

WAS CONVICTED ON HIS OWN CONFESSION.

ELIJAH EDWARDS WILL GO TO THE PENITENTIARY FOR LIFE.

He Said He Stood Out and Watched While Three Other Negroes Killed J. Butler Kinard.

Guilty, with a recommendation to the mercy of the court, was the verdict returned by the jury in the Elijah Edwards case last Tuesday evening. Edwards was placed on trial for the murder, during June of last year, of J. Butler Kinard, an aged white man living alone on Mr. H. H. Evans' place, about four and a half miles from the city. The occurrence is fresh in the minds of the people of this county. On the night of the 21st of June, last year, Kinard was killed and his home burned to conceal the crime. After three coroners' inquests the charge of having committed the crime was placed on Edwards, and Edwards in a confession subsequently made, implicated Tom Gary, Isaiah Sanders and Greenwood Washington, all negroes. Edwards left after the second inquest, but was captured recently in Florida by Sheriff Buford.

A severance was granted in the case against the four negroes, and Edwards was placed on trial Tuesday afternoon at three o'clock. The case was given to the jury at about six o'clock, and after being out only a few moments, the above verdict was returned.

There was very little evidence in the case other than Edwards' own confession, taken while he was in jail during June of this year, shortly after his capture. In this confession Edwards implicated the three other negroes, and it was mainly on account of this confession that the severance in the case was granted. Judge Haynesworth held that the confession could be used only against Edwards, and during the progress of his case the other jurors were excluded from the room and they were stood aside when called on the case of the three other negroes next day.

J. B. Hunter was appointed by the court to defend Edwards. The defense produced no evidence.

THE TESTIMONY.

J. W. Derrick, sworn, who lived near Kinard went to Kinard's house the morning after it was burned. Looking around he saw two bones sticking up out of the ashes. Took the body out. The shoulders and legs were burned off. It was lying in the chimney. He took it to be Kinard. Cross-examined, he could not recognize the body with any degree of certainty.

M. M. Buford, sheriff, sworn, said he had Edwards arrested in Florida and went after him the latter part of June of this year.

Clerk of Court John C. Goggans, sworn, said at the invitation of Sheriff Buford he went to the jail to take a statement from Edwards, and that the statement was made freely and voluntarily. Witness identified the statement.

Objection was made by Mr. Hunter to the introduction of the statement, on the ground that Edwards had made the confession before it was taken by Mr. Goggans and that this former confession might have been under duress.

Sheriff Buford, replaced, said that Edwards, while handcuffed and shackled, on the train returning from Florida, had confessed. That he had told Edwards nothing except that his best plan always was to tell the truth.

Mr. Hunter argued that this statement from a sheriff to an ignorant negro handcuffed and shackled might have been considered by the negro a threat, and he thought this sufficient to exclude the confession.

The objection was overruled by Judge Haynesworth, and the confession was admitted, as follows:

CONFESSION OF ELIJAH EDWARDS.

Me and Isaiah Sanders, Tom Gary and Greenwood Washington were there. They made the plan and squeezed me into it. I stood out and watched and they killed Mr. J. Butler Kinard and burned the house. Killed him to get his money. They got \$20. Twenty dollars is all I saw. All in silver. Greenwood Washington and Tom Gary had the money. When they brought out the money we, all of us, went down the road and divided the money and went home. It was about 12 o'clock. Divided the money by moonlight. Killed Mr. Kinard with a double barrel shot gun, belong to Greenwood Washington. Greenwood and Tom proposed the killing about one week before the killing. Gave the two watches to Isaiah, which he was to sell. I do not know that he sold them. Shot Mr. Kinard only once. Greenwood woke Mr. Kinard up and he opened the door. Set fire to the shucks in the back side of the room. Greenwood and Tom and Isaiah said he had money. I did not think he had any money or he would have saved his place. We met at the forks of the road near where Greenwood used to live. We agreed to meet there in the road. They met me there a little before midnight. Greenwood and Tom first made the suggestion to kill him. They told me I had better go off and gave me \$5.00 a piece to help me off. I came here to town to see Greenwood and Tom and Isaiah at Tom's house. We were on the Evans place when Greenwood first mentioned killing. This was about a week before the killing, maybe a little more than a week. Isaiah Sanders stayed at my house the night of the killing. Greenwood told me I had better leave, told me they would either send me to penitentiary for life or hang me. Greenwood brought the gun, it was a double barrel muzzle loader. Tom told me that they locked the door on the inside, put a hand through a hole and locked it. Isaiah told me that Tom was going to lay it all on me and him. They told me they locked the door on the inside. They gave me \$5.00 for my part, only got \$20 in all. Tom threw the match in the shucks. Greenwood said he had money to raise to pay on a wagon.

The above is a full and true statement and I make this statement freely and voluntarily and without any compulsion, dread or fear of any one.

Elijah Edwards, his mark.

Sworn to before me this 29th June, 1903.

J. C. Goggans, (L. S.)

While the above written statement seems to have been sworn to yet there was no oath administered and Elijah Edwards was not sworn, but the statement was read over to him and he was asked if this was his confession and he said yes and then made his mark.

J. C. Goggans.

Will Spearman and his wife, colored, were placed on the stand and testified that they lived in the house which Edwards occupied last year and that the wife had found two gold watches in the house. That the watches had been turned over to the sheriff.

Sheriff Buford, replaced, identified the watches.

It was agreed that if Eduard Scholtz were present he would testify that he had repaired the gold open-face watch, one of those in evidence, for J. Butler Kinard.

The State then closed.

The defense produced no evidence.

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Solicitor Sease opened for the State. He made a clear and logical speech, asking for a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Hunter, for the defense, asked the mercy of the jury for his client, who had confessed, thus putting the courts in possession of the truth as to this crime. Mr. Hunter had no evidence whatever upon which to ground any contentions, but in the face of all this he made a good fight and the best possible.

The case was given to the jury about six o'clock and after being out only a few minutes the jury returned a verdict of guilty, with recommendation to mercy.

DISPENSARY PROFITS.

Business for the Last Quarter Reviewed by Committee.

The report of the joint committee appointed by the legislature to examine the books and financial condition of the State dispensary has been made public. A profit of \$117,673 was reported for the quarter ending August 31. Of this sum \$97,547.75 comes from the county dispensaries, and is equally divided between the towns and counties.

Eczema, Itching Humors, Pimples—Treatment Free.

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NEWBERRY SAVINGS BANK

of

Newberry, S. C.

Organized 1896.

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Surplus - - - 19,500
Paid Stockholders since organization 21,000
Paid Depositors in Savings department since organization - - \$9,200

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Whatever you buy of us is reliable. In selecting our goods, we choose only such as we can recommend to our customers. If any of our goods prove unsatisfactory, we want to know it. We will make it right every time.

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| Smoker's Supplies. | Perfumes. |
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Particular Pharmacists, Corner Drug Store.

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The Commercial Bank of Newberry, S. C.

No. 6994.
Treasury Department
Office of Comptroller of the Currency
Washington, D. C., October 12, 1903.

WHEREAS, by satisfactory evidence presented to the undersigned, it has been made to appear that "The People's National Bank of Prosperity," located in the Town of Prosperity, in the County of Newberry, and State of South Carolina, has complied with all the provisions of the Statutes of the United States, required to be complied with before an association shall be authorized to commence the business of Banking;

Now therefore I, Thomas P. Kane, Deputy and Acting Comptroller of the Currency, do hereby certify that "The People's National Bank of Prosperity," located in the Town of Prosperity, in the County of Newberry, and State of South Carolina, is authorized to commence the business of Banking as provided in Section Fifty-one hundred and sixty-nine of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

In testimony whereof witness my hand [L.S.] and Seal of office this Twelfth day of October, 1903.

T. P. KANE,
Deputy and Acting Comptroller of the Currency.