed in classes at the school, spent some while at Payne School whose pupils enter Dunbar, addressed a faculty meeting in the afternoon at Dunbar and held conferences with Omer Carmichael, superintendent of schools, and C. W. Seay, principal of Dunbar.

Mr. Carmichael said yesterday that he had requested all high school principals to investigate the reasons why pupils enrolled for this year failed to return, and that the report from Dunbar was complete.

Thirty-two pupils—13 boys and 19 girls—scheduled to return to the school this year failed to appear. Of this number the Army called six boys, four boys and four girls found employment; two boys and 14 girls have moved from the City and one boy and one girl have been kept away on account of illness.

The superintendent stated that none of the members of this year's senior class failed to return except four boys now in the Army and two pupils who have left the City.

# Mass Meeting Demands "Complete Equalization"

Legal Advisers Threaten Court Action; Broaden  
Petition To School Board

SEP 27 1949

By Harry Bernstein

An inter-racial mass meeting of over 800 persons last night agreed to broaden a petition to the school board for a new Negro high school to include a demand for "complete equalization of Lynchburg Negro and white public schools."

The legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has been called in to conduct an investigation of the Lynchburg Negro schools.

### Court Action Threatened

Spottswood Robinson, III, Negro lawyer of the firm of Hill, Martin and Robinson of Richmond, told the group at the Jackson Street Methodist Church, that court action would be taken if their investigation showed unequal school facilities for Negroes and whites.

Last night's meeting grew out of a petition made recently to the school board for a new Negro high school. The petition was presented by a group of Negroes headed by H. A. M. Johns. Dunbar, the present Negro high school, was termed inadequate for the need of its pupils.

### Public Support Sought

Johns said no reply had been received to its petition, and the citizens committee was enlarged to obtain legal aid and public support.

Johns told the group that "unless colored citizens arouse themselves, they will get nothing. If you think Negro school improvements are given simply because they are needed, you are mistaken. We must fight for our rights."

"A long range program for the development of Negro schools has been proposed to keep colored citizens asleep to the urgent needs of our schools and to make you think something is being done," Johns said.

"Our reception by the school board was very cool when we presented our petition. We were not treated as citizens of this community, but as strangers asking favors," he said.



H.P. Weeden

he said.

Dr. H. P. Weeden, Lynchburg Negro dentist, said the mass meeting was called for "nothing less than the removal of all inequalities in our school system and the ultimate removal of segregation with all its humiliations and discriminations."

Weeden charged that "segregation of white and Negroes is predicated on the hypothesis that there are superior and inferior peoples."

"The white people, by virtue of their larger numbers, wrote into law numerous segregation laws to keep us in certain designated places, despite protests of democracy and Christianity."

"When we fight for our rights and privileges as citizens we are called Communists, do-gooders or radicals. We are actually all Lynchburgers, working in the tradition of Virginia and America," Dr. Weeden said.

Lester Banks, State executive



1950s



Former city editor of The News, J.B. McDearmon, left, and Page Stinnett, seated, at the Amherst-Nelson papers.

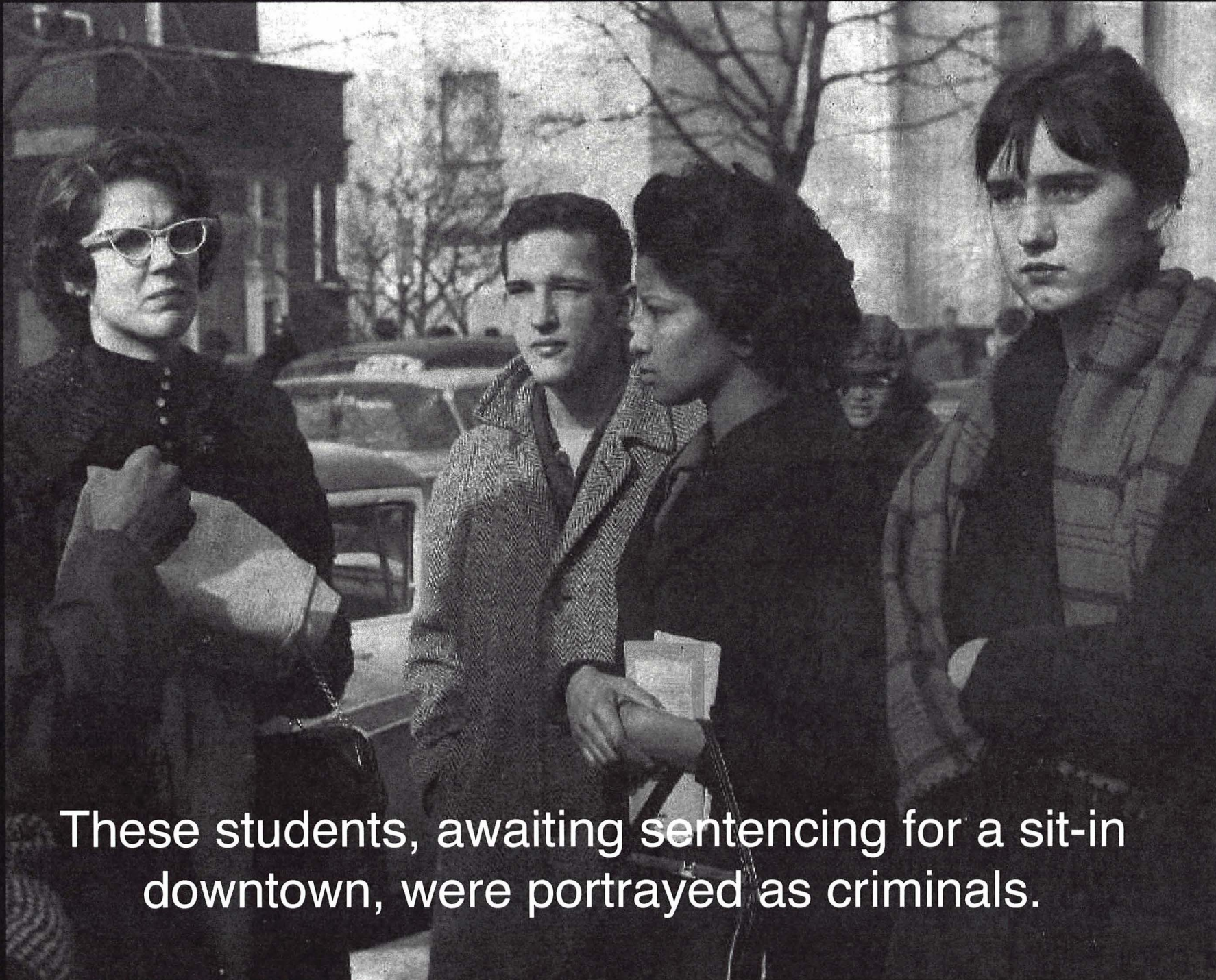


1950s



Del P. Smith,  
Managing  
editor,  
The News

1961



These students, awaiting sentencing for a sit-in downtown, were portrayed as criminals.



1962

Jim  
Hodges,  
with pipe,  
managing  
editor of  
The Daily  
Advance

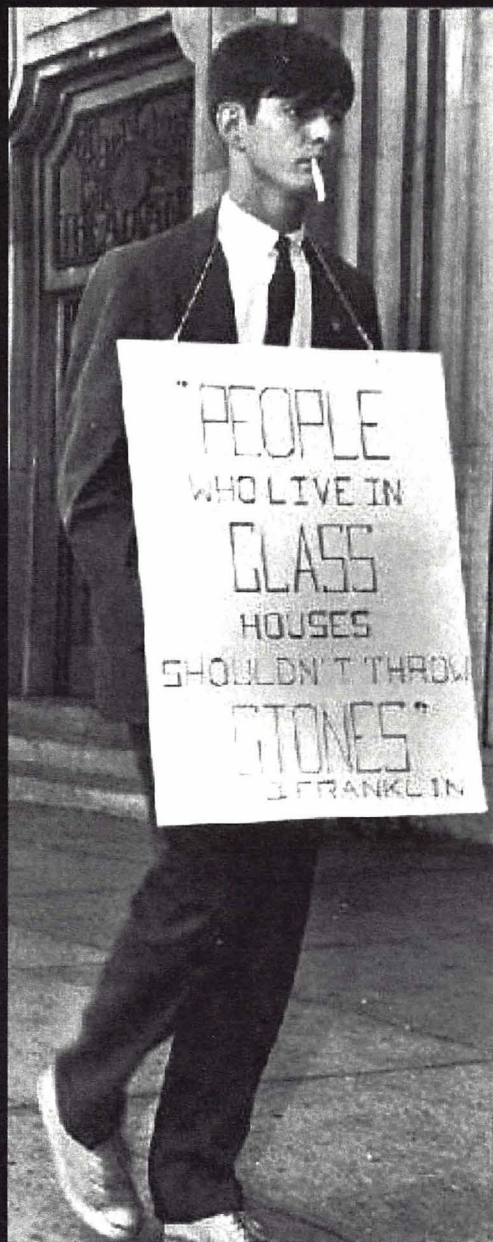


1962

Lynda  
Woodruff  
and  
Owen  
Cardwell  
arrive  
at E.C.  
Glass  
Jan. 29  
for their  
first day.

Headline: "Negroes say first day was pleasant."

1962>>>



1963^^^



## LYNCHBURG TENSE AS RETRIAL BEGINS

Negroes Demonstrate and  
Fill Court in Rape Case

By **BEN A. FRANKLIN**

Special to The New York Times

LYNCHBURG, Va., March 14

—Negroes filled a city courtroom and overflowed in a noisy crowd on Court Street today as Lynchburg, for the third time since 1963, began an effort to impose the death penalty against a 21-year-old Negro dishwasher accused of raping a white spinster and a Japanese housewife.

The retrial of Thomas C. Wansley before Judge O. Raymond Cundiff in Corporation Court stirred tensions in this industrial city of about 60,000 people, nearly a quarter of them Negroes.

Court Street between Eighth and 10th Streets was closed by

police barricades as 150 Negroes demonstrated peacefully but noisily before Lynchburg's modern courthouse. Police dogs were deployed near the courthouse steps, and in the stuffy courtroom, counsel for Mr. Wansley complained to Judge Cundiff that city and Virginia state police officers with cameras were "intimidating persons attending this court." The objection was overruled.

The trial has raised legal questions in the courtroom over the news coverage of Mr. Wansley's previous trials by Lynchburg's jointly owned morning and afternoon newspapers, The News and The Daily Advance. Both papers have consistently labeled the defendant's volunteer lawyer here, William M. Kunstler of New York, "a well-known Communist fellow traveler."

Mr. Kunstler is on the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union.

As the trial began, one after another of the prospective jurors, questioned by defense and prosecution lawyers and the

judge, said that they tended to believe that Mr. Kunstler "is connected with Communists," but that it would be immaterial to them in their verdict. At least two persons who made this remark were approved as jurors by Judge Cundiff over Mr. Kunstler's standing objection.

### Red Link Charged

The newspapers cite unidentified documents of the House Committee on Un-American Activities in charging that Mr. Kunstler is "linked with Communists."

Mr. Wansley, who has a sixth-grade education, has been held in prison without bail since Dec. 8, 1962, when he was charged, at the age of 16, with assaulting the two women and with robbing one of them at knifepoint of a purse containing a dime, two pennies and two bus tokens.

Within five days in 1963—between Feb. 7 and 12—all-white, all-male juries in Judge Cundiff's court found him guilty of both rapes and the robbery and recommended execution in the electric chair for each of the assaults. Judge Cundiff also

imposed a sentence of 20 years for the robbery.

The convictions were reversed in 1964 by the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. That court held that Judge Cundiff had erred in denying a continuance in one rape case to enable the defendant to obtain a court reporter. No record was kept of the trial in 1963.

In the other case, the appeals court noted that the judge had instructed the jury that if its members did not recommend the death penalty, the defendant might eventually obtain freedom on parole from a life sentence.

A retrial of the robbery charge during 1965 resulted in a hung jury.

Newspapers label William Kunstler, volunteer lawyer, for black man accused of rape, as "well-known Communist fellow traveler."

1967

LIE. The Lynchburg newspapers refused to give news coverage of local Negro high and junior high schools because of some kind of "anti-Negro bias."

FACTS. It is the policy of the Lynchburg newspapers to refuse to cover newsworthy individuals or news events where they have no reasonable assurance of the safety of their employees. Any newspaper that doesn't afford its employees equal protection is not worthy of the name. These newspapers ceased coverage of the schools involved for a period of time because three of our employees (not two as claimed by Newsday) were denied their civil rights—one of them was the victim of an assault, and a massive cover-up plot followed. All of this occurred at the hands of public school employees while the police stood by and did nothing. When we received assurance from the Mayor, on behalf of himself, the City Council, the City Manager and the Police Chief that the city would make reasonable efforts in the future to protect the rights of our employees, we restored news coverage to the schools involved. Unmentioned by Newsday were the facts that during the same period that coverage was denied to the schools, these newspapers continued covering all other Negro news and during this period the Lynchburg newspapers stopped covering meetings of the Ku Klux Klan for The Associated Press, and for exactly the same reason. The newspapers have not yet resumed coverage of Klan meetings and they do not know the circumstances under which they would agree to resume such news coverage.

Racial bias,  
assault, and  
cover-up?



George Smith

1967



Carter Glass III,  
publisher of  
The News and  
The Daily Advance

LIE. The Lynchburg newspapers do not print ANY Negro social news or Negro wedding pictures.

FACTS. The Lynchburg newspapers each have a social or woman's page or pages. On those pages is printed social news of white individuals and white bridal and engagement pictures. Negro social news is printed in the Lynchburg newspapers when it is newsworthy but it does not appear intermingled with the white social news, which is what the Negroes desire. Pictures of Negro bridal or wedding occasions are not printed except in very rare instances when the events are sufficiently newsworthy, and then these pictures do not appear on the social or woman's pages.

“The newspaper was against everything that a black kid wanted. Many white people were afraid of it. The paper got its power from being the voice of the community and that's what's so frightening about it.”

— *The Rev. Heywood Robinson, longtime pastor of Diamond Hill Baptist Church*

## 2 Virginia Dailies See Racial Smear

LYNCHBURG, Va., April 27 (AP) — Lynchburg's two daily newspapers termed "scurrilous" today a locally mailed letter sent to thousands of area homes last Friday.

The letter attacked the papers for alleged racial policies.

The morning Lynchburg News and afternoon Daily Advance published the same editorial today about the letter, which was signed by 67 prominent white Lynchburg citizens.

The letter charged that the

Lynchburg newspapers had contributed to "frustration and bitterness" of Negro citizens because of two policies.

These, the letter said, were failure to report events at the Negro Dunbar High School, and the practice of charging Negroes for death notices in the papers.

The editorial said the papers policy of not covering events at the Dunbar school resulted from a fracas involving a school official and a newspaper photographer on school property, and the papers thus were try-

ing "to protect our employes from injury."

As to the obituary column charge, the editorial continued, the policies of the Lynchburg newspapers "in respect to their obituary columns have remained unchanged for more than 50 years and are typical of the newspapers of the South."

However, it added, "the local Negroes, as well as those elsewhere in the South, primarily want 'integrated' obituaries, not 'free' obituaries."

**The New York Times**

Published: April 28, 1967

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'Open letter' from prominent citizens attacking racist policies of newspapers attracts national attention, eventually spurring end to those policies.

1968



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1971

# The News Names Woman's Editor

MAR 14 1971

The appointment of Mrs. Cecil S. Mullan as Woman's Editor of The News was announced Saturday by officials of the newspaper.

Mrs. Mullan, a life-long resident of Lynchburg, is the wife of Henry H. Mullan, project administrator with the Naval Nuclear Fuel Division of Babcock & Wilcox Co.

She is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Lynchburg, a member of the Lynchburg Garden Club, a past member of the Lynchburg Junior Woman's Club and a member of Court Street United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Mullan is a graduate of E. C. Glass High School and attended Mary Washington College.

She is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Bruce Stevens.

The Mullans have three children: Anne Harper, 22, a graduate of Salem College in North Carolina who now teaches in the Charlotte - Mecklenburg school system; Bruce, 18, a sen-

ior at E. C. Glass, and Elizabeth Spotswood, 7, a first-grader at Garland-Rodes.

They live at 2907 Rivermont Ave.



Mrs. Cecil S. Mullan

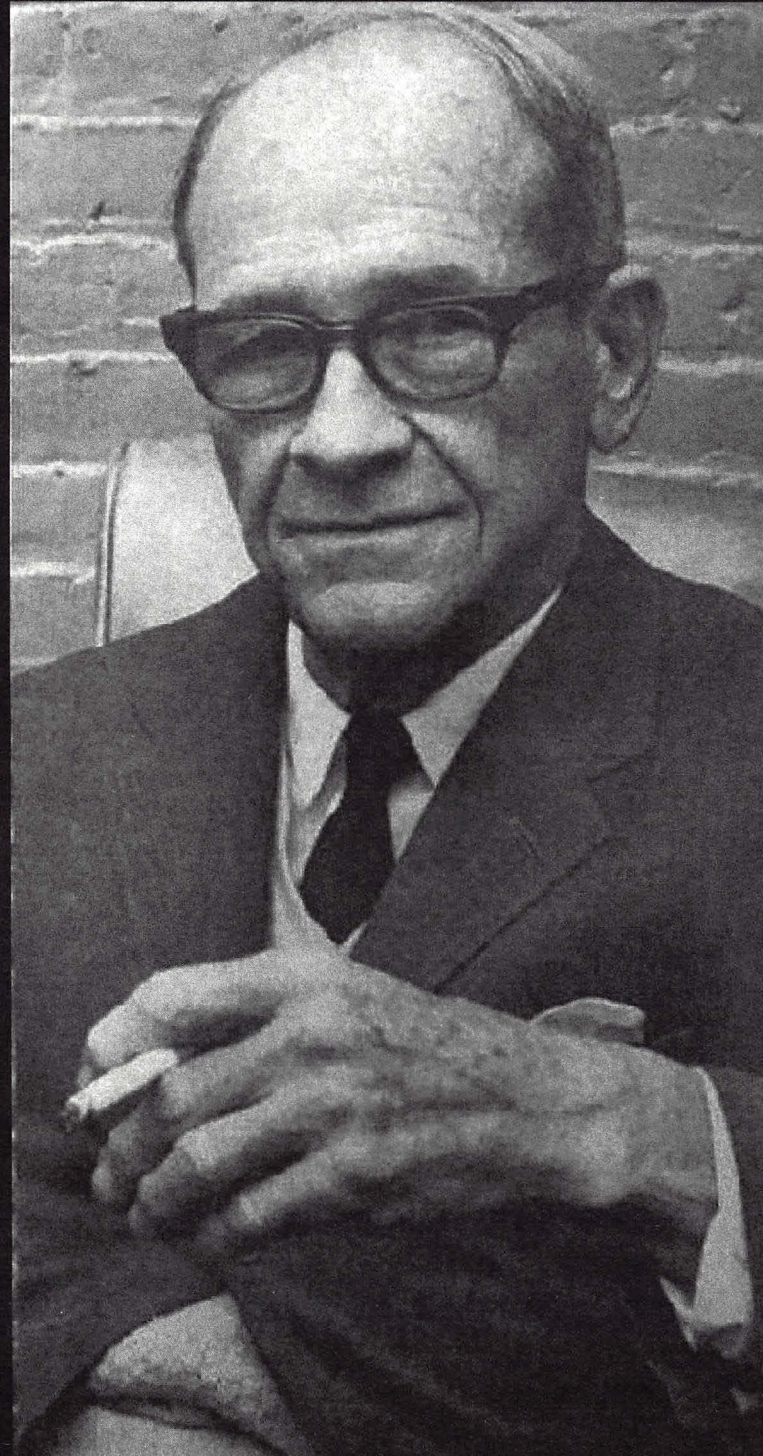
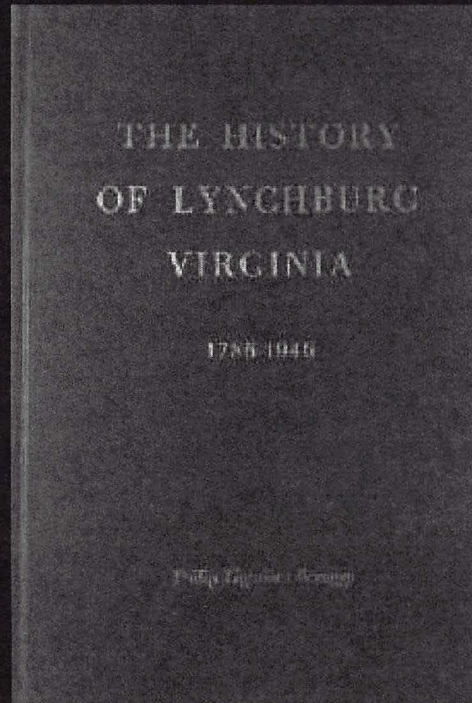


Cecil Mullan helps guide coverage into a new era.

1974



# Phil Scruggs



1974