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ROANOKE'S REIGN OF TERROR.

Summary of the News of the Unfortunate Occurrence.

The Fusilade of Death From the Guns of the Militia—Eight Killed and More Than Twenty-Five Injured—The Negro, Thomas Smith, Finally Taken From the Police and Lynched—His Body Burned Next Day—Story of the Brutal Crime He Committed—Investigation by the Coroner's Jury.

On account of the unprecedented call for copies of THE TIMES containing the very full account of the recent unfortunate occurrence in this city the very large supply printed has been exhausted. To meet the demand for the entire story THE TIMES this morning reprints the articles contained in the successive issues since Wednesday, September 20, and includes the completion of the taking of evidence by the coroner's jury yesterday afternoon, also their verdict. The story follows:

Roanoke passed through a reign of terror Wednesday night, September 20, and the city has since been enveloped in gloom. Eight men are lying cold in death, and twenty-five more are wounded, some of them mortally.

The scene, one of the most terrible ever witnessed, which was over in a few minutes, beggars description.

The dead are:

S. A. VICK, proprietor of St. James Hotel.

WILLIAM SHEETS, a fireman of the Norfolk and Western railroad.

CHARLES WHITMYER, a conductor on the Norfolk and Western.

J. B. TYLER, of Blue Ridge, a section master on the Norfolk and Western.

GEORGE WHITE, shot through the leg and bled to death.

W. E. HALL.

JOHN MILLS, of Back creek, Roanoke county, a farmer and distiller.

GEORGE SETTLES, of Vinton, shot in the head.

The wounded are:

O. C. FALLS, member of Friendship Fire Company, mortally wounded.

WILL EDDY, shot through the groin.

GEORGE O. MUNROE, shot in the head.

FRANK WILLS, shot in the arm.

THOMAS NELSON, leg shot off.

LEROY WHITE, shot in the back.

J. B. MCGEHEE, shot in the leg; flesh wound.

J. B. SHEPPARD, shot in the leg.

E. J. SMALL, shot in the stomach.

J. F. POWELL, shot through the body.

J. E. WAYLAND, clerk in the postoffice, shot in the leg.

GEORGE LEIGH, clerk at Ponce de Leon Hotel, flesh wound in the leg.

WALTER P. HUFF, knocked down and ankle badly sprained.

MAYOR H. E. TROUT, shot in the foot.

J. H. CAMPBELL.

EDGAR WHALING.

C. W. FIGGATT.

C. P. NORTH.

O. B. TAYLOR.

DAVID RUGGLES.

N. E SPARKS.

T. E. NELMS.

CHARLIE MOTEN, colored.

WM. BERRY, shot in the leg.

Toward nightfall the angry mob which was guarding the jail in which was confined Thomas Smith, the negro who had so nearly murdered Mrs. Henry Bishop, began to increase and to become more excited.

By eight o'clock the excitement was intense but at the same time was suppressed. When at this time over 100 men from Troutville, Hollins and the surrounding country, where Mrs. Bishop lives, came up Campbell avenue followed by hundreds of the citizens of Roanoke, shouting and yelling, the restraint was renewed and the crowd assumed the proportions of an angry mob of 4,000 or 5,000 people.

The excited men passed around the door to the station house and angrily demanded the prisoner, but the Light Infantry, who had, with Mayor Trout and the police force, retired inside the jail building, remained firm at their posts.

For some time it was thought that no attack would be made as there seemed to be no leader, and mixed up with the mob were hundreds of citizens who were drawn there solely from curiosity and who were innocent of any intention to violate the good order of the city.

The crowd was in a fever heat of excitement and suspense when several hot headed, imprudent persons in the street opposite the jail, near the Chinese laundry, fired a number of pistol shots.

The militia at once returned the fire with the fatal result above stated. It cannot be ascertained who gave the order to fire, but it was asserted on the street to have been given by Mayor Trout himself. At any rate no warning was given the citizens.

THE SECOND FUSILADE.

At the second fusilade from the soldiers the mob fell back, most of them into Commerce street, a number to Roanoke street and some into Salem avenue.

When the smoke cleared away the work of carrying off the dead, dying and wounded began and at once the engine house of the Junior Hose Company, Dr. Luck's office on Roanoke street, Fox & Christian's drug store and Dr. Gale's office were turned into improvised hospitals.

Stretchers were brought out and strong and willing hands bore away their friends that only five minutes before were in the bloom of health and strength.

Excitement was at a fever heat and the indignation against Mayor Trout and against the Light Infantry was terrible. Mr. Trout had been carried to the Ponce de Leon Hotel, but afterwards taken home and an angry mob went through the hotel demanding that the mayor should produce the negro or die. On finding he had left the hotel they proceeded to his residence on Campbell avenue and went through every room in the house, but Mr. Trout had previously been carried away in a carriage by his friends.

The soldiers at once dispersed and went to their homes, the mob hooting and crying shame. Another raid was made on the jail, but the prisoner was not to be found, as he had been surreptitiously carried out at the rear of the jail by officers while the dead citizens were being carried off the field and was taken out of the city in a buggy, and, it was supposed, carried to Salem.

The excited mass of people, who, by this time had lost all reason, forced their way into the hardware store of Evans Brothers and compelled the clerks to hand out a large number of guns and pistols.

WOODS AND WATTS ADDRESS THE MOB.

An improvised platform was placed in front of Fox & Christian's drug store and J. Allen Watts began to plead with the citizens to listen to reason and disperse. In vain did he call on them for silence and appealed to their reason, telling the multitude what a fearful thing it would be to shed more innocent blood.

All the time the crowd was yelling, and probably not a dozen men heard the speech of Mr. Watts. There were cries of "Sit down!" and some one in the crowd fired three pistol shots, presumably at Mr. Watts, but no damage was done.

Judge John W. Woods mounted the platform at the side of Mr. Watts and tried to speak to the people, but his voice was drowned in the cries of the multitude who were demanding that the mayor be brought out and made, at the peril of his life, to state where the prisoner had gone.

At this time some one started the cry that the prisoner was hid in the attic or cupola of the courthouse and a mad rush was made on that building, and in a few minutes there were more people in the temple of justice than was ever before between its four walls at any one time.

The courthouse was searched from the ground to the roof, but the prisoner was not there and the crowd came out disappointed and more angry than ever.

The crowd still remained on the streets until after midnight and scattering groups were standing around in different portions of the city until morning discussing the awful occurrences of the early evening.

Nearly all the physicians in the city were on hand ministering to the wants of the dying and wounded men, and everything known in medical science was done to alleviate the sufferings of the wounded.

Several ministers of the gospel, prominent among whom were Rev. W. F. Hamner, Rev. Dr. W. C. Campbell and Rev. S. L. Rice, were on the ground from the first bestowing the solaces of religion to the men in their dying moments.

AT THE UNDERTAKER'S.

The scene at the undertaking establishment of Oakey & Woolwine was a ghastly one. One by one the dead men were borne in on stretchers until seven men were lying there at one time being prepared for burial. The dead men there were S. A. Vick, Capt. Charles Whitmyer, Wm. Sheets, W. E. Hall, J. B. Tyler, George Settles and John T. Mills.

The awful evidences of the terrible tragedy were only too visible in the streets. In front of the station house, near the street car track, were large pools of blood and brains. Bullets were picked up in the streets, and their marks can be seen on telegraph poles and on the fences along the street.

The stationhouse, the jail and the courthouse have the appearance of having been struck by a cyclone. The windows in the mayor's office are filled with bullet holes, and some of the glasses were broken out by stones. The panes of glass in several of the windows in the courthouse were broken out.

It was rather remarkable that no one in the jail or stationhouse was injured, for as soon as the fatal volley was fired by the soldiers the building was fairly riddled with bullets.

One fact that makes the affair all the more to be regretted is that a special grand jury had already been summoned to indict the would-be murderer. Hustings Court was in session and the word of the commonwealth's attorney, the judge and all the officers of the court had been given solemnly to the masses of citizens at the jail that the negro's trial would be immediate and speedy, and the punishment meted out as severe as the laws of the land would allow.

The special grand jury is composed as follows: Frank R. May, R. H. Angell, R. T. Boswell, A. S. Chewning, Tenford Clingenpeel, J. T. Smoot, W. P. Dupuy, P. W. Huff and Van Taliaferro.

It was openly demanded last night that an investigation must be made speedily and thoroughly or there would be more violence. It is evident that thousands of citizens will demand to know on whose head rests the responsibility of the death of eight men.

Thursday was the saddest day in the history of Roanoke, a day fraught with many perils and exciting scenes, which not even time itself can efface from the memory of those who passed through the awful scenes.

When the first bright and peaceful rays of the glorious autumn sun fell on the quiet city, hushed in sleep Thursday morning the mutilated body of the negro fiend, Thomas Smith, was dangling at the end of a hempen rope from the hickory three near the corner of Franklin road and Ninth avenue s. w. silent and alone.

Several parties would occasionally visit the spot through curiosity and relic hunters stripped branches from the tree and almost divested the upper portion of the negro's body of clothing, carrying away small shreds as mementoes of the awful night and the tragic end of the wretched cause of all the trouble.

As was stated in THE TIMES, the lynching was done by a body of about one dozen determined men, followed by the same number of boys and other spectators. When the noose was adjusted around the neck of the condemned wretch he cried out, "Oh, Lord, have mercy on me!" and was at one strong pull of the rope launched into eternity to stand at the judgment bar of his God.

As the morning advanced the number of spectators who gathered on the spot to witness the ghastly scene increased, and by the time the coroner's jury arrived on the spot there had assembled a vast concourse of people.

Dr. Henry V. Gray, the coroner, early in the morning summoned the following jury to hold an inquest over the remains: W. P. Camp, merchant, of the firm of Hughes & Camp; F. O. Williams, of F. O. Williams & Co., slate and tin roof manufacturers; W. A. Banks, J. A. Curry, carpenter; W. H. Simmons and E. W. Staples.

These gentlemen repaired to the fatal spot, viewed the ghastly body of the victims and made all possible inquiries into the particulars of the matter.

Finding it impossible to obtain any reliable information concerning the perpetrators of the lynching the jury returned the following verdict:

"An inquest taken at and near the corner of Franklin road and Ninth avenue southwest, in the city of Roanoke, county of Roanoke, State of Virginia, on the 21st day of September, 1893, before Henry V. Gray, coroner of said city, upon the view of the body of Thomas Smith, there lying dead, the jurors sworn to inquire when, how and by what means the said Thomas Smith came to his death, upon their oaths do say that the aforesaid Smith came to his death on the night of September 21, 1893, between the hours of 12 and 6 o'clock a. m., by being hung by the neck to a tree until he was dead and by persons unknown to this jury."

Soon after the coroner's jury had left the scene the body was cut down by Sid Pritty, according to the orders of the authorities, and it was intended to bring it to an undertaker's establishment to be prepared for burial. This was not allowed and the angry crowd grew terrible in its violence and excitement, and the leaders swore they would drag the remains to the residence of Mayor Trout and hang them in the yard and then bury them in front of the residence.

Strong men caught hold of the rope and dragged the body across the street, and would have carried out their threats but for Rev. W. C. Campbell and Capt. Robert B. Moorman, who made earnest speeches to the multitude and implored them in the name of common humanity and decency to desist from the terrible and outrageous undertaking. At last they agreed not to do so, and at Captain Moorman's suggestion, a wagon was called, the mutilated body of the victim put in and was driven off toward the river amid the deafening cries of 4,000 people, saying, "Take him and burn him."

On, on went the mad mob bent on their sickening scheme towards the Roanoke river until they reached a spot about five hundred yards above the narrow guage railroad bridge, where they halted and proposed in a suitable place to enact the deed they came there for. Several cedar trees were cut down and piled up, making a hastily improvised funeral pyre, on which was placed the dead body on the lynched negro.

A detail was sent out after oil and light wood, which soon returned with two gallons of coal oil and several goods boxes, which were added to the pile, and in a short time the arrangements were complete. At 10 o'clock to the minute the match was struck and fire set to the pile of inflammable material, which sent its lurid flames and dense volumes of dark smoke high toward the heavens.

The flames roared and cracked, leaping high in the air, while all around stood 4,000 people, men, women, boys and children, on foot, in buggies and carriages and on horseback, and numbers of them shouting over the horrible scene. In a short while all was over and all that remained on earth of Thomas Smith, the would-be murderer, was a pile of white ashes and a few bits of bone.

Hundreds of the visitors gathered close around the human bonfire and cast in pieces of wood, determined to add something toward the cremation. Smith's sister, a girl 15 years of age, stood by and witnessed the terrible fate of her brother's remains.

The mob dispersed, leaving in squads and alone, most of them coming back to town and renewing their threats against the military, the mayor and all the city officers. There were calls for an indignation meeting to be held in the afternoon at the Academy of Music and also at night, but the subsequent conciliatory action of various citizens and committees advised against such meetings.

Calls were issued for railroad men's meetings, Masonic and Red Men's meetings, and a meeting of the employes of the Roanoke Machine Works, to be held at the shops later in the day.

The conservative and conciliatory ground taken at all of these meetings did much to allay the sanguinary spirit which pervaded the city, and caused numbers of the citizens to return to their homes.

In the absence of Mayor Trout from the city, according to law the reins of government fell to the hands of the president of the city council, R. A. Buckner, who early yesterday morning issued the following proclamation:

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
ROANOKE, Va., Sept. 21, 1893.

To the Citizens of Roanoke:

It is with profound regret that the deplorable circumstances of last night existed which caused the sacrifice of innocent lives and to prevent the possibility of renewal of violence and further loss of life, I hereby appeal to the sober judgment and law-loving sentiment of all the people of this city and call upon them to aid me in preserving order and in securing a thorough and searching investigation of the causes which led to those unhappy results. And I hereby pledge that every effort will be made to bring to justice any one who may be liable for the wrongful death or injury of any citizen.

I hereby call upon all citizens to at once return to their homes and resume their usual occupations. The welfare and prosperity of our city absolutely depend upon the preservation of peace and good order.

R. A. BUCKNER, Acting Mayor.

All day a determined set of men hung around the courthouse and jail with a resolution not to disperse until some agreement was reached. Toward evening there was talk of a compromise being effected and W. P. Dupuy went to men who were supposed to be the leaders and asked what they proposed to do.

They replied that there would be no more trouble if Mayor Trout, Chief of Police Terry, Sergeant Traynham and Special Officer M. C. Morris were removed from office.

Mr. Dupuy said he would confer with the citizens' committee, which he at once did. At the request of this committee Acting Mayor Buckner suspended the chief of police, the city sergeant and Officer Morris, pending the investigation.

Mr. Dupuy returned to the courthouse at 6 o'clock and made a brief speech relating this action of Mr. Buckner, and told the people that while no one had the power to remove Mayor Trout, he promised them in the name of the personal friends or the mayor, who would give their word, that Mr. Trout would not resume his office until after a full investigation was held. The crowd then dispersed and went peacefully to their homes.

Meetings were held by the Masons, the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of the Mystic Chain, the Red Men and other orders, at which resolutions were passed to the effect that they would uphold the laws and do every possible thing to preserve the peace and good order of the city.

There was a large assemblage of citizens, composed of railroad men and shop men, in the Smith music hall in the afternoon. Vice-President Sands, of the Norfolk and Western, addressed the people and asked them to assist in preserving peace. He called on them to know how many would volunteer to act as special police in case of an emergency and a large number expressed their willingness to serve the city in that way. These men were furnished with badges and sworn in as special officers.

Later in the afternoon there was a large meeting at the Roanoke Machine Works, which was addressed by Vice-President Sands, W. A. Glasgow and H. A. Gillis, who appealed to the people to exert themselves to preserve order. The speeches were heartily received and about fifty men volunteered to act as special police, who were directly put on duty. At this meeting the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this meeting, the firing upon the crowd assembled around the courthouse was not justified by existing circumstances and was in a great measure unprovoked, and we hereby demand from the proper authorities that a most rigid investigation be made of all the circumstances of the affair, and that, in case the guilt of any official, civil or military, be proved, that said officer shall be requested to resign, and that he be punished to the full extent of the law; and that, if the Roanoke Light Infantry be found guilty of the charges against them, they be disbanded and their arms and equipments be returned to the State authorities.

The special committee of thirteen, of which Maj. Joseph H. Sands is chairman and John J. Sheehan is secretary, published a card containing resolutions passed earlier in the day and a statement that Mr. Buckner had suspended several officers. This had a conciliatory effect on the masses.

The statement is as follows:

To the people of Roanoke:

At a meeting of the citizens of Roanoke, held at different points in the last few hours, the undersigned committee was appointed to look after the interests and welfare of the citizens of the city, and at their first meeting the following resolutions was adopted:

Whereas it is most desirable that all excitement should be allayed, exciting speeches or conversation discouraged, and that the majesty of the law shall be respected as being competent to deal fully and justly with all persons who may be suspected of sharing illegally in the events of last night; therefore be it

"Resolved, By this joint committee, appointed by citizens of Roanoke, that it demand the immediate summoning before a grand jury all persons who can give information as to suspected persons; this committee, individually and collectively, take such action as may cause the people to refrain from all violence or threats of violence and disperse to their homes and usual avocations.

"Resolved, That the judge of the Hustings Court is hereby respectfully requested to summons a grand jury of not less than sixteen (16) good, substantial citizens, to whom he shall give in charge for immediate action, inquiry into the occurrences of last night."

Mr. R. A. Buckner, acting mayor of the city, has appointed a large number of special policemen, whose duty it is to urge upon the citizens to preserve order and to disperse to their homes; and every man is asked and appealed to support these officers in the preservation of the peace of the city.

The people are assured that everything will be done by this committee, collectively and individually, to thoroughly investigate the sad affair of last night, and to deal with any one, acting illegally, in accordance with the laws of the land.

Upon the recommendation of this committee, and charges having been preferred, Mr. R. A. Buckner, president of the City Council, and acting mayor, has suspended Chief of Police Terry, J. B. Traynham and M. C. Morris, pending a full investigation; and Mr. Buckner, president of the City Council, will act as mayor of the city until a full and complete investigation has been made of the action last night of the mayor and all the officers of the city. [Signed]

JNO. J. SHEEHAN, Secretary.
JOS. H. SANDS, Chairman.
J. C. RAWN,
J. H. WARD,
J. CLEVELAND HALL,
ROBERT AIRHART,
W. E. DEATON,
W. A. THOMAS,
W. P. DUPUY,
J. A. GEARHEART,
ROBT. E. SCOTT,
JOHN E. PENN,
WILLIAM I. ANNIN,
Committee.

Roanoke, September 21.

The committee held a second meeting when it was agreed that the affairs in the city looked better than at any time during the trouble.

By Friday the city had been fully restored to quiet and order. There were no demonstrations of any kind, and while there was still a strong feeling in the matter, everything was subdued. The city is again under the civil authorities, and the country people who were loudest in their demonstrations have returned to their homes.

The committee of thirteen citizens, who have been largely instrumental in restoring harmony in the city, meet twice each day. They believe that the trouble is over, and their chief work now is to have the affair properly investigated before the coroner's jury and the special grand jury.

With the exception of J. H. Campbell and Otho C. Falls, all the wounded are expected to recover. Mr. Falls and Mr. Campbell are both very dangerously wounded, and their physicians entertain but little hope of their recovery.

FUNERAL OF GEORGE SETTLES.

The funeral services over the body of George Settles, who lost his life in the sad occurrence, were preached Thursday afternoon at his home, about two miles below Vinton, by Rev. C. H. Buchanan, after which his remains were carried to the family burying lot and placed in their last resting place.

Mr. Settles was a young man of strong heart, good character and was a great favorite with all who knew him. The entire community extend their heartfelt sympathy to his grief stricken mother and relatives in their great affliction.

DETAILS OF SMITH'S CRIME.

Mrs. Bishop Enticed Into a Saloon Basement and Horribly Beaten.

The dastardly crime committed was one of the darkest that stains the criminal pages of the history of the city, remarkably free from crimes and outrages more common in other cities.

An aged and respectable white woman—Mrs. Anna Bishop, wife of Henry Bishop, a well-to-do and respected citizen of Cloverdale, Botetourt county—was at the market Wednesday morning, in company with her 14-year-old son, with a load of produce.

She was enticed into a vacant cellar near the Randolph street bridge, cruelly beaten into insensibility and out of all recognition, and then robbed of her purse, containing less than $2, by the negro fiend, Thomas Smith, an idle, vagrant young negro, who resides at Vinton, and who at one time was an employe of the Crozer Iron Company's furnace.

The dastardly deed was discovered about ten o'clock and in an incredibly short time was spread throughout the city, and a vast concourse of citizens assembled around and near the market square.

About 10:30 o'clock the woman recovered consciousness in the cellar, crawled out in her pitiable condition, found her way to the market square and related the terrible story of the brutal outrage to the clerk of the market, Robert E. Coleman, and to others who took her into the Roanoke and Southern saloon, where she was given stimulants and messengers dispatched for a physician.

Some one had told George Bishop, her 14-year-old son, that an old lady had been nearly murdered and it was thought she was his mother. The boy came rushing into the saloon almost breathless and looked at the distorted countenance of the old lady.

Her long, black hair was matted with gore and her clothes had been torn in tatters and her hands and whole body were covered with blood, dirt and slime from the cellar.

He cried out, "Oh, no, that's not my mother," and did not recognize her until he heard her voice. Then the lamentations of the boy were pitiable indeed.

The injured woman was soon entirely conscious and collected and told her story without excitement and in a straightforward manner.

She was in the market, she said to a TIMES reporter, and had nearly disposed of her produce when a negro approached her and claimed to want to purchase a box of grapes she had for a Mrs. Hicks, whom he said lived on Salem avenue near the bridge.

She unsuspiciously followed him to deliver the grapes and receive her pay down the steps and into the cellar under the vacant house, No. 121 Salem avenue, next to the Randolph street bridge.

As soon as they were inside he threw down [illegible]

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