

## PRISONERS MAKE FULL CONFESSION

FOX AND GAPPINS TELL OF KILLING COLUMBIA TAXI DRIVER.

Confession to having committed one of the most brutal murders in police annals was wrung from C. O. Fox and Jessie Gappins, the two prisoners taken from Augusta to the Savannah jail early last Thursday morning after an all-night ride to avert a lynching party that stormed the Richmond county jail at Augusta shortly after Sheriff Plunkett left with the two men.

Their statement of the killing of William Brazell, a young chauffeur of Columbia, whom they had engaged to go for a ride with the intention of robbing him, was practically the same as that made by S. J. Kirby, now in the South Carolina penitentiary.

Fox and Gappins were hurried from the Augusta jail Thursday morning by Sheriff Plunkett following information that a party of 50 automobiles were coming to take the men. He left instruction to the jailer to let the lynching party in to search the jail. The sheriff with his two prisoners left the jail and started for Savannah, stopping only at Waynesboro to pick up a Burke county officer who was familiar with the roads leading to Savannah.

In the presence of Sheriff Plunkett and Jailer Kidwell the two men confessed their guilt, telling a revolting tale of the murder of Brazell. The confessions of the two men were then signed, Kidwell witnessing the signatures.

In their confession the two men stated that they with Kirby engaged the car from Brazell with the intention of driving to Lexington. They planned to get him out in the country, they said, and take the car from him, but at the time had no intention of killing Brazell.

Brazell, after driving them about for some time, stopped the machine to buy some gasoline and one of the party stepped from the machine to see how much money he had with him when he paid for the gasoline. It was found that he had \$3 in his possession.

The automobile started again and, stopping for a few minutes in the road, according to the statement of the men, Fox struck Brazell in the head with a billy. At this point the three men attacked the helpless driver with knives, brutally stabbing him in the body. Brazell put up a hard fight, but was overpowered by his assailants, two of them holding his hands behind his back, while Fox plunged a knife in the driver's body.

The two men admitted that Brazell pleaded earnestly with his assailants that they spare his life, protesting that he would not turn them up. His assailants turned a deaf ear to his pleadings. Fox, in a confession, admitted twisting the knife around in Brazell's body after he stabbed him.

The body of the dead man was taken in the automobile and carried along the road a short distance before the slayers took it into the woods some yards from the road. There was very little money in the pockets of the dead man, but after relieving him of the few dollars he had, they drove the automobile off. The automobile finally broke down near Waynesboro and the three men deserted the car. Kirby told W. D. Roberts of Waynesboro, that the other two men had committed a murder. Kirby then showed where the body of Brazell had been taken by the passengers of the murder car. Kirby is at present under arrest in Columbia.

Defeated in their attempt to storm the Richmond county jail at Augusta, Ga., and lynch C. O. Fox and Jesse Gappins, self-confessed murderers of William Brazell, 19 year old taxi driver, hundreds of Columbians, alleged members of the mob, returned to Columbia to wait further developments in Sheriff Plunkett's tour of Georgia in an effort to locate a jail in which to lodge the two prisoners, who were spirited from the Augusta prison a few hours before the masked men arrived to demand them. A few automobiles loaded with men, said to be heavily armed, are still patrolling roads leading into Columbia and Lexington and the threats of mob violence, are still to be heard. We'll wait until we get them," is apparently the opinion of the men concerned,

## CITES 6,508 SUICIDES IN SIX MONTHS OF 1921

Save-A-Life League Reports a Big Increase—214 Boys, 293 Girls, Take Their Own Lives.

A "suicide wave" has spread over this country since the first of the year, according to Dr. Harry M. Warren, president of the Save-A-Life League, with headquarters in New York city.

"During the first six months," he said, "there were reported to the league 6,509 suicides, of whom 4,527 were males and 1,982 females. In the first half of 1920, 2,771 suicides were reported in the United States—1,810 males and 961 females."

The average age of the male suicide is 43 years. Unsettled economic conditions, with loss of employment and business failures are blamed by Dr. Warren for the "wave."

"The most dreadful phase of this report," his statement continued, "is the pitiful fact that while 225 children ended their lives in the first half of 1920, the number has more than doubled this year." Of these latter 214 were boys and 293 were girls, a total of 507. The average is, boys, 16; girls, 15. A large percentage of the girls took poison, and most of the boys shot themselves, according to the report.

according to persons known to have conversed with them since their return.

Sheriff Plunkett apparently was successful in eluding all members of the Columbia party, despite the fact that numbers of Columbia men had been in the Georgia city since early Wednesday afternoon, awaiting the arrival of darkness and of reinforcements. The sheriff leaving the jail with his prisoners shortly after 10 o'clock was pursued by a car which had been parked a block from the jail all afternoon. This automobile is said to have returned to Columbia its driver reporting that, ignorant of the Georgia roads, he had lost the Augusta officers and the two prisoners shortly after leaving Augusta. Plans had been made, it was said, had the raid on the Augusta jail proved successful to bring the two men back to the spot about three miles from Leesville, where the mutilated body of the young transfer driver was found, and there kill him.

When it was learned that the two men had been placed in the Savannah jail to be later moved elsewhere since the Savannah prison was already crowded beyond capacity, cars are said to have been dispatched to Savannah to await developments there, following the sheriff should he have made a dash for another jail.

Sheriff Alex Heise has had a long conference with the mother of Jesse Gappins, one of the two men now held in Georgia, Mrs. Gappins advancing the theory that S. J. Kirby, whose confession led to the arrest of the three men, was the moving spirit behind the plot to kill young Brazell and take the car. Kirby visited her home to hold a long conference with Jesse Gappins Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Gappins said, the two men talking in secret for nearly two or three hours. Her son, after Kirby left the house, Mrs. Gappins told the sheriff, told her that he was going to leave on a trip that night and that he would write her in about two weeks and advising her in the meanwhile not to be worried. It was at this conference, Mrs. Gappins believes, that the murder-robbery plot was engineered and her son involved in the scheme.

Kirby has a particularly unsavory reputation among neighbors and county officers, and Sheriff Heise stated that it was his belief that when the entire truth was revealed that it would be found that Kirby was considerably more involved in the crime than was admitted in his confession. Kirby, in making his statement to the Augusta sheriff, told a story of how he had been forced by Fox and Gappins to secure the car, thinking that it was to be used to take the three men to "get some girls" near Lexington, Kirby engaged Brazell's car, he said, under compulsion and then drove to the Seaboard depot and picked up the other two men.

This, officers think, is a weak link in his statement, absolving himself of blame of the killing, it being pointed out that there was nothing to have prevented him from making his escape from Gappins and Fox at the time. Kirby also had an opportunity, it is thought, to leave the car while the two men carried the body into the woods, as related in his

## TOBACCO SALES FOR MONTH OF JULY

AMOUNT SOLD AND SUM RECEIVED LOWEST SINCE 1916 FOR THIS MONTH.

The average rate for tobacco sold in July this year compared with the price in July last year is a fraction over 8 cents against 22 4-10 cents, according to the tobacco report of the state department of Agriculture for the month of July, and made public Saturday. The report shows that the tobacco sold for producers in the 65 warehouses at 25 markets was 7,452,818 pounds which brought an aggregate price of \$598,346.10. This is the smallest amount sold and the lowest price paid in the aggregate since 1916, according to the statistics of the department. It is also the smallest average price paid for the staple since 1916 for the month of July.

The following are the sales by the producers at each of the markets during the month of July:

	Pounds Sold	Amount Paid
Aynor	176,422	14,393.99
Andrews	153,330	\$ 9,971.53
Bamberg	60,820	2,006.00
Conway	512,699	35,946.05
Darlington	283,157	14,945.56
Dillon	267,375	18,358.17
Florence	275,874	19,786.81
Georgetown	41,718	3,667.01
Hartsville	44,050	1,457.32
Hemingway	222,160	16,203.33
Johnsonton	359,333	31,859.75
Kingstree	683,614	45,496.50
Lake City	962,370	105,617.95
Lake View	239,256	21,053.46
Lamar	122,178	6,905.93
Latta	93,556	5,792.42
Loris	381,579	34,606.87
Lynchburg	83,432	4,242.28
Manning	274,550	13,560.20
Marion	296,472	20,297.77
Mullins	729,599	75,115.03
Nichols	295,855	30,054.57
Pamplico	122,217	8,812.84
Sumter	140,037	9,024.50
Timmonsville	631,165	49,170.26
Total	7,452,818	\$598,346.10

The following is a comparison of the market for the month of July for each year 1912 to 1921 inclusive:

Year	Pounds Sold	Amount Paid	Avg Price Pd
1912	5,064,085	381,604.95	.753
1913	8,731,789	194,415.34	.223
1914	3,862,346	387,762.31	1.004
1915	3,378,716	145,499.23	.431
1916	657,816	51,833.74	.788
1917	18,954,777	4,151,674.84	2.165
1918	23,876,785	8,125,262.04	3.386
1919	24,959,252	5,256,115.05	2.105
1920	10,351,945	2,319,563.83	.224
1921	7,452,818	598,346.10	.0803

confession. His having only one arm, it is contended, will also explain the alleged fact that he took no active part in the actual killing of the boy and the dragging of the body into the woods.

Kirby is known to have been paroled while serving a two year sentence for robbery and burglary in the penitentiary and at the time of the murder of Brazell was being watched by Sheriff Heise for alleged implication in burglaries in Columbia. He is said to have been educated for the ministry, later turning infidel. This last statement is denied at Kirby's residence, friends claiming that "he never let a day pass without reading his Bible."

"I don't care what they do with the three men" M. E. Brazell, father of the murdered boy, said recently "Lynching would be to good for them and nothing that can be done will restore my boy to me. Nothing can make me satisfied; nothing can make me forget how he was killed." Mr. Brazell also gave it as his opinion that Kirby was as deeply involved as the other two men. Mr. Brazell thanked the various transfer drivers for the evidence of their friendship for his son. "I did not know Bill was so popular," he said. Practically every taxi driver and owner in the city attended the boy's funeral Wednesday afternoon, many also sending floral tributes.

**Fox and Gappins in Charleston Jail.** Fox and Gappins are in jail at Charleston where there has been no indication whatever of mob play since they were lodged there Sunday night and while the local authorities are confident that no effort will be made to get the prisoners out of jail, they are unwilling to take any chance over the whole affair.

Fox who is a large and powerful man, and Gappins are confined in separate cells. They are under close surveillance, the authorities risking no

## DOUBLE KILLING NEAR MOUNT HOLLY

DEAD MEN, IT IS CLAIMED, WENT TO SETTLE DIFFICULTY

A farmer named Baker, a tenant on the Tom Hill plantation of the Mount Holly Development Company, near Mount Holly, was lodged in jail Friday night at Monck's Corner, charged with shooting and killing Messrs. Potter and Hutson, farmers, at his home Friday morning. All three of the men involved in the tragedy are white.

The inquest was held and the verdict of the coroner's jury was that the two men came to their death from gunshot wounds inflicted by Baker. Mr. Hutson was killed instantly, while Mr. Potter did not die until the inquest was being held over the body of Mr. Hutson. Magistrate Mullinax presided at the inquest.

It is reported that the three men had had previous trouble, although it could not be ascertained what that trouble was. It is reported that Messrs. Potter and Hutson went to Baker's residence and made the statement that they had come to settle the difficulty. Words were exchanged when Mrs. Baker it is alleged, came out and told her husband to go into the house. It is stated that the two men began cursing Mrs. Baker, that Baker told them he could not stand for it, and, it is alleged, he said he was going into the house for his gun and if they had not gone when he came out he was going to shoot.

When he came out they turned to leave, it is alleged, and he shot. It was reported that both men were shot in the back.

Dr. Simmons, of Summerville, took Mr. Potter's ante-mortem statement, in which he said, it is reported, that he went to Baker's to borrow a plowstock and not to look for trouble.

Several cartridges, it is said, were found in the pockets of the two dead men and a large knife. It is not known whether any weapons were found on their persons or not.

### Information Concerning Insurance.

The time limit for reinstating or reinstating and converting war insurance has been extended to January 1, 1922. If your insurance has lapsed stop a minute and consider reasons why you should reinstate it. Every one who has given the matter any thought knows that government insurance is second to none. Why not hold on to good thing while you have it?

The conditions under which this insurance may be reinstated or reinstated and converted are as follows:

The payment of at least two months premium. If not more than three months have passed since the insurance has lapsed the applicant has only to state that he is in as good health as he was at the date his last premium was due.

If more than six months have passed since the insurance lapsed the applicant must send in a report of a full medical examination given him by some reputable physician.

Application blanks and further information on this subject may be had at the office of the Red Cross secretary for Williamsburg county.

chance of their harming themselves in any way. A death watch is no more stricter. Both men are reported to be worried over their plight and they are said to be very nervous, realizing that their condition is desperate.

It is reported that both men talk freely and readily of the crime with which they are charged. It is said that they say that Kirby persuaded them to join him in the theft of a car and that it was in the carrying out of this pact that Brazell was killed near Leesville.

Gappins and Fox, it is reported, charge that Kirby, on the lonely country road found an excuse for stopping the car driven by Brazell and that Brazell was forcibly dragged to the ground. Kirby is said to have choked the chauffeur and Fox to have struck him repeatedly with a black jack while Gappins held him. They are quoted as saying that Brazell begged for his life and said that if they released him he would not tell. Fox is said to admit that he told Brazell not to worry, as he would make sure that Brazell never told. After the black jack was worn out, it is said, Fox stabbed Brazell in a brutal manner. Brazell's body was thrown into a clump of bushes and Gappins became chauffeur to the party.

## SAFE CONTAINING \$60,000 IS STOLEN

S. W. Young, Farmer, Living About Eight Miles From Lake City, Victim.

Lake City, Aug. 17.—Some-time between Sunday and Monday night, during the absence of S. W. Young, a prosperous farmer, whose home is about eight miles west of here, his house was entered and the iron safe in which he kept Liberty bonds valued at about thirty thousand dollars and almost an equal amount in mortgages and other securities was removed and tracks in the yard indicate that it was hauled away in a wagon. Mr. Young was apprised of the fact upon his return to his home Tuesday afternoon and is making every effort to apprehend the robbers.

### NEWS FROM SALTERS

Topics of Interest Gathered by the Record's Correspondent.

Salters Depot, August 15.—We are still having warm, showery weather which has been very favorable for the boll weevil, which has certainly played havoc with the cotton. There will be the shortest crop in this section in 35 years and the outlook is very gloomy from this standpoint, but on the other hand, the corn crop with few exceptions is good, in fact, the best in years; potatoes and peas look well and bid fair to make fine crops. There are a good many hogs to kill, so let us cheer up; there is always sunshine after rain.

We were glad to have with us last week Dr. L. B. Salters and family of Florence, who visited relatives here. Dr. Salters gave us a fine talk at the Christian Endeavor meeting Sunday night which was enjoyed by all.

Miss May B. Heyward, of Columbia is visiting Mrs. Mattie Ferrel.

Mr. Robbie Donnelly and Miss Blanch McDaniel sprung a surprise on their friends here Sunday. They were quietly married at the home of the bride at 8:00 a. m., by the Rev. H. W. Shealy and after the ceremony motored to Lane where they boarded train No. 83 for Charleston and other points. Only the immediate families of the contracting parties were present to witness the ceremony.

Mr. T. L. Richardson's new residence on Academy street is going up rapidly and will add much to the town.

The stork visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Evans Monday night and left a bouncing boy. Mother and babe are doing well.

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### The Boss Rattler.

John Pressley, a colored farm hand on Mr. John Burgess' place in the Bethel section last Friday came upon and killed what is believed to be the boss rattler of this section. The reptile was apparently making its way from the swamp to the oak ridge when Pressley's dog came upon him. Pressley was reluctant in tackling the snake on account of its enormous size, but finally took courage and says he "first tapped him lightly to hear him make a fuss with his rattles." When he had completed the undertaking, he carried the dead reptile to show some of his neighbors. It is said to have measured five and a half feet in length, 12 1/4 inches in circumference, and was equipped with a set of eighteen rattles and the usual button which is said to indicate that the snake, or at least the dangerous end of him, was more than eighteen years old.

### Ginner's Meeting

The Williamsburg Ginner's Association is called to meet here at the office of the Williamsburg Liberty Milling Co. on Wednesday, August 24th at noon. All gingers in the county, whether members of the association or not, are invited to attend this meeting.

### Heavy Sales This Week.

The heaviest sales of the season have been the feature of the Kingstree tobacco market this week. Good tobacco has brought good prices at each of the three warehouses. There was so much of the weed in town Monday that there was no sale at the Nelson Warehouse and on Tuesday there was no sale at the Farmer's Warehouse. Yesterday each of the houses were filled to the doors.

There will be a baseball game played here next Wednesday between the Mouson and Black River teams. Ladies will be admitted free.

## THIEF ENTERS TRIO STORES AND BANK

PILFERS BUSINESS PLACES AND LEAVES TOWN ON CITIZEN'S MULE.

During the early hours of Monday morning a cheap thief made it his business to pilfer the little town of Trio in a pretty thorough manner, and while the thief made his escape, his identity is said to be known and his apprehension, it is believed, is only a matter of short time.

The thief entered the town sometime about mid-night; went to Mr. Moore's stable, where he secured a mule which he tethered in a convenient place so that if he became hard pressed he could jump on the mule and get away. After arranging with the mule, he started his depredations. He entered the depot, Rowell's two stores, Moore's store, Trio Supply Co.'s store and the bank of Trio. It is known that he secured five dollars in savings stamps, one dollar and twenty cents in money a few packages of soda crackers and other items of minor value—none worth the effort he exerted to break the locks and chains and bars that he was obliged to overcome before he gained access to real treasure, of which he apparently took very little.

While entering the Trio Bank the people who live in the building were aroused and became so excited that no effort was made to capture the burglar. After "inspecting" the bank, the man left and pried his way into a nearby store. While in this store the man living in the bank building went out and aroused Mr. Tom Rowell, but when the latter got out he found that the thief had mounted Mr. Moore's mule and made his escape.

By this time it was nearly day-light, a search was begun and it was learned that the man, a negro, had ridden to Suttons, where he turned the mule loose and took to the bushes afoot. It is believed that he later boarded a train at Taft. The mule returned to its owner.

Deputy Sheriff Frierson was on the scene early Monday with the blood hounds.

### MINISTER HELD FOR MURDER

To Face Charge of Killing Catholic Priest in Alabama.

A verdict of unlawful homicide was returned by Coroner J. D. Russum following investigation into the death of Father James E. Coyle, pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church at Birmingham, Ala., who was shot to death on the porch of the rectory last Thursday night.

Stephenson has been in jail since he surrendered to the police shortly after the killing. According to the police, the minister confessed that he shot the priest after the latter had struck him during an altercation which arose, Stephenson said, over the marriage of his daughter, Ruth.

"I remonstrated with him for marrying my daughter to a man against whom we had lodged objections," the prisoner is quoted as saying. "I called him a 'dirty dog,' and he struck me. Then I shot him."

### R. T. Flowers Buried Here Yesterday.

The remains of Roland T. Flowers, age 30, son of the late Mrs. Ollie Flowers, was brought here from Pittsburg, Pa., for interment, which took place at the Williamsburg cemetery at 11 o'clock yesterday.

Young Flowers was raised in this community and made his home here with his mother until they moved away some six or seven years ago. He was a structural steel worker and for some years had been employed around Pittsburg, where he met his death on the 10th of this month by coming in contact with a live electric wire while attempting to repair a broken gas pipe running across the Allegheny river at Pittsburg. When he came in contact with the electric wire he was thrown in the river and his body sank immediately, but was soon recovered. His body was buried at Pittsburg and later exhumed and brought to this place, where it was placed beside that of his mother, who was buried here about two months ago.

The young man is survived by his wife and one child, also three brothers and one sister, namely: R. H. and B. J. Flowers, Cheraw; G. R. Flowers, Pittsburg, and Mrs. M. D. Tindal of Columbia.