

DR. E. M. LONG  
DENTIST  
Over Wehman's Hardware Store  
Union City, Tenn.  
Telephones—  
Office 144; Residence 595-J

# THE COMMERCIAL

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Union City Commercial, established 1890  
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## JOHNSON TRIAL OVER AND COURT ADJOURNS

Jury Returns Verdict of Fifteen  
Years in Penitentiary.

The State of Tennessee versus Clarence Johnson, begun here in Circuit Court last Thursday, was tried, the evidence being all in Saturday afternoon and the argument finished Monday before noon.

Judge Moore, for the prosecution, opened the argument. He was followed by C. N. Lannom and R. A. Pierce for the defense, Attorney General Morris making the closing speech. The courtroom was crowded most of the time. On Monday morning every available seat was occupied and standing room all along the walls. The feeling seems to have been tense from the time of the tragedy.

In the examination last week a number of new witnesses were introduced. One was Sims, who was present that night and saw much of the trouble. Another was Mr. Verhine, train dispatcher at the depot, and a few others more or less without bearing on the case.

There seemed to be little change of evidence from that which was produced at the magistrate's trial July 21, heard here before Justices J. W. McCorkle, W. J. Davidson and S. R. Bratton.

The grand jury found an indictment against Johnson for murder either in the first or second degree.

Judge Elkins read his charge, a very lengthy and exhaustive recital of the law, or any part of the law, that might be invoked in arriving at a decision by the jury. The jury was made up as follows:

C. W. Petty of Number Four, L. A. Walker of Number Seven, R. P. Wright of Number Nine, Jake E. Summers of Number Five, Ivie Lillard of Number Fifteen, E. B. Toombs of Number Six, C. H. Williams of Number Twelve, John E. Boaze of Number Sixteen, J. A. Pre-witt of Number Four, J. H. Cathey of Number Fourteen, R. O. Greene of Number Six, J. E. Griffin of Number Six. Officers: C. L. Harris, W. K. Dyer.

Nearly everyone is familiar with the evidence. It is useless to go into it again. The trial was for the killing of Oscar Roper, night policeman of Union City, on the morning of July 15, a little after midnight. Clarence Johnson operates a taxi line between Union City and Gibbs and conducts a garage on Second and Church streets. He was with a party of friends in a taxi that

night and they drove the car across the walk that leads to the entrance of the hotel. Officer Roper came up and notified the parties in the taxi to appear before the Mayor the next afternoon at 3 o'clock. Trouble ensued and Roper struck Johnson with his club. Johnson left the place and went to the garage and, as the evidence goes, loaded his gun and came back and threatened and did kill Roper at the depot.

Mr. Pierce, counsel for the defense, laid much stress in his speech upon the statement that Johnson was laboring under a diseased condition of the mind, the effects of the injuries of the policeman's club and therefore was not responsible for his acts.

The Attorney General's speech, which was delivered after he had become worn over the work of the court and his voice considerably affected, was listened to with unusual attention. He emphasized on one hand Johnson's liability in deliberately going after his gun and taking the life of Roper, but undertook to point out to the jury that Johnson fired the first shot. The witness, Sanders, he said swore that he saw the flashes from Roper's pistol and two from Johnson's gun, also that there was between the first shot and the second a little more time than after the second. The shots in quick succession, the flashes of which Sanders refers to, took place from the second shot. After the shooting three empty shells were found and one loaded. Roper's shots were all wild, one striking the side of the depot, one the express office and another Johnson's foot.

Therefore, according to Mr. Morris' argument, Roper must have received in his side the discharge from Johnson's gun before he fired his pistol, and that the wound was the cause of his shots going wild. The three empty shells also accounts, so Mr. Morris argues, for one of the flashes Sanders saw and testified to as one of Roper's shots. The two Sanders spoke of as gun shots and the first one which he thought was Roper's tallies with the three empty shells. The fourth shell found was not discharged and that, the Attorney General figures, had something to do with the break between the first and last two gun shots.

After the charge of Judge Elkins the jury retired and did not report until Tuesday morning. Then they asked for instructions on a point of law, retiring again. So it was about 11 o'clock before the jury reported a verdict, and this was that defendant Johnson was guilty of murder in the second degree with a penalty of fifteen years in the penitentiary.

## MURDER AT FULTON NATHAN MORRIS KILLED

MEETS DEATH IN GARAGE AT  
HOME OF HIS MOTHER.

One of the most dastardly murders ever committed in Fulton occurred Sunday night about ten o'clock, when Nathan Morris was shot to death by two unknown men while he was putting his car in the garage at his home on Cedar Street.

The unknown murderers were supposed to have been hidden behind a door in the rear of the garage, having secreted themselves in anticipation of Mr. Morris' return. Just after Nathan had driven in the garage and turned the lights out, two shots were fired, which attracted the attention of members of the family in the home. Immediately after the shots were fired, a faint cry from Nathan was heard by his sister, Miss Bess Morris, and Henry Bynum, who was calling at the home during the evening. As they hurriedly went to investigate the trouble, they met Nathan who had run from the garage and was entering the front door in a dying condition. He fell into the arms of Mr. Bynum, and died within a few seconds.

As the wounded man entered the door the question was asked by his sister: "who did this?" and the answer, although barely a murmur, was sufficient to cast suspicion upon the guilty parties.

Drs. Majors, Lutten and Smith were summoned, and the police were notified. An examination disclosed the fact that both shots had taken effect, one passing through the jugular vein, the other entering the neck and passing out through the shoulder.

It was stated by Miss Bessie Morris, and parties who were passing, that two white men were heard and seen running down the alley from the garage, disappearing in the direction of the state line into Tennessee.

That the deed is one of the most cowardly ever committed in the city is beyond doubt. The two men who perpetrated the crime, hiding as they did in the dark and waiting until the young man had parked the car and turned out the lights before firing the fatal shots.

Nathaniel Green Morris was the son of the late Dr. N. G. Morris. He was born in this city, August 12, 1892, being only 27 years of age when his young and useful life was so tragically ended. He was one of Fulton's most prominent and substantial young business men, and his

untimely death came as a shock to the entire community.

The deceased is survived by his mother, two sisters, Bess and Carrie Morris, and one brother, Paul Morris, also an uncle A. W. Morris, besides a large circle of other relatives. The family have the heartfelt sympathy of their host of friends in their deep bereavement.—Fulton Leader.

## PROMINENT PLANTER COMMITS SUICIDE

G. W. NEWTON SHOTS SELF WITH  
SHOT GUN FRIDAY NIGHT.

News reached this city this morning of the death by suicide of Mr. G. W. Newton, a well known planter and old resident, who resided one mile from Hickman, Ky.

Mr. Newton's untimely death came as a great shock to his family, relatives and friends. The body was discovered by a neighbor about 3 o'clock this morning, lying in the road a quarter of a mile from his home, with the top of his head blown off, and his shot gun with which he committed the horrible act, lying near him.

The motive for Mr. Newton's suicide is unknown. He had lost a case in the Fulton County Circuit Court yesterday and it was thought that brooding over the loss of the case might have caused his despondency.

Mr. Newton was fifty-seven years of age. He was born in Hickman, where he was highly respected. He leaves a wife and eight children to mourn his loss. He was the father of C. L. Newton, an I. C. switchman of this city. Funeral services and interment will occur at Hickman Sunday.—Fulton Daily Leader of Sept. 20.

## Steel Strike Rests with Women.

Pittsburgh, Sept. 23.—Early settlement of the steel strike rests with the women. A prominent steel man

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stated to-day that most of the men who had gone out were foreigners, and that their action had been largely controlled by their wives.

In a great many cases the wives urged them to quit work, not so much in an attempt to get more money as because they were fearful that if their men worked they would be subject to attack by the other strikers.

If the steel companies' agents can find some way of reaching the women the feeling is that the strike will be of short duration.

**So It Goes.**  
The sleep imp is perverse, I say.  
Beyond all doubt.  
I lie awake 'till break of day  
And toss about.  
Lone vigil with the howling pup  
I sadly keep.  
But when it's time for getting up  
How I could sleep.

**Good At Some Figure.**  
"Is your wife good at figures."  
"Well, she's a shark at a bridge score, but not much at keeping household accounts."

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