

Sheriff Hood Killed While Discharging Duty

A War With Revolvers Takes Place In Winnsboro.

6/17/1915

Three Mortally and Four Others 'Seriously Wounded'

As a result of an exchange of from 20 to 30 shots here on Monday morning Sheriff A. D. Hood is dead, J. R. Boulware, a constable, is probably mortally wounded, B. R. Beckman, serving as special deputy, is shot through the calf of the leg, Earl Stevenson, another special deputy, was shot through the left arm, severing the main artery. These represent the wounded of the officers while Clyde Isenhower, of the attacking party, lies in the Chester hospital probably mortally wounded and Jesse Morrison a brother-in-law of Isenhower is in jail with a wounded hand. As in all such cases it is hard to get an accurate account of just how it happened. We have taken the trouble to get accurate information but no two eye-witnesses can give you the same version of the unfortunate affair. But some time in the early morning Monday Sheriff Hood left here in an automobile accompanied by another in which were a number of deputies for Columbia to bring here Jule Smith to be tried that day for criminal assault. The party arrived here about 9:30 where they were joined by other deputies who had been employed to assist in preserving peace on this occasion. The Sheriff with his prisoner and about twenty deputies had reached the court house and started up the steps when Clyde Isenhower presented a pistol through the panels of the railing leading up the steps. Sheriff Hood saw it and demanded of him not to shoot but, almost simultaneously, the first shot was discharged and the second, third and continued until in all something more than twenty shots were fired. When the smoke of ballot cleared away Sheriff Hood, J. R. Boulware and Clyde Isenhower were mortally wounded and Earl Stevenson, Jesse Morrison, B. R. Beckham were more or less seriously wounded. When the shooting commenced Sheriff Hood, on the outside, had hold of the negro,

on one side and town policeman Haynes had him by the arm on the inside next to the wall and they were on the third step from the platform leading up to the court house porch. Policeman Haynes miraculously escaped injury and did not even draw his pistol. He says that the negro was hit by the first shot, the Sheriff by the second and in return Sheriff Hood shot Isenhower at the third shot. He thinks that at least four participated in the shooting on the officers from the ground. Officer Boulware was still further up the steps from the Sheriff and received a wound in the stomach. The last shots fired were from behind the large column in front of the court house at the landing on the ground and much of the damage done was from this source. After the shooting Sheriff Hood led the prisoner on up the steps and into the court and released his hold on him at the prisoners dock. The negro reeled and fell behind this dock and died in a short time, having only received 1 bullet wound. The Sheriff was placed in as comfortable position as possible in the corner of the room until a cot could be procured. Constable Boulware was placed on a table until another cot arrived. All the physicians of the town were soon on the scene and divided their time in making each wounded man as comfortable as possible. A special train from Columbia arrived about 12 o'clock and Sheriff Hood and Constables Boulware and Beckham were carried there to a hospital where an operation was performed on each of the wounded but Sheriff Hood passed away in the early part of the night. From the first it was realized that there was no hope for the brave man and he realized it. Mayor Robinson took charge of the situation and after securing orders from the Governor's office had Captain Doty with the military company under arms but all danger had passed as the

attacking party had realized the enormity of their situation and were anxious for no further trouble.

In the afternoon warrants were sworn out for Ernest Isenhower and Jesse Morrison and these two men were arrested and placed in jail. That afternoon the grand jury made presentments and warrants were also issued for Clyde Isenhower and James Rawls. Should Isenhower recover he will also face a charge of murder. He and Earl Stevenson, a special deputy are in the Chester hospital.

Strange to say out of all the the witnesses fired no by-stander was wounded. Judge of Probate Honey having the closest call. He was looking out the court house when a corner of the brick wall turned a bullet that by a fraction of an inch it would have entered his stomach.

The revolvers used on both sides were of large calibre and how so few escaped in such a fusillade is a mystery, bad enough as it is. There was there Saturday and was not to be found Monday when the witness sought it during the shooting.

S. R. McMaster went into the sheriff's office while Clyde Isenhower was lying wounded on the floor. His brother was with him and begged the witness to get a doctor. As he left to seek a physician he saw a revolver on a bayonet to the left of the door. He picked it up and examining it found four empty cartridges. The weapon was of 38 calibre. One of the Isenhower brothers then came out and said the weapon belonged to his brother Clyde and said, "Give it to me." The witness complied with the request.

Dr. J. C. Buchanan and Dr. J. E. Douglas described the wounds causing the death of Sheriff Hood. There were three. One bullet entered the lower left side of the abdomen and the ball was found under the skin on the upper right side of the abdomen. It did not come through. Another entrance was on the right of the abdomen with the exit on the left a little higher. The third wound was in the left arm. Dr. Buchanan produced the bullet removed at a Columbia hospital. It was 32 calibre.

In order to make a more thorough investigation the court was adjourned until July 2.

Coroner Holds Court.

The coroner's jury was assembled in the town hall at 3 o'clock Tuesday when Coroner R. T. Smith opened the inquest with J. E. Coan, as foreman of the jury. The bulk of the testimony was offered by the special officers who assisted the sheriff in defending the prisoner. These included rural policemen, constables and civilians sworn in for the work at hand. Among the of-

nes J. A. Scott, Jr., Walter T. McKinstry, A. P. Irby, J. W. Stevenson, T. O. Boulware, Jesse Joyner, Otis Cauthen and W. S. Blair.

The testimony of these men varied little. Some had made the trip to Columbia with the sheriff to secure the prisoner while others joined the party on the arrival of the automobiles in the jail yard. All agreed that the first shot was fired as the officers were beginning the ascent of the court house steps with the prisoner. Many of the officers declared that Clyde Isenhower shot through the balusters at the sheriff and prisoner standing close together on the steps. Testimony was given that the last shot was fired by Ernest Isenhower, and several witnesses declared that Raleigh Boulware had stated to them that he was shot by Ernest Isenhower.

The testimony of the different positions they occupied. Some claimed to have heard one remark and others another before the shooting began. Rural Policeman Scott declared that he heard some one say "Now is the time," just before the first shot was fired. Some witnesses testified that various men fired shots while others only saw these men have drawn revolvers.

The testimony of P. A. Matnews, a merchant, took a new tack. He testified that an hour after the shooting Jim Rawls came to his store and asked to be allowed to leave his pistol there. The revolver was full of cartridges, but the witness could not tell whether they had been freshly put in. No cartridge had been fired. The weapon was .32 calibre. It was turned over to the coroner by the witness.

R. W. Mathews, a general mechanic, examined the weapon. All the chambers were filled. He found three foul chambers and three clean ones. The witness looked into the barrel to see if it had been fired recently but could not tell. Could not say whether the revolver had been fired "yesterday or the day before."

J. W. Hood, a clerk, testified that Rawls left a pistol with him ten days ago and that he delivered it back to him Monday morning before the shooting. It was .32 calibre, was loaded and had not been fired, as far as he knew. K. R. McMaster, a merchant, noticed a pistol at his store, and when he asked what had become of it, he was advised that it had been returned to Mr. Rawls. It

Report of Grand Jury

To the Honorable John S. Wilson, Judge presiding.

We concur fully in the appeal of your Honor for the enforcement of the law, and deeply regret and deplore the tragedy enacted within the portals of the Court house today, to the horror of thoughtful and law-abiding citizens, and we join in your Honor's tribute to the courage of Sheriff Hood and his faithful discharge of his duties, even at the risk of his own life. He and his brave assistants on the occasion heroically discharged their duties and their conduct cannot be too highly praised and we realize that when the spirit of these men shall always characterize our public officers, much shall have been done to put lawlessness down. We have made an investigation of this affair and present for murder Clyde Isenhower, Ernest Isenhower and Jesse Morrison and James Rawls, of the prisoner, Jules Smith having been killed on this day while in the custody of the Sheriff and his deputies. The names of the witnesses will be handed the solicitor by the foreman. We also present the same parties for feloniously assaulting and shooting Sheriff A. D. Hood Earle Stevenson, Snider Kelly, B. R. Beckam, J. W. Richardson, on the 14th June 1915.

J. H. Coleman,
Foreman.

Remains of Sheriff Hood Laid To Rest. 6/19/15

With the tolling of the church bells of the town the body of Adam D. Hood was escorted from the home by a body of Mason's, Woodmen of the World and hundreds of admiring friends to the Presbyterian church yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock where services were conducted by Revs. J. B. Traywick and Oliver Johnson after which the remains were turned to the Mason's who escorted them to the cemetery where he was laid to rest with the beautiful Masonic honors.

Men, women and children from every section of the county came to honor the memory of this dead hero.

Who Will Succeed Sheriff Hood? 1915

Owing to the press of business it will be necessary for Governor Manning to appoint a Sheriff for this County at the very earliest moment practicable and the Governor has promised to do this but at the same time he will take sufficient time in order to consider carefully the qualifications of each applicant. There are a number of gentlemen who will ask that their names be considered.

By virtue of the requirements of the office of the coroner Mr. Smith is a legal Sheriff and can handle all papers, but he wants to be relieved at the earliest moment and so stated to Governor Manning. He prefers the quietude of Mossy Dale to the strenuousness of the last few days.

Constable Boulware's Condition Critical. 6/17/1915

At three o'clock today The News and Herald man talked with the nurse in charge as to the condition of Mr. J. R. Boulware and was told that while his condition was as good as could be expected but that it was critical. Should he survive the day they would then have some hope for him. The impression left on us is that now his life practically hangs by a thread. Our people have much faith in his strong constitution and that will greatly aid him in passing the crisis.

Mr. Earl Stevenson, who is in the Chester hospital, is doing well and it will not be necessary to amputate his arm as at first feared.

Prisoners Taken to Columbia. 6/17/1915

Last night about seven o'clock three automobiles left Winnsboro carrying Ernest Isenhower, Jesse Morrison and James Rawls to the penitentiary for safe keeping. Our people did not look for trouble but it is well enough to be on the safe side. We understand that the prisoners were glad of the opportunity to get out of Winnsboro for the time as they were very nervous over the situation and really feared that they would be attacked on the road.

Clyde Isenhower Dies in Chester.

Clyde Isenhower, who was shot here on Monday, died in the Chester hospital on Tuesday night and his remains were laid to rest in the burying ground at Mt. Olivet church on Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Oliver Johnson.