

The News and Advocate.

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John Yancey Convicted and Sentenced.

It will be remembered that John Yancey, who was arrested in April last charged with the murder of Bob Oliver, who was found dead in the public road, in the neighborhood between Fitch's Store and Beth Aker church, five miles south of this place, on Monday April court. Last week he was tried. It took two days to try the case and the jury was out some hours, and returned a verdict of "guilty" and John Yancey sentenced to the State Prison for life.

The history of this case is as follows: John Yancey lived near Fitch's Store and had hired to Mr. G. F. McKinney to make a tobacco crop on Mr. Wm. Alverton's land, about 24 or 30 miles from where he lived. After he had made the contract with Mr. McKinney he engaged a woman by the name of Julia Jackson to act as a cat on the land to look to work. He spent a good part of his time at this woman's house. Felix Corbett worked with Mr. J. T. Bird, about a mile south of Julia Jackson's. Had put one of his children there and frequently visited her. Yancey began to grumble about Oliver visiting Julia and Julia and her had several quarrels about it for some time. All evidence heard from him until the Saturday morning before Oliver's death. Yancey was working by the day at Mr. Fisher Covington's and that Saturday morning he asked one Geo. Graves, who lived with him to Mr. Stainback's to grind an axe. While grinding the axe Yancey commenced talking about Oliver and said "I thought Bob Oliver was my best friend but I have found he is my worst enemy, and if he don't mind he will make his bed in hell before to night two weeks." Mr. Stainback had walked out to the corn crib where they were and was standing at the crib door and heard what Yancey said, though they did not know he was there. He worked that day at Mr. Covington's and about sun-down or a little after he left there going in the direction of the Alverton place where Julia Jackson lived. It was proved that he did go there and also went to Mr. Alverton's house. He told Mrs. Alverton that he had come to pay back some whiskey he had borrowed from Mr. Alverton. He had a jug in one hand a stick in the other and a pair of new shoes on his shoulders. When he went to leave, after he had gotten a few yards from the house he called and asked Mrs. Alverton what time it was. She told him it was 7 past 7. He said it was too fast, it was just 7 by his watch. Mrs. Alverton says it was good dark and he said he was going to Felix Corbett's, who lived about one mile east of her house, and that there was a post from her house direct to Felix Corbett's, but Yancey went from her house directly south through a wheat field and right in the direction where Oliver's body was found. Mr. Bird says Oliver left his house that Saturday morning sun-down and dark and went in the direction of Mrs. Alverton's house. It is 14 miles from Mr. Bird's to Julia Jackson's house. Yancey and Oliver left about 7 o'clock about the same time. Yancey said he and Oliver left together and went to Felix Corbett's that night. Felix Corbett had just got home from his work at 8 o'clock. He had a dog with him and he said he had seen Oliver some 10 or 15 minutes before Yancey came. Yancey

came to the door and the first word he spoke after he came in was to inquire what time it was. Corbett's wife took the light and held it up to the clock and told him it was 7 past 8 o'clock. Yancey said "good God, woman, you are too fast," and held up his watch and said "I just come from Mrs. Alverton's and she said it was just 7 and it is now only a little after 7." He had his jug and shoes but did not have a stick. Only staid a few minutes and went to Chas. Oliver's to see his sick brother and then went home. "Billy Hickory" Graves was at his house when he got home and Yancey asked him what time it was. Graves told him he thought it was ten o'clock or after, whereupon Yancey pulled out his watch and said "you are mistaken it is just a quarter to nine. Graves says he slept with Yancey that night and when they got up Sunday morning Yancey was complaining of his thumb hurting him. Graves examined it and saw it was much swollen and said "you have sprained it and you had better get something on it and tie it up." Yancey said no, he did not want it tied up. His hand was so badly hurt he could not shave himself. After breakfast he walked down to Susan Bird's, an old colored woman who lived on same lot, about a hundred yards off, and said "you all went to bed early last night?" The old lady said "no, it was about 10 o'clock. I heard you when you passed my door, I had just laid down." Yancey said "you was mistaken it was not nine." He was about home all day and about 5 o'clock in the evening he started off and Graves walked down the road with him and just before he parted from Graves he said "Hell was to pay on the other side last night, I expect. If a certain man traveled a certain road last night he is in Sodom now. That's why I have stayed about home to-day." Monday morning Mr. McKinney found the body of Bob Oliver on the side of the road leading from Mr. Bird's to Julia Jackson's. The neighbors come in. No one was suspected of the toul deed as yet. John Yancey was sent for to find out if Oliver had clothes that would do to bury him in. Yancey's wife washed for Oliver. Yancey come. The crowd had left the body and was about twenty five or thirty yards down the road from when Yancey come up. He did not seem to have any anxiety to see the body, did not ask where it was and did not go any nearer to it. He was asked if Oliver had any clothes. He said he thought he did. He was sent after them. In coming back he goes all the way round by Chas. Oliver's and Felix Corbett's, the route he traveled Saturday night, and sees Felix Corbett's wife, tells her Bob Oliver is dead up in the road, and says "do you remember what time I was at your house Saturday night?" She said "yes, it was 7 past 8 o'clock. He said "Oh, no, don't you know I told you your clock was too fast, and I told you it was a little after 7, and now if any one asks you what time I was here you tell them a little after 7 o'clock." Corbett's wife says her clock keeps good time, that she kept it with Mr. Rudd's farm bell which always rang at 12 o'clock and she had a sun mark in the door and it was always right with that. Yancey went on up to where the body was. He saw Mr. McKinney and took him aside and said he wanted to talk with him. He said "Boss they are going to try to lay this on me." Mr. McKinney said "I reckon not, John, they have not suspicioned no one yet." Yancey said "but they are going to lay it on me, but Jerry and Bill Walker did it, and I can prove where I was every hour Saturday night." No one had ever yet said when they thought Oliver was killed. They did not then

know whether he had been killed Saturday night, Sunday sometime in the day or Sunday night. Esq. J. M. Simpson was appointed special coroner and in the examination by the jury as to the cause of death suspicion rested on Yancey, on account of what he had said and his actions. He was brought before them and not having sufficient evidence released him. At the inquest Mrs. Williamson and Pinnix examined Oliver's head and found that he had received two or three severe blows upon the head and then was choked to death.

Splinters were found near the body that were thought to be from a delin or spruce pine stick, and several days after two sticks, one a spruce stick and the other a heavy spruce pine stick, both badly splattered, were found covered with leaves a few steps into the woods from where the body was found. One of the sticks had blood upon it and the other had short, kniky hair on it, and the splinters found near the body fitted into the splattered places of the stick. On the road from Mr. Alverton's to where the body was found was a mark that had been filled with spruce pine bark by road hands and it is supposed this stick had been picked up there by Yancey as he went from Mrs. Alverton's to where he met Oliver. About a week or ten days after the inquest all the above facts had been gathered and Yancey was again arrested and sent to jail. J. A. Long, Esq., appeared for the prisoner. He was careful in selecting a jury, he went slowly through the examination of the large number of witnesses and the judge as able an effort before the jury as ever was made for a prisoner in any court, but the jury thought after deliberating nineteen long hours that no man on earth knew better than John Yancey how Bob Oliver came to his death on that Saturday night and so decided, and he will have to pay the penalty of his crime.

A call is made for each sub Alliance in the tobacco section to send delegates to a meeting to be held in Durham on Wednesday, Dec. 5th, 1888, to take into consideration the tobacco interests as it relates to the farmers of the tobacco growing sections of North Carolina and Virginia. A small contribution of 50 cents is asked from each Alliance to meet expenses. Reduced rates of board and railroad fare will be secured. There are now 1320 Alliances in this State.

The Vance Co. Farmers' Alliance have made arrangements to open an Alliance warehouse at Henderson.

NOTICE. Pursuant to an order of the Superior court of Caswell county, N. C., in case entitled J. F. Dehewer vs. Bettie Warren and others, I will, on Monday the 7th day of January, 1889, at the court house door in the town of Yanceyville, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, a certain tract of land lying in Caswell county, on the waters of Moon's Creek, adjoining the lands of W. F. King, J. C. Allen and others, containing 66 acres more or less and known as the Hugh Cook place.

TERMS OF SALE.—One third of the purchase money to be paid cash, and the balance on a credit of six months, the purchaser giving 8 per cent interest bearing bond for the deferred payment. Title retained until all the purchase money is paid. Nov. 27, 1888. HENRY OAKLEY, Commissioner.

NOTICE. Pursuant to an order of the Superior court of Caswell county, N. C., in case entitled W. D. King and E. E. Cobb, Agents and Administrators vs. S. K. Cobb and others, I will, on Saturday the 24th day of November, 1888, on the premises well at public auction to the highest bidder, a certain tract of land lying in Caswell county, on the waters of Moon's Creek, adjoining the lands of W. F. King, J. C. Allen and others, containing 50 acres more or less and being a part of the Bob I. King tract.

Terms of sale.—One third of the purchase money to be paid cash, the balance on a credit of six months, the purchaser giving 8 per cent interest bearing bond for the deferred payment. Lands in a good neighborhood and will grow fine tobacco. J. C. MILLER, Clerk. This Oct. 17, 1888.

NOTICE. I hereby warn all persons not to hunt on my lands either by day or night. Anyone so trespassing will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. GREEN B. EVANS, Nov. 9th, 1888.

SALE OF VALUABLE LAND. On Monday, December 31, 1888, at 12 m., at the court-house door, in the town of Yanceyville, by virtue of a mortgage executed on Nov. 15th, 1887, by Solomon Apple and H. A. N. Apple to me and duly recorded in book N. N. page 179, I will offer for sale for cash, a tract of land in Caswell county bounded on the north and west by land of E. D. Winstead, Samuel M. Jones and others, and on the south and east by the old Leasburg road, and on the south by North Hixon to satisfy said mortgage. The tract contains one hundred and fifty-two acres more or less and is very desirable property. JNO. W. GRAHAM, Trustee. Nov. 1st, 1888.

"The Old Reliable" Northwestern Poultry Yards G. F. DOOLITTLE, PROPRIETOR, Owatonna, Minnesota. Has Eggs for sale for hatching from Brahmas, Wyandottes, Langshans and black and white Cochins at \$2.00 per doz, \$3.50 for 25, Black Java, par No. 1, \$2.00 for 13, yard No. 2, \$1.50 for 13, \$2.00 for 25, eggs will be from first-class stock and carefully packed in baskets and shipped in good order. Send your orders to G. F. DOOLITTLE, Lock Box, Owatonna, Minn., or leave them at the News office.

Sale of Valuable Tract of Land.

The undersigned, as executor of the estate of J. C. Caldwell county, N. C., in the case of James A. Hixson and others, a party will sell at public auction, on the premises on Saturday, December 15, 1888, at 12 o'clock, M., that property which is the subject of a writ of habeas corpus, consisting of two hundred and four acres, more or less, with five level dwelling, one double, good barn, &c. The tract is a first-class tract and is well situated for a farm. Large quantity of good timber is growing there. This is one of the most desirable places in the county.

TERMS.—Cash for one-fourth of the purchase money, the balance on a credit of six months, the purchaser giving 8 per cent interest bearing bond for the deferred payment. Title retained until all the purchase money is paid.

At the same time with the sale of the above property he will sell the estate of J. M. Simpson. The property will be sold by L. E. HENDERSON, Nov. 27th, 1888, Commissioner.

NOTICE. RE-SALE OF LAND. The undersigned, as executor of the estate of J. M. Simpson, will sell at public auction, on the premises on Saturday, December 15, 1888, at 12 o'clock, M., that property which is the subject of a writ of habeas corpus, consisting of two hundred and four acres, more or less, with five level dwelling, one double, good barn, &c. The tract is a first-class tract and is well situated for a farm. Large quantity of good timber is growing there. This is one of the most desirable places in the county.

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Florence, Harrelson & Co. Yanceyville, N. C., Sept. 20, 1888.

