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TWO CENTS.

PAY THE PENALTY

Brown and Taylor Executed Together
at Rockville.

CONVICTED OF A DOUBLE MURDER

Taylor Exonerates Brown of Com-
plicity in the Crime.

HISTORY OF THE TRAGEDY

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

ROCKVILLE, Md., August 18.—Armstead Taylor and John Albert Brown, both colored, convicted of the murder of Dora and Lewis Rosenstein, near Boyd's station, this county, May 13 last, were executed here this morning. The drop fell at 10:17 a.m. The doctors pronounced Brown dead in twelve minutes and Taylor in sixteen minutes, both dying of strangulation.

When the men were taken to the scaffold Taylor was asked if he had anything to say.

"One word," he replied. Then he said:

"I want to say what I said to Mr. Thompson and those other men at first. I did all the killing, and Brown didn't have nothing to do with it." Pausing, Taylor cast his eyes upward and said: "Sweet Jesus, receive my soul."

Brown, in reply to a similar interrogation, smiled and bowed to the assemblage.



Armstead Taylor.

"Gentlemen," he said. "I didn't have nothing to do with the killings. You may take my body, but" (here he paused and looked skyward and murmured) "my soul goes to God."

The black caps were then adjusted over the men's heads, and the drops fell.

A Shocking Scene.

A scene ensued that made the stoutest present turn their heads. The nooses had not been properly adjusted, and the knots, instead of going under the left ears of the condemned men, seemed to slip to a point on the left side of their faces between their chins and the points of their jaws. The drop had been about five and one-half feet, and as neither man weighed more than 135 or 140 pounds, the fall was apparently not sufficient.

Both men struggled violently, but Taylor's contortions were shocking. There were muffled sounds of groans and once Taylor was heard to utter by those near the scaffold "Oh, God!" His body writhed frantically, and he seemed to be trying to help the noose to end his existence. Brown's struggles were active, but not so horrible as Taylor's. Both men worked

their arms convulsively as if trying to get their hands around and put them in their pockets. Their contortions plainly showed that both were being strangled to death, and when the bodies were partially lowered and examined by Drs. Linticum and Stonestreet the examination proved that this was correct. Experienced persons present, including Lieutenant Kelley of Washington, said Taylor's death was the most horrible they had ever seen on the scaffold.

After the bodies were cut down they were turned over to Undertakers Groome and Pumphrey for interment. Taylor will be buried by the former at the alms house, while Brown will be buried by the latter at the new Catholic graveyard near Rockville.

Taylor's Statement to Ministers.

After the execution Rev. Howard G. England, who was one of Taylor's spiritual advisers while at Rockville, and who accompanied him to the scaffold, made public the detailed statement made by Taylor to him and the Rev. Mr. Ingle a few minutes before the execution. The statement is as follows:

"Nobody on earth knew anything about that killing except me and God. I saw Brown coming down the road a little distance from the store before I killed them. I hid in the woods until Brown passed. After Brown passed I entered the house and killed them. I killed the man first down stairs. I went upstairs and found the woman in bed. I went to the bed and looked at her, then I walked back to the other end of the room. The woman jumped out of bed and stood on the floor. I then rushed across the room and struck her with the iron bar. No one had talked to me about the murder before, but Brown had remarked to me that those people were making money."

When questioned by Mr. England as to his reason for making a statement implicating Brown, Taylor replied: "I was scared to death and nearly crazy, and didn't know what I was doing."

Mr. England and the other ministers connected with the execution believe in Brown's innocence.

The condemned men spent the entire morning in religious devotion. Taylor was attended by Rev. Osborn Ingle of Frederick and Rev. Howard G. England of Wickliffe, Va., who is visiting his parents in this place. Rev. Father Coleman of Frederick and Father Cunnane of Rockville were with Brown.

About ten minutes before the execution Brown's little son James visited him in his cell. Brown appeared to be delighted to see him, and inquired after his brothers and sisters. Father Coleman gave Brown a hymn book, requesting him to make a present of it to his son, which he did. Father Coleman then told the little boy that his father was an innocent man, and had made his peace with God. The solemn procession started at 10:12 o'clock. First came Revs. England and Ingle, then Taylor, in charge of Deputies Embrey, Selby and Wheatley. Brown followed, in charge of Deputies Howes, Gaither and Jones, and Deputies Watkins and Sullivan and Sheriff Thompson brought up the rear. When the scaffold was reached the condemned men mounted with firm steps. All the while their lips moved in prayer. The two were placed in position upon the trap, and Deputy Wheatley strapped the legs of Taylor, while Deputy Howes performed a similar duty for Brown.

The deputy sheriff and the religious attendants named and Sheriff Thompson were the only ones upon the scaffold.

Preceding Incidents.

At 7 o'clock this morning Rockville wore its usual quiet aspect, and no observer would have thought that anything unusual was to occur during the day. The expectations that the town would fill up with crowds of the curious over night were not realized, only a few newspaper men being added to the regular population. The murderers, Armstead Taylor and John Alfred Brown, were scarcely more disturbed than the other inhabitants. Both ate hearty suppers last night. Taylor selected ice cream and cake and canteloupe for his menu, and Brown chose beefsteak and hot rolls. After the meal Brown was engaged in spiritual conversation with Rev. Father Coleman of Frederick and Cunnane of Rockville. He went to confession, and at 10 o'clock the priests departed. For two hours later Mrs. Connel, the wife of the jailer, sang hymns with the men, and they both appeared cheerful under the influence of the music. At midnight both men went to sleep and in five minutes were snoring soundly.

Brown awoke at 4 o'clock and engaged in prayer for a quarter of an hour, when he again went to sleep for an hour, and then arose and dressed. About 6 o'clock the priests arrived, Father Cunnane remaining an hour and Father Coleman continuing with Brown, who was apparently more cheerful than ever.

He said to Mrs. Connel that he was ready to die, but would die an innocent man. Both he and Taylor ate hearty breakfasts of ham and eggs, hot rolls and fried potatoes. Taylor smoked a cigar before the meal. In reply to a question from Jailer Connel as to how he felt, Taylor replied "First-rate." He declined, however, to say anything about his crime.

Brown's Innocence Declared.

It was understood that Taylor, in his confession to Rev. Howard England and Rev. Osborne Ingle yesterday evening, declared that Brown was innocent and had no connection with the murder, but he declined to make an affidavit to this effect and would not repeat to Sheriff Thompson or Jailer Connel what he had told the ministers.

All sorts of rumors were in circulation this morning as to the probability of Gov. Lowndes granting a respite to Brown, but this gossip had no effect on Sheriff Thompson, who continued to prepare for the double execution. A final test of the scaffold and its double drop was made at 8 o'clock this morning, two sacks of sand weighing 200 pounds each being used. The test was perfectly satisfactory.

About this hour the town began to fill up and a drizzling rain commenced falling. A crowd began to congregate early in the vicinity of the jail, and the trees from which a peep over the high fence surrounding the jail yard, where the execution was to take place, could be had were climbed by boys, and big men, too, who sought roosting places in their branches.

Among the visitors who came in during the morning to witness the execution were Sheriff Robey of Prince George's county, Revel of Anne Arundel, Lieutenant John F. Kelley of Washington, together with Detective Burroughs and Policemen Lintler, Conner, Gitson, Garrett, Ford and Howlett.

The cells occupied by Taylor and Brown overlooked the jail yard, and they were able to see, if they desired, the preparations being made to end their existence.

Brown's cell was the same that Sidney Randolph occupied and from which he was taken out to be lynched the night of July 3, 1896.

Rumors of a Respite.

During the morning it was learned that Father Coleman had telegraphed during the night to Judge McSherry, at Frederick, that he was certain Brown was innocent, and asking the judge to join in a request to the governor to respite the man for further investigation. When a telegram was received by Judge Henderson shortly before 9 o'clock it was quickly rumored that a respite would be granted. It developed, however, that the telegram to Judge Henderson was a message from William Belt of Chicago, who had been working zealously to save Brown, who was formerly owned by Belt, stating that the sender would arrive in Rockville on the first train from Washington.

To add to the complexity of the situation Taylor was said to have declared this morning that Brown was the cause of his crime, had urged him to it and had participated in the killing of the victims.

Summary Measures Considered.

The crowds which began to gather in substantial numbers became acquainted with the possibility of Brown's respite, and the discussion took on a grave phase, as every man in the gathering felt certain Brown was guilty, the general opinion being that Taylor had been really a tool in his hands.

It was not long before a very determined sentiment was evident that if Brown was granted a respite there would be summary measures taken before midnight to make him follow Taylor.

This determination was increased when it was learned that Rev. Howard England and Rev. Osborne Ingle had received a telegram from Judge Motter of Frederick stating that he was willing to join Judge Henderson in a request to Gov. Lowndes for a stay of execution in Brown's behalf. The fact that Judge Motter was not one of the trial judges was commented on and the decision of Judge Henderson, who with Judge McSherry presided at the trials of Taylor and Brown, was eagerly awaited. It was prompt and conclusive. Judge Henderson declined positively to join in any request to the governor.

To clinch this decision a telegram was received by Father Coleman in reply to the one he sent last night to Judge McSherry, requesting his aid in securing a respite for Brown.

Judge McSherry wired that he had no confidence in the statements alleged to have been made by Taylor or Brown. "I believe Brown ought to be hung. Justice should not be obstructed." This swept away the last hope of Brown's friends for a respite, and the crowd displayed great satisfaction and relief, especially those of it who realized that any interference would certainly lead to another lawless execution in Montgomery county, and an additional stigma on the fair name of the county, so often unfortunately blemished in this way heretofore.

Story of the Crime.

The story of the crime for which Taylor and Brown were convicted is as follows: In their home in the village of Slidell, near Boyd's station, Montgomery county, Md., the morning of May 13, 1890, Louis Rosenstein and his young wife Dora were found in an unconscious condition. Rosenstein was a merchant, and there were evidences about his store room connected with his dwelling that his injuries were inflicted by some one intent upon robbery. Mrs. Rosenstein was found in a room in the second story of the building. Their injuries plainly indicated that some blunt instrument had been used in the attack upon them. Their heads were shockingly battered and crushed.

In the afternoon of May 13 the unfortunate Rosensteins were taken to the Maryland University Hospital, in Baltimore. Mr. Rosenstein died the following day, and Mrs. Rosenstein several days later. Neither recovered consciousness.

These people were Hebrews, and came to this county about five years ago from Baltimore city. They stood well in the community, and by patient industry and careful economy had collected together a considerable sum of money. The fact that the Rosensteins possessed this money, and had it on the premises where they resided, was known to the members of the household of John Alfred Brown, a negro, residing in the neighborhood. The Wednesday preceding the tragedy Armstead Taylor, a nephew of Brown, and a notorious criminal, arrived at Brown's house. The morning of the tragedy he was seen standing on the porch of the Rosenstein store by Mr. Garrett Linthicum. The negro yelled to Mr. Linthicum to go on. Mr. Linthicum, who was riding, paid no attention to the man, thinking he was drunk.

The Discovery.

Shortly after 7 o'clock a customer visited the store to make a purchase, and, not finding the store open, thought the inmates of the house had overslept themselves. After repeated efforts to arouse the inmates, the house was entered by the rear door. Rosenstein was found in the store room in a pool of blood. Investigation further disclosed Mrs. Rosenstein in the condition above stated.

The alarm was immediately given, the authorities notified and the entire community aroused. The investigation about the premises disclosed that a pair of No. 9 shoes had been taken from the store, and in the woods nearby a pair of old boots were found. In the same neighborhood where the boots were found a silver watch and a bunch of keys belonging to Rosenstein were also picked up. Suspicion soon pointed to Taylor. It developed that he was at the store of Mr. Mahlon T. Lewis at Boyd's that morning, and that his clothing indicated that it had just been washed.

In the store he asked for a pair of No. 10 shoes, the pair he had on being new, but evidently too small for him, as they were split up the front. At Boyd's he boarded a Washington train. Four miles down the road he changed his shoes, throwing the pair taken from Rosenstein from the car window. These shoes were afterward found and identified. He left the train at Forest Glen, and successfully eluded pursuit for several days.

The attention of the police of Washington was attracted to a strange negro about town on account of his lavish display of money, purchase of jewelry and a revolver and a supply of cartridges. This negro afterward turned out to be Taylor, who had rented a house on Fowler's Hill near Georgetown. Taylor was seen to enter this house by the police on the Wednesday subsequent to the commission of the crime.

Sergeant Passau Killed.

The house was surrounded, Sergeant Fritz Passau, Detective Burroughs and Policeman Gow entering the house by forcing the front door, after having knocked several times without receiving a reply. They ascended to the second floor. Just overhead was a small trap door leading to a loft, and in that dark hole the negro had taken refuge. Sergeant Passau, in his eagerness to make a thorough search for the man, turned to look behind the door on the second floor. It was a fatal move for the gallant officer. With his back to the trap door there came a volley of shots, some of them taking effect in the sergeant's body, and he fell to the floor, expiring soon afterward. Policeman Gow was also wounded in the hand.

The negro held the police at bay for more than an hour, and it was only after preparations had been made to burn the house that he came out of his hiding place and gave himself up.

At first it was determined by the Washington authorities to have Taylor tried in that jurisdiction for the killing of Officer Passau, but as it was considered to be difficult under the circumstances to convict the criminal of murder in the first degree, he was turned over to the Maryland authorities. While in jail in Washington he confessed to the commission of the Rosenstein murder and also implicated John Alfred Brown.

In the meantime Brown and his common-law wife, Nellie Turner, had been taken into custody by Sheriff Thompson of Montgomery county. The woman gave the first damaging testimony in addition to Taylor's confession implicating Brown in the affair. She stated that Brown and Taylor, the night before the tragedy, were discussing the Rosensteins. She was in an adjacent room and paid no attention to what was being said, but when the men were about to retire she heard Taylor ask Brown to call him in the morning. Early in the morning Taylor awoke Brown and went out of the front door. A little while afterward Brown got up and went out of the same door. The woman fixed the time of Brown's departure from the house at between daybreak and sun-up. In giving an account of his movements on that morning Brown said he had overslept himself and did not arrive at his place of employment until between 7 and 7:30 o'clock. He was utterly unable to account for his movements in the several hours intervening between the time Nellie Turner says he left home and the time he actually arrived on the farm where he was employed. There were many other small circumstances going to corroborate Taylor's testimony implicating Brown.

Arraigned for Trial.

These men were arraigned in Rockville on the 25th of May, having been indicted on the preceding day. For the first time in the history of the county a special term of court was called for the trial of these cases on the 23rd of June. On this date the prisoners filed affidavits to the effect that they could not obtain fair trials in Montgomery county, and the court sent the cases to Frederick, where they were called for a hearing July 5. The men had been indicted jointly.

The state asked for a severance, which was granted by the court. The cases occupied a week in the trial, the jurors bringing in a verdict in each case of murder in the first degree, after only a few minutes' deliberation. Immediately upon their conviction both men were sentenced to be hanged.

In the past few days a Mr. Belt of Chicago, to whom Brown belonged in slave days, had been making strenuous efforts to obtain a reprieve for Brown. The matter was carried before the governor, who refused to interfere, the judges, jury and officials concerned in the case protesting against any such action.