

# THE WINNSBORO RIOT.

## BRAVE SHERIFF HOOD SUC- CUMBS TO HIS WOUNDS.

Thought Prisoner Was Amply Protected, But Precautions Failed To Balk Terrible Desire For Vengeance—Clyde Isenhower, Who Headed the Attack On the Sheriff's Party, Desperately Wounded In Hospital Here.—Several Officers and Bystanders Had Exceedingly Narrow Escapes. 1915-

Winnsboro, June 14:—Two people were shot to death, one was probably fatally wounded and half a dozen others were more or less painfully hurt here this morning in a battle precipitated by the bringing of Jules Smith, a negro, to Winnsboro for trial for alleged criminal assault upon a white woman of Fairfield county.

The dead are: A. D. Hood, sheriff of Fairfield county and Jules Smith, the prisoner, and Clyde Isenhower, relative of the victim, is in desperate condition at a Chester hospital.

J. R. Boulware, a deputy sheriff of Fairfield county, is probably fatally shot.

Soon after the tragedy the grand jury met and returned true bills, charging murder against Clyde Isenhower, who at that time was lingering on the point of death; Ernest Isenhower, his brother; Jesse Morrison, a brother-in-law, and James Rawls, the indictments charging the murder of Jules Smith.

The inquest into the negro's death was adjourned until Friday. The inquest into the sheriff's death will be held tomorrow.

Both Sheriff Hood and Isenhower were literally shot to pieces. Each had five or six bullets in his body. Both were shot several times in the abdomen as well as in the arms and hands. Deputy Boulware was struck but once, the bullet penetrating the abdominal cavity and caused what is regarded as an exceedingly dangerous wound. Smith, too, was struck but once, the bullet taking effect just to the left of the navel.

Earle Stevenson, another deputy, was shot twice through the left arm, near the elbow. One of the bullets severed the artery in the arm, and young Stevenson suffered terribly from the loss of blood before the tourniquet was applied to staunch the flow. Stevenson and Isenhower were taken to Chester late this afternoon by S. W. Pryor, M. D., for surgical attention in the Pryor hospital. Isenhower died at 10:30 o'clock tonight.

A special train came here, from Columbia immediately after the shooting and Sheriff Hood and Deputy Boulware were rushed to Columbia for operations, the former dying early tonight.

In the fusillade, many shots went wild, striking a bystander here and there, or burying themselves in the walls of the building. On the stairway up which Sheriff Hood led his prisoner, the wall is splashed with blood and the plastering is bullet drilled. Policeman Haynes, who with Sheriff Hood was leading the negro up the stairway, hesitated just a moment when the firing began and three or four bullets were plugged in the wall on either side of his head.

H. R. Beckham, a special deputy, was shot through the calf of the right leg. R. L. Kelly, a magistrate's constable, was hit in the thumb and arm. William Morrison, a brother-in-law of Clyde Isenhower, has a bullet beneath the scalp. Two bullets punctured the left leg of J. W. Richardson's trousers below the knee. One of these left a small mark on the opposite ankle. Alec Broome, another deputy, was struck on the ankle by a bullet going off at a tangent.

D. F. Smith, who was standing in the court yard, was struck in the side by a bullet, which had spent its force against one of the large columns of the portico.

W. L. Holley, judge of probate, also had a narrow escape. Mr. Holley was leaning against the door facing of the lower front entrance to the court house. When Clyde Isenhower had emptied his pistol he ran into the building, with bullets flying in his trail. One of these bit a particle from the brick coping at Mr. Holley's side, and barely brushing his stomach, buried itself in the opposite wall.

There were not more than four or five in the attacking party. Since Smith's arrest two or three months ago the prisoner had been held at the State penitentiary, from which he was taken early this morning and brought to Winnsboro by Sheriff Hood and eight deputies. As a matter of precaution 10 or 12 others had been sworn in, to assist in the delivery of the prisoner to the court. When the two automobiles arrived from Columbia, the machines were switched into the jail yard, and the prisoner was led toward the court house. Nothing happened until the officials began to ascend the steps leading to the court room. Then Clyde Isenhower, relative of the alleged victim, opened fire. So close was the assailant that the ballisters are powder stained.

The weapons used in the fire between Sheriff Hood and Isenhower practically locked each other in the exchange of shots. It is thought that Isenhower killed the negro with the first shot fired.

Indictments for murder were returned late this afternoon against

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four members of the band attacking the officials and the prisoner. These accused were: Clyde Isenhower, Ernest Isenhower, a brother; Jesse Morrison, a brother-in-law, and James Rawls. Ernest Isenhower has been arrested and is held in jail.

Court had not yet convened when the tragedy occurred. Immediately upon the opening this afternoon at 3 o'clock Judge John S. Wilson charged the grand jury to make a thorough investigation, instructing that "efforts should be made to bring to justice every man who has taken the law into his own hands." The jury went to its rooms immediately, and at 7 o'clock returned the indictments.

One of the men indicted, Ernest Isenhower, was arrested and placed in jail early this afternoon. A warrant was issued for Rawls immediately after the return by the grand jury.

accused would not be brought to trial at this term of court. Three days must expire between all defenses and prosecutions, and in addition to this technicality some of the chief witnesses are incapacitated to testify just now.

Despite his weakened condition from a half dozen wounds, Sheriff Hood led the negro into the court room, where the prisoner dropped beside the dock, dying there a few minutes later. The officer then staggered on within the bar, and was eased to the floor by one of the court officials.

"Well, they got me. I'm shot all to pieces," were his only words.

Deputy Boulware followed his chief into the court room and dropped on a bench near the middle of the room.

Isenhower emptied his pistol and then dodged into the sheriff's office on the lower floor of the court house. When he was found there a minute later, stretched at full length behind the door, he was unbreaching his pistol and throwing the shells to the floor.

Like Sheriff Hood, Isenhower was almost shot to pieces. In addition to the shots from the front, three deputies flanked him from the north side of the building. None of the crowd intervened and bullets from the officers' weapons drilled him clean, several of them taking effect in the right shoulder and in the right side.

The cement surface about the courtyard, the stairs and the court room were blood spotted. Unbroken streaks of blood stains were woven wherever the wounded men men walked and puddles formed wherever they fell.

Sheriff Hood was regarded as one of the best officials in the State. Being thrown upon his own resources early in life, he became a guard on the county chängang. Later he was elected county supervisor. He was serving his 11th year as sheriff of Fairfield county. He was 43 or 44 years old. He was married, but had no children.

One of the characteristics of Sheriff Hood was his ardent enthusiasm for sports. He was a close follower of the game of baseball, and was often to be seen in Columbia, attending the South Atlantic league games. Recently when the Willard-Johnson bout was held in Habana, Sheriff Hood was one of the few South Carolinians who witnessed the fight.

Immediately after the sheriff died in Columbia tonight Coroner Scott of Richland county notified Coroner T. F. Smith, of Fairfield. The body was turned over to relatives and will be brought here early tomorrow, when an inquest will be held.

Coroner Smith empaneled a jury today to pass upon the killing of the negro. In the meantime, the grand jury investigation had begun and after the jury had examined the body, the members were dismissed to meet Friday afternoon at 10 o'clock for further investigation.

Columbia, June 15.—One of the principals in the Winnsboro riot, H. R. Beckham, special deputy sheriff, who was wounded in the leg, described the incident as follows, when seen yesterday afternoon at the Columbia hospital:

"I am a citizen of Winnsboro and was deputized by Sheriff Hood to assist him in protecting the negro, Jules Smith, in case an attempt should be made to take the prisoner from his custody. I was one of the party which came to Columbia this morning to get the negro from the penitentiary. We did not anticipate serious trouble, but the sheriff, to be on the safe side, deputized 12 more men when we reached Winnsboro. There was not an unusually large crowd in town.

"Our automobiles were stopped at the curb across the street from the court house. I was in advance, other deputies flanking and following the sheriff, who had hold of the prisoner. We had reached the court house steps when the crowd began to surge about.

"I heard Sheriff Hood order somebody to keep his hands away from his pistol. It was then that the trouble began. Somebody drew a revolver. Clyde Isenhower, who seemed to be leading the mob, was firing at the sheriff when I looked back. The sheriff's coat waved each time he was hit. Someone shot me here in the right leg. The bullet went through the fleshy part of the calf and I think grazed the bone.

"The negro started to run up the steps and I grabbed at him, but missed. Then I drew my pistol for protection. The bullets were flying thick and fast. One of the other deputies pulled me around to the

side of the steps, into a better defensive position. I saw Isenhower himself was shot all to pieces.

"Somebody whom I did not know stuck his pistol into my face, at the height of the affair, and was about to fire, when I asked him, "Why do you want to kill me?" He lowered his pistol and mixed with the crowd. I have no idea how many men were in the attacking party. We were pretty busy and hadn't time to notice details. It was a fearful experience, but I tried in every way to do my duty."

Mr. Beckham's wound, made by a pistol bullet, which pierced the calf just below the knee, was dressed at the Columbia hospital on the arrival of the train bringing Sheriff Hood and Rural Policeman Boulware.

The story of how Sheriff Hood, after having received four wounds, carried the negro, Jules Smith, nearly to the prisoner's dock in the Fairfield county court house at Winnsboro, was brought to Columbia yesterday by J. M. Stone, a special deputy, who was among the score of officers engaged in the fight. The negro, Mr. Stone said, died shortly after being dropped by the sheriff. Mr. Stone suffered a slight powder burn about the face.

"The mob shot at Deputy Boulware, even after Sheriff Hood had carried the negro into the court room," said Mr. Stone.

Mr. Stone said that he was in front of the prisoner, on the long steps leading to the court room, when Clyde Isenhower pushed a pistol through the banister and fired three times at Sheriff Hood.

"After three shots had been fired by Isenhower," said Mr. Stone, "Sheriff Hood pulled his pistol and began firing. I think that the sheriff hit Isenhower every time he fired. The sheriff had told all of the deputies not to fire until it was necessary."

Mr. Stone said that all of the attack was in front of the prisoner, on the long steps. He has no idea how many shots were fired.—Special to The State.