

Kirby, Gappins, and Fox Pay Death Penalty for Murder

Columbia, June 16.—Columbia was surprised this morning when extras announced the execution of the three white men convicted some time ago of the murder of William Brazell, a white automobile driver. C. J. Kirby, C. O. Fox and Jesse Gappins, the three criminals, all wanted to make talks before their death. The general tone was to ask for forgiveness, to warn young men against bad company and to express sorrow for the Brazell family. It is a noteworthy fact that not one of the three executed this morning is a South Carolinian, all coming to Columbia to live from other states. Of the three who were executed Kirby was most resistant and did not want to have the executioner expedite his work.

The penitentiary authorities had the work dispatched early in the day in order that the curious might not annoy them. The first of the prisoners was waked up as early as 5.25 o'clock this morning, when the death warrant was read. At 6:12 o'clock Kirby was taken to the electric chair and was the first to be executed. All of the preparations, all of the prayers, all of the talks and the three executions were completed within the span of fifty minutes.

How Men Are Killed.

The execution was by electric current, registering 1,900 volts. The statement is made that the record also shows that in Kirby's execution there was a record of ten amperes. The prisoners are taken from the death chamber to the electrocution room, then they are strapped in a large chair and a slit is generally made in the leg of the trousers for the contact with the electric power. Out of the abundance of caution two shots at short intervals are applied and death follows instantly.

There were three ministers in attendance at the execution this morning, the Rev. J. C. Abney, Mr. Murphy and the Rev. J. W. Anderson. The three prisoners joined in the services and prayers.

At each of the executions there were separate groups of twenty spectators, no more than this number being allowed by the prison authorities, although it is understood that there were many requests to witness the executions.

Kirby in his last moments seemed to resist the officers as he wanted to make additional statements, although he had been making them quite regularly for some days. None of the participants ever have denied being involved in the murder, their only statements being to shirk some part of the responsibility.

Jesse Gappins, who was quite young, when he was taken to the electric chair made a somewhat connected statement. In substance he said:

Statement by Gappins.

"Gentlemen, all young men and old ones, too," began the young prisoner. "I advise to keep good company. I am here today to die for keeping bad company. If the truth were known, and God knows it, I would not be here to die today. If it had been left to me, young Brazell would have been living today. Let this be a warning to everybody. You may not believe what I tell you, but before God it's so; Jesus knows my heart. I know lots of faces among you. I have not had justice. Jesus died, after a perfect life. Good-bye, everybody. Stand by me, dear Lord, in my last moments on this earth." The young criminal prayed and then in a quiet tone, for a whole minute, without interference from the executioner, who waited as he prayed, a hand on the switch, the young murderer poured out his soul to God for forgiveness. Gappins had tears in his eyes while he was talking and his execution seemed to effect the spectators more than that of any of the others.

In less than three minutes from the time the first shock was applied Gappins was declared dead.

Fox was the last of the trio to be executed. He appears to have been the one who actually stabbed Brazell to death. In his case the physicians declared him dead in four minutes and seven seconds. Fox also asked to make a statement, which was quite brief, in which he said:

"I have very little to say, except that I want to warn all poor fellows out in the world to live right; I'm sorry I got in bad company; but I'm not good company. I bear no malice for any one; I have nothing to say against the other boys, and I hope to meet them all in Heaven."

The three men executed for murder were taken to the dead house where the members of their families none of whom witnessed any of the executions, claimed the bodies and took them to undertaking establish-

DUNCAN "NOT GUILTY."

Farmer Acquitted of Killing Riley Hammond.

Laurens, June 14.—In general sessions court here this afternoon, Thomas P. Duncan, farmer of the Madden section of the county, was acquitted of the charge of murder in the slaying, April 5, of Riley Hammond, merchant of the Laurens Mill village. The jury was out about thirty minutes. The killing of Hammond occurred at the home of Duncan, and the defendant claimed that he shot Hammond in self-defense while the unwritten law played a part in the trial, though the defendant himself did not make this his plea.

Club Girls at Winthrop.

Winthrop College, June 12, 1922. Dear Homefolks:—I came to Winthrop college to learn that which I did not know. I like the college very much. I am learning things that I never knew before and I am going to take it all back home to my friends that did not get to come. I am planning to come to this college when I finish at home.

We went to an informal party Friday night given by Dr. Johnson, the president of the college. Ice cream was served after which we played games and sang home songs. Dr. Johnson is a fine man. I believe he is about the greatest man in South Carolina.

I am having lots of pleasure while here and I hope I can come back here to school.

ETHEL KITTRELL.

A majority of the wage earners in Argentina are women.

Columbia feels much relieved that these executions have been held. The community is now awaiting the execution of two other young white men who were convicted of killing Mr. Arnette, and whose cases are now on appeal to the supreme court after their sentence to electrocution.

A brief history of the Brazell case may be of interest. Young Brazell was murdered during the night of August 7, last year. The three men engaged his car to take them to Augusta, whence they were to go to Florida to sell the car, after they had black-jacked the driver and left him on the roadside. The young driver was black-jacked as the party traveled through Lexington county, but the blackjack broke. Then to complete their job they had to put the chauffeur out of the way. Kirby devised the scheme of killing him. He ordered Gappins to inflict the death wound, but the young man refused. Then Fox was ordered, and he obeyed, the knife being jabbed into the young Columbian's body and twister around several times for each operation. The body was thrown in the underbrush near the road and the three men proceeded on to Augusta.

After leaving Augusta a short distance, the men had tire trouble, and stopping to get help, Kirby told of their criminal act, and they were arrested. The next day, August 9, Kirby was brought back to Lexington and he assisted officers in finding the body of young Brazell. Later he was brought to the penitentiary, escaping efforts of a band of men to get him.

Fox and Gappins were held in Augusta. A mob stormed the jail, in an effort to get them. Later they were taken to Savannah, and thence in dead of night they were smuggled to Charleston, and several days later still they were brought to Columbia, after a mob had searched trains and automobiles and guarded roadsides for days, in an effort to get hold of the two men.

All three of the men confessed to the killing. On the witness stand in Lexington, when they were tried last September, they told unflinchingly, the horrible details of the crime, and then on September 14, they were convicted and sentenced to the electric chair, October 21, being set as the date for their execution. All three appealed, however, and their appeals stayed their executions. The appeals, without merit, were never perfected, and on motion of Solicitor Callison in Lexington on May 23, they were again sentenced to die, this time June 16, being set as the date.

Vain attempts have been made in recent weeks to have the governor save the lives of the prisoners. Petitions for their commutation have been presented in behalf of Gappins and Fox, these signed by some of the jurors who convicted them. But to all these the governor turned a deaf ear, and the justice of the law was maintained.

COLUMBIA WOMAN SUICIDES.

Locks Self in Room to Take Her Own Life.

Columbia June 12.—Despondent and worried by unexplained fears. Mrs. Mabel Gerald, wife of E. H. Gerald, locked herself in her room at her home at the corner of Ridgewood street and Lakewood avenue, Eau Claire, early yesterday afternoon and there shot herself in the head to fall dead across a bed. Two shots were fired, one of the balls entering the right temple and passing entirely through the head, to strike the wall and bounce back under the bed. Death was almost instantaneous.

E. H. Gerald, Mrs. Gerald's husband, was at a well in the yard about ten or fifteen yards away from the house at 12:30 o'clock when he heard the two shots, he says. His wife, Mr. Gerald said, had complained of feeling ill during the morning and surmising the fact that she had killed herself he set down the bucket of water and called to several men, who were standing on the edge of the Ridge wood golf course at the corner of the two streets. These men, Alva Lumpkin, Frank Broadnax, John L. Mimnaugh, Hugh Wilson and G. N. Nichols, answered her calls and came over to the house, where through the window they could see the body on the bed. The door, however, was barred from within and all of the windows screened and covered with heavy fence wire.

WATER BODY UNDER GROUND.

Sinking of Earth in South Dakota Indicates Subterranean River.

The recent sinking to a depth of from fifteen to thirty feet of a considerable area of land on the ranch of Samuel Alleman near the Missouri river in the central part of South Dakota, has given rise to the theory that underlying that part of the state is a large subterranean cave, river or lake, and that the sudden collapse of the early crust and the dropping down of several acres on the Alleman ranch was due either to the collapse of the roof of an immense cave under the ground at that point, or to the collapse of the earth roof of an underground river or lake.

Hundreds of people are daily visiting the scene of the phenomenon. The collapse of earth took place on the eastern edge of a small plateau about six hundred feet from the Missouri river, where the land begins to slope eastward into a literal ravine.

The collapse disturbed twenty-one acres on the steep side of the ravine, thrusting it out fifteen feet and throwing a fence out of line. It was not a landslide, but a vertical falling of the earth's crust, which has left a huge trough in the center.

MAJ. E. S. HAMMOND DEAD.

Confederate Veteran and Former Newspaper Editor Passes Away.

Maj. Edward S. Hammond, confederate veteran and former editor of the Richmond Dispatch, died at his home in Blackville S. C., Sunday morning. He was 88 years old.

Major Hammond was descended from one of South Carolina's most prominent and historic families and was beloved by hundreds who knew him as a kind hearted gentleman of the old southern school. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and a doctor by profession.

During the civil war Major Hammond served on the staff of the governor of South Carolina and saw service in the great struggle around Richmond. He was editor of the Richmond Dispatch during the years shortly after the civil war.

Major Hammond was born at Silverton, S. C., and later lived for many years at Beach Island. He was a lifetime member of the Beech Island Farm club and donated the land on which the clubhouse now stands. During the last twenty-five years of his life he lived at Blackville.

He is survived by two sons, Hon. James H. Hammond, South Carolina legislature and prominent attorney of Columbia, and Dr. Dunbar Hammond, of Barnwell county; one daughter and many other relatives among them Judge Henry C. Hammond, of Augusta.

Funeral services and interment were conducted at the Beech Island cemetery, Beech Island, S. C., Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

Starting Early.

"Who was the lucky chap at the wedding this morning?"
"The best man. I saw him kiss the bride three times when the groom wasn't looking."

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Winthrop College
SCHOLARSHIP AND ENTRANCE
EXAMINATION.

The examination for the award of vacant Scholarships in Winthrop College and for admission of new students will be held at the County Court House on Friday, July 7, at 9 a. m. Applicants must not be less than sixteen years of age. When Scholarships are vacant after July 1 they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination, provided they meet the conditions governing the award. Applicants for Scholarships should write to President Johnson before the examination for scholarship examination blanks.

Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tuition. The next session will open September 20, 1922. For further information and catalogue, address Pres. D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C.

A Tonic For Women

"I was hardly able to drag, I was so weakened," writes Mrs. W. F. Ray, of Easley, S. C. "The doctor treated me for about two months, still I didn't get any better. I had a large family and felt I surely must do something to enable me to take care of my little ones. I had heard of

CARDUI The Woman's Tonic

"I decided to try it," continues Mrs. Ray. "I took eight bottles in all. I regained my strength and have had no more trouble with womanly weakness. I have ten children and am able to do all my housework and a lot outdoors. I can sure recommend Cardui."

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