

SPECIAL NOTICE.

It has been a rule of The Robesonian for several years to charge for publishing cards of thanks, resolutions of respect and obituaries. Occasionally we get obituaries or resolutions of respect with request to publish free, however, so it appears necessary to give this notice prominence again. All such notices must be paid for at the rate of one cent a word for obituaries and resolutions and not less than 50 cents for cards of thanks. This applies to all. Anything of this nature that is worth publishing is worth paying for; if not worth paying for then a paper should not be expected to incur the expense of publishing for nothing.

COURT OFFICIALS MURDERED.

Judge, Prosecuting Attorney and Sheriff Slain by Outlaws When one of Their Number is Sentenced—Assassins Fled to Mountains.

Hillsville, Va., Dispatch, March 14.

A troop of mountain outlaws rode down out of the Blue Ridge today to the Carroll county court house here and assassinated the judge upon the bench, the prosecutor before the bar, and the sheriff at the door in less time than it takes to tell it, while sentence was being pronounced upon Floyd Allen, one of their number.

When the crack of the rifles died away only one member of the human fabric of the court—Dexter Goad, the clerk, was alive and he had been wounded. Jurymen and on-lookers were struck in the fusillade but none was wounded seriously.

Governor Mann has offered a \$3,000 reward for the capture of the assassins and holds State troops under arms for orders at Lynchburg and Roanoke.

The shooting terrorized Hillsville to the point of paralysis. There was not a man to give an order or organize a pursuit. Citizens fled to places of safety and mothers gathered up their children, while the assassins rode out of town.

Judge Thornton L. Massie had risen from his chair as the bullets struck him and fell across his desk a bleeding corpse. Commonwealth Attorney William Foster, with a dozen bullets in his brain, crumpled down to the floor. Sheriff Lewis Webb was shot and killed as he reached for his revolver and sprang forward. Bullets grazed Clerk Goad and in the confusion he was reported killed. Jurors who had been slightly wounded were reported dead and by that undefinable method of communication which prevails in the woods and country, reports of a wholesale slaughter shot out to the countryside.

Floyd Allen was before the bar this morning, convicted of taking a prisoner from a deputy sheriff. Allen had struck the sheriff over the head with the butt of a rifle and the prisoner escaped. Sheriff Webb had gone up into the mountains and taken Allen, despite dire warnings of what such a venture might mean. Attorney Foster had prosecuted him fearlessly and a mountaineer jury gathered from the inland section, for no man in Carroll county cared to sit on the trial of an Allen, had convicted him.

This morning the sentence of Allen attracted an unusually large gathering to the quaint old red brick court house, which stands on a green square, well into the center of the village. Those who could not get in the small room peered through the windows, opened to the first days of spring.

Just as Allen was about to be called up for sentence, his two brothers, Sidney and Jack, at the head of a troop of about 20 mountaineers, rode up to the court house.

The brothers and their companions, some carrying rifles and others armed with revolvers crowded into the small court room and stood behind the rail and about the door. Floyd Allen, aged 50, tall and gaunt, much the familiar type of mountaineer, was in the dock.

Judge Massie mounted the bench and Prosecutor Foster moved sentence upon Allen, who stood up. There was a shuffling of feet and a general movement among the mountaineers in the back of the room, but no sign to foretell the tale of the terrible tragedy, then in the minds of every one of them.

The usual legal formalities over

Judge Massie began pronouncing sentence. The last words that fell from his lips precipitated the tragedy.

"One year at hard labor."

Before the last word was cold the fusillade began. Allen, with an oath that he would never go to prison, sprang out of the prisoner's dock as Judge Massie collapsed upon the bench. Another roar of shots and Prosecutor Foster was on the floor in a heap. Sheriff Webb was springing forward for his prisoner when the lead found him.

Then holding the panic-stricken jurors and on-lookers at bay, although that probably was not necessary, the assassins slowly backed out of the court house and across the green to their troop of ponies.

In a second they were galloping like mad men through the aroused village and off to the hills.

With them the assassins half carried, half dragged one of their number, wounded, and it was said that this was Floyd Allen.

The quiet of Hillsville had never been disturbed by such a roar of firing and 300 men, women and children rushed to the court house. Webb and Foster were stone dead. Judge Massie died in less than an hour.

When a semblance of order came out of the chaos that followed some horsemen hurried down into Beaver Dam valley to spread the news and get help. More intrepid men rode off toward Betty Baker, where there is a railroad station and a telegraph wire.

Word of the tragedy was slow in getting to points from which help could be asked, but the machinery of the law, once started, worked quickly. Governor Mann ordered the State companies of militia at Roanoke and Lynchburg to be ready to go to Hillsville, if their aid should be necessary. Police detectives and volunteers from nearby places took all the means of transportation to get to Hillsville.

Late today Governor Mann telegraphed to Judge Staples, of the Roanoke Corporation Court, to go to Hillsville and take charge of judicial proceedings. Attorney General Williams, of the State of Virginia, has also been ordered to Hillsville. He and the new judge, Staples, will meet at Pulaski tomorrow and proceed together.

The town is awkwardly situated for such an emergency as this. It is the county seat of Carroll county, and lies in the Beaver Dam valley four miles from the top of the Blue Ridge mountains, across the valley, a strip of indigo along the sky on a clear day shows the Alleghenies. The country is rough, the roads are bad and at this time of year with spring thaws, nearly impassible. Illicit stills are said to be many.

Floyd Allen lived on one side of the town and his two brothers on the other. All the men of the family have been known as stern characters and were feared by many in the county. The deputy sheriff who would serve a warrant or a summons on one of them was accounted a brave man.

Judge Massie was one of the most prominent jurists of the State. He was appointed to the bench by Governor Swanson in 1908, was 48 years old and is survived by a wife, two sons and a daughter. Judge Massie had been considered recently for promotion to the State Supreme Court bench. Commonwealth Attorney Foster had held his office for eight years. He was 40 years of age and known as a fearless prosecutor. He was a Republican leader in the county. Sheriff Webb had been a deputy for 15 or 20 years before being elected sheriff last November.

Officers Expected to be Killed. Richmond, Va., Meh. 14.—"Rather than indicate a fear of law-breakers by sitting on the bench with a weapon in my pocket, I prefer to be killed in the administration of justice," was the statement made by Judge Massie only last night to a friend who urged him to take steps for his own protection against the lawless element he had determined to bring to justice. Commonwealth Attorney Foster said this morning just before he walked into the court room that it would probably be his last day on earth. It was expected that trouble would follow the rendering of a verdict, if the jury should convict. When Floyd Allen fired, as sentence was pronounced, Sheriff Webb quickly returned it, and it is believed that a bullet from his revolver struck Allen. But he did not

fire again, for he was shot dead by a mountaineer.

Might Have Happened at Greensboro.

Greensboro, N. C., March 14.—But for a combination of circumstances United States officers here believe that the Allen brothers, who figured in the court room tragedy at Hillsville, Va., today would have attempted a demonstration in the United States Court here a year ago, when Judge Boyd sentenced Sidna Allen to a term of two and a half years in the Federal prison at Atlanta for perjury. Attorneys made an appeal and only recently the Circuit Court of Appeals, sitting at Richmond, ordered a new trial. The case was to be re-tried here in April.

During the trial information was given the United States marshal that before leaving Floyd county, Virginia, to come here for the trial of the brother, the Allens declared that Sidna should never be carried to jail alive. Upon this information the marshal took special precautions to prevent a demonstration and during the trial the brothers were kept under close surveillance. When the jury verdict of guilty was brought in and Judge Boyd passed sentence an extra force of officers was stationed in the court room, and every precaution was taken to see that the Allens did not attempt a demonstration.

The Allen family is well-known by United States officers stationed here. They have always been considered desperate and have engaged in frequent clashes with officers. Floyd Allen, when here, boasted of carrying 13 bullet holes in his body, five of which, he said, were put there by a brother. He related at the time that he and a brother engaged in a pistol duel, both falling with the first fire, and then, while prostrate, emptying their revolvers into one another. Both later recovered and settled their grievances.

Fled to North Carolina.

Raleigh, March 14.—Responding to a special appeal from Governor Mann, of Virginia, Governor Kitchin this afternoon telegraphed the sheriffs of Stokes, Surry and Alleghany counties, that border on Carroll county, Va., to take every step possible for the apprehension of the 17 desperadoes, who killed the judge, commonwealth's attorney, and sheriff of the Carroll county court this morning. Governor Kitchin informed the sheriffs of \$1,000 reward the Governor of Virginia had offered.

MALARIA

headache, biliousness, indigestion, rheumatism, pimples, blotches, yellow complexion, etc., are all signs of poisons in your blood. These poisons should be driven out, or serious illness may result. To get rid of them, use

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Mrs. J. H. Easler, of Spartanburg, S. C., says: "I had sick headache, for years. I felt bad most of the time. I tried Thedford's Black-Draught, and now I feel better than when I was 16 years old." Your druggist sells it, in 25 cent packages.


Insist on Thedford's

Land Sale.

Davis, et al.
vs.
Moffitt, et al.

The undersigned, under judgment of the Superior court of Robeson county in the above cause, will expose to sale for cash to the highest bidder at public outcry at the court house in Lumberton, North Carolina, on April 1, 1912, at 12 m., the interests and estates of the defendants in a certain tract of land described in book G G G, page 434, office of Register of Deeds of Robeson county. The description in which is made part of this notice, as fully as if set out in words and figures, the same being the lands of which Susan A. Davis died seized and possessed, and located near St. Pauls, N. C. Sale made for partition.

F. A. McNeill, Jr.,
Commissioner.
February 15, 1912. 3-4-4 mon



(855-19)2

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This statement may be rendered more forceful by the additional word, that correct principles of business and good faith with farmers and dealers have, likewise, been an abiding policy.

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One 8-room house on lot 108x108	\$2,000.00
One 5-room house on lot 108x108	1,000.00
One 6-room house on lot 108x108	1,500.00
One 4-room house on lot 54x108	1,250.00
One 9-room house, brand new on 2/3 acre lot, close in town	4,500.00

Vacant property, situated in almost every part of town size of lots 54x108 and 108x108 and 108x216, ranging in price per lot from \$50.00 to \$1,000.00.

Also the following farm property:

250-acre farm, 125 acres cleared, located 2 1/2 miles from town	\$8,000.00
100-acre farm, 30 acres cleared, located 7 miles from town	1,000.00
60-acre farm, 40 acres cleared, located 4 miles from town	2,000.00
65-acre farm, one mile from town	3,250.00
125-acre farm 7 miles from town	2,000.00

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A. T. McLEAN, General Manager.

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