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## HODGES AND JONES HANGED

John H. Hodges and Freeman Jones Pay for Their Crimes.

## PARTING SCENES VERY IMPRESSIVE

The First Hanging in Durham—

Negro and White Man the Victims of Their Passion

At last Durham county has had a hanging, and the beginning was a double one. Quite a number of people were around the court house all morning, waiting to see if there was anything unusual to take place, and the only reward many of them got was a sight of the body as it was brought out by the undertakers. There was not a hitch in the proceedings from the time the scaffold was begun until both men were hung, and Deputy Sheriff Harward got through with his part of the hanging as if he were accustomed to it.

John H. Hodges today at 10:30 paid the price of the awful crime which he committed, about which our readers are familiar. He was brought out by Deputy Sheriff Harward in the presence of about 35 people and placed upon the scaffold, and when asked if he had anything to say, he replied that he wanted to thank all the people who had been kind to him since he has been confined in jail. He wanted all the people to take warning and not drink liquor, but live a life that would insure them an entrance to heaven. He shook hands with Deputy Sheriff Harward and thanked him especially for the kind way in which he treated him during his confinement, and that he wanted him to meet him in heaven; told him that he was willing to go—that he wanted to go, wanted the suspense ended.

The black cap was placed on his head, and the drop fell, and Drs. Johnson, O'Kelly and Smith pronounced him dead at 10:50.

Hodges arose this morning and at 8:30 o'clock ate a hearty breakfast and was talking with the sheriff in the same manner that he has done all along. In fact he displayed the same nerve that has been manifest ever since he was arrested and placed in jail. Nothing was said during his last hours about the crime for which he was paying such a penalty.

The remains were taken to the undertaking establishment of J. S. Hall where preparation for burial was made. The interment will take place tomorrow afternoon, and it is expected that the burial will be in the High burying ground about six miles southeast of Durham.

### FREEMAN JONES CONFESSES.

Following closely upon the hanging of Hodges, the negro, Freeman Jones was brought out, the same rope being used. It was expected by many that when the time came for the execution Jones would falter, and many expected that he would have to be brought out by the officers in charge, but he walked to the scaffold as firm as he could walk anywhere.

When asked if he had any statement to make, he said that liquor was the cause of his crime, and for the first time said that he remembered committing the crime and said that he went to the home of Mrs. Jack Barker and entered the door, went in grabbed hold of her and dragged her from the bed out into the yard. He said that he would not have committed the crime had it

not been for whiskey. He felt like the Lord had forgiven his sins, that he would be saved and was willing to die. The cap was adjusted and the trap fell at 11:33, and the doctors present pronounced him dead at 11:52.

The body was turned over to his people and the burial took place this afternoon.

The gallows on which John H. Hodges and Freeman Jones died today was erected inside the jail. This work was done near by where the two doomed men sat and they could count the blows of the hammers and hear the noise made by the saws. They could see the work that was being done on the instrument that ended their lives.

Probably the most impressive and touching scene ever enacted in this county took place in the jail Sunday afternoon when the six children of Hodges, the mother of his dead wife, two of her sisters, several brothers-in-law and other family connections gathered there to say good-bye to the doomed man. Rev. H. M. North of the Trinity park school, preached the sermon and he was assisted in the devotional exercises by Revs. E. M. Hoyle and J. H. McCracken and by a quartette of gentlemen who conducted the singing.

After this service all retired, with the exception of the relatives, the officers and one newspaper man. Hodges made a talk to his children, calling each one and telling what he wanted done and then leaving them to the care of divine providence. He gave to each child a Bible, twenty cents in money and some fruit. To Jack, the youngest boy, he gave his watch and chain.

He was questioned about the murder by Mrs. High, mother of the murdered woman, and he told of what occurred that night.

He said he intended to kill his wife and himself, but the pistol failed to fire when his time came. He said his wife was a good woman. He said he was happy, was converted and would go to heaven and be with his wife when the hanging was over.

He said that he had prayed each night that he might be with her and had dreamed of seeing her, and that they were both happy.

"Do not grieve for me," he said "I am all right. The nearer the time comes for the end the happier I am. Get right, all of you and be good." He then asked that if there was any one present who had anything against him that this hate be put out of their hearts. He said that he had nothing against any person and that he loved best now those he hated worst when he went into the jail. Speaking of his past life between the time when he was first converted seventeen years ago and the second conversion since going to jail, he said that he had been across hell on a rotten rail a number of times, yet he was spared to be saved. Telling little Jack good-bye he told him to be good and obey those who had him in charge, he added, "when you go to your rabbit gums take Jesus with you and you will catch more rabbits."

Through it all he did not show nervousness. Tears gathered in his eyes and while he was leading in prayer with his family these tears trickled from the end of his nose, but there was no nervousness. Speaking of what the newspapers had said about his nerve he said: "The news papers say I have a nerve of iron; it is the nerve of God that is sustaining me."

After this service there was enacted another sad scene on the floor below, where a colored minister preached Freeman Jones' last sermon. There were songs, and prayers and tears. Both scenes were such as to make impossible a picture of the terrible moments.

For several days Officer Harward has been bombarded from all sides with requests from people who wanted to go into the jail and look at the two men. At times there were great crowds in front of the jail entrance and it was impossible for the officer in charge to go any distance without being stopped and request made. Then there have been made more requests for tickets to witness the hanging, this since the publication was made that the limit had been exhausted and that no more could be promised.

Since Sunday quite a large number of people have been allowed in the jail. This did not disturb either of the men as they did not mind seeing the visitors or talking with them on any subject. In fact, it seemed at times that it was a relief to them to look up and see visitors and talk with those fresh from the outside world.

Thursday afternoon three children of Hodges, Miss Ola, Fred and little Mattie, visited the jail and spent a short while with their father. Final farewells were said when they left the jail. It was a fearful moment. For the first time since his confinement Hodges came near breaking down when he told little Mattie good-bye. She is the smallest of the children and was the one who said to him on the night that he visited his wife's home and enacted such a fearful tragedy: "Papa, I want you. I will fix a pallet. Sleep with me on the floor."

Jones had to go through with a similar experience. He was visited by his mother, wife, sister and brother. His father did not visit him. Freeman almost preached a sermon to his kinspeople, telling them to change their ways and serve the Lord. There were songs, prayers and much that was pathetic.

### Pretty Home Wedding.

There was a pretty marriage at the home of Mr. T. B. Fuller, on East Main street, last Wednesday at 6 o'clock, when Miss Adelaide Ramsey became the bride of Mr. J. E. Hancock. Rev. F. R. Leyburn, pastor of the first Presbyterian church, officiated. After the marriage they left for Carthage, where they will make their home for the present.

Only a few intimate friends and the relatives were present at this marriage. It was a very quiet affair. There were no attendants. The home was prettily decorated for the occasion.

Mr. Hancock is general manager of the Durham and South Carolina road and the Chatham Lumber company and has spent much of his time in Durham since he came to this section to make his home. He is now at Carthage, however, and it was to that place that he has carried his bride. He is very popular and has many friends, both business and social.

His bride is a charming young woman. She has lived in Durham practically all of her life and is the daughter of the late Capt. N. A. Ramsey. She is accomplished and in going in and out before our people since childhood she has made a large number of friends and admirers. For sometime she has been connected with the faculty of the city graded school.

## Y. M. C. A. BEGINS WITH \$13,500.

Banquet at the Carolina—Headquarters Established at Court House.

The banquet at the Hotel Carolina last Tuesday evening for the purpose of stimulating interest in the erection of a Y. M. C. A. building for Durham was attended by quite a number of representative men of the city.

Mr. James H. Southgate was master of ceremonies and Mr. C. L. Gates, of Atlanta, Ga., was introduced and spoke of the "American Young Man." Governor Glenn was present and addressed the citizens present, urging the establishment of a Y. M. C. A. in Durham closing with a strong appeal for the movement.

Mr. G. C. Huntington, field secretary for North and South Carolina, was the third speaker. He stated the plan of campaign and announced the various committees, who were asked to meet each night at 8 o'clock. He also announced that Mr. G. W. Watts had subscribed \$7,500 upon the condition that \$30,000 be raised by February 19; Capt. E. J. Parrish subscribed \$3,000, and General J. S. Carr \$3,000, the latter upon condition that \$35,000 be raised by February 19.

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. S. S. Bost and the meeting adjourned about midnight.

The headquarters of the campaign committees opened Tuesday and active work will begin Wednesday—this evening—when the various committees met as requested. The headquarters is in the commissioner's room, at the court house.

Prof. Matherson, who recently resigned as superintendent of the city graded schools, is in charge as headquarters man. Desks and tables have been placed and the room is a nice one for the use now intended for it. On the outside, at the corner of the court house, is a large banner or placard, stating that inside is headquarters for the Y. M. C. A. campaign committee.

Those who are backing this move and are leading spirits in it are enthused over the outlook. With \$13,500 announced for the first night there should be no trouble in getting the remainder of the \$35,000 desired.

Up to Friday morning the full amount raised for the building was \$16,520.

### The County Commissioners.

The county commissioners have been in session this week and considered many matters that are of importance to the citizens of the county.

The road question was discussed and matters put in shape to begin work in earnest when the weather gets better. Bills are to be prepared for the legislature to allow jurors \$2 per day, the commissioners \$3.50, also to allow the commissioners to make arrangements for better accommodation at the court house. Many routine matters received the attention of the commissioners at this meeting.

A young man by the name of Gilmore Thompson came near losing his life in an accident on the Southern road yesterday morning. He drove across the track with a load of lumber just as the train was approaching. The train struck the center of the wagon, and parted in the middle. The team and the driver were knocked to the same side. No serious damage was done either, but the wagon was a complete wreck.

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Banking House,	13,000.00	Circulation,	100,000.00
Cash and due from Banks,	293,129.84	Deposits,	781,657.23
Redemption Fund,	7,200.00	Dividends unpaid,	15.00
	\$1,055,944.48		\$1,055,944.48

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