

# 6 FAIR PLAY MEN PLACED ON TRIAL

## Upon Charges of Murder Growing Out of Clash Between The Races Last December.

### STATE OFFERS TESTIMONY TELLING TERRIBLE STORY

#### Of Two Negroes Being Brutally Beaten By Party of Whites and Blacks---Also of Third Negro Being Shot Down in Duel and Clubbed With His Guns.

(Staff Correspondence.)  
 WALHALLA, March 2.—In the court of general sessions for Oconee county this morning William T. McClure, J. Woodrow Campbell, Calma C. Kay, S. Augustus Jones, John McDonald and William Kay, residents of the Fair Play section of this county, were placed on trial for their lives, the grand jury having indicted them on charges of murder of Green Gibson, one of three negroes who met death as the result of an escapade that occurred in that section on December 20, last.

The close of the first day's trial of the case, saw the State with probably a little more than half of its testimony in. The prosecution put up twelve witnesses during the day, and of this number two might be spoken of as "star" men. Testimony given by the other ten witnesses was of minor importance, as compared with that given by the two principals. Of the large amount of testimony offered by the State on the opening day of the trial, however, only a portion of it had bearing directly on the case at stake, that is, the murder of Green Gibson. The State, it was announced, is introducing this testimony for a specific purpose, and that is to show the state of mind of those charged with murder of Green Gibson.

**Tell Horrible Story.**  
 The testimony offered by the principal witnesses for the State today tells a story of alleged brutality such as has never heard before. The testimony tells of the beating of two negroes, George Gibson, a son of the Green Gibson for whose alleged murder the defendants are being tried, and Tom Spights. The account of the beating the witnesses swear was given these two negroes, by the defendants themselves and by three negro men who were made to take part in the beating of the two negroes, is horrifying.

The alleged beating given the negroes took place in the State of Georgia, and from the effects of the injuries then sustained, the negroes are said to have died. But, as stated in the outset, this testimony appears to have no direct bearing on the case at stake.

The defense objected from the first to the introduction of testimony as to what occurred on the Georgia side, and as to any treatment given anybody but Green Gibson, as the testimony was irrelevant. The State contended, however, that it was necessary to know what transpired immediately preceding the death of Green Gibson in order to show the state of mind of the defendants were in, and to show malice on their part. The court ruled that the testimony was admissible, and the hearing of evidence of this character continued.

**Beaten by Eight Men.**  
 The principal witness put up today by the State was Alonzo Anderson, a miller. The negro testified that he was living on the farm of Woodrow Campbell last December, and that on the 20th of that month he saw Calma Kay, John McDonald and Will Kay at the home of Mr. Campbell. That morning he stated, he hitched up several buggies, that the direction of Mr. Campbell; that the white men mentioned and himself and two other negroes got in the buggies and two other negroes got in the buggies and started for Tom Spights' house. (Spights is one of the negroes who, it is said, was beaten to death and who afterwards died in Hartwell jail of his injuries.)

Upon arriving at Spights' house, the witness stated, the white men went in to the house and presently returned with Spights, who was put in a buggy and driven away in the direction of the Georgia line. On the way to Spights' house, he stated, they met S. Augustus Jones, who accompanied the party. He gave the names of the other negroes in the alleged whipping party as Moss Turner and Edgar White.

Enroute from the home of Tom Spights to the Georgia line, the witness stated, the party met three negroes coming by the road in a buggy, these negroes being George Gibson, John Swinger and another negro whom he did not know. The witness stated that the party of white men took George Gibson out of his buggy, that one or two of the men beat him about some; that they tied Gibson and took him along with Tom Spights and went in the direction of Fair Play and the Georgia side. At Fair Play, he stated, they were joined by William T. McClure.

**Negroes Given Beating.**  
 The witness described how the party moved across the State line, crossing Knox's bridge, and stopping at an old store a few yards from the bridge on the Georgia side of the

river. He stated that the white men in the party told him and the other two negroes to take Tom Spights and George Gibson into the store; that they were told to take the two negro men's clothes down; that this was done; that two of the negroes stretched Tom Spights across a counter and held him there while the third negro man, upon orders from the white men, beat George Gibson.

When the first one of the three negro helpers had beaten Gibson he changed who was with one of the negroes who was holding Gibson across the counter, and the second negro came around and took the buggy trace and beat Gibson. Having taken his fill of beating, the second negro changed places with the third negro holding Spights across the counter, and this third negro came around and used the buggy trace on Spights. When the three negro helpers had finished beating George Gibson, it was testified, five of the six white men in the party took turns at applying the buggy trace to the negro's naked anatomy. This continued, the witness testified, until eight different men had applied the lash to George Gibson. The witness testified that the only man in the party who did not do any of the whipping was Woodrow Campbell, who declared that he did not have to do any of the beating, as he had brought along his negroes to do it for him.

**Beaten on Feet.**  
 When the Gibson negro had been disposed of, the testimony went on Spights was placed across the counter and the lash applied to him in much the same fashion as it was applied to George Gibson. The witness stated that George Gibson was able to stand up a part of the time after the beating and a part of the time was not able to stand. After Spights had been whipped some, it was stated, Calma Kay spoke up and said that the negro had had enough beating.

**Gibson Comes Up.**  
 When the beating of George Gibson and Tom Spights had been finished, the witness stated, he looked out the door of the store and saw Green Gibson and two other negroes, armed with shot guns, approaching the building. This matter was reported to the white men, the witness stated, and immediately they came out of the house, with pistols drawn, and commanded Green Gibson and the other two negroes to drop their guns. The witness testified that Green Gibson said, "Gentlemen, if he has done anything let the law take its course." The negroes were again commanded to drop their guns, the witness stated, the three negroes began backing off toward the bridge. When the negroes backed off, the witness stated, shooting between them and the white men began. The witness was not positive, but thought that John McDonald fired the first shot.

When on exchange of some 20 shots had taken place, the witness stated, he and Calma Kay went over in Georgia and secured three shot guns, returning later to the bridge, where the guns were distributed among the members of the party.

**Shooting of Gibson.**  
 The witness described the return from the Georgia side and the trip back toward Fair Play. On the return trip, it seems, members of the party encountered Green Gibson, who had made his get away after the exchange of shots near Knox's bridge. The witness stated that he went in the direction of firing which he heard and saw Calma Kay and William McClure shooting at Green Gibson, who was down in a field.

The witness described seeing Green Gibson shot down and seeing him fire after he was down on the ground. Before Gibson fell he saw him start running in the direction of one Moss Williams' house. The witness testified that he was given a pistol by one of the white men and told to run and head off Green Gibson, so as not to let him enter Moss Williams' house. Continuing his testimony, the witness stated that after Green Gibson had been shot down he saw Calma Kay and Woodrow Campbell hit him over the head with the two guns which he had carried, both guns being broken. The witness said that after Green Gibson had been killed the members of the party got off with dogs looking for other negroes who were implicated in the shooting.

**Made an Affidavit.**  
 The witness testified that he came to Anderson with Mr. Campbell during Christmas week, that he went with Mr. Campbell to lawyer Dagball's office, where he was told to sign a paper. Asked as to the contents of the paper he signed, the witness said that the paper stated that he (Alonzo Anderson) didn't know any of the negroes engaged in the riot, and that

he didn't see any of the events surrounding the beating of the negroes or the killing of Green Gibson. The witness stated that at the time he signed this paper he knew the statements were not true.

**Second Star Witness.**  
 The second star witness put up by the prosecution was Edgar White, who the former witness swore, was one of the three negroes who were compelled to apply the lash to George Gibson and Tom Spights. Edgar White told practically the same story as that told by Alonzo Anderson. He testified as to the party of white men going to Tom Spights' house and taking him out of bed, taking him to the store across on the Georgia side and beating him with a buggy trace. He said that he would not have applied the lash to Gibson if he had not been told by the white men that they would "get him" unless he did. The other portions of the negro's testimony were practically the same as that given by Alonzo Anderson.

**Cross Examined.**  
 These being the main witnesses of the prosecution, the attorneys for the defense naturally centered their severest cross examination fire upon them. Both negroes were put through a thorough grilling, and while they were tangled up in some instances, their story, in the main, was not shaken. It was brought out on cross examination that counsel for the defense had had both negroes put in jail, and that while in prison affidavits were gotten from them with reference to what happened during the rioting period. Both witnesses swore that they had not been promised immunity from indictment on condition they made these affidavits, and that they had been offered no inducements of any other character to give the testimony that they offered them.

**Rearboots of Negroes.**  
 It was not brought out at the hearing yesterday what became of Tom Spights and George Gibson after they were beaten in the store, the supposition being that they were left there while the members of the party pursued Green Gibson and the other two negroes who had advanced upon them with shot guns while they were in the house administering the whippings to the two negroes, George Gibson and Tom Spights. It was not brought out what became of the two negroes who were with Green Gibson when he advanced upon the party of white men at Knox's bridge.

The testimony only showed that Green Gibson fled back to the South Carolina side after the exchange of shots at the bridge and that he was engaged by members of the white men's party several miles back on the South Carolina side and killed in a duel with several members of the party, two of whom took his shot guns away from him, after he had fallen, and broke them over his head.

**Other Witnesses.**  
 Other witnesses put up by the prosecution, and in the order in which they were called, were Carris Spights, wife of Tom Spights; Maris Spights, stepdaughter of Tom Spights; Andy Bowers, S. B. Wilburn, John Swinger, Anna Swinger, Alonzo Anderson, Mayor J. H. Godfrey, of Anderson; Edgar White, Prof. Harry Sheldon, Abraham Swinger and W. S. Campbell.

**Other Testimony.**  
 The testimony offered by Alonzo Anderson and Edgar White summed up practically all that was produced by the State on the first day of the trial. Other testimony was given by other witnesses, but it was not of an extraordinary nature nor very important to the case. One of the witnesses testified that when the party of white men met George Gibson in the road they searched him and found a pistol in his pocket. Thereupon they took him on to Georgia, with Tom Spights, and beat him.

**Wednesday's Proceedings.**  
 It is impossible just at this juncture to predict just when the case will be brought to a close. It is probable, however, that all of the testimony will be in by the adjournment of court tonight. By the being of the case, the arguments and the charge, should be made sometime Thursday, allowing the matter to go to the jury late that afternoon.

**Crowded Courtroom.**  
 The trial of the six residents of the Fair Play section is attracting considerable attention throughout Oconee and Anderson counties. The courtroom was packed all day with spectators, a number of them having come from Anderson.

## DON'T BE MISLED

**Anderson Citizens Should Read and Heed This Advice.**  
 Kidney trouble is dangerous and often fatal.  
 Don't experiment with something new and untried.  
 Bewn with Doan's Kidney Pills.  
 Recommended here and everywhere.  
 An Anderson citizen's statement forms convincing proof.  
 It's local testimony—it can be investigated.  
 Mrs. W. Taylor, 225 McCully street, Anderson, says: "I had a fall when I was a child and it weakened my kidneys. After that I suffered from constant pain in the small of my back. I was nervous, languid and dizzy and my kidneys acted irregularly. I read how others had been benefited by Doan's Kidney Pills and I got a box. The first few doses relieved me and one box fixed me up in fine shape."  
 Price 50c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Taylor had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

## JURORS CHARGED WITH TRIAL OF OF THE ISSUES

### PANEL SELECTED WITHIN AN HOUR ALTHOUGH VENUE WAS EXHAUSTED

#### ASKED VIEWS ON LYNCH QUESTION

##### Jurors Sworn on Their Voir Dire. Those Who Would Not Consent for Lynching Were Stood Aside

THE JURY.  
 J. A. Zimmerman, foreman, merchant.  
 J. C. Seaborn, machinist.  
 J. P. Walters, merchant.  
 W. T. Burton, farmer.  
 T. C. Burns, farmer.  
 A. M. Brown, machinist.  
 G. L. Barker, farmer.  
 Elias Woodall, farmer.  
 J. Carroll Lee, farmer.  
 R. E. Finley, farmer.  
 J. B. Satterfield, farmer.  
 W. B. Stevens, farmer.

One of the most interesting incidents of the forenoon session of court was the drawing of the jury to sit in judgment upon the six men who are on trial. Contrary to general expectations, little time was required to select the 12 men who are to decide the fate of the defendants. The process of empanelling the jury required but an hour's time, but it took the thirty-sixth man of the venire to complete the panel.

At the request of the solicitor, the jurors were sworn upon their voir dire. Of the 36 names drawn out of the box, 13 were objected to as jurors by the defense and five by the State, while six were stood aside by the court for cause. An interesting phase of the examination of the jurors was the question propounded in several instances by the solicitor as to whether the juror would convict a white man of lynching a negro. It in his judgment the testimony showed that there was no reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the accused.

The defense objected to this question being put to the jurors because of the form of the interrogation, asserting that no such offense as "lynching" was to be found in the statutes, and that the defendants were not on trial for committing any such offense as that. The court overruled the objection, giving as his grounds for so doing that if a juror answered that he would not convict a white man of lynching a negro, no matter how convincing the evidence, it showed that the juror was not without bias in the case upon which he would be called upon to try.

Of the 36 tallies drawn for jury duty but two made the unqualified statement that they would not convict a white man of lynching a negro. They were promptly stood aside by the court. In another instance or two in their opinion on this point, and were excused by the State. The defense rejected several jurors who stated that they would not convict a white man of lynching a negro, but as to whether the objections to the jurors were made solely on this point, it is not known. At any rate, they accepted three or more jurors who stated that they would convict a white man of lynching a negro, provided the testimony showed there was no reasonable doubt as to his guilt.

The tallies summoned for service on this jury and the disposition made of each one drawn are as follows:  
 J. C. Seaborn, accepted.  
 W. R. Hutchinson, rejected by defense.  
 J. C. Bentley, stated in reply to question by solicitor with reference to his views on lynching that he would convict a white man of lynching a negro, provided he thought the white man guilty. Rejected by defense.  
 C. E. DuBose, asked same question as to views on lynching and gave same answer. Rejected by defense.  
 T. C. Burns, asked same question as to lynching; gave same answer; accepted.  
 J. A. Durham, rejected by State.  
 B. J. Marrett, stood aside by court as he was related within sixth degree to one of the defendants.  
 R. B. Owens, rejected by defense.  
 G. L. Lee, stood aside by court as he was over the constitutional age limit.  
 J. P. Walter, accepted.  
 Otto Shumaker, rejected by defense.  
 J. A. Smith, asked views on lynch question and replied he would convict; rejected by defense.  
 T. C. Bibb, asked as to lynch question and gave same reply; rejected by State.  
 W. T. Burton, accepted.  
 A. M. Brown, accepted.  
 A. H. Adams, asked views on lynching and gave same answer that he would convict. Rejected by defense.  
 J. D. Bright, questioned as to views on lynch question; replied that he would not convict a white man of lynching a negro; stood aside by court.  
 G. L. Barker, replied that he would convict for lynching; accepted.  
 Elias Woodall, accepted.  
 H. J. Sly, rejected by defense.  
 C. W. Lyles, replied he would convict for lynching. Rejected by State.  
 T. O. Morris, stood aside on account of age.  
 R. E. Lucas, rejected by defense.  
 Joe W. Davis, replied that he would

convict for lynching. Rejected by defense.  
 W. A. Grant, was not definite in his ideas on lynch question, excused by State.  
 J. Carroll Lee, replied that he would convict for lynching. Accepted.  
 F. W. Harbot, rejected by defense.  
 B. W. Mattheson, rejected by State.  
 F. A. Carroll, stood aside by court as he was opposed to capital punishment.  
 R. E. Finley, replied that he would convict for lynching; accepted.  
 C. C. Kelley, rejected by defense.  
 J. A. Zimmerman, accepted.  
 W. F. Harbin, stated that he would convict for lynching; rejected by defense.  
 J. B. Satterfield, accepted.  
 W. B. Stevens, stated he would convict for lynching; accepted.

## INTERESTING NEWS FROM WALHALLA

### Death of Major Leonard Rogers. Interdenominational Sunday School Convention

Special to The Intelligencer.  
 WALHALLA, March 1.—The Oconee County Interdenominational Sunday School convention met in the Baptist church on Saturday morning and was in session two days. Mr. J. H. Barnett vice president, presided on Saturday in the absence of the president, Charles F. Hetrick of Walhalla was elected president for this year. Dr. Carman was unable to be present on account of serious illness.  
 Professors Faithful and Williams of Anderson, Mrs. Burts and Miss Holland of Spartanburg were present and discussed various topics to large audiences. Mrs. W. P. Reid of Seneca and Mrs. J. W. Shelor of Walhalla, superintendents of the cradle roll and primary departments delighted the convention with a real message on the importance of their departments. Numerous other workers of the county took part in the discussion on various subjects. Twenty-four Sunday schools were represented. It is generally conceded that this was the best convention ever held in Oconee County. A large delegation will go to Newberry to the State convention.

Major Leonard Rogers died at his home near Salem yesterday morning after a protracted illness.  
 Major Rogers entered the Confederate service as second Lieutenant of Company C, Orr's Regiment of Rifles and was promoted during the war to major. Major Rogers was born in Oconee County more than ninety years ago, and has made his home continuously near Salem all these years. He was a man of fine character and was a born soldier. He was a commanding figure during the war, being striking six feet in height, and was striking in appearance, and had a voice that thrilled the men. He was a member of the Baptist church and his remains will be buried this afternoon at the family burial grounds six miles north of Walhalla, the Masonic fraternity officiating. He leaves one daughter of Salem, and one son, William J. Rogers, a newspaper man of Indianapolis, Ind.

The preliminary contest to select a speaker to represent Walhalla high school at the Oconee County Oratorical contest meet, was held in the high school auditorium on Friday night. The judges, D. J. L. Stokes, Rev. G. M. Wilcox and E. L. Herndon, Esq., decided that Ellis B. Smith had won first place, and Moon DeFro second. There were eight contestants. The county contest will be held in Walhalla April 6th at which time ten schools of the county will participate. These annual events have created no small interest among the boy orators of Oconee. Large crowds always attend these meets, and Walhalla expects to fill its large auditorium with a seating capacity of more than one thousand.

Old Fiddlers Convention.  
 An old Fiddlers Convention will be given at Mountain View school Friday evening, March 5, from eight until ten thirty o'clock.  
 Luncheon will be served.  
 Ten cents admission.

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 A rip roaring farce comedy

See this show, and if you don't say that the black faced comedian isn't the best in the South, your money back if you want it.

Also see Baby Al G. Williams, the five year old wonder of the stage. He certainly has made a big hit here.

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**"SHORTY'S ADVENTURES IN THE CITY"**  
 Broncho two reels.  
**"AT THE BOTTOM OF THINGS"**  
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The trouble about fertilizing with meal and acid is that you get your ammonia from one source only, and that is meal and it all goes out at once. Meal is meat you know. In our mixed goods we get the ammonia from meal and fish and blood and tankage, and sulphate of ammonia, and as one of these ammoniacs gives out another comes in so that you have your cotton and your corn supplied with plant food from the time it sprouts in the ground, all through the working season and through the laying-by season, and until it is ready to be gathered. Fish and blood last longer than meal, and sulphate of ammonia acts more quickly than meal and so by using these mixed goods of ours you get a complete fertilizer.

When your meal gives out your cotton sheds. The reason cotton sheds is because it has not sufficient plant food. So when the meal is used up in the soil your cotton sheds. It cannot do anything else. And then our mixed goods are more thoroughly mixed than the meal and acid will be. You could mix it as thoroughly as we can if you were prepared for it. But you are not prepared and it won't pay you to prepare for it for one farm. We expect to supply a great many farms with fertilizer and it pays us to prepare to have our ingredients thoroughly mixed. Where an improperly mixed fertilizer is used your crop will be irregular and we all know that the crop that turns off the cotton is the crop that runs regular all through. We believe it is economical to use the mixed goods instead of mixing your meal and acid. We will be glad to sell you.

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We believe our 4-23-1 is the goods for cotton and corn this year. A great many are buying it. A. F. & O. Co.