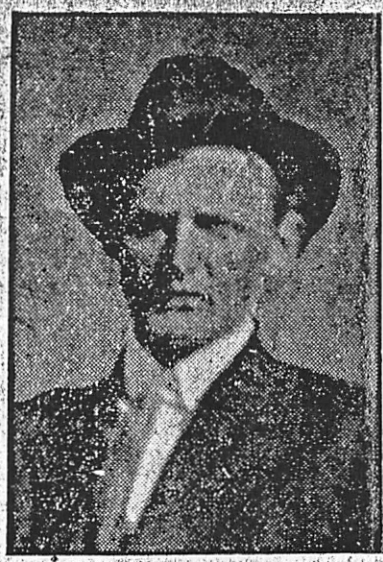


June 15, 1912

News Herald



Sheriff Adam D. Hood

J. Raleigh Boulware

**Let the People Answer.**

In all human probability by the time these words appear in print A. D. Hood, sheriff of Fairfield county, elected by the white people and sworn solemnly to uphold the laws which you, the people of South Carolina, made, will lie dead—dead in the performance of his duty, dead in the keeping of the oath which you caused him to take.

By showing the white feather and perjuring his soul he could have saved his life.

Defending the laws of the people of South Carolina, your laws, he dies. As your representative, holding in his hands the honor of the State entrusted to him by you, with no thought for himself, he pours out his life.

What are YOU going to do about it?

A brave deputy sheriff, Boulware, for doing his duty—a duty that you by your laws gave him to do and which he could not have shirked without proving himself a liar and a coward—lies grievously and perhaps mortally wounded. He has kept his oath and been faithful to his trust.

Like Hood and Boulware, two or three other officers, entrusted with the upholding of the laws that you and your fathers have made, lie in hospitals suffering from wounds.

Quietly and simply doing their duty, holding no grudge or grievance against any man, intent solely on carrying out their sacred obligations to the State,

A citizen, one who fired upon the sheriff and his posse and desired the death of the negro, is dead or dying, shot by the officers in defense, not of the negro, but of the law which the people have made. They had no interest in the miserable negro, to them the prisoner was a mere thing—the thing which they had sworn to protect. They kept their oaths.

What is the profit to the citizen—or to his surviving associates, in the deadly assault upon the law?

The trial was about to begin. The life of the negro was surely forfeit unless his guilt was in grave doubt. You, the people, have made escape from the death penalty very, very hard for those accused of the crime against woman. Even the attempt is now punishable with death and the crime is one, of all others, most difficult to disprove. The negro could not suffer a severer punishment than death; that is all that he has suffered. To have refrained from shooting the sheriff would have been but to wait for the prisoner to be killed in the electric chair. The negro has perhaps escaped what would have been a more painful end.

The facts of the tragedy are clear. There was no "race conflict." Only one negro was killed and he was an unarmed prisoner. White officers were fired upon by a mob of white men. The shooting was at the court house door in daylight and a number of men constituted the mob. Of course some

**THE STATE: COLUMBI**

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What are YOU going to do about it? A brave deputy sheriff, Boulware, doing his duty—a duty that you your laws gave him to do and which he could not have shirked without proving himself a liar and a coward—lies grievously and perhaps fatally wounded. He has kept his word and been faithful to his trust. Like Hood and Boulware, two of the other officers, entrusted with upholding of the laws that you your fathers have made, lie in hospitals suffering from wounds, quietly and simply doing their duty, holding no grudge or grievance against any man, intent solely on carrying out their sacred obligations to the State, the people, to YOU, they were fired on and wounded and killed, as though they had been outlaws, invaders and enemies of their country and public peace.

The negro prisoner charged with the most bestial and heinous of crimes, the steps of your court house when he was about to enter to be tried by a white jury and a white judge, but before he was tried or found guilty of crime, has been fired on and killed. He never can be proved guilty under the laws which the white people of South Carolina have made. Guilty he may have been probably was, but to kill him instead of sending him to meet his end with a human presumption of justice in his favor.

THE DUTY OF THE CITIZEN—

or to his surviving associates, in the deadly assault upon the law?

The trial was about to begin. The life of the negro was surely forfeit unless his guilt was in grave doubt. You, the people, have made escape from the death penalty very, very hard for those accused of the crime against woman. Even the attempt is now punishable with death and the crime is one of all others, most difficult to disprove. The negro could not suffer a severer punishment than death; that is all that he has suffered. To have refrained from shooting the sheriff would have been but to wait for the prisoner to be killed in the electric chair. The negro has perhaps escaped what would have been a more painful end.

The facts of the tragedy are clear. There was no "race conflict." Only one negro was killed and he was an unarmed prisoner. White officers were fired upon by a mob of white men. The shooting was at the court house door in daylight and a number of men constituted the mob. Of course some of them are known. In being armed with concealed weapons they came to the town as lawbreakers. The circuit court is in session and the grand jury of Fairfield county has not been discharged.

The sole question is whether the people uphold the mob or the law. The killing of the negro drops into a secondary place.

The assembled mob waited for the law officers and fired upon them and their prisoner. Sheriff Hood and his officers were not responsible for the law. The people made the law and delegated to them the duty of enforcing it. Their sole alternative was coward-

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ice and perjury. As gallantly and unselfishly as ever their fathers on the field of battle and with as fine and pure loyalty to honor and patriotism they did their duty and probably one or two of them have laid down their lives. If the people fail to arrest and punish members of the mob that made the infamous attack, without warning, upon them, the people become in effect approvers of it. If the sheriff and the sheriff's deputies are not safe from murder as they enter the court house in the performance of their duties, who in Fairfield county is safe from murder? In Hillsville, Virginia, desperadoes murdered the judge and officers of the court. Virginia punished the murderers, two of them with death. South Carolinians face the question. Let them answer it.