SEDALIA WEEKLY BAZOO.

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CONDEMNED TO DIE.

The Celebrated Williamson Trial Finally Brought to a Close—Able Arguments.

Motion for a New Trial Overruled—Sentenced to Death—Will be Appealed to Supreme Court.

Friday, March 20, Determined Upon as the Day for the Execution—Threatens to Commit Suicide

THOMAS WILLIAMSON.

MRS. F. A SAMPSON.

I met defendant in November, 1889. Remained at our house some months. He carried in wood and made fires for me. He generally had key to back door to get in at night. Went by name of Tom Williams. I had a long talk with him in jail. He spoke of previous life. Didn't seem to have much hope. He said he would have served us the same way he did the Moores if we had been in his way.

MRS. SPRAGUE.

Becky Arnold lived with me. Williamson called to see her there from January until he got into the Moore trouble. He did his own cooking at my house. Said he was at work chopping wood and I finally took him a regular boarder. He told me a good many stories about his farm and stock. I couldn't see that he had any reasonable means of support. This ran on until he owed me $10. He talked to, took to church and brought back Becky Arnold.

WM. MURPHY.

Have seen Thomas Willamson. Saw him at the park. Defendant was lying on some boards at the park. He was lying flat on his back, perfectly stiff. He was halooing. He cried out: "Oh God, let me die!" Picked him up and put him into a street car. Brought him to the Salvation barracks. Sent for a physician who used hyperdermic injection. The next I saw of him was that evening, when I saw him being carried on a stretcher up Second street.

FRANK JACKSON.

Have seen Williamson. First time I saw him was last spring at the Salvation Army. Saw him afterwards lying in machinery hall at Sicher's park. [Testimony same as Murphy's.]

MR. MASHBURN.

Had sawed wood a little with Williamson. His conduct was all right but one time on Grand avenue. The gentleman whom we worked for took his axe away from Williamson, but the latter would hunt it up and get it again. We could have got along with my axe, but it seemed too short for him. Another time he wanted me to go away and leave a boy with him, but I was afraid and wouldn't do it.

W. E. YARBER.

Williamson lived at my house four years ago. He was to cut up a lot of corn for me. My girls got afraid to stay there while Williamson was there, and me and my wife away. He went by name of Tom Dillion.

OFFICER JOHN MOONEY.

Saw Williamson at the park. He looked like a dead man. Groaned and hallooed when touched. Saw him at Salvation army barracks. Saw him at Salvation barracks night of 25th of May. Saw him at park May 26th.

MILTON B. WILLIAMSON.

Am defendant's brother. In 1862 enlisted in Compauy A, 108th. Illinois Infantry. We went out together in that company. Left the state in September. Went to Covington, Ky., went thence to Nicholasville, Ky., and from there to Louisville, and from there to Memphis, Tenn. Was there three or four weeks. Then went to Vicksburg, Miss. It was in Sherman's expedition. We had a battle and always called it "Sherman's Defeat." This was the battle of Chickasaw Bayon. I was taken sick and sent to St. Louis. I suppose my brother was then still with the regiment. My brother and I messed in different companies. At Memphis my brother got into a row and got an axe with which he attempted to strike a boy. A ball and chain was put on my brother. He was hard to subdue. He tried to kill one of the guard. The officers could not make him work. I got out of the army in July, 1865. Went home to Tazewell county, Ill. My brother also came back home the same year. I was living in the town of Oakdale. Thomas lived at my father's a few miles in the country. He left and went about twelve miles from there. During that fall and winter he was around in the neighborhood. Physically from time of his first sickness to the present time I see no difference. Neither in his mental condition. I went to Kansas in 1866. I next saw my brother in 1868. He came to my house. He lived in the neighborhood awhile with a man named Owens. I saw him about once a week during his stay there. He came over to my house one time and told me that if I wanted any money to call on him. He also said he had a fine set of carpenter's tools and was going to put up a fine barn for Owens. He said his tools were down in Missouri. He made two trips to this state. Another time he came to me and said he had bought a fine farm, and all the stock on it, in Kansas. He never got possession of it, however. He was to have paid $3,000 for it, he said. I next saw him here in Sedalia this week. He never said so much to me about his adventures and schemes as he would to others From what I have observed of him since his sickness in 1858, I think his mind is affected to such an extent that he is not responsible for what he has done. I do not think he has been a sane man. I don't see any change in his condition now. He came to Kansas on a visit He had a mother and brother there. Was not married that I know of in 1878. He spent part of his time with his mother. Told me nothing about his life between 1866 and 1878. He came to my house in Kansas in June. He helped Owens, my neighbor, to take care of stock. He finally left there, saying he was going back to Illinois. After his spell of typhoid fever in 1858, he began to improve and could get about with a cane. When he went into the army first in 1861, his condition was about the same as it is now. His mind in regard to judgment did not strengthen with his physical strength. I do not know which of us went into the army first. We did not enlist together. Were not associated together much, We were on friendly terms. I did not report his condition to any of the officers. We did not associate in the army. He seemed to seek his associates in the army among the rougher element. The fight at Memphis was over some rations. Four or five men were engaged on either side. We were engaged in but one battle—"Sherman's Defest." In some things he didn't appear to understand between right and wrong. I could not mistreat him. He never did anytning to make me believe he could distinguish between right and wrong. His general judgment was bad. In the army he did police and guard duty—sweeping and cleaning up streets around the camp. He was never on picket. He carried a gun in the army, but not like other soldiers. He carried his gun with his left hand. His right hand appears to be paralyzed. My father and mother are dead.

ALEX SANDS.

Live in Windsor, Henry county, Mo. Was raised in Tazewell county, Ill. Served with defendant in army, in 108th Illinois regiment. Did not know him in the army. I knew him slightly before the war. He acted kinder silly after he came out of the army. He would sit round of an evening and tell about money he had buried, big trades he had made, etc. I lived one fourth mile from him in Illinois after the war. I left there twelve years ago. He left there soon after the war. He was a shiftless kind of fellow. Used to tell stories about his big hunts. I see no difference in him now from what it was then. He differed from other men only in the habit of telling these impossible deeds of his.

Depositions.

Depositions from men in the regiment in which Williamson served were introduced to show that he was generally regarded by those comrades who knew him as of unsound mind. The prosecution objected to this point in the desposition. The objection was that these depositions were mere hearsay, and that the men who made them were not competent to give an opinion as to defendant's sanity. The prosecution also insisted that Williamson's sanity at the time the Moore's were killed could not be judged by his manner of mind while in the army. [The jury was sent out during the argument before the judge regarding these depositions.]

After hearing the arguments, pro and con, Judge Ryland decided that the depositions might be read in full.

Deposition of W. T. Wood, Oakdale, Tazewell county, Ill. Knew Thomas Williamson 35 years. Lived within a mile of him several years and frequently employed him to help me. I knew he had a spell of typhoid fever before the war. One arm and one side was paralyzed after this sickness. His mind was affected. Mind affection did not grow any better His mental faculties seemed impaired after his sickness. He seemed to be easily persuaded to do anything. If he did a mean act he generally told of it to the first person he met. I consider him of unsound mind. Thomas Williamson and I enlisted in 1865 in the Seventh Illinois infantry. He served 6 months and was discharged because he was considered mentally unbalanced. The soldiers had a pique at him on account of his weak mind, and made fun of him. The men in the Seventh regiment considered him not more than half witted. He was not placed on any important post of duty. I knew him in Tazewell county after the war, and his general actions then indicated his unsound mind. I then regarded him of unsound mind, to what extent I cannot say. In 1887 I saw Williamson in Tazewell county. He was in my office. He had had some trouble with some man. I still regarded him of unsound mind.

EDWARD PRATT.

Age 57 years Am a farmer. Reside in Freemont, Illinois Have been sheriff of county; I enlisted in 108th Illinois regiment. Was seargent-major when mustered out in 1865. I knew Thomas Williamson of Company A, and frequently met him in the line of duty. I saw him a good deal at Memphis. Do not know of him holding any rank in Company A. His actions and general demeanor were different from those of other men. He told wild stories. I regarded him as a man of weak mind and foolish ways. He was generally regarded by all the men of the regiment as of unsound mind and his officers regarded him as unsafe and generally put him on no responsible duty. Did not meet him but once after the war and then only for a few minutes. I cannot give my opinion as to his sanity now or since the war.

CAPT. JOHN W. PLUMMER.

Live in Lupe City, Neb., dentist, 60 years old. Enlisted in Company A, 108th Illinois infantry, in 1862, at Peoria, Ill., as first lieuntenant. Was mustered in 1865 as captain, at Chicago. Knew Thomas Williamson as a private. He was allowed more privileges than other soldiers on account of his weak mind. He often came to my tent at night and told wild stories of his wonderful exploits as a hunter previous to enlistment. I was with him for three years. Was assistant provost marshal at Memphis one year, but did not see Williamson much. Soon after entering service I noticed that Williamson was of weak mind. He made childish complaint. It was always the opinion of the officers of the company that he should never have been allowed to enlist. I regarded him as verging on insanity. The soldiers and officers generally had this opinion of him. He was never punished for dereliction of duty, he being regarded as an overgrown trouble.

A. C. BOWLES.

Reside at Hampton, Franklin county, Iowa. Am fifty years old; painter and house decorator. Served in Company A, 108th Illinois Infantry. Williamson was sick at Young's Point, Louisiana, in spring of 1863. He lay in his tent four days and would not eat anything. When asked why he would not eat, he said: "I am trying my damndest to die, but can't quite make it."

Reading of depositions closed and Dr. Dresel was put on the witness stand. He testified to treating Williamson for the poison he had taken at the park. He remarked to me that he "wanted to die and eat dinner with God in Heaven."

SHERIFF SMITH (RECALLED).

Thos. Williamson has been in my charge since last May. Have seen him nearly every day. Have had frequent talks with him. He has always demeaned himself as the other prisoners. Have noticed nothing unusual in his mental behavior. He has been a remarkably good prisoner. Has been very obedient. Never had any trouble with him. He has had some trouble with the prisoners. He had a fight with another prisoner and was knocked down. I have not treated him with any more kindness than I have the other prisoners.

R. M. BARNETT (RECALLED.)

Have seen defendant quite frequently in jail. Have had talks with him. Have not noticed anything unusual in him. He used to get rather irritable at times. Have never detected anything that made me believe he was not sane. Noticed at first when he would get mad a dazed look in his eyes. He showed temper two or three times within a week after he was arrested. I saw him after the fight in jail. He seemed perfectly rational, but angry.

ASBURY GOODNIGHT (RECALLED.)

Have known Williamson since last March. I went over to Moore's house one night that month. I saw him often since then up to time of tragedy. Was with him one time nearly half a day. He worked for me about the 10th of May a part of four days. He was ploughing. I saw him ploughing, cutting wood, hauling hay. Never saw that he was different from other men. He was a good worker for a man of his age. He was crippled considerably so it seemed in his right hand and arm. He had a peculiar walk—was lame in right leg.

The testimony was all in exactly at 2 o'clock this afternoon. Judge Ryland then proceeded to pass upon the instructions.

At precisely two o'clock Friday afternoon the testimony in the Williamson murder case had all been taken. Considerable time was spent in preparing and reading the instructions, and then Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Robert Prigmore faced the jury and began the argument for the state. The hour was getting late, but the great crowd, including many ladies, still lingered to hear the speech. Mr. Prigmore began well and continued so till the close. He reviewed with wonderful exactness the testimony as it had been given by the many witnesses. He delineated with accurate conciseness the features of the fearful tragedy for which the defendant will have to

ANSWER UPON THE GALLOWS.

He left no stone unturned in his searching investigation nor missed a single point that could possibly be brought to bear upon his side of the case. The young man had sustained himself nobly, severe as the ordeal was, and the universal expression of opinion was that he had acquitted himself with great credit.

Shortly after 7 o'clock in the evening, Attorney John Cashman opened the argument for the defense. His language was deliberate, his statement of the case clear and forcible and his general demeanor denoted that his whole heart was enlisted in the cause of his client. He made a powerful argument and must have cheered up in no small degree the lonely old man for whose life he was so sincerely pleading.

Mr. Cashman was followed by the senior counsel for the defense, E. J. Smith, Esq. Mr. Smith

IS A TRAINED SPEAKER

and is equipped for such an occasion as this. He appreciated the difficulty of the task in hand—how hard it was to manipulate to advantage the damaging evidence and how difficult it was to make a dark thing look bright, but this seemed to spur him to especial effort and perhaps he never made a stronger address to any jury. He spoke with telling effect and it could be seen that beyond all sort of question he was battling with all his soul for old man Williamson.

The closing argument was made by Prosecuting Attorney George Longan. The hour was then far advanced, but not a person out of all the vast audience left the court room. Mr. Longan was in fine voice and had girded himself for the occasion. He gave in detail the history of

THE BLOODY DEED

with wonderful minuteness and faithfulness. The defense's theory of insanity was shattered until it was not worth the paper upon which it was written, and throughout his speech he excelled all his previous efforts. When he had closed, the doom of the defendant was virtually sealed. Mr. Longan had torn away the last prop upon which any hope could rest. This was realized by the prisoner, his attorneys and the audience. This argument, in fact, was a triumphant climax to the whole skillful management of the prosecution.

The jury in a few minutes retired to their room, there to decide the fate of the defendant. The audience lingered awhile, and then reluctantly dispersed. Upon reaching their room, the members of the jury almost

AT ONCE BEGAN BALLOTING.

The three ballots which were cast stood eleven for murder in the first degree and one in opposition. The jurymen were released for the remainder of the night, but met again promptly at nine o'clock this morning. Again the court room was densely thronged, and the people had not long to wait. But one ballot was taken and the vote for death was unanimous, the obstructing juror, John T. Greer, joining with his brethren. The jury filed in and the foreman, at the command of the court, read the fatal message. Old man Williamson received it with stolid indifference. There was no "scene" of any kind. The audience dispersed again, and the defense signified their intention of filing a motion for a new trial.

At 11 o'clock the court room was again packed with people. They knew that the most solemn scene of all the trial would then take place—the pronouncing of

THE SENTENCE OF DEATH.

Motion for new trial taken up by consent, heard and overruled, and defendant accepts judgmeLt and sentence of court. Motion on arrest of judgment filed by defendant and by consent taken up, heard and overruled and defendant accepts.

Defendant files motion and affidavit for an appeal to supreme court. Motion was taken up by consent, heard and sustained, and appeal granted to supreme court and defendant has until March 16 in which to file bill of exceptions. Court orders official stenographer to furnish copies of the evidence and proceedings for bill of exceptions and transcript, and orders the clerk of the court to make out transcript in full and that same be paid by the state. The sentence and judgment of court are stayed until judgment can be rendered by the supreme court.

The above formality finished, Judge Ryland, evidently reluctant to take the next step, ordered the prisoner to stand up. The feeble old man obeyed, having been told what to do by Sheriff Smith a moment before.

"HAVE YOU ANY REASON

why sentence of death should not be passed upon you, Mr. Williamson?" asked the judge. "None," huskily and almost inaudibly replied the prisoner. Then the doomed man resumed his seat, and the judge addressed him as follows: Mr. Williamson, you are an old man; feeble, old man. You had a wide, wide world in which to live and plenty of room to spare. God made you in his own image and gave you opportunity to do well and live right. You have had a varied experience, have gone through a cruel war, hundreds of your comrades were slain and you were spared. You came here and in an evil hour committed a heinous crime, taking the life of an old man like yourself. A jury of your own countrymen have

FOUND YOU GUILTY.

You have been arraigned before a court of justice, and with counsel whose efforts were patient, earnest, zealous. They exerted their eloquence and best powers to save you. The jury has given an unbiased verdict. It is not the work of the jury or of the men who testified against you to take your life. Your own individual acts brought you to this. There is a higher court to which your counsel will carry your case. But we are all traveling to a still higher court than the supreme court of the state of Missouri—an impartial infallible, all-wise court and judge. There can be no appeal from the one who knows the inmost recesses of your heart. The way of the transgressor is hard and he who breaks the law

MUST SUFFER THE PENALTY.

I sympathize with you and warn you to get ready to meet the all-wise judge. Though your sins be as scarlet, he can make them white as snow. I wish I could restore you to your position in life before this trouble. It is an unpleasant duty for me to deprive one of his ordinary liberty, but how much more his life. I have no doubt you have often regretted your actions. And now, Thomas Williamson, I condemn you to be hanged by the neck until you be dead, on Friday, March 20, 1891. There was a deep and solemn hush throughout the vast audience during Judge Ryland's address The prisoner, however, manifested no unusual emotion. He was still stolid and beyond an expression of deep care on

HIS HAGGARD FACE,

there was nothing strikingly noticeable in his demeanor.

Immediately after the conclusion of the formal business of the court a BAZOO representative leaned across the table and asked Old man Williamson what he thought of the result.

"I thought that the verdict would be a lighter one. I hoped the jury would give me the second degree."

"Do you think the jury were honest and fair?"

"Yes, I watched them very close and I believe they were all honest men."

"Turlington and you will have to go pretty close together," suggested the BAZOO representative.

"I expect to meet him on the way.

"But I don't expect to hang," said the old man, with something of a smile. "I will be a dead man inside of three weeks, and I won't try strychnine again, either. I am tired of being in jail and

LIFE HAS NO CHARMS

for me now."

Referring to his attempt to commit suicide in Sicher's park last May, he said that he bought five cents worth of strychnine, but that the wind blew a part of it out of his hand and he did not get to swallow enough.

The condemned man's brother, Milton B. Williamson, of Kansas, was not present when sentence was pronounced, knowing full well that the ordeal would be too much for him. But a few minutes after the prisoner was taken back to jail, he joined him there to bid him a last farewell. The scene of parting between the brothers is described by those who witnessed it, as exceedingly pathetic.

Milton left for his home this evening. He expressed himself as thankful to the people of Sedalia for their courtesy toward himself and their sympathy with his unfortunate and unhappy brother.

The Williamson Jury.

The following are the names of the jury in the Williamson murder case, and their occupation:

Louis Lower—Farmer.
Peter Dump—Farmer and cattle feeder.
Jacob J. Farner—Barber.
Cord Lujin—Farmer.
Albert P. Hyatt—Farmer.
Richard H. Smith—Farmer.
Anson Dulmage—House-mover.
Francis A. White—Carpenter.
Andrew J. Patton—Carpenter.
Stephen Hieronymus—Farmer.
Francis W. Jackson—Carpenter.
John T. Greer—Carpenter.

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A Novel Contest.

Write (enclose stamp) for particulars of our word contest. Purely a contest of wits. Two first prizes worth $500. Herald Publishing Co., Denison Texas, 2-6d2tw1t