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Three Men Paid Penalty For Their Crimes With Life

Double Hanging Occurred at Durham Today When Hodges and Jones Were Executed on Same Scaffold for Crimes.

Frank Bohannon Was Also Hanged at Greensboro Today--Story of the Three Executions and Crimes Committed.

Special to The News.

Durham, N. C., Feb. 8.—The first hanging in the history of Durham county, was the double hanging today, when John H. Hodges, the convicted murderer and Freeman Jones, a negro convicted of burglary and attempted criminal assault, were hanged from a scaffold erected in the county jail.

The hanging of Hodges is almost on the anniversary of his crime, which was committed February 24th, 1906. Hodges and his wife, Mrs. Mattie Hodges, were continually having trouble in the courts and she had instituted divorce proceedings. The Saturday night following this, John Hodges, shortly before midnight broke into the bedroom of his wife, threw her from the bed on the floor, where she shot her while she begged for mercy. He was tried and convicted for murder in the first degree at the May term of court, 1906.

Freeman Jones, the negro who on the 17th of last June broke into the home of Mrs. Jack Barker, in East Durham, and after burglarizing followed Mrs. Barker from her room and knocked her off the front porch and attempted criminal assault. He was detected by Mrs. Barker's hair around the buttons of his coat. After being sentenced to hang he was respited by the governor twice.

Hodges on the scaffold, made a short talk. He advised men that drank whiskey and abused their wives to stop. He said he had no hard feelings against any one and thanked the jury for his kind treatment.

The drop fell at 10:32 and he was pronounced dead 20 minutes. Jones admitted on the scaffold that he went into the home of Mrs. Barker for the purpose of committing criminal assault, but did not accomplish his purpose.

He had very little to say, and after the drop fell lived 19 minutes. Bohannon Hanged.

Special to The News.

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 8.—At 11 o'clock this morning, the Rev. W. R. Tolliver, pastor of one of the colored churches here, who has been administering to the dead man for some time, held a regular service in the dead man's cell. At exactly 11:40 Sheriff Jones read the death warrant, during which reading and up to the last moment the condemned man was calm and perfectly free from nervousness.

When he came out of his cell he looked over the crowd and said, "Good morning, friends, I stand before you a murderer, who has violated the laws of God and man, but I have made peace with God and man and want you to meet me in heaven."

The Rev. Tolliver asked all those who felt that they could do so, to join in the song, the first line of which was, "When I was a little child," though there were only two or three out of the group whose voice was steady enough to sing. Frank Bohannon joined in the refrain with a sweet, clear voice.

After the song Rev. Tolliver made an earnest prayer for the murderer, his wife and child and those present. The scaffold was 40 feet from his cell with the trap just on a level with the second story of the jail, the jail steps being used to ascend.

Bohannon mounted these steps, stopped and pulled off his shoes. The deputy then tied his arms behind him, while another tied his feet. "After saying, "Good-bye, my friends, and God bless you," the black cap was tied on and the trap was sprung.

There was no struggle and in 13.3 minutes life was pronounced extinct. Drs. Brooks, Edmund Harrison and Peters were in attendance and said that his neck was broken. A plain, black coffin was brought and the body placed therein. The remains will be shipped to his sister in Winston, today.

Greensboro, Feb. 8.—The crime for which Frank Bohannon paid the penalty with his life on the gallows today, was unusually bold and cruel. He was a teamster for Lane Brothers, contractors in building the double track for the Southern Railway, and was employed at one of the camps, near Jamestown. For several days of carelessness and inattentiveness to his duties, Bohannon was discharged from employment and was held off on the 30th of July last year. He went off mad, and going to the home of Kiser Crutchfield, a negro living near by, rectified his wrongs. Kiser, gave or sold him some liquor, and that night accompanied him to the camp and went the round of the white officers quarters, trying to get some of them to come out. They were finally run out of the camp, and nothing more was thought of them. The next day, at about 12 o'clock, while Fore-

man R. L. Beachman, a South Carolinian, was standing on the railroad track, directing the work of about 20 or 30 negro hands, Bohannon, suddenly appeared, with a pistol in one hand and a shot gun in the other. Drawing bead on Beachman, with the gun, Bohannon cursed him and defied him and the whole white force for having treated him wrong in discharging him. He became excited, as he cursed, and on being told by Beachman to go away and not bring trouble, declared that if Beachman opened his mouth again, or made a step, he would shoot. Beachman stood still for a moment, as one transfixed with incredulity at the recklessness of the man's purpose, and suddenly gave a step forward. As he did so, the negro fired, the faithful foreman dropping with a load of buckshot in his stomach. The negro deliberately fired a second time, and turning with his gun and pistol pointed at the crowd of men at work made his escape.

The wounded man, under the direction of the company's physician, was taken on the train to the hospital at High Point, but died in the station at High Point two hours after being shot. Every effort was made to find Bohannon, but he evaded arrest for two weeks, finally being arrested in Danville. In the meantime, investigation had been shown that on the afternoon before the murder, Bohannon and Oscar Crutchfield, son of Kiser Crutchfield, had driven in Kiser's buggy to Greensboro and had tried to buy a gun and ammunition. It was a holiday and the stores were closed. It was also learned that early next morning, Bohannon and Oscar had again come to Greensboro, and had purchased a gun and ammunition of a store there, then returning home arriving there but a short time before the murder was committed. This, with the fact that the two Crutchfields being with Bohannon the night before when the raid was made on the camp, caused the arrest of the two Crutchfields on a charge of accessories to the murder. When Bohannon was arrested he admitted his identity, said that he killed Beachman, but was "put up to it" by the Crutchfields. The night after he was placed in jail, in separate cells from the Crutchfields, the lynching of the Lyerly murders at Salisbury occurred.

It is doubtful if any woman ever underwent a more terrible ordeal. Searching for Chorus Girls. While today's testimony may be less dramatic it will be none the less important. The defense is now trying to show that the subsequent acts of White so inflamed the mind of Thaw that he became mentally unbalanced.

The district attorney searched the city for the chorus girls whose names he has had as being able to throw light on the relations of Mrs. Harry Thaw and Stanford White.

The witnesses were told last night to bring in the witnesses.

After midnight three young women had been found, and under watch, they spent the night in an up-town hotel.

Mrs. Thaw on Stand. Evelyn Thaw was recalled to the stand. Delmas continued the reading of one of the letters.

The prisoner's pallid face broke into a smile as he recognized his brother. He seemed at first annoyed by the crowd. When Mrs. Thaw took the stand she was pale and her lips trembled visibly as she replied to the first simple question. Reading the postscript to the letter written by Thaw to Longfellow, Delmas asked the witness if "her" referred to witness?

"Yes," she said. The letter contained the following: "To make you sure I'll explain. After I saw the poor ill-advised angel I was so sorry. She meant to do right and was right had she only kept the purest things from a polluted, lying double-minded, deceitful, money-grasping, smooth-tongued, hard-hearted, but soft speaking professional deceiver."

"In the letter were the words: "If I wished Evelyn to become my mistress—" but through them had been drawn a pencil line.

The next letter, also written to Longfellow by Thaw while in prison, soon after he heard Evelyn's story, said in part: "Thank you for sending \$50 and \$20 and for White's telegram. I know a contented woman is happy. If you hear anything cable, but I think it will be secret. I wasn't mistaken; being honest has finished me."

The next letter read by Delmas was very brief and was written by Thaw after reaching New York. "Dear Longfellow," it read, "enclosed find check. Send a \$10 bill, (always clean), in first typewriting tomorrow. Send \$50 to May. Thank you more than ever, which is a great deal. I have nothing to live for. Yours, H. K. Thaw."

Contents of Letters. The next letter contained these words: "Sleep seven hours. I saw many Pittsburgers on the train. Mr. and Mrs. George Carnegie should be your loving sister and brother-in-law. I am so glad the duse dress is pretty for you. I wish always I knew you would wear it first for me. I have something important to tell you. I saw notified but I know it isn't your fault and you meant no wrong. I want you to know I shall never hurt you. You know I never lie. I give you my sacred word that by the hope that

Rev. Dr. J. R. Howerton came in from Montreal, yesterday.



Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw Went on the Stand Again To-day to Testify For Her Husband. Letters Read

By Associated Press.

New York, N. Y., February 8.—The public interest in the Thaw trial grows with its progress. Evelyn Nesbitt Thaw's ordeal has only begun. Although on the stand practically all of yesterday's sessions she had only brought her narrative down to the time when, after repeatedly refusing to marry Thaw, she had returned to the stage in 1903.

Today she will take up the story where she left off last and it is quite probable that a great part of the session, if not all of it, will be taken up with the continuation of her testimony.

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there is a Heaven above, your pure soul shall go there. You have already been unlucky enough. You know I have never treated you with perfect respect."

The letter continues: "Your mother must trust her friends who robbed you of your birthright as a young lady and made your father's name a by-word. If only you had let me save you before you were sixteen."

The letter continues: "It would never have been told. I would have just acted as a friend, you know, and as a friend would have rejoiced and asked nothing. Those stories about morphine were false. I have not used any dope in my life. I never lie to you."

It was evident from this letter, which was sent to Attorney Longfellow to be delivered to Evelyn Nesbitt, had been written subsequent to Thaw's interview with the girl at Hotel Navarre after their return from Paris in 1903. At this interview the girl told him of the stories she had heard about him and said she could not see him alone.

The letter continuing said: "Your reputation as to beauty would have been greater over the world. You could have owned Pittsburg—not in money but politically."

"Alone, I can not settle down. Besides I have no one worth doing it for."

Further the letter continues: "Promise me one thing, don't drink champagne. I am too poor and must live at home. I can't pay for your ring now. Of course if you are in need I can give you loads of money, but it would make trouble. I must stay here or get a cheap ticket east."

Stories Told By White. Asked if she had told Thaw of an episode in her life, connected with Stanford White and Abraham Hummel, she said she did in January 1904, after her return from Europe. She said she had and told him she was called to the telephone and it was White.

"He said," she continued, "My, but it is good to hear your voice again, and said he (White) wanted to come and see me. I told him I could not see him."

She said he told her it was a case of life or death. "So he came to see me at the Hotel Savoy."

"When he came in he tried to kiss me, but I did not let him. He asked me what was the matter. I told him to sit down and asked him again if my mother was ill. He said no and at once began to talk about Harry Thaw. He told me that different actresses had told him that I was in Europe with Harry Thaw."

"He said presently that Harry Thaw took morphine and asked me why I went around with a man who took morphine. He said positively that these stories worried me so much I could not sleep at night. I was very nervous for I knew Harry Thaw was coming over and I didn't want to see him. I told White I didn't want to see Harry Thaw."

came to go to Europe with Thaw and I told him that I didn't, I went with my mother and Thaw followed us. He asked me about my quarrel with my mother in London. I said it was a continuous quarrel between us; we simply could not get along. She wanted to come home to America and I said she could come but I was going to stay there and return to the stage; but the doctor told me I couldn't dance for a year. He (Hummel) asked me all the places where I went with Thaw. I told him all I could remember. He said I was a minor and that Thaw should have been more careful.

"He said he had a case in his office against Thaw, but the woman in the case was a very bad one and he didn't think the case was much good. Then he said Thaw was a very bad man, and above all things I must be protected from him. White then said what he wanted was to get Harry Thaw out of New York and keep him out."

She continued: "White said that strong methods must be resorted to to keep Thaw out of New York and to protect myself. I must help in every way I could."

"White said I must leave everything in Hummel's hands. Then they sent for a stenographer and the lawyer said I must not interrupt him in what he was about to say. I was very nervous and excited and I think I began to cry. Then they began to dictate and put in a lot of stuff, that I had been carried away by Harry Thaw against my will. I started to interrupt but the lawyer put up his hands and stopped me."

"They put in that I had been taken away from my mother and a lot of stuff that wasn't true—that I had been treated badly by Thaw."

"Several days later Mr. Hummel called me up and asked if I had any letters from Mr. Thaw."

"I said I did, but I couldn't see what that had to do with it. White also called up and said if I wasn't willing to help in every way, they couldn't protect me from Thaw."

He said I must do just what Hummel said. Told All to Thaw. Mrs. Thaw said:

"So I made the letters up in a bundle and took them down to Hummel's and added: "He said he just wanted to hold them over Harry K. Thaw's head."

"Then he asked me why I didn't sue Harry Thaw for breach of promise. I said that that was absurd, for if there had been any breach of promise it was on my part. He said that didn't matter."

"Hummel said a breach of promise suit would be a fine advertisement for me."

"What more did you tell Thaw?" suggested Delmas. "Thaw asked me if I had signed anything in Hummel's office and I said I had not. He said that was funny for if they wanted to cause trouble I must have signed something. I said I had signed absolutely nothing in Hummel's office. Thaw was very much agitated. He said Hummel was a blackmailer and he said I think that there was something bad in the air and he impressed me that he was going to see Longfellow, his lawyer."

Speaker Justice To-day Introduced Another Bill Affecting Rwy's.

STATESVILLE NEWS.

Mail Carrier Falls and Sprains Ankle—Mr. Jordan Comes to Charlotte—Personal.

Special to The News.

Statesville, N. C., Feb. 8.—Mr. F. W. Lentz, who some time ago sold his grocery business on depot hill to Mr. Lee Albertson, has purchased the business from Mr. Albertson and has again taken charge.

Mr. Jas. Jordan, who recently took a position at the depot as car clerk, has accepted a similar position with the Southern at Charlotte. He went to Charlotte yesterday.

Mr. Louis Webb, of New York, one of the owners of the Housatonic Hunting Club in north Iredell, who has spent some time there this season, will arrive in Statesville to-day from the club and will leave tonight for a trip to Europe.

While walking along Broad street Monday night Mr. Jas. D. Davault, one of the city's mail carriers, slipped and fell on the pavement in front of Hill's drug store and so severely sprained his ankle that he has been unable to leave his room since. Mr. Jno. L. Milholland is carrying the mail for Mr. Davault.

Loafers Before Recorder. John Wilson and Oscar Sanders, two colored "road-sports" as a witness has termed them, were before the Recorder this morning on a charge of vagrancy and were given a fine of \$10 and costs. Walter Wood was fined \$10 and costs in two cases of the same nature. Wood said he had been at Blacksburg when the policemen nabbed him at the Southern station and that he had been riding on "transportation."

For carrying concealed weapons Henry Boyd was bound over to the Superior Court. D. B. Starnes was fined \$5 for obstructing the street with a pile of lumber which he had failed to move.

For drunkenness, Will Elliott, a white workman, was fined \$10.

Death of Capt. Henry D. Stowe. One of the Prominent Figures in the Making of Mecklenburg County. Honorable Career in Army, and in Business.

The death this morning at six o'clock of Capt. Henry DeLambert Stowe, at his residence on Eleventh Street, marks the passing away of one of the county's most distinguished and influential citizens. Capt. Stowe had been unwell for the past three weeks and was, for that length of time, confined to his bed. Suffering yesterday morning a stroke of paralysis, he immediately lost consciousness and after a very restless night, died at the hour above named.

The funeral services will be conducted tomorrow at 1 o'clock from Steele Creek church, of which the deceased was for years a member, the procession leaving the residence in this city at 11 o'clock. Rev. A. R. Shaw, pastor of Tenth Avenue Presbyterian church will conduct the exercises.

The deceased was survived by his second wife, who was Miss Laura Stowe, to whom he was married in 1877, two children, Mr. Sam. T. Stowe, superintendent of the roads of the county, and Miss Lizzie Stowe. Four brothers and one sister also survive: Messrs. C. T., J. P. and M. E. Stowe, of Belmont; Robertus Stowe, of Mooresville, and Mrs. John Garrison, of Belmont. Mr. J. P. Stowe, youngest of this city, is a nephew, and Mrs. C. P. Moody, a niece of the deceased.

Went into the War. Capt. Stowe was born in Gaston county near Belmont Sept. 22nd, 1831, and was therefore 75 years of age at the time of death. The story of his early life is the checked record of a school boy's career. When he became competently prepared, he left home to teach school in York county, S. C., and for several terms was the principal of the school at Clay Hill. At the outbreak of the war, he came home and joined forces with the friends of his boyhood, enlisted and went to High Point, serving in the commissary department. After the seven days' fighting at Richmond, one of the memorable engagements of the great struggle, he was discharged on account of some disability, and came back home.

Shortly thereafter he went again to his school in South Carolina and was married to Miss Katherine Tate. Becoming captain of a company of young men near where he was teaching, he volunteered again for active service for the South and was sent to Savannah, Georgia, making a short while before he was killed.

Mr. Justice Introduced Bill to Prevent Unjust Discriminations in Freight Rates. Bill to Make New County.

Bill Making Drunkenness a Misdemeanor is Introduced. Other Matters of General Interest Were Taken up To-day.

By Bell Telephone. Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 8.—The House spent the greater part of today discussing the bill, by Parsons, to equalize jury challenges in criminal cases. The discussion resulted in the defeat of the bill by a vote of 56 to 44.

Speaker Justice introduced a bill, out of order, just before the house adjourned, to prevent unfair and unjust discrimination in freight rates and to correct abuses in handling freight.

Among the bills introduced was one by Dowd, of Mecklenburg, to protect woodcocks and squirrels. By Strickley, to the support of the State Normal and Industrial College, at Greensboro. The bill provides for an appropriation of \$50,000 for maintenance, \$50,000 for new buildings and \$10,000 for the completion of the present buildings.

Chairman Manning, of the House committee on public service corporations reported the committee bill, for the regulation of railroad passenger rates. It was made a special order for Wednesday of next week.

The committee also reported a substitute for the Dowd-Morton jim crow street car bill. It empowers street car conductors to separate the races where it is possible, by assigning the negroes to the rear seats.

A demand was made by Redwine for the return of the Eickett anti-lobbying bill. Chairman Mason of the committee said the bill would be reported Saturday, and the call for the bill was withdrawn.

A long discussion was heard over the bill to promote public decency by making drunkenness a misdemeanor. The motion to table the bill was lost. The bill was referred to the committee.

Mr. McLaughlin introduced a bill to restore dentistry to a position as a branch of surgery.

In the Senate. A bill passed its second reading today in the Senate, to create a new county out of portions of Moore and Chatham counties, the county seat to be Sanford. The bill was made a special order for noon tomorrow. There were only four votes against the bill to-day.

The Duxton Pure Food bill passed its final reading.

The Grandfather Clause. Raleigh, Feb. 8.—The caucus of the Democratic members of the North Carolina general assembly has just voted to have no legislation during this session looking to the extension of the famous "grandfather clause" of the constitutional amendment relative to the exercise of the franchise in this State so as to allow ignorant white men to vote but exclude negroes who cannot read and write. A proposition was pending to extend the time from 1908 to 1918.

The senate committee on railroads has decided to report favorably bills to put the burden of proof under the penal statutes on the railroads; define what is meant by "reasonable time" in the transmission of freight; require the registration of mortgages or deeds of trust for the purchase of railroad equipment only in the county in which the principal office of the road is located; instead of in every county traversed by the railroad; allow the Dover and Southbound Railroad to extend its line to Warsaw, Duplin county. The committee reported unfavorably a bill by Reinhardt which represented in its caption to provide right of way for the Hickory-Catawba Springs electric line, but which the committee found also had a clause that gave authority for the company to use the noted Jefferson turnpike Wilkesboro to Jefferson which the two counties and the State have built jointly.

Cannot Mix Races. By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., February 8.—Federal encroachment on state rights with the Japanese school question as the principal illustration, was the subject of an address to the Senate by Senator Frazier of Tennessee.

He said if the Federal Government, by treaty could force Mongolians into the white schools of California, a like treaty could force the negroes of Cuba, Santo Domingo, Hayti and Congo into the schools of Tennessee in defiance of the laws of the separation of the races.