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Allens Meet Death Bravely

Last Chapter in Carroll Tragedy Written when Floyd and Claud are Electrocuted

Floyd First to be Electrocuted

Richmond, Va., March 28th.—Mumbling a prayer and crying half audibly that he was ready to go, Floyd Allen, a lawless product of the Virginia mountains, whose refusal to accept a short prison term for a minor offense led to the wholesale court murder in Hillsville one year ago, limped to the death chair in the State penitentiary today eleven minutes ahead of Claude Swanson Allen, his son.

The sentence of the court, held up for six hours while desperate and dramatic efforts were being made to save the condemned men by eleventh hour appeals to the lieutenant governor, was speedily ordered to proceed when Governor Mann hastened back to Virginia to take charge of a situation which was sensational and exciting to a degree. The prison superintendent, acting entirely within the law, agreed at two o'clock this morning to defer the execution, giving Attorney General Williams an opportunity meanwhile to pass upon the constitutional right of Lieutenant Governor Ellyson to interfere.

Young Son Telephones Governor. But the young son of Governor Mann reached his father in Philadelphia by phone less than an hour after the delay had been ordered and by eight o'clock the governor was again on Virginia soil. Incensed, as it afterward developed, by the unexpected effort to take advantage of his temporary absence, when he had repeatedly refused clemency, the governor boarded an early train, arriving in Richmond at 11:30 o'clock. On the way he telegraphed the Secretary of the Commonwealth that he would be in Virginia by 8 o'clock, this information suddenly checking the plan of Allen sympathizers in further urging the lieutenant governor to intercede.

While every proceeding had halted, pending the governor's arrival, word reached police headquarters that a crowd had assembled at the station. Patrolmen, detectives and plain clothes men were hurried there to prevent any demonstration.

When the governor stepped on the platform he was quickly surrounded by officers who escorted him to a taxicab which took him quickly to the capitol.

In his office at the State prison Superintendent Wood was pacing the floor, nervously, as he awaited developments. The situation there had become more tense. Precisely at noon the superintendent was called to the telephone.

"The Governor of Virginia is at his desk," was the message he received from the capitol and instantly preparations were made to obey the mandate of the court. The witnesses who had assembled at 7 o'clock, the hour announced for the execution, had left the prison with instructions to return at 1 o'clock.

Collapsed at News of Respite. Just after sunrise the Allens practically collapsed when informed that a half day respite had been granted by a combination of legal and technical circumstances as strange as any that had ever been presented to a court of justice. Claude Allen, who had retained his nerve throughout the trying ordeal in his behalf, gasped and trembled, but he regained his composure as he noted the hopeless and dejected appearance of his aged father in the cell across the corridor.

As the morning hours passed they sat with their spiritual advisers, but they nerved themselves again for the end when they heard that Governor Mann had returned to Virginia. Men

prominent in official circles of the State, who waited in the capitol for a final plea to the governor were turned away, as his secretary handed out this statement from the executive:

"Hearing at five minutes to three o'clock this morning of the action taken in the Allen case after I left the city, I considered it my duty to hurry back. I simply desire to repeat that after the most careful examination of the evidence in this case, I have not the slightest doubt of the guilt of Floyd and Claude Allen, and I will not interfere. The law must take its course."

What brought forth the greatest indignation from the governor was the reported fact that the plan to appeal to the lieutenant governor was agreed upon a week ago. While there was no intimation from Lieutenant Governor Ellyson that he would interfere, his willingness last night to await a written opinion from the attorney general, who had already ruled verbally that he was without authority, was accepted outside to mean that the life of Claude Allen might be spared. Governor Mann, however, cut through the maze of uncertainty and doubt by hastening home.

Floyd Allen Executed First. The jury, which under the law is required to witness all executions assembled outside the penitentiary gates shortly before 1 o'clock, mingling there with crowd. The program, as originally announced, was carried out without change. While two ministers, who have been unfaltering in their loyalty to the condemned men, were telling them goodbye, the prison superintendent stepped into the corridor, which separated the cells of father and son, and read the death warrant. Floyd Allen, still limping from the wounds he received in Hillsville court battle, said the last tearful farewell to his boy and went with the prison guards to the death chamber.

A groan escaped him as he sat in the chair, while the straps and electrodes were being fastened about him. The current was turned on at 1:22 o'clock and in four minutes the surgeon motioned to the superintendent that he was dead.

The body was speedily removed.

Claude Died Like a Man. Again the chair was tested while Claude Swanson Allen, namesake of a United States senator, was being led through the corridor to the chamber door. A trifle pale, he marched with measured stride, his head held high, his wonderful nerve with him to the end. As he took his seat he moved his arms to assist the guards who were adjusting the straps and, like his father, he went silently and unafraid. When the autopsy had been performed the bodies were given over to Victor Allen, Floyd's son, by whom they were taken to the mountains of Southwest Virginia for burial.

Morbid Crowds Gaze on Bodies. Richmond, Va., March 28th.—Boyle's undertaking establishment, where the bodies of Floyd and Claude Allen were carried after their execution in the State penitentiary today, was the Mecca this afternoon and tonight for thousands of morbidly curious men, women and children. The throngs became so dense that a special force of police had to be sent to the scene to maintain order.

This afternoon vast crowds, mostly women, filed through the room where the bodies of the dead clansmen lay and gazed on the grim features of Floyd Allen

and the gentler countenance of Claude, both cold and expressionless in death. Some of the women who visited the undertaking rooms carried little babies in their arms, who prattled and laughed in childish glee, all unconscious of the grim presence of Death in his most hideous and awful form.

Later the school children came in great numbers and little lads and lassies with school books under their arms looked, in their turn, on the features of the dead Allens.

Tonight there was no let-up in the crowd until eleven o'clock when the bodies were turned over to Victor Allen, son and brother of the executed men. Young women and their escorts, attired for the theatre, visited Boyle's and viewed the bodies before entering upon an evening of pleasure and gaiety.

Tonight Victor Allen started out for his distant home in Carroll county with the bodies of his kinsmen. He went via the Southern Railway to Mt. Airy, N. C., whence the bodies will be conveyed to Fancy Gap by private conveyance.

Town Election.

Be it ordered and ordained by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Mount Airy North Carolina:

1. That an election by the qualified voters of the Town of Mount Airy North Carolina, for the purpose of electing a Mayor, Commissioner at large, and two Commissioners in each of the two wards of the Town of Mt. Airy, North Carolina; for terms of two years each, be held on the first Monday in May, 1913, it being the 5th day of May 1913.

2. That the voting or polling place in the First Ward shall be at Piedmont Warehouse on Moore street; the voting or polling place in the Second Ward shall be at the Red House on Main Street.

3. That J. M. Hill be and is hereby appointed Registrar for Ward No. 1 and that G. O. Monday and J. R. Patterson be and they are hereby appointed Judges of election in Ward No. 1; that J. H. Carter be and is hereby appointed Registrar for Ward No. 2 and that J. R. Paddison and W. T. Hennis be and they are hereby appointed Judges of election in Ward No. 2.

4. That the Registration books for the Registration of voters shall be opened in the two wards of the said town at 9 o'clock on the 7th day of April 1913 and remain open until sunset of each day thereafter, Sundays excepted, till sunset of the 26th day of April 1913; and that on Saturdays during such registration period the Registrars shall attend at their respective polling places from 9 o'clock A. M. until sunset for the registration of voters.

5. That notice of this call of election be posted in three or more public places in the Town of Mt. Airy and in The Mount Airy News for thirty days preceding the day of election.

By order of the Board.
This April 1st, 1913.
W. G. Sydnor,
F. M. Poore, Mayor.
Sec. and Treas.

Notice.

By virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Surry County, here before made in the case of R. M. Cox and W. A. Martin Adms. of C. P. Cox vs. C. V. S. Boyden, Admr. of N. A. Boyden, herein appointing the undersigned Commissioners for the purpose we will sell on the premises on the 18th day of April, 1913 the following real estate to wit:

About 650 acres of land lying and being in the county of Surry in Shoals township lying on the Yadkin River, and bounded on the South by the Yadkin River and adjoining the lands of W. A. Sullivan, John Y. Phillips, the Hauser lands and being the N. A. Boyden home place. Terms of sale one half cash and one half in six months time. This is a valuable tract of land containing about 60 acres of bottom land on the Yadkin River and Grassy Creek, also fine water power on this creek.

This March 13th, 1913.
W. L. Reese,
T. W. Folger,
Commissioners

FLOYD AND CLAUD ALLEN LEAVE DEATH STATEMENTS

Clansmen Leave to World Sweeping Denials of Charges Against Them—Floyd Goes Into Details of His Life's History Claude Says He Shot in Defense of his Father

(By Claude Allen.)
Virginia State Prison,
March 27th, 1913.

As I am now condemned to die and realize that all hope is gone, I thought it my duty to tell what I know of the trouble for which I have been tried, for which I must pay my life. Before going further will give a few things of my past life.

I was born June 11th, 1889, and from my earliest recollections and to the present time I have been taught to speak the truth in everything, and deal honestly with my fellow man, which I have tried to do. Our parents have tried to raise us to feel that we must be honorable and that under no conditions must we speak falsehoods. When fourteen years old I started in at Fairview Academy, near Hillsville, Virginia, and was there a part of two years and afterwards attended business college at Raleigh, N. C. On account of my mother's health being very bad I decided to stay at home after leaving school and to be of what comfort I could to her, as my brother was married and I was the only child left at home. All my life I tried to live free from trouble with anyone and regardless of the relations between my people and others I was never drawn into any of their troubles. I have known for sometime of my father and Dexter Goad being enemies but never thought of their ill feeling ending as it has. I went to Hillsville during my father's trial and heard some of the evidence and from what I heard I had no idea that he would even get a jail sentence and never thought for one moment of any trouble being there. The first I knew of it was when it began and what I did was without any premeditation whatever. There was no plot beforehand or any conspiracy so far as I know, and I do not believe that there was with any of the others. It was all so sudden and unexpected that I had no time to think and did on the spur of the moment something that I had never thought of doing. It is useless for me to repeat here what I have told on the witness stand as that is known already, and I have no changes to make. Of course there may have been statements made by others very different from mine but if the whole world were against me I would tell all as I saw it just the same. What the other Allens and the Edwardses did and who they shot at I know nothing about. When I saw Dexter Goad shoot at my father I tried to shoot him and he is the only man I shot at.

Some probably think that I shot Judge Massie, but I did not nor did I fire the first shot in the court room. I always have believed and now believe that Judge Massie was a just man and a friend of ours. And I had no reason in the world to take his life or to harm him in any way. I have been accused of conspiring and planning to shoot up the court at Hillsville and other things which I am not guilty of. I had too much love and respect for my dear mother and my sweetheart, if there had been nothing else to keep me from planning a deed which would have separated me from them forever on this earth. No one could have persuaded me into trouble. This all came on so sudden and unexpected and I had no time to think of what was best. If the truth alone had been told I would not be where I am now, but if anyone knowingly testified falsely against me I forgive them and I believe some have told such as they knew was false. There is a time coming when we will not be judged by what others say, but by Him who know-

eth all things, even our thoughts; and then all will be made right. If I suffer here it will be made right in the great day when every one must be judged according to their deeds.

Life is sweet and we would rather live if possible but if death must come I am not afraid to die. Of course I am condemned to die a disgraceful death but I know I don't deserve it, although there is no way for me—only to take what other people give me. There are a great many things in this case which cannot be learned yet; but they will be known sometime, although too late to help me.

I wish to thank all who have tried to help me to get justice. While it is hard to die for a crime that you are innocent of and a death of this kind, at the same time it is much better to die under these conditions, believing and knowing that God who knows all things will make all things right, than it would be to die knowing that we were guilty of the crime as charged.

Rebukes Ministers.

We are charged with one of the worst crimes that almost could be committed and those who have asked by letters to the governor and through the papers for our lives and our blood do not seem to realize that we were not responsible for trouble at Hillsville; and that we are innocent of this crime and were not the cause of the trouble at Hillsville, except in an indirect way. To be under the condition that we are under and to see and know how some who know nothing about the case whatever are keen set to abuse us not only to the governor but to the papers—it is hard to understand why this is done. It is hard for us to realize why, after everything was practically settled, a minister of the gospel like Mr. Carter should write the letter that he did; and why Dr. Cannon should take the time that he had to take to write the long column of untruthful abuse which could only hurt our people and take the advantage that was taken when we were confined in the penitentiary and soon had to pay our lives. We cannot understand why Dr. Young should take the time which should be devoted in saving souls to hold us up before the people as outlaws and to say that we had got a just punishment. We cannot understand, yet all these things will come to light in the great day of judgment. I am sorry that this matter happened and am more than sorry that I felt it necessary to do what I did do. At the same time I feel that God, knowing all things as he does, knows that I shot for the purpose of defending my father and saving his life, as I saw it.

And, therefore, I will be held guiltless of any wrong doing in connection with this trouble. I wrote Governor Mann some days back that I had told the truth and nothing but the truth and, regardless of whether I lived or died, my statements were true. It is, of course, hard for one as young as I am to die and to die for a crime of which I am innocent. It is hard for me to leave my dear mother, sweetheart and friends; but I feel that God has forgiven me of all my sins; and that I am saved and will soon meet my loved ones and many of my dear friends in heaven.

My friend, Dr. J. J. Scherer, stayed with me almost constantly since my confinement, and has given me great comfort and support. I want to thank my attorneys, I want also to thank Dr. McDaniel for his words of comfort and cheer and the friends who have stood loyally by us endeavoring to see that we got jus-

tice; especially Mr. Luther Scherer and the lawyers and the people who have given to our cause not only their money but their time and energy. I want to thank the papers that have tried in every way to put our cause before the people. The Journal especially has made a wonderful fight and has helped us in every way that it possibly could. The Danville and Clifton Forge papers have, also, endeavored to set the true facts before the people. I wish also to thank the penitentiary officials. All of them have shown me every possible kindness. We do not think our friends have taken the position that if the facts, as stated, were true that he should not die but that the facts and reports that have been stated and a great many statements made on the stand were untrue. I want every one to feel that we appreciate everything that has been done for us more than they can ever realize; and I hope that our giving up our lives, as we have had to give them up, will be in some way a benefit to the public in general—to see that safe guards are thrown around the lives of innocent people in the future.

The Last Words.

My last words to the people of Virginia are, I knew absolutely nothing of any conspiracy and do not believe there was one. I did not fire the first shot and did not shoot until my father had been shot at. I did not kill Judge Massie. Those who have wronged me I forgive and hope we shall meet in a better world where sorrow is never known. Pray God's blessing upon our dear old State and to all her people I say farewell. I am, with a clear conscience,

(Signed) CLAUDE ALLEN.

Floyd's Final Message.

Richmond penitentiary, March 27th, 1913: By request of my father, I am writing a short statement of his past life, as he gives it to me.

Claude Allen.
(Dictated by Floyd Allen.)

"Knowing that I am to die and believing a great injustice has been done, I want to make a short and last statement of what occurred and, also, as to a few happenings that have been referred to in the papers, and by others that affect my past life.

I was born in Carroll county, Virginia, and am now fifty-six years old. Lived all my life in Carroll county. My father was Jerry Allen. Most of my life has been spent in the Fancy Gap district. My father moved there when I was fourteen or fifteen years old. I have had very few difficulties and cannot understand why I have been referred to by some people and the papers and accused of so many things that I am not guilty of. The first difficulty I remember since I was a man was with Green Edwards. This was over political matters. I was a Democrat and he a Republican. This occurred at a public speaking. He called me a name that I would not stand for and I knocked him down for it. I have been very much surprised and hurt by the statement of Judge Jackson. I had always considered Judge Jackson my friend. He appointed me deputy sheriff and I would not accept it under a Republican sheriff; and at one time wrote and asked me to come to Hillsville and to be at court; and I wanted me to protect him, or words amounting to about the same as this.

If I had been such a terrible man as he described, why would he appoint me deputy sheriff? Or permit me to be appointed? His statement, also, as to the Allens being Democrats; I voted in the first election after I was twenty-one years old; voted the Democratic ticket and have been voting at all elections since and have been a very active worker in the Democratic party. I paid poll taxes of other men in order to keep them from being disfranchised. I have never voted the Republican ticket in any election, except in a few instances, in local matters.

Enter Dexter Goad.

When Dexter Goad first started out in politics I voted for (Continued to Page 5.)