

GAPPINS, KIRBY AND FOX PAY PENALTY

Meet Grim Reaper with Songs and Prayers on Lips. Leave Warning to Young Men.

Columbia, June 17.—S. J. Kirby, C. O. Fox and Jesse Gappins were electrocuted at the penitentiary Friday morning shortly after 6 o'clock for the murder of Wm. Brazell, Columbia taxi driver near Leesville on the night of August 7 last.

The trio went to their deaths singing and praying. Kirby went first. He feigned insanity and tried to get his hands from the straps. The officers told him he had better take it easy, but a second time he slipped his hands from the straps. Then four guards took hold of him forcibly; the straps were made tighter than usual, and the current was sent through his body, the man being deprived, because of contrary behavior, of the privilege of making a last statement. Gappins went second and Fox last, the entire procedure consuming 40 minutes. Fox and Gappins made last statements in which they warned young men against bad company and evil conduct.

The penitentiary officials took the curious by surprise and staged the executions at an early hour instead of noon, as is usual. This is the first time a white man has been executed since 1913, and it is the first time three men were ever electrocuted in the state the same day.

The three men were convicted September 14, 1921 of the murder of Wm. Brazell, a young taxi driver of Columbia. They were first sentenced to die October 21, but appeals, which were never perfected caused postponement of the date and made resentencing necessary.

The murder which was respited this morning was committed during the night of August 7, 1921. The trio engaged the young man to take them to Lexington to "see some girls." When they got 15 miles from Columbia they blackjacked the young driver, their aim being to take his car and sell it in Florida. The blackjack broke and they stabbed him to death to get away with their plan, according to their confessions. They were later arrested in Augusta and for several days they were chased through Georgia and South Carolina by a mob of men bent on punishment.

INVISIBLE EMPIRE NOT NEEDED HERE

Says Judge in Address to Florida Lawyers. Should be in Open.

Orlando, Fla., June 16.—Declaring that there is no place for "an invisible empire" within the United States and characterizing the usurpation of governmental functions by the Ku Klux Klan or any other organization as destined to do inestimable wrong to society, United States Judge Henry D. Clayton assailed the policies and principles of such societies in fiery phraseology today in an address before the Florida State Bar association.

"It is true," Judge Clayton said, "that the people have the right to revolutionize or change their government whenever they see fit to do so, but it is quite a different thing for this set of men or that set of men to undertake outside of the law to declare that the government is inefficient and to arrogate to themselves the power to furnish supplemental remedies."

"There is no place," the speaker continued, "for an invisible empire within the United States, nor any reason for clap or gang to do any part of the business of governing or correcting or punishing citizens. A secret organization for such purposes is reprehensible notwithstanding avowals of its members that they have sworn to uphold the constitution of the United States. Such avowals and such oaths can not defeat the just charge that these organizations are conspiracies against law and government."

Judge Clayton said he would cite the case of "an eminent citizen of Alabama," who, he said, joined the klan and later discovered that a "regular docket" was maintained containing cases against citizens of the state.

"After he had succeeded in clearing this 'docket,' many of whose cases involved mere personal grievance or spite, this good man abandoned his fellowship," the speaker said, adding that "organizations such as this have no place in our land, they are not useful in the governing business and can not fail to be productive of crime."

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SAYS VETERANS WILL HOLD MANY MORE REUNIONS

Will be Held as Long as there are Two Veterans Left, Declares General Carr.

Richmond, June 19.—Confederate reunions will be held so long as there are two Confederate veterans left to attend, was the assurance of General Julian Carr, commander-in-chief, United Confederate Veterans, in reply to the hope of Governor E. Lee Trinkle that this would not be the last reunion, speaking at opening sessions of the Confederate Southern Memorial association today in the Jefferson hotel.

"Governor Trinkle may be assured that his wish will be granted and that many more Confederate reunions will be held," General Carr said amid the applause of a distinguished audience of Southerners. "The people we honor and are descendants of, represented the finest civilization that ever lived under any flag. We can always point with pride to the fact and be at ease in any company distinguished for heroism and fortitude. England has not such heroes as have we. There is no one in Westminster Abbey as great as was Lee and Washington. The Confederacy holds Lee as contributing the greatest heroism to the world ever known. The south venerates his memory with a love that passes understanding."

"No band of men ever met in this state as welcome as the Confederate veterans and their families," Governor Trinkle declared. "We hope that Confederate reunions will be held so long as there are two Confederate soldiers to attend and trust that as the years pass Richmond may be honored again with their presence."

"God did more for Virginia than for any other state or country," is the opinion of General Julian Carr, commander-in-chief of the Southern Confederate veterans. "He gave her people the courage of a lion and a beautiful country; a righteous cause to fight for, and as a crown, the glory of the woman of the southland. A man that could not fight for these things is not a man."

"The south can not be rebbed of her history of almost unbelievable bravery," declared Mayor George Ainslie in his welcoming address.

"If the south is not the home of Democracy, then we have none," Mrs. Livingstone Rowe Schuyler, president-general of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, said. "In this age many tongues are spoken, but we of the south speak but one, the speech of human liberty and freedom."

The world does not willingly malign the south and the world would accept the truth if a history were written that the world would read and conceive in a spirit of fairness. Fitzgerald Flurnoy, Rhodes scholar from Virginia and United Daughters of the Confederacy scholarship holder at Washington and Lee University, declared.

"Injustices to the south lie more in what is omitted than in what is actually written. The most insidious false history is that which tells no actual falsehood, but which tells only half the truth. The part taken by the south in the sectional controversy has been ever more maligned than her civilization."

"By painstaking research, by deep philosophic understanding and interpretation, the history of the Old Southern civilization, its acts, its ideals, and its atmosphere must be replaced before the world. It must be written so that the world will read and conceive in such a spirit of fairness that none can take offense, but it must be written."

A MEMORY LED TO DEATH

Fiance Dead, Girl Spurned Another's Love; He Slew Her.

From the Chicago Herald and Examiner.

Mabel Kerwin is dead—shot down by Robert F. McRoberts, wealthy hotel owner, who killed himself after firing two bullets into her body. She was killed because in cherishing a memory, she spurned the love McRoberts attempted to force upon her.

Romance first came into Miss Kerwin's life when she was 18 years old. She was loved by a young railroad man, and she loved him in return. They became engaged. Then came the happiest days of her life—days of preparations for the wedding.

The spring nights were lyric with ecstasy. The moon was never so brilliant. Arm in arm they strolled in the quiet darkness and she listened to his plans for the conquest of the world.

At last came the day she was to obtain her trousseau in Chicago. All the purchases were made. She boarded a train at the city terminal to start home to Joliet. Then she caught a fleeting glimpse of him on another train, bound in the opposite direction. She waved. He saw her and started to leap from the train.

She saw him hurled from the platform against a telegraph pole. His body crashed to the ground.

When she recovered she was five miles away. The train was stopped.

She hurried back. Her fiance was dead.

Mrs. Mary O'Keefe, her aunt, tells the story.

"And that was why, perhaps, she spurned McRoberts," said said. "She always kept the yellowed wedding gown in memory of her first love. I saw it—treasured in a secret box—when I was last in Joliet."

EDWARD MELVER DIES SUDDENLY

Judge of Fourth Circuit Succumbs at Darlington. Funeral Held Yesterday.

Darlington, June 19.—Judge Edward Melver of the Fourth judicial circuit died at the Hotel McFall here at 3:45 o'clock this afternoon.

Judge Melver had come to Darlington for the summer term of court which he opened this morning. He had not been well, but his condition was such that he opened the court and continued business until 12 o'clock when he was forced to adjourn because of his illness.

He was accompanied to the hotel by J. P. Kilgo, court stenographer. Dr. J. B. Edwards was summoned, and after an examination Dr. Edwards called Dr. S. H. Barnwell from Florence for a consultation. Judge Melver showed signs of improvement, and the Dr. man advised against calling his family. He had suffered similar attacks previously, and he thought it unnecessary to alarm his family. Within a short time he became worse and died at 3:45 o'clock. The body will be taken to Cheraw tonight for interment tomorrow.

The news of the death of Judge Melver caused much sorrow in Darlington, where he had many warm friends.

Solicitor J. Monroe Spears has asked Governor Harvey to appoint E. C. Dennis special judge to continue the term of court.

The members of the Darlington bar will attend the funeral in Cheraw tomorrow.

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