

# Daily Concord Standard.

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CONCORD, N. C., MONDAY, MAY 30 1898

WHOLE No 11728

## A DAY OF TRAGEDY.

MOST HORRIBLE DAY IN THE HISTORY  
OF CABARRUS COUNTY--AN AS-  
SAULT--A MURDER--TWO  
NEGROES LYNCHED.

Emma Hartsell, a Thirteen-Year-Old Girl,  
Brutally Assaulted Then Killed--Neck  
Cut From Ear to Ear--A Mob Gathers  
Around the Jail and Overpowers the  
Officers--Both of the Negroes Lynched.

The most horrible outrage in the history of Cabarrus or many other counties was committed on Sunday evening about four or five miles from Concord near the Coddle Creek railroad bridge. It is horrible in several respects. The one was the assault, the other the murder, and the last one, which was of course a horrible scene, was the lynching of two negroes.

On Sunday afternoon Mr. S J Hartsell and his wife and several children went to the church to worship and left Emma, their 12-year-old daughter, and also the 6 months-old baby, at home. A while before 3 o'clock Rev. Plyler and another gentleman drove up to the barn to get out of the rain. Seeing a little baby on the porch they hollered, but got no response from the inside of the house. By this time Mr. Hartsell and family were in sight, coming home. Immediately Mr. Hartsell picked up the little baby and took her in the house. Soon one of the daughters who had been to church walked into the kitchen. Here was a most horrible scene. Emma Hartsell lay there on the floor amidst clots of blood. Soon the folks gathered and found that Emma had been killed. Her forehead had a gash cut in it, and she was also cut on the right cheek. But this was nothing. It was soon found that the back of her neck was cut from ear to ear.

Exceptionally soon Dr. Pharr and the people of the community were present. Dr. Pharr examined the body and said that he had reasons to think that a satanic deed had also been committed upon her.

### THE VILLAINS CAUGHT.

In a short time the people of the community were infuriated to the highest extent and were looking for the villain or villains that committed the horrible crimes. They soon found that some one had called at the house of Mr. L S Bonds not far away and had cut two of Mr. Bonds' cows. One of them is cut twice and the other once. Their wounds show that it was done with a sharp instrument, as also do the wounds on the face of the girl. The negroes were both found near Mr. Frank Pharr's.

### A CONFESSION TO THE CRIME.

The two negroes caught were Joe Kizer and Tom Johnson. After they were caught, we are informed by quite a number of reliable people of that community, that Johnson then acknowledged the crime, but at the same time said that Kizer got

him to go with him. He also confessed that he held the girl, but that Kizer did the work. This statement is verified by a number, and they can vouch for it.

About 5:30 o'clock Sheriff Buchanan received word of the horrible assault and murder. He, together with a good force of deputies, at once went to the place in No. 11 township. When they arrived Tom Johnson was in the hands of Deputy John Hill, Sheriff at once put Johnson in his buggy and made for the jail here, but was followed the entire distance by a howling mob. Every precaution was made by the Sheriff to get the man to jail and when going through the streets here with his pistol in his hand, was constrained to warn them emphatically that they must not lay their hands upon his prisoner.

As soon as the Sheriff left out in No 11 township, the remaining part of the mob followed the officers in pursuit of Kizer, and succeeded in capturing him at his home near Mr. Frank Pharr's. Messrs. Pink Misenheimer and Frank Weddington, who were deputized, together with Deputy Hill, brought Kizer here to jail. Another large mob followed these men. But they at last succeeded in getting them behind the bars, though the jail yard was simply a jam of people.

From the time the negroes were brought to town several hundred were standing about and every few moments the crowd would holler for them to release the men and let the crowd take them and lynch them.

### OVERPOWERED THE OFFICERS.

The officers tried to quell the angry mob, but this was impossible. The Sheriff and deputies, finding that they were in too large a crowd of spectators, went on the inside and held the doors shut. The mob then began to burst the glass and finally succeeded in knocking the doors open. Sheriff Buchanan was cut slightly by the breaking glass and some one hit Policeman Boger on the arm. But now the officers were overpowered and they were compelled to

give up and let them have their way. But while the crowd in the front of the jail was succeeding in gaining an entrance, some persons had succeeded in getting into the back hall by getting through a window in the dining room. No one was in the back hall to force them back except Jailer Hill.

About thirty-five or forty men proceeded upstairs and commenced to break open the doors to halls and cell Joe Kizer threatened to kill his mate, Tom Johnson, and for this reason Jailer Hill had to put them in separate cells. The mob, before getting their prisoners, broke eight locks. The work of breaking open the cells was done by sledge-hammers and cold-chisels.

At 10:20 they succeeded in getting the ropes around their necks and hollered for the crowd to give way.

The officers then stepped aside and had to let the prisoners go, to be handled not by the law, but by the angry mob.

### PROCEED TO HANGING GROUNDS.

The mob then proceeded out by the old Lutheran church, and out by the Three Mile branch. The mob stopped at the branch to let them talk but they only stopped a short while.

A STANDARD reporter talked to the prisoners as they were being pushed along. Each one would relate some incident, but would tell him nothing to amount to anything. They would each describe the first part of the trouble, but when it came to the assault and the murder nothing is worth repeating as each claimed innocence.

Just before going down the Big Cold Water hill the mob turned to the left and proceeded about a quarter of a mile. After arriving at a suitable place for the hanging the crowd stopped. Rev. W C Alexander, who was doing all in his power to ward off the lynching, then spoke to the prisoners. In most emphatic tones he told them that they were now on the verge of being hanged and must now prepare to meet their God and not to dare to tell a lie. But the one's statements only implicated the other, and you could hardly say that they openly denied it, neither did they confess it.

Rev. Alexander arrived at the jail about 9 o'clock, and from the time he arrived he plead most earnestly with the people not to take those persons from the jail, but to no avail.

Tom Johnson then asked that Rev. Alexander pray for him. Rev. Alexander then prayed for them both. His prayer rendered was most pathetic.

### THEY MEET DEATH.

Scarcely had his prayer ended when the negroes were taken to a medium size dogwood tree and

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## All a Mistake.

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