

Paper: Starkville Daily News

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*Victim(s):
Mann Hamilton*

*COVERAGE:
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Dept Archives & Hunter

THE STARKVILLE NEWS.

VOL. X.

STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1912.

NO. 47

On Washington's Birthday

We Will Treat the People of Sturgis and Surrounding Country
To Our

GRAND OPENING SALE!!

Our entire stock of First Class Merchandise consisting of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Ladies and Gents furnishings will be offered to the people at a remarkable low price. WATCH FOR THE BIG PRICE CIRCULAR. WAIT FOR THESE

TEN DAYS

BEGINS
FEB. 22.

B. WINN, Sturgis, Miss.

CLOSES
MARCH 2D.

A QUIET LYNCHING

Mann Hamilton, a Black Brute,
Pays the Death Penalty for a
Fiendish Crime

That crimes of brutality and assaults on innocent women will not be tolerated in this country was demonstrated in the community of Bell's School House Wednesday, when a band of determined citizens mostly of Clay county lynched Mann Hamilton, negro, who lived all his life in the neighborhood. The facts as related to a News reporter by a close relative of the unfortunate lad are as follows:

Mrs. June Bell, wife of one of the most prominent citizens of Okfuskeha county, was at home alone Tuesday evening, when Hamilton approached the house and hailed. Mrs. Bell came out on the porch, and was confronted by the negro, who informed her that a relative of hers in the community, had entrusted a note to be delivered to her. As she extended her hand to receive same, the negro took her by surprise, and seized her roughly. He pushed her through the house to the kitchen, where a desperate struggle occurred, Mrs. Bell endeavoring to free herself from the clutches of the brute. She fought him bravely until he caught up a fire poker and rained blow after blow upon her head with such force that the handle of the poker snapped asunder. He then got hold of a pair of tongs and with this instrument belabored her across the arms, hands and back until they were black and blue, and her body was a mass of bruises. Not satisfied with this piece of fiendishness, the human beast deliberately hacked and slashed her throat

with a dull knife until he had inflicted several ugly incisions. From the effects of this treatment she fell unconscious. Impressed with the idea that she was dead, and for the purpose of concealing his hellish crime he lifted the bruised and bloody body, carried it to the back yard, where he dropped it in a deep well. Then he covered the mouth of the well with a wide board. It is probable when Mrs. Bell struck the water, she was revived to some extent, for she braced herself against the wall, and remained in that position until her nine year old boy returning from school located her. The heroic little fellow with much precision for a lad of his age let the bucket down, tied the other end of the rope to a piece of timber, and told his mother to catch the end of the rope until he ran for help. In a short time aid arrived on the scene and she was drawn out. Drs. Hunter Scales, of Starkville and Eliza of Cedar Bluff responded and administered medical aid. The gashes across her throat indicated that the negro intended cutting it from ear to ear, but the dullness of the weapon thwarted his purpose.

Wednesday morning several cool-headed citizens cautioned the crowd to move cautiously in the premises and see that the right party suffered the penalty. The negro was questioned and told several conflicting stories. Splotches of blood were discovered on his pants, and as she knew him for years it was proved beyond a shadow of a doubt

that he was the right man. The brute was quietly taken a quarter of a mile from the scene of the crime, and without the discharge of a single weapon, a rope was thrown over a strong limb of a tree, and in a moment more Hamilton was dangling from the rope's end, suspended in mid air; and as the crowd silently dispersed, the sighing wind swayed the body too and fro—he had paid the penalty of the wages of sin—DEATH.

The lady is in a precarious condition, but it is hoped she will recover.

Sheriff Nickels was on the scene as early as possible after being apprised, and exerted every effort to get the culprit in his custody to prevent a lynching, but his efforts proved futile, for he was put on the wrong track by those who had spirited the brute away. While the sheriff was in another direction, the lynching party stole a march on him. No blame can be attached to Sheriff Nickles.

A Mistaken Idea.

Most people seem to think that the Vardaman press of the state would hail the resignation of Dr. Hardy with howls of delight, but such is not the case. Take for instance the Starkville News, whose editor, Col. T. J. Wood, was always to be found in the front ranks of the ex-governor. (We omit what we had written referred to by the Star Ledger.)

The Aberdeen Weekly which has always been a strong Vardaman paper has the following to say:

"The resignation of J. C. Hardy as president of the A. & M. College is a signal loss to that institution. Mr. Hardy had devoted the best years in his life to the welfare of the college, and has been sacrificing in his devotion to it. Under his manage-

ment, the institution has grown to become among the first and thousand of people in the State will regret to learn he will sever his connection with it."

The Scott County News another strong Vardaman partisan, contained the following:

"The college under management of Prof. Hardy has been wonderfully successful. It has grown from a very insignificant affair to one of the best Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges in the South. Prof. Hardy is an educator of recognized ability, and by throwing himself heartily into the work and keeping closely in touch with the education system of the entire state he has not only pushed the college to the front but has taken a lead in the educational work and the development of the rich resources of the state which will be hard to fill by another."

"Mr. Hardy possesses with his educational ability, also business ability, a combination seldom embodied in one man. The teacher who devotes his life to educational work usually becomes too narrow to be trusted with extensive business affair. Of course there are exceptions to all rules and in this case Prof. Hardy is the exception. He has business ability, and is one of the best educators in the state, a combination specially suited for the presidency of a big college."

We are glad to see papers and so many others take the stand that they have. This is not a question of Vardaman or anti-Vardaman, but is a question of whether or not it would be detrimental to the A. & M. College to force its able president to re-

sign. This would not have been written were not it for the fact that Mr. Hardy's enemies are trying to use Gov. Vardaman's popularity as a club with which to knock [Hardy] out of his place. They

are trying to create the impression that the Vardaman press and Vardaman's friends want Hardy ousted, when such is not the case by a large majority.—Star Ledger.

We might add that there was nor is now no stronger supporter of Senator Vardaman than the Star-Ledger. None went further or did more toward his nomination and election.

Prohibition Rally.

A large crowd congregated at the Methodist Church last Sunday night, all the churches cooperating in a grand prohibition rally. Dr. G. W. Eichelberger, President of the Anji-Saloon League of Mississippi, gave an interesting address on the evils of the whiskey traffic.

He recited case after case of the wretchedness and poverty caused by the whiskey appetite and his portrayals of how the liquor evil made criminals of men, and brought them to degradation and some to fill a pauper's grave were indeed convincing. His address was interspersed with darts of witicism which amused the audience when pathos abounded. Dr. Eichelberger is a speaker of much prominence and is accomplishing much good throughout the state.

NOTICE.

At the Baptist Church Sunday there will be preaching by the pastor both morning and night. Baptizing at night also.

Morning sermon on "The Credit System." Evening sermon on "Love the Greatest Thing." All are cordially invited to be present.

W. A. JORDAN.

We are expecting our delinquent subscribers to pay their subscriptions.