

The Life and Times of Henry Berry Lowry



This is the final testimony given by Andrew Strong at the October Term of Superior Court in Robeson County 1870. This was a preliminary hearing trying John Taylor for accessory before the fact of the murder of Malcolm Sanderson. Q. Cross examined by the defendant state whether or not on the week that these matters occurred to which you have deposed, it was reported that Angus Leitch was robbed by a band of out laws and robbers, and on the same day Mrs. McKay a neighbor of his was also robbed by the same gang of desperadoes, she being a widow lady unprotected.

A. Yes, Sir.
Q. Who constituted this band of robbers?
A. I don't know sir, I have heard who they were.
Q. Who do you understand them to be?
A. As I hear them say, its Henry Berry Lowry, Stephen Lowry, Boss Strong, George Applewhite and Henderson Oxendine. This is what I hear people say.
Q. What relation are you to Henry B. Lowry?
A. Henry B. Lowry is my brother in law.
Q. What relation are you to Boss Strong?
A. He is my brother, said to be.
Q. Are you related to Stephen Lowry? If so, how?
A. No sir, my mother was a Lowry, but she was related to H.B. Lowry's father, I am not aware of it.
Q. Did the citizens collect together and pursue the robbers?
A. I don't know anything about it.
Q. How far do you live from those robbers?
A. From each of the Lowry's I live about the same distance, being five miles, Boss Strong lived it is said with his sister the wife of H.B. Lowry, I live at a distance of three miles from Applewhite's house, and about four miles from where Henderson Oxendine lives, at his father's.

Q. State whether or not the pursuing party overtook the robbers that week near George Applewhite's house and if the robbers did not fire into them and kill Steven Davis?
A. That is something I do not know, I would be as ready as anyone to answer it if I knew anything about it.
Q. Have you seen either your brothers Boss Strong or your brother-in-law Henry B. Lowry since Davis was killed?
A. No, I have not.
Q. How long before that time was it you saw H.B. Lowry, Stephen Lowry, Boss Strong, George Applewhite or Henderson Oxendine?
A. I have seen George Applewhite and Henderson Oxendine last when they left the jail in Lumberton to go to Wilmington last March. I saw Stephen Lowry at the same time last. I saw some two or three men pass about three hundred yards from where I was dripping boxes in July last and it seemed to me Henry B. Lowry and Boss Strong were among them, I thought they were the men.

Q. Who was dripping boxes with you at the time?
A. No one.
Q. How long before July last was it since you saw these before?
A. Last August was a year ago on Saturday before the Monday which I surrendered myself to Col. Sinclair, Henry B. Lowry and Boss Strong were together on the bank of the creek, and no other person was with them.
Q. Have you had any conversation with either of them since last August was a year ago (H.B. Lowry & B. Strong)?
A. No, Sir.
Q. Have you ever seen either of them at Harper's Ferry, if so when?
A. No, Sir.
Q. Have not those robbers been accused of numerous acts of murder in the county?

A. Yes they have.
Q. Was it not a long time currently reported that you were yourself acting with those robbers in their acts of robbery and murder?
A. It was so reported before I came in and surrendered myself to the law.
Q. Had you been concealing yourself before that time?
A. Yes I have.
Q. With whom did you stay while concealing yourself from the officers of the law?
A. With nobody at all.
Q. Were Henry B. Lowry & Boss Strong concealing themselves at the same time that you were?
A. Yes, Sir, they were.
Q. How did you come to surrender yourself and who advised you to do so?
A. I had determined to live in peace and was advised to surrender myself by William Gibson, James Roberts, Angus Baker and Col. Sinclair.

Q. Were you outlawed at the time you surrendered?
A. It was said to be.
Q. Was this William Gibson with whom you conferred acting as Deputy Sheriff at that time?
A. No, Sir.
Q. Did you attempt to assist to arrest those robbers or either of them?
A. I did not, I never was asked to do so.
Q. Did you ever hear the defendant John Taylor counsel command or procure the murder of Malcolm Sanderson.
A. I did.
Q. Have you had conversation with any one about this question since Court adjourned on yesterday?
A. No more than we had here about it yesterday when you were all talking about it.
Q. What were the words used by the defendant and to whom were they uttered in relation to the murder of Malcolm Sanderson?
The words that he used to the captain.
A. It is a hard question to answer, Mr. Taylor seemed to rule the crowd, he was talking to the men who had us in custody at some distance from where I was so that I could not understand what they were talking about, I could hear talk about robbery and murdering, but I never as I could hear think he said Malcolm Sanderson and me particularly, he said that the colored people had run Peacock off and their determination was to run him off too, and I understood that both Malcolm Sanderson and myself were included among the colored people that he spoke of.

Q. Did the defendant say colored people or robbers had run Peacock off?
A. He never said robbers.
Q. What were the precise words used by Mr. Taylor in designating the parties that ran Mr. Peacock away?
A. They (making a motion with both his hands as including all the people of the settlement).
Q. Do you then upon reflection say upon your oath that you did not yourself with your own ears hear the defendant advise any one to kill Malcolm Sanderson?
A. That question I can't answer rightly because these men seemed to notice Mr. Taylor's talk because they would come to me and Malcolm Sanderson and make threats to us of what they were going to do to us but I never heard him advising the men to murder me or Malcolm Sanderson.
Q. Did you ever hear the defendant accuse Malcolm Sanderson of robbery, burning or any other crime?
A. No Sir.
Q. Were not the defendant and Malcolm Sanderson on friendly terms?
A. I do not know.
Q. Who killed Malcolm Sanderson?

A. The men who had us arrested the crowd.
Q. Which one of the crowd?
A. I can't tell.
Q. In your answer that the crowd who arrested you killed Malcolm Sanderson do you base your judgement from the circumstances under which you last saw him or from your own observation as a fact?
A. I base my judgement upon the circumstances under which I saw him last and what I heard then but I never saw any one kill him.
Q. Can you on your oath as a matter of fact state at what time he was killed?
A. I cannot.
Q. Have you good reasons to believe that Malcolm Sanderson was not killed at the time and place where and when you made your escape from the crowd?
A. I have.
Q. Can you state upon oath that there were no other persons present with you that night who had not at some time or other been robbed by the robbers besides the defendant?
A. I don't know whether there was or not.

Examination in chief resumed
Q. When you got to the place where you understood both yourself and Malcolm Sanderson were to be shot did you recognize any of the party who were detailed to do the shooting and if so state the name of the party?
A. Sandy McNeill was one.
Q. Is Sandy McNeill any connection of Mr. Taylor and if so state the connection?
A. Sandy McNeill is a brother-in-law of Mr. Taylor, so said to be.
Q. Is this the Sandy McNeill or person whom you said in another part of this examination held a private interview with Mr. Taylor on the banner of W.C. McNeill's house before you were led into the bay?
A. He is.

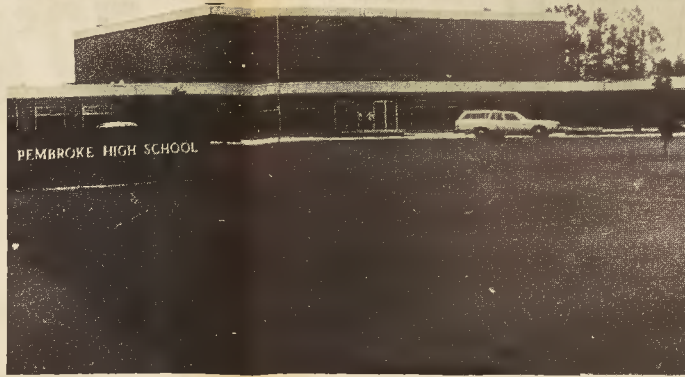
His name Andrew "X" Strong Mark
Andrew Strong dismissed."

The transcript speaks for itself. The truth lies within Andrew Strong's testimony.
Sufficient evidence was found to hold John Taylor for the murder of "Make" Sanderson. The Reverend James Sinclair ruled that Taylor be held without bond in the Lumberton jail to await the next session of Superior Court in Robeson County at which time he would be charged for accessory before the murder of Malcolm Sanderson.
What lies in store for John Taylor? Henry Berry Lowry vows to kill him if the courts do not take proper action.
To be continued next week.

Water Planning Urged

OXFORD — Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt called Wednesday for state planning and action to meet its water needs.
Speaking at a groundbreaking for a CertainTeed Corp. plant in Granville County, Hunt said the state has no idea of its water needs and no plan for meeting those needs.
"Our cities—like Raleigh and Chapel Hill and Greensboro—are left to shift for themselves, to go begging to other cities or to the federal government for help," Hunt said.
He said the state cannot afford to continue to have water shortages because they hamper economic development.
"We've got to face the fact that North Carolina is failing in this area," he said.
Hunt called for establishing a strong water resources development program in state government to determine the state's needs and to develop a plan for meeting them.
"And then we must aggressively seek out the federal assistance that will enable us to obtain the water we need," he asserted.

Pembroke Senior High Spruced Up and Exploring new ideas



EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first in a series of four articles highlighting the four traditional Indian high schools in the Robeson County School Unit, including Pembroke Senior High (the subject of this week's article), Prospect, Magnolia and Fairgrove.

The immaculate and landscaped grounds at Pembroke Senior High School. (Bruce Barton photo)

Neville, Mrs. Joan Lowry, Mrs. Dolores Jones, Mrs. Mary Jane Bryant, Steve Jones, Ms. Bonnie Hunt (who is developing an English

elective program at PSHS) his coach Ronnie Chavis (who took his baseballers to the state championship last year), Ned Sampson, his athletic director

("He cares about his boys..."). Gene Winfree, the football coach, etc. etc. He mentioned each and every person on his staff, all his faculty, his

secretary, Mrs. Peggy Locklear his assistant principals, "Pete Clark, Fred Lowry and, above all else, he praised the student body at PSHS. "The pupils at PSHS care about what happens at Pembroke."

Exciting things are happening at Pembroke. New horizons are being reached in education. He lauded Col. Zandiotis and his Junior ROTC. "Why," said Dr. Thompson, "he has involved more than 120 students (male and female) in our Jr. ROTC. His Drum and Bugle Corps is developing into a real show piece. They recently presented the colors at the ground breaking for the new housing units for the Town of Pembroke."

For the first time in the history of the school, WJSK Radio is presenting the games of PSHS to their listening audience this year.

AND A DREAM NOT YET REALIZED...

A special dream of Dr. Vernon R. Thompson is to build a first class fieldhouse at Pembroke Senior High without tax money. "We want to build it as a labor of love. We are approaching a beginning date. If everything works out and we can raise just a little bit more money, we'll have that field house...hopefully, before the present school year is out. We want to do it for the school and, most of all, for the community."

Lyceum Series underway at PSU

The first of six Lyceum Series attractions this year at PSU was held Tuesday on campus.

The National Theatre Company presented "Catch a Rising Star," a presentation of comedy routines, songs and impressions, in the Performing Arts Center.

Other attractions planned for this year include the Danish Gymnastics Team on September 13, the Pickwick Puppet Theatre presenting "Arabian Nights" on October 26, the Paul Price Percussion Ensemble on November 16, George M. Cohan's "The Tavern" on January 27, and the National Opera Company presenting an opretta on Feb. 8.

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He mentioned some of his faculty by name... Mrs. Clara