

## THREE BROTHERS PAY DEATH PENALTY

Execution of Van Wormers  
at Dannemora, N. Y.

### THE STORY OF THEIR CRIME.

On Christmas Eve, 1901, Masked and Armed, With Their Cousin, Harvey Bruce, They Attacked Peter Hallenbeck, Their Uncle, Who Was Slain.

Dannemora, N. Y., Oct. 2.—In most all respects, the tragedy which closed today at Clinton prison with the death in the electric chair of the three brothers Van Wormer was unique in modern criminal history.

Only once before in this state is it recalled that three brothers have gone to their death together for a murder in which they were jointly concerned.

On Christmas Eve, 1901, with their cousin, Harvey Bruce, the three brothers drove from their home in Kinderhook, some 14 miles to the hamlet of Greendale, in Columbia county, where lived Peter A. Hallenbeck, the uncle of the Van Wormers. On the way they stopped at the Greendale church. Thence they went to Hallenbeck house, where Mr. Hallenbeck, his wife and his aged mother were sitting in the

aged mother of the murdered man. A brother, George A. Hallenbeck, survives, but he is broken in health and nerve by the awful tragedy enacted almost within his hearing.

The triple execution of today raised to a total of 72 murderers who have died in the electric chair.

The simultaneous execution of three brothers is not unprecedented in the history of New York state, although to find a parallel one must go back to June 7, 1825, when three brothers, Nelson, Israel and Joe and Isaac Thayer of the town of Boston, Erie county were hanged simultaneously on a triple gallows erected at the West Side of Niagara square in the city of Buffalo. The crime for which the Thayers died was the butchery of a peddler named John Love.

Willis Van Wormer entered the death chamber at 11:34:30, the current was turned into his body one minute later and at 11:37 he was declared dead. At 11:41:30 Frederick entered the death chamber, at 11:42 the current was turned on and he was declared dead at 11:43:30. Burton entered the death chamber at 11:47, the current was turned on at 11:47:30, and he was declared dead at 11:49:30.

The entire proceedings from the start of the first man from his cell to the doctor's declaration of the death of the last, consumed but 15½ minutes, and no untoward incident marred the execution of the law.

### SUICIDE IN CRESCENT CITY.

John O'Neil, Manager Texas Newspaper, Takes His Life.

New Orleans, Oct. 3.—Under unusually sensational circumstances Jack Stewart O'Neill, a New Yorker, but for some time business manager of The Orange, Tex., Daily Tribune, suicided at the St. Charles hotel today.

O'Neill, who is apparently 25 or 30 years of age, arrived in the city last night and registered at the St. Charles hotel. He left a call for 8 o'clock this morning. When a bell boy went to his room he found O'Neill's body lying across the bed with blood trickling from a wound in the head.

O'Neill left a note saying that he had a wife living in New York to whom he was devoted.

Some time ago he came south and located in Orange. There he obtained employment on The Tribune and fell desperately in love with a beautiful young girl of that city. Very recently the young lady's father came to him and at the point of a revolver, forced him to agree to a marriage. Without giving him any opportunity to say that no intimacy had existed between them or that the fact that he already had a wife would prevent him from marrying, O'Neill said the father insisted on an immediate ceremony, which was performed.

After the marriage he bade his new wife farewell and started on a journey to New York to tell the whole story to his original wife and assure her of his fidelity. He reached here, was unable to obtain enough money to carry him further and decided to write a full story of the whole affair and blow his brains out.

A letter addressed to her and another to his father, J. J. O'Neill, a real estate man of Schenectady, N. Y., were also found. O'Neill had spent most of the night in writing, and had probably killed himself just before daylight.

No confirmation of the facts of Mr. O'Neill's story have yet reached here.

### Confessions of a Priest.

Rev. Jno. S. Cox, of Wake, Ark., writes: "For 12 years I suffered from yellow jaundice. I consulted a number of physicians and tried all sorts of medicines, but got no relief. Then I began the use of Electric Bitters and feel that I am now cured of a disease that had me in its grasp for twelve years." If you want a reliable medicine for liver and kidney trouble, stomach disorder or general debility, get Electric Bitters. It's guaranteed by Nichols, the druggist. Only 50 cents.

### MILES NOT A CANDIDATE.

Not Even for President Nor Governor of Texas, Says the General.

Chicago, Oct. 3.—A dispatch to The Record-Herald, from Dallas, Tex., says: "General Nelson A. Miles made this statement last night: 'I am not a candidate for any office and I don't expect to be, not even for president of the United States or governor of Texas.'"

### A Love Letter

Would not interest you if you're looking for a guaranteed salve for sores, burns or piles. Otto Dodd, of Ponder, Mo., writes: "I suffered with an ugly sore for a year, but a box of Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me. It's the best salve on earth. 25c at Nichol's drug store."

## I Hope My Customers Will Excuse Me

FOR not changing my ad. oftener, as I am usually too busy selling goods to our many customers to take time to think what to put in an ad. And besides, I prefer talking face to face with the people to seeing them at long range through a newspaper. So don't wait to see me in that way. There is no use for me to do so, but I will tell you that I have the best all-round general merchandise store in Brevard; and those who don't already know it can find out by looking through my store. My lines—including Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, Clothing and others—are strong; and from the amount of business done my prices must be low.

Hoping that I may be able to serve a satisfied people,

I am yours faithfully,

**T. D. ENGLAND**

Phone 8.

McMinn Block.

Brevard, N. C.

## From the Factory to the Foot

T. W. Whitmire has just received the largest line of men's, women's and children's Shoes ever in Brevard, and the prices are 20 per cent. cheaper considering quality than any other shoes in town. These shoes are bought direct from the factory, and every pair guaranteed. My Clothing was bought the same way—direct from the factory—and I have some of the nicest and most stylish patterns in the city. My line of Negligee Shirts and Neckwear are simply out of sight. When it comes to dressing a gentleman from head to toe and in the swellest of style no one in Brevard can do this but myself, and this is the way I do it: First thing is a silk finished undershirt with double elastic seams; Scrivin's drawers; next is that pretty little low collar and midget tie with the 20th century link cuffs and buttons; then I follow that up with a suit of the Kantbebeat brand of clothing, which is the most swell line in town; then comes the great Mauss pat. cult blucher shoe, the prettiest thing ever seen in Brevard, and every pair guaranteed; the last and best of all is for the head, and that is a John B. Stetson hat in the latest shape. If you will tell me what more it takes to dress a man I will buy it. Ah! I forgot to put any socks on my man, but it is not because I haven't got them. I have them, and the very nicest in town. My dry goods and grocery trade is good enough. Come and see me.

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THE VAN WORMER BOYS.

lampaunt in their living room. Both the women saw them drive past. In a few moments there was a knock at the door, and Mr. Hallenbeck answered to find masked men before him armed with revolvers. Burton Van Wormer led the way and with him the old man grappled. At once the four began a fusillade of pistol shots, which fairly riddled the body of Mr. Hallenbeck.

Mr. Hallenbeck, although mortally wounded, broke away from his assailants and went to the landing of the stairs, where he kept a loaded shotgun. The assailants saw him get the gun and fled. The man fell to the floor and died. The young men soon afterwards were arrested, betrayed by their footprints in the snow and because they were known to have harbored bitter feelings and had made threats against their uncle. They were brought to trial before an extraordinary term of the supreme court appointed by Governor Odell, and presided over by Justice Allen Chester, in Albany, in March 30, 1902.

Harvey Bruce turned state's evidence and it was to a large extent in his testimony that the conviction of the Van Wormers was secured. He swore that upon the ride back from the scene of the crime each of the brothers boasted of having shot the uncle.

It was shown that the bitterness which the brothers felt toward their uncle was due chiefly to his having foreclosed a mortgage upon the property in Greendale owned by their stepmother. On April 18, all three were found guilty and sentenced to be put to death in the week ending May 3, 1902. Their appeal to the court of appeals acted as a stay, and the case went over to the present year.

Judge O'Brien, in writing the unanimous opinion of his court against the appeal, pronounced incredible the main plea of defense that the expedition of the four to Hallenbeck's house was in the nature of a young man's prank, the fatal outcome of which had not been apparent. The court fixed upon the week of July 6 for the carrying out of the death sentence, but the Van Wormers have been twice respited by Governor Odell. Except for the efforts of Judge Cady in their behalf and for the futile attempt of Mrs. Van Wormer, the stepmother of the condemned men, to appeal to Governor Odell, no voice has been raised in their behalf.

Harvey Bruce, their fellow in crime, for which they died today, was tried alone and was sentenced to imprisonment for 18 years.

Mrs. Hallenbeck soon followed her husband to the grave as also did the