

UGLY CASE IN HAMPTON.

White Man Dead, Negro and White Woman Charged With Murder.

Rapid and courageous action by peace officers having him in charge prevented the lynching in Hampton county of a negro, Richey Williams, who was brought to the State penitentiary in Columbia Wednesday night charged with having killed with a club, early on Tuesday, Mr. J. R. Langford, a middle-aged white planter of Brunson.

White Woman Involved.

Williams was arrested near Brunson upon the testimony of a white woman, Marry Harris, aged 20, who is held in the Hampton county jail as an accomplice, and he was dexterously spirited away from the threatening crowd that had gathered, carried in an automobile to Barnwell, lodged for a time in the jail there and finally removed to Columbia, the portion of the journey from Barnwell to Blackville being made by automobile.

An Ugly Case.

Reports that have so far reached Columbia indicate that this was an exceedingly ugly tragedy. The girl under arrest is said to have admitted that she and Mr. Langford were together in a clump of woods near her home, where the negro, according to her story, crept up behind and struck Mr. Langford with his bludgeon. The stricken man, she said, never stirred or spoke after being felled.

This must have been about 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, for when the body was found, Tuesday night, rigor mortis and other evidence indicated that life had been extinct 12 hours or longer. At 8 o'clock Tuesday morning, Mr. Langford had left his home to go to his sawmill, three miles distant. His horse was found tethered near his body.

Williams is a negro of about 30 years. Stories he told of his movements on the day of the murder conflicted and suspicion accidentally falling upon the young white woman, she was closely questioned, with the result that she broke down and told the story above outlined. The deceased was a brother to former Treasurer Langford of Hampton county. He leaves a wife.—Columbia Record.

James R. Langford Murdered.

Hampton, Nov. 30.—James R. Langford was found murdered about one mile from Brunson, his home, last night about 9 o'clock by a party of friends from Brunson that had been anxious about his not returning home. Mr. Langford left his home early yesterday morning for his farm and is supposed to have met his death about 9 o'clock.

A negro named Williams has been secreted away to Barnwell or Columbia, charged with the crime. Mr. Langford was a brother of the ex-treasurer, J. C. Langford, and leaves a wife and one sister. Funeral services were conducted this afternoon at Brunson cemetery by Rev. W. H. Dowling.

The negro was brought to Columbia last night and lodged in the penitentiary for safe keeping.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas county, SS.

Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of one hundred dollars for each and every case of catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure. FRANK J. CHENEY. Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D., 1886.

A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Send for testimonials free. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by all druggists, 75c. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Is Sacrifice to White Plague.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 1.—As a sacrifice, Mrs. Lena A. Shunk, aged 36, wife of Alonzo W. Shunk, a clerk in the office of the adjutant general of the war department, deliberately killed herself at her home here by inhaling illuminating gas.

Mrs. Shunk was afflicted with tuberculosis. Every means to cure the malady had been resorted to without success. The woman had been to many health resorts and on several occasions had met with difficulty in obtaining accommodations because of her condition. This greatly worried her.

Late yesterday when her husband returned home, he found his wife seated in a chair dead, with a tube from a gas jet in her mouth. Letters to her doctor and her husband revealed the motive for her suicide—the fear that she would be the means of spreading tuberculosis infection to others.

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NEGRO DENIES CRIME.

Claims He Had Nothing to Do With Murder of Langford.

Richey Williams, a negro charged with the murder of J. R. Langford in Hampton county Tuesday and held for safe keeping at the penitentiary, stoutly disclaims any knowledge of the death of Mr. Langford. At the penitentiary yesterday afternoon he talked freely of himself and the charges against him. "With my hand raised I tell you boss, that if I'm guilty of a crime you are," said Williams, and he looks and talks as if he is honest in what he says. When seen by a reporter for The State he was in the act of writing a letter to his father.

Richey Williams is a negro, 36 years of age, and claims to have been a hard working and honest negro all his life. He has, he says, been employed by L. B. Tuten for five years and before that was in the employ of J. H. Hanna at Gifford for 11 years. He is a turpentine worker, a "scraper." He says that neither he nor any one of the 12 children his father has raised has ever been arrested or in trouble. He himself professes to be a member of the African Episcopal church, South, and a prominent member and trustee of the negro Odd Fellows' lodge with headquarters in Columbia. The negro lost his wife a year ago and has five small children about the care of whom he was writing his father yesterday afternoon.

Says He is Innocent.

Of any knowledge of or connection with the death of J. R. Langford, Williams earnestly pleads his innocence. He says that on Tuesday morning he left his home for the turpentine swamps, riding to the "bars," where he turned into the woods, with another negro, Ed. Rouse. Here he left Rouse, going into the woods to get his shoes, which he changed on going to his turpentine work. This point is apparently near where the murder of Langford occurred.

Williams says that he saw the white woman, Mary Harris, picking cotton near her house when he left Rouse and went into the woods. Shortly after, as he proceeded toward his work, he saw a man wearing a gray felt hat driving along the Fairfax road. He was not close enough to be positive but he thought this was Mr. Langford.

Questioned by Relatives.

That night, after the day's work was over, he was at the home of Jake Brown, a negro, where a number of negroes had congregated and where Mary Harris was at the time. Cliff Langford, a brother of J. R. Langford, and Cape Fulk came to the house, inquiring for J. R. Langford. Williams says he spoke up and told how he thought he had seen J. R. Langford that morning driving toward Fairfax but they replied that this was quite impossible.

Williams is positive that he had never had any trouble with Mr. Langford, saying he had had dealings with him and bought goods from him but did not owe him a cent and had no object in wishing him dead.

Williams tells his story in a straightforward manner and one is impressed with the apparent honesty in his speech and what seems to be anxiety to tell the truth.—Columbia State.

Ends Winter's Troubles.

To many, winter is a season of trouble. The frost bitten toes and fingers, chapped hands and lips, chilblains, cold sores, red and rough skins, prove this. But such troubles fly before Bucklen's Arnica Salve. A trial convinces. Greatest healer of burns, boils, piles, cuts, sores, eczema and sprains. Only 25c at People's Drug Co., Bamberg, S. C.

Woman is Hero.

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 2.—Mrs. W. T. Gibson, the wife of one of the best known citizens of Savannah had a thrilling experience at 3:30 o'clock this morning in an effort to give the alarm of fire when she found the home of Mr. T. F. Thomson, a neighbor, to be in a blaze. Mrs. Gibson lives at 118 Bolton street west, and was in her house alone when she detected the smell of smoke. Investigating she found the home of Mr. Thomas, next door, on fire. Greatly excited and clad only in her night dress, with the lowest temperature of the year freezing everything exposed to the night's cold, Mrs. Gibson, who is a lady of frail physique, climbed along a small ledge leading from her home to that of the Thomson's and after several frantic efforts succeeded in waking a member of the household. By that time the fire had gained great headway and the house was in danger of being destroyed. After giving the alarm and being drawn through an open window into the house which she had probably saved from destruction by her heroic action, Mrs. Gibson collapsed and had to be carried to a house across the street and put to bed where she is still confined suffering from exposure and shock.

Now is the proper time to send in your subscription.

DOUBT AS TO NEGRO'S GUILT.

Some Question as to Identity of Slay-er of J. R. Langford.

Brunson, Dec. 1.—While Richey Williams, a negro, is in Columbia in the penitentiary under charge of having killed J. R. Langford, the prominent planter, who was found dead in the woods near here Tuesday night, and Mary Harris, a white woman of 20 years, is in Hampton jail in connection with the same charge, there are serious doubts in the minds of many as to whether the negro had anything to do with the killing.

Mary Harris admits being with Mr. Langford in a clump of woods some little distance from where his horse, hitched to his buggy, was found securely tied to a tree. Mr. Langford's body was found lying on his buggy robe. These two facts would indicate that he left his buggy premeditatedly and he was probably killed on the buggy robe, there being no indication of a struggle and nothing to indicate that his body had been placed on the robe after he was killed.

Mary Harris lived near where Mr. Langford's body was found. She was reticent about talking at first, but later broke down and said that the negro crept up from behind and struck Mr. Langford over the head with a stick, killing him instantly.

The only evidence connecting the negro with the crime is that of Mary Harris. He denied the charge emphatically and as he could not give a very straight story of his doings on the day of the murder he was taken to Columbia for safe keeping until the time for the trial. The coroner's jury rendered a verdict charging the negro with the crime.

A Frank Saloon Keeper.

The Medical Journal prints the following and credits it to an unidentified "Lay Exchange."

Tombstone, Arizona, claims to have the frankest saloon keeper in the United States. He keeps the Temple Bar Saloon and advertises his business in a remarkable manner. He has had cards printed bearing the following words:

"Friends and Neighbors: I am grateful for past favors and having supplied my store with a fine line of choice liquors, allow me inform you that I shall continue to make drunkards, paupers and beggars for the sober, industrious respectable part of the community to support. My liquors will excite riot.

"They will diminish your comforts, increase your expenses and shorten your life. I shall confidently recommend them as sure to multiply fatal accidents and incurable diseases.

"They will deprive some of life, others of reason, many of character, and all of peace. They will make fathers fiends, wives widows, children orphans and all poor. I will train your sons to infidelity, dissipation, ignorance, lewdness and every vice. I will cause as much temporal and eternal death as I can. I will thus accommodate the public; it may be at the loss of my never dying soul. But I have a family to support, the business pays and the public encourage it.

"I have paid my license and the traffic is lawful, and if I don't sell it somebody will. I know the Bible says Thou shalt not kill, no drunkard shall enter the kingdom of heaven, and I do not expect the drunkard maker to fare any better, but I want an easy living and I have resolved to gather the wages of iniquity and fatten on the ruin of my species.

"I shall, therefore, carry on my business with energy and do my best to diminish the wealth of the nation and endanger the safety of the state. As my business flourishes in proportion to your sensibility and ignorance, I will do my best to prevent moral purity and intellectual growth.

"Should you doubt my ability, I refer you to the pawn shops, the poorhouse, the police court, the hospital, the penitentiary and the gallows, where you will find many of my customers have gone. A sight of what will convince you that I do what I say.

"Allow me to inform you that you are fools, and that I am an honest saloonkeeper."

Took Wrong Medicine.

Lake City, Nov. 30.—A Middleton Matthews, a prosperous farmer living a few miles west of here, died early this morning of what the attending physician thought was heart trouble. Later in the day it was found that a tablespoonful of Boyd's colic cure had been taken out of the bottle and the general supposition is that he got this, thinking that it was one of the common family remedies, all of which were kept in the same place. In the absence of the coroner, Magistrate Baldwin went to his home this afternoon and after taking such testimony as was available he decided not to hold an inquest, it being his opinion that he came to his death through a mistake on his own part.

He leaves a wife and seven children.

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