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Compiled by Darren McMannis

SOURCE ARTICLES

1878-20 – Deliver Us From Evil: Did Andy Hang?

WILLIAM T. CATE & JOHN J. CONWAY

SEPTEMBER 14, 1882 - CASE # 1882-HM02

This is primarily a Tennessee murder event, but it is a fascinating one from start to finish. It is well-documented. It crosses paths with Harvey County, Kansas when one of the murderers arrives by train in Newton, where he is arrested. Tennessee authorities arrived in Newton to pick up Andy Taylor, but the Harvey County Sheriff refused for a time to turn him over until the reward had been paid to him. In the end it appears that the State of Tennessee never did pay out to Harvey County. Because Newton is mentioned in various articles, much of the story is chronicled here.

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - A Remarkable Story of Crime. Andy Taylor was hanged at Loudon to-day for one of the boldest crimes ever committed. The deed which led up to it was the murder of Captain James Fletcher, in this city, February 21, 1881, by John Taylor, the eldest brother of Andy. Taylor was the engineer on the steamboat Tellico. Fletcher was a boat builder and on the day in question was engaged in making some repairs on the Tellico. A quarrel arose between him and Taylor, and the latter, being of a very impetuous nature, drew his pistol. Fletcher was an old man; Taylor a large, brawny giant, in his prime. When he drew his pistol the old man remarked that none but cowards carried pistols. Hardly had the words left his mouth when Taylor fired three times and the old man fell a corpse in his tracks. The murderer jumped into a boat, rowed rapidly down the river and was soon lost in the mountains. The cowardly murder created great excitement in the city and large posses started in pursuit, but were unsuccessful. After two months had passed Taylor was traced into the mountains of Roane county, Tennessee, his house was surrounded by armed men and he was forced to surrender. His trial was deferred nearly a year, but he was finally convicted of manslaughter and sentenced for ten years. He

appealed to the Supreme Court. During his imprisonment he proved one of the most dangerous inmates of the jail and headed every plan to escape. He was regarded as one of the most desperate criminals ever confined here and was known to have killed several men in Texas. *The Times, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Saturday, November 24, 1883. Page 2.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - Frightful Tragedy. A Desperate Rescue of a Prisoner by His Brothers. Armed Posses in Pursuit of the Desperadoes. A terrible tragedy was enacted, this afternoon, at Sweetwater, forty miles west of Knoxville, Tennessee, in which two men were killed. Sheriff W.S. Cate and Deputy Sheriff John Conway, of Chattanooga, Hamilton county, had in custody three prisoners, whom they were bringing to Knoxville to the Supreme Court. Two of the prisoners, John Taylor and Sam Carter, under sentence for murder, were chained together. The other prisoner, a negro, was chained to a seat. When the train stopped at Sweetwater, three men entered the car. One was a brother of the prisoner Taylor, and entered the car from the rear, while the other two entered the car from the front. Taylor's brother approached Deputy Sheriff Conway from behind, placed a pistol to the back of head and blew Conway's brains out. He then took the keys from Conway's pocket and unlocked the prisoner; Taylor and the latter secured the deputy's pistol. At this instant, Sheriff Cate rushed at the men, firing at them and the prisoner. As he fired, the prisoner Taylor shot him through the bowels and the other two shot him through the breast, the Sheriff falling dead. The prisoner Taylor was slightly wounded in the arm and Carter slightly wounded in the legs. Taylor, with his three rescuers, jumped on the engine and compelled the engineer to pull out, with a pistol at his head. They made him put on more steam and forced him to run twenty miles to Lenas, through three towns without stopping. At Lenas, the four jumped from the engine and secured horses, which were waiting for them, and all escaped. The prisoner Carter and a negro came to Knoxville without guard, and surrendered to the sheriff of Knox county. Conway's dead body was brought to Knoxville. Cate's body was left at Sweetwater, being thrown from the car platform by the rescuers. The gang boarded the train at Sweetwater, but the killing was done at Philadelphia Station, eight miles east of Sweetwater. The sheriff of Loudon county is following the gang, but has no hope of overtaking them. They are making for the mountains of North Carolina. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, September 15, 1882. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - The Most Daring Murder in the Annals of Crime. The Sheriff and Deputy of this county were shot and killed to-day, while en route to Knoxville with prisoners. It was the most daring murder in the annals of crime. John Taylor, two years ago, killed Capt. Fletcher on the Tennessee. He escaped at the time, but was finally captured and brought to this city. He had several trials, and at the last term of the court was sentenced to ten years at hard labor in the penitentiary. He got an appeal to the Supreme Court, now in session at Knoxville. To-day, at noon Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway took the East Tennessee train, having Taylor in charge. He was handcuffed. Several men boarded the train at Sweetwater or Philadelphia, about 75 miles

from here, and while the train was between Philadelphia and Loudon, deliberately shot and killed Cate and Conway, wounded another man, released the prisoner and took charge of the train, running it through Loudon. At Linon's Station, John Taylor and his brothers, Bob and Andy, got off and forcibly took horses and left for the mountains. John Taylor was wounded in the arm. The city is in intense excitement. A posse of thirty men, armed with Springfield rifles, left on a special train on the Cincinnati Southern for Kingston. Another posse will leave Overland. A posse has already left Kingston and another Loudon.

Cate has been Sheriff two weeks, to-day. He was one of the most popular men in the city. He is about fifty years old and leaves a large family. Deputy Conway was about thirty years of age and a prominent local political. Such excitement has not been in Chattanooga since the war. A special train will bring the bodies here, to-night. The shooting occurred about 4 o'clock.

News of the murder reached here at 4:30 p.m. The excitement became intense and excited crowds were congregated at every corner. The armory of the citizen soldiery was depleted of muskets and war days were vividly recalled as the men were seen rushing towards the depot with muskets on their shoulders and cartridge-boxes strapped around their waists. In less than an hour after the news was received, a posse was aboard a train on the Cincinnati Southern hastening to Kingston to head off the murderers. Two hours later another train took a company of colored militia up the road. The hope is freely and loudly expressed here that the murderers will be taken alive. They will have speedy judgment.

The Taylors have an army of relatives throughout the country and a stern resistance will be made. At least, five hundred men left different points in East Tennessee in search of the murderers. The Sheriff of Loudon county, with fifty men, reports that he is eight miles behind them. The Chief of Police of Chattanooga with a posse is at Kingston already. The Governor is expected here to-night, and it is thought that a reward of \$10,000 will be offered for the arrest of the Taylors. The crime is one of the most daring in the annals of Tennessee crime. Three men boarded the train at Sweetwater, and when the train stopped at Philadelphia, the next station, which has no telegraph office, one of the three, a brother of the prisoner, deliberately placed the pistol against Conway's head and blew out his brains. Sheriff Cate fired and hit the prisoner, Taylor, in the arm.

All ran out of the train, followed by Cate, who fired again and fell dead. The Taylors then got on the engine and with pistols at the engineer's head, made him run past Loudon and stop at Lenoirs, where they forcibly took three horses from a stable. At Lenoirs they compelled a doctor to dress John Taylor's wound. The Taylors are known as desperate characters, between 30 and 40 years of age. The killing of the sheriff and deputy necessitated the swearing in of the coroner, who by law holds the office temporarily. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, September 15, 1882. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - The Tennessee Tragedy. The funerals of Sheriff Cate and Deputy Conway were the largest seen in this city in many years. The excitement over the tragedy has not in the least subsided and is the general topic. The excitement in Rountree and adjoining counties is fully as great as here. Tonight a force of twenty-five men left Rockwood, and they think they will bag their game at a brother of the fugitives. Armed bodies of men are traversing the mountains and searching everywhere. It is thought the governor will offer fifteen thousand dollars reward for the three, having been advised to do so by the attorney general. Three thousand dollars is now offered. Morgan county has sent out two forces, Loudon one, Rhea one. Hamilton county has two forces in Roane and Loudon counties, and sent out another up the Sequatchie valley this afternoon. The Chattanooga Cadets and a large force of citizens are guarding the river tonight, it being suspected they will pass down that way and escape into Alabama. The coroner has taken charge of the sheriff's office and re-appointed all the old deputies. *The Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia. Sunday, September 17, 1882. Page 1.*

LEBANON, MO. - Hunted Down. And Shot By His Pursuers While Resisting Arrest. Robert Taylor, late of Loudon county, Tenn., was killed three miles west of this city by R. P. Goodall, sheriff of this county. The circumstances of the killing are substantially as follows, as developed by the coroner's inquest this afternoon: Our sheriff, seeing the account of the killing of the sheriff and his deputy in Tennessee, opened a correspondence with officials at the scene of the killing. From the description given by his correspondents, he concluded that he knew one of the culprits and knowing his old haunts in this county, instructed an inquiry among Taylor's old comrades and their neighbors. He was rewarded by hearing about a week ago that he had left the western bound train at Stoutland and gone from there in the direction of the home of his brother's wife in Camden county.

Men were set on his trail, who shadowed him until he was traced to this county last evening. He visited the Frisco depot at this place and inquired the price of a ticket to a certain point in Texas, but did not buy, stating that he would return the next day and get his ticket. At 4:30 o'clock this morning he was seen to board the western bound Frisco express, and Sheriff Goodall and his assistants followed him. Mr. John O. Estis, deputy sheriff, went into the same car which Taylor had taken and took a seat just behind him. The sheriff, only a short time after the train had left the depot, came into the car from the front and a sign from Estis fixed the location of his man.

After asking the assistance of two gentlemen acquaintances Goodall sauntered up the aisle until opposite the seat in which Taylor was sitting. He then ordered him to throw up his hands, at the same time presenting his pistol, but Taylor was prepared for an emergency, as he had his revolver in his hand and under a gum coat which was across his lap. At the order to throw up his hands, Taylor arose in his seat and would have shot Goodall had not Eastis knocked the revolver from his hand with a leaded club. As he was attempting to reach for another revolver Goodall

fired, the bullet entering at the point of the shoulder, ranging downward in the direction of the heart. Estis, now knowing which of the parties had fired, dealt Taylor a severe blow with his club on the back of his head, breaking his skull. The deceased lived about one minute after he was shot, and did not speak.

A man, supposed to have been a brother or their unknown accomplice, was seen by several of the passengers to pick up one of Taylor's revolvers, which had fallen to the floor, and during the excitement incident to the killing jumped from the train while it was in motion. This unknown party was not seen afterwards, although search was made from the train.

Taylor's remains were identified by a dozen parties who had known him both in Tennessee and this county. Sheriff Goodall has the corpse packed in ice and will start with it on the morning train to Nashville. *The Morristown Gazette, Morristown, Tennessee. October 18, 1882. Page 3.*

NEWTON - Andy Taylor Identified. Sheriff Springfield, of this county, to-day, identified Andy Taylor at Newton, Kansas, but will encounter trouble in bringing him back, as the Kansas officers will not surrender him until the reward is paid. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Wednesday, April 18, 1883. Page 1.*

EMPORIA - The Taylors. One Of The Tennessee Murderers in Limbo. He was Arrested at Newton and is Now in the Emporia Jail.

he News mentioned last week that a man named Taylor, who had been working for T.N. Dixon, near Plymouth, Lyon County, Kansas, while under the influence of liquor, had made a confession that he was one of the murderers of the sheriff and deputy sheriff in Tennessee some time last season, while these officers were on their way to the penitentiary with one of Taylor's brothers. The circumstances of the murder may be remembered by many of our readers, as the crime was a very atrocious one. Three brothers entered a train of cars and deliberately commenced shooting in the car which was occupied by passengers, and killed Sheriff Coat, of Roane county, Tennessee, and his deputy. The perpetrators of the murder were Robert, John, and Alf Taylor, and heavy rewards were offered for their apprehension.

The story told by the young man now lying in our county jail is one full of remorse, privation, suffering, and adventure. He gives his name as Andy, Al, and Alf Taylor, and he is only twenty years old.

The circumstances under which Taylor made the confession to Mr. T.N. Dixon on Tuesday did not at first impress that gentleman as being worthy of much confidence. It seems that he made his appearance in this vicinity about six weeks ago, and hired out as a farm laborer to Mr. Dixon under the name of John Presnall. On Tuesday last he came to the city with his employer and while here imbibed freely of liquor, so that when Mr. D. got ready to go home in his wagon Presnall declined to accompany him, on account of the ladies in the wagon, but said he would

go to Plymouth on the train. He had with him a bottle of whiskey at the time, and seems to have partaken liberally of the inebriating fluid on the road. He had some difficulty with the conductor, and on his arrival at Plymouth went through that village shooting off his revolver and creating something of a sensation.

When Mr. Dixon returned home he found Taylor, alias Presnall, in a drunken stupor, lying upon some oats sacks, and that he had attempted, or pretended to attempt, to shoot himself. Arriving at the house Taylor sent to Mrs. Dixon, saying he wanted to talk to her. She sent word that she did not have time to talk to him. It was then he fired four shots at his head, two of which cut holes in the crown of his hat. J.A. Dixon, brother of T.N., succeeded, after some trouble, in getting the revolver away from Taylor. Taylor was evidently stunned by the shots, for he labored under the impression for some minutes that he had killed himself and commenced to pray. He called for Mr. Dixon's mother and told her he was going to die, and that he had been a hard case; that the name of Presnall, under which he had been going, was an assumed one; that his real name was Andy or Albert Taylor; that he was one of the Taylor boys who had some months before murdered the sheriff and deputy sheriff of Roane county, Tennessee, on a train of cars while these officers were conveying one of his brothers to the supreme court; that he wanted Mr. Dixon to procure the reward offered for his arrest and give half of it to his mother in Roane county, Tennessee; that he would give \$1,000,000 if he had it to see his old mother once more. When Dixon came Taylor made the same confession to him and wanted his revolver to kill himself. He made the same request of Mr. D. in regard to the disposition of the reward money. He wanted Mr. D. to arrest him. Soon after Taylor became quiet and Dixon went to Safford and sent a telegram to the governor of Tennessee, asking for information and a description of Taylor, being still impressed that the latter's confession was not genuine.

By Wednesday morning, Taylor had become sober. He took Mr. Dixon to the barn and reiterated his story of the night before, making a full confession of the murder. He said he had had no peace since his hand had become dyed in the blood of the innocent officers; that the crime had haunted him day and night; that life was a burden to him. He plead in extenuation of the act that he was young and was persuaded into its commission by his brothers. After the escape of the murderers they spent five weeks on Lookout Mountain roaming about and keeping out of sight of the officers or others who might betray them, and with nothing to eat but raw meat. They were pursued by bloodhounds. The brothers then separated, the one now under arrest going to Kentucky, Alabama, and afterwards to Arkansas and Missouri. He and his brother John afterwards came together in Missouri. In a region uninhabited and swampy, and twenty-two miles from the nearest physician John died of flux amid suffering and misery. Al. made the coffin for his brother and buried him alone. Two weeks before John's death the other brother, Robert, had been killed at Lebanon, Missouri, by the sheriff while resisting arrest. They had all suffered

much from the consequences of their unprovoked crime, and it was no wonder that Al. cared little to live longer.

After making this confession on Wednesday morning, Taylor said to Mr. Dixon that if he would pay him what was due for work he would leave and take one more chance at life, remarking to Mr. D., "You can give me away if you want to; I do not care much." Mr. D. gave him his money and told him to go, saying, "Do the best you can for yourself."

Dixon then came to Emporia and gave information of the affair to the officers. Meantime he had received a reply to his telegram to the Governor of Tennessee, which substantiated Taylor's story so far as to induce Dixon and the officers to take steps for the criminal's immediate arrest. Mr. Dixon was sworn in as a deputy, and in company with Deputy Sheriff Kramer, took a freight train Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. for the west, first having sent telegrams to the railroad agents to watch the trains, and giving them a description of Taylor. At Safford the officers received information that Taylor had passed Peabody on a freight train going west.

At Strong City Mr. Kramer telegraphed to City Marshal Sawyer at Newton to arrest Taylor, and received an answer at Peabody that the fleeing criminal was in custody. At Peabody, Kramer and Dixon took the emigrant train and soon were in Newton. There was a "speck of war" at first about delivering Taylor to our officers, but finally the trouble was adjusted and Dixon and Kramer had the object of their search in charge. They brought him to Emporia on the 11:00 o'clock train last night, having met Sheriff Ryan at Peabody, and Taylor now lies in our jail to await further developments in the case. *The Emporia Weekly News, Emporia, Kansas. Thursday, April 19, 1883. Page 4.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Taylor In Nashville. This morning at 9 o'clock, the officers in charge of Andy Taylor reached Nashville, and Taylor was lodged in the county jail. Friday, Gov. Bate had received a telegram from the officers while at St. Louis, asking whether to bring Taylor to Nashville, and answered in the affirmative.

An inquiry was made as to the amount offered by the State for his apprehension, to which Gov. Bate answered, \$1,666.65, or one-third the amount offered for all - \$5,000. Taylor's escort consisted of Sheriff H.J. Springfield and Deputy Sheriff C. Stanley, of Hamilton county, Sheriff Joe Foute of Loudon county, Sheriff T.L. Ryan, of Lyon county, Kansas, and Special Deputy T.W. Dixon, Taylor's former employer. Judging from the indications that it would not be safe for Taylor to be taken on at present, Gov. Bate directed that he temporarily remain in the Davidson county jail. The party left Kansas City at 11 o'clock Wednesday night and came directly through, except that they stopped one day in Kansas City. How long they will stay here is not known. Sheriff Springfield went on through Nashville, directly to Chattanooga. Mr. Stanley last night received a

telegram from Sheriff Springfield stating there was no disposition to lynch Taylor, and no cause for fear. Mr. Stanley stated that there had never been a lynching in Hamilton county.

Taylor was pretty cheerful along the route, considering everything. There was no truth in his reported constant fear of lynching, but he asked a fair trial. Taylor states that he shot Cates, who had shot his brother John, using Conway's pistol which John had snatched and handed him. His story of the terrible tramp through Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, and Kansas is thrilling in the extreme. He now wants to see his mother, and asks only a fair trial. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Sunday, April 22, 1883. Page 1.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Taylor is still in jail at Nashville, and will probably remain here until just before his trial. He still maintains a cheerful disposition and talks pleasantly. He still sees no one and wishes to see no one. No visitor has been allowed to see him since his arrival. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Tuesday, April 24, 1883. Page 4.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - John Taylor's Body. Just before Andy Taylor's departure for Loudon he made to Sheriff Moore a detailed statement, giving minute directions for finding the body of his brother John, which is buried in Southeastern Missouri. He wished Mr. Moore to recover the body, get the reward and give a thousand dollars to his mother. This Moore promised to do. Taylor had previously made the same request of Sheriff Springfield, but expressed himself as having lost confidence in Springfield, for some reason or some whim. Sheriff Moore left the city Wednesday for an unknown destination, giving it out that he was going on a fishing spree. Those in a position to know assert that his fishing will be done in Missouri, his real object being to recover the body of John Taylor. The reward will be paid for the dead body. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, April 27, 1883. Page 5.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. – In Jail. The public were somewhat doubtful of the truth of the publication concerning the arrival of the officers with Andy Taylor by the Louisville route, and only a small crowd gathered at the depot yesterday morning expecting to get a glimpse of the bold desperado whose daring deed has been heralded all over the country. The train was delayed some time at the Black Oak side, but at 10:40 it rolled up to the depot, and Sheriff J.D. Foute, of Loudon county, Deputy Sheriff C.E. Stanley, of Hamilton county, and Sheriff T.L. Ryan, of Emporia, Kansas, accompanied by his special deputy, T.N. Dixon, stepped from the car with the prisoner. He was in irons, and with some difficulty made his way to the waiting room surrounded by the officers. Five minutes later he was placed on the west bound passenger train, which had just arrived, to go to Loudon for trial. The Knoxville Chronicle reporter, upon invitation of the officers, talked a short time with the prisoner, who seemed much depressed and not disposed to speak of his brother John, having claimed, while on the way to Knoxville, that the latter had died of fever in Kansas. Taylor said he was "all torn up" by travel, loss of sleep, and excitement incident to his arrest and return here. In reply to an inquiry as to the

whereabouts of his brother John, the prisoner said, "Well, to tell you the fact, d—d if I know anything about John." Andy Taylor is an illiterate man, rough in appearance and quiet in demeanor, and exhibited no signs of fear on arriving here. He is quite a young man, having not yet completed his twentieth year – a few thin, sandy hairs, which he terms a moustache, indicating his approach to mature manhood. Andy Taylor states that he was induced by his brother Bob to attempt the rescue of his brother John – the older brother saying that John could be released without bloodshed. He confesses that he accompanied Bob for that purpose, but adds in extenuation of his crime that he became involved in the bloody affair unthoughtedly. He claims that he was never before arraigned for any act of lawlessness, and expresses deep remorse for the deed.

Arriving at Loudon about one o'clock p.m., Sheriff Foute took charge of the prisoner – the other officers passing on – and conveyed him to the courthouse, where circuit court was in session, Judge Rogers presiding. The route from Nashville here was mapped out by the governor, to which he protested, being assured that he alone could bring the prisoner through Chattanooga at this time, without molestation. The officers experienced considerable difficulty in coming over the new route. They came to Williamsburg, Kentucky, on a construction train, which was delayed by a derailed engine. From Williamsburg they were necessarily compelled to come by wagon to Careyville, on account of a ditched freight train blockading the road. In the wagon they traveled all Wednesday night over mountain routes, reaching Careyville before the departure of the train for Knoxville yesterday morning. It is said that a niece of Andy Taylor who lives in Roane county, when she heard that Andy would reach Chattanooga on Monday and was in danger of being lynched, boarded the first train for Chattanooga. She was armed and firmly resolved to defend him from a mob with her life. *The Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia. Saturday, April 28, 1883. Page 3.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - The trial of Andy Taylor began, to-day, at Loudon. Forty-two jurors were called, and out of this number only one was found competent and passed. The court then ordered thirty-nine more jurors to be brought in at once, and also directed the Sheriff to send out in the country and summon one hundred men as jurors in this case. Thirty-nine additional jurors were called and all found incompetent or rejected. The one and only juror selected from the first forty-two summoned was found to be incompetent and after having taken his seat, and after a considerable war of words between counsel, was discharged by the court. The court adjourned until to-morrow without having obtained a single juror. It is doubtful if a jury can be obtained in Loudon county.

Taylor this morning asked an attendant at the jail for a razor to shave with. His request was refused, as it was believed that he desired to commit suicide. It is said that he expresses himself

as unconcerned. He appears perfectly calm and cheerful. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Tuesday, May 1, 1883. Page 1.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - The case against Taylor, the desperado, was begun to-day. Three hundred and twenty jurors were examined and only three selected. Four regular and ten special deputies are summoning jurors in the remotest parts of the county. The people are quiet, but determined to bring the murderer to justice. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Wednesday, May 2, 1883. Page 1.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - When the court adjourned at Loudon this evening, eleven jurors had been found for the Taylor murder case. Four hundred men had been summoned. The trial will proceed to-morrow as soon as the twelfth man is found. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, May 4, 1883. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - The trial of Andy Taylor is now in progress at Loudon. Six hundred and fifty men were summoned before the jury was completed. The jury is thought to be incompetent to try the case, and the belief is rapidly gaining ground that they will either fail to agree or perhaps even acquit the murderer. The people of Loudon county are determined that he shall suffer the extreme penalty of the law for his heinous crime. The trial will last fully six or seven days. Taylor is very cool, and watches the proceedings with the most stolid indifference. He is closely guarded. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Sunday, May 6, 1883. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - One of the jurors in the Taylor jury fell ill today and the trial was suspended. There is enough evidence now in to convict the accused. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Tuesday, May 8, 1883. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - The testimony in the Taylor trial was concluded to-day, and the argument is now in progress. The evidence against the accused is sufficient to convict. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. May 9, 1883. Page 1.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - A Verdict of Guilty of Murder in the First Degree. The jury in the case of Andy Taylor, at Loudon, to-day, received the charge of the Judge, and in a short time returned with a verdict, finding Taylor guilty of murder in the first degree without mitigating circumstances. Sentence will be passed to-morrow. It is asserted that Taylor would have been mobbed had the verdict been different. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, May 11, 1883. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - Andy Taylor Appeals to the Supreme Court. Andy Taylor, one of the murderers of Sheriffs Cate and Conway, was sentenced to be hanged at Loudon, to-day. He appealed to the Supreme Court. At his request, he was brought to this county for safe keeping. He will be closely guarded at the jail. No effort will be made to molest him, our people being determined to let the law take its course.

In an interview, he stated that he felt no fear of death. He insists that his brother John died in Missouri, and that the third brother, Bob, was killed while resisting arrest in Missouri. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Saturday, May 12, 1883. Page 1.*

CHATTANOOGA, TN. - Sheriff Springfield returned to-day from Missouri where he investigated the truth of the statements of Andy Taylor regarding the death of his brother John. He ascertained that John Taylor is really dead, having died of flux soon after he arrived in Missouri. While being taken to Knoxville to be tried by the Supreme Court for murder, his brothers, Andy and Bob, took forcible possession of the train, murdered the Sheriff and his deputy, liberated John and fled. Bob was killed soon afterwards while resisting arrest. Andy is in jail here awaiting trial by the Supreme Court. He was sentenced to hang by the lower court. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Monday, September 10, 1883. Page 1.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - Andy Taylor Sentenced To Hang in November. The Supreme Court to-day confirmed the sentence of the lower court, and sentenced Andy Taylor to be hanged at Loudon on the twenty-third of November. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Sunday, October 14, 1883. Pg 1.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - Andy Taylor, the noted criminal who pays the full penalty of the law at Loudon in less than a month, will be kept in the Knox county jail until the fatal day, and will then be taken to Loudon to be privately executed in the jail yard at that place. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Saturday, October 27, 1883. Page 2.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - Andy Taylor, who is to be hanged at Knoxville Friday, amuses himself at cards and is fond of jesting with his fellow-prisoners. A negro name Easley will climb the golden stair at the same time and place for a murder committed in Campbell county, and is putting in all his time praying. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Tuesday, November 6, 1883. Page 2.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - The controversy between Sheriff Foute, of Loudon county, and Andy Taylor's lawyers, as to whether the condemned man shall swing in public or private, seems to involve a knotty question. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Saturday, November 18, 1883. Page 2.*

LOUDON, TN. - Sheriff Foute, of Loudon, denies that he proposes to execute Andy Taylor in public. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Sunday, November 11, 1883. Page 1.*

LOUDON, TN. - It took three men yesterday to purchase a rope with which to hang Andy Taylor, and Sheriff Foute regarded the mission as one of sufficient moment to justify him in donning a Mexican hat two yards wide and mounted with diminutive bronze statues of Santa Anna, "Wild Bill of the West," "Sitting Bull," and other characters noted for daring deeds of chivalry. The people of Chattanooga supposed he was the advance agent of Sells Brothers' menagerie until it was announced that Sheriff Foute was in town. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Monday, November 12, 1883. Page 2.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Andy Taylor, the murderer of Sheriff Cate, of Loudon county, is to be hanged on the 23d inst. He is the man who, after assisting in the killing of Cate on Sept. 14 last, escaped to Kansas, from whence he was brought and lodged in jail in this county, where he spent a few days. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Wednesday, November 14, 1883. Page 4.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - An Interview With The Condemned Man. Awaiting the Day of Execution With Indifference. Making No Preparations for Death. Proposes to Sell His Confession. On Friday, Nov. 23, nine days from today, Andy Taylor will expiate his terrible crime on the gallows at Loudon, Tenn. His connection with the deliverance of his brother John from the clutches of the law, and the horrible results by which it was attended is as vivid in the minds of the public as if it were but yesterday, and the story of their double murder, subsequent flight, wanderings, and death of Bob and John, and confession of Andy, his trial and conviction, form one of the most thrilling narratives in the annals of crime and one of the bloodiest chapters of Tennessee's criminal record.

The Jail. A Times reporter visited Taylor in his cell at Knoxville on Tuesday. Sheriff Gilmore realizes the desperate character of the prisoners and is very watchful. He stated to the Times reporter that he would commence the death watch over Taylor and Easley, the latter also condemned to be hung at Jacksboro on the 23d, for murder, on Wednesday, and will keep two men on guard at all hours. This is a proper precaution. When the reporter seated himself in front of Taylor's cell and peered inside, the condemned man was discerned in one corner, picking at a banjo and carrying on an animated conversation with the other inmates, five in number. He recognized the reporter immediately and his face broadened into a grin as he advanced and extending his hand through the grated door, bade the newspaper emissary a cordial welcome.

He then withdrew as if half ashamed of his cordiality and muttered doggedly that he "didn't want to talk to any reporters, and don't propose to." The reporter argued the matter vehemently, pursued all tactics known to the profession and at last, by sundry pretexts, succeeded in gaining the attention of the condemned man. From this time it was plain sailing, and an animated conversation was carried on for fully two hours, the prisoner, however, being in total ignorance that he was being "interviewed," if an interview it might be termed.

Preparations For Death. He says he realizes that his end is near, and so far has failed to make any preparation. "Andy," queried the reporter, "don't you think a minister might do you some good?" "I don't see in what way," he answered. He hesitated a few seconds and then said curtly, "I don't want to see them. Four or five have been here and talked to me, but they don't do me any good, and I've asked the Sheriff not to let any more of 'em come."

"You were raised to believe in God, weren't you?"

"Of course I was. My folks were Baptists, and I used to go to Sunday School when I was little, but I haven't been in a long time." His tones became broken and his eyes were cast down as he spoke.

The first time the reporter used the word "hanged" was when he asked, "You want a preacher on the gallows when you are hanged, don't you?" The word sounded harsh, and the prisoner visibly started, but quickly recovered himself and answered, "I can't say yet, but I think I will. If I have any it will be a good old man who lived near our home in Roane county."

Stolid Indifference. The stolid indifference with which the prisoner contemplates his doom is not altogether natural. Occasionally in his conversation he betrayed his real feelings, but his general remarks clearly indicated that he was pertinaciously mustering all the elements of brute courage he possessed to face his death with indifference and pose as a hero, to die unbroken and unrepentant. This is his aim. Whether he will have the pluck to carry it out, remains to be seen.

The reporter thinks that he will weaken during the last two days, but will nerve himself up at the fatal hour and meet death calmly. The reporter lured him by saying: "Andy, your friends in Chattanooga say you will die like a man and won't weaken at any time." He smiled sullenly as he answered, "They can rest easy on that," and then with deliberate firmness he continued, "You bet, I ain't skeered and I ain't going to be." "But is that bravery?" queried the reporter. He looked up quickly, thought a few seconds and then replied, "No, I don't think it is, but I'm no coward and I want everybody to know that I ain't one bit brave, but I can die like a man and I am going to. You can say to my friends they needn't fear for me on that account; but, Mr. Reporter, pluck ain't much anyhow. It's good enough thing to blow about, but when a feller is in prison like I am, and these fellers around me, a brave man ain't no better than a coward."

He spoke bitterly and bowed his face in his hands, and remained in that position some moments, then, looking up suddenly, continued, "I don't know whether you'd call it bravery, but I'm going to be hung Friday week, I suppose, yet I sleep well, never eat better in my life, and I play cards with the boys and I pick on this 'ere banjo just as I used to do."

A Confession. "Have you ever contemplated making a confession?" asked the reporter after a short pause. "Yes; I have thought over it and have decided to make a full statement on my history from my boyhood. I'll do it for any one who wants it for \$150. I'll tell everything; how John got into trouble, and how the whole thing occurred, and everything about it. It'll sell. I believe 5,000 copies would be sold without much trouble."

"What do you want with the money?" was asked.

"I want my folks to have the benefit of it. I won't do it unless the money is put in Sheriff Gilmore's hands to deliver it to my mother. Anybody can come right here in my cell and I will

talk it all over, and we can fix it up together.” He evinced great interest in the project and expressed the hope that it would be accepted. He says he would not take a cent less.

His Body After Death. “Have you arranged for disposing of your body?” “Yes, I told brother Flem when he was up here a few days ago, that I wanted him to take charge of my body and see that it is properly buried, but I don’t care very much what they do with me. I expect it don’t make much difference to a feller after he’s once dead, does it?” he asked with a grim smile.

Hope Springs Eternal, Etc. The prisoner has not abandoned all hope, and on one or two occasions indicated that some contingency may arise in his behalf. He has received several visits from relatives. His brother Fleming and his brother-in-law Littleton visited him but a few days ago, and they had a prolonged conversation. At times they were deeply affected, and tears streamed from their eyes, but Andy, while he was visibly moved, repressed his emotions as much as possible and pretended that such conduct indicated weakness and was unmanly.

He stated to a reporter that he would be glad to see all his relatives at the jail, but had little hopes of seeing his mother, as she is decrepit and much bowed down by grief. “Poor woman!” he said, referring to his mother and sighing deeply, “her boys have given her lots of trouble. It’s mighty hard on her, but it cannot be helped now.”

He does not wish any of his relatives to be present at the execution. *The Chattanooga Times. Reprinted in The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Saturday, November 17, 1883. Page 6.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - The Gallows Erected. The gallows on which Andy Taylor will be hung, Nov. 23, has been erected within the enclosed yard of the jail and stands ready to do its work, says the Loudon Sun.

It has been placed opposite the windows at the northwest corner of the jail. The doomed man will pass out at the upper window and down a short flight of steps to the platform. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Sunday, November 18, 1883. Page 2.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Andy Taylor, who is to be executed Friday remains unmoved, and declines to converse with ministers. William Easley, who will hang the same day, has announced himself ready to meet his fate. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Tuesday, November 20, 1883. Page 1.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Last Days. As the day for the execution of Andy Taylor draws near, the prisoner exhibits no signs of remorse over his atrocious crime, and assumes an air of cheerfulness remarkable for even a daring criminal. To Rev. E. A. Taylor, of the First Baptist Church, who called yesterday to converse with the doomed man, he talked quite freely on general topics, but evinced no interest regarding his spiritual welfare. He was apparently gayer than usual yesterday, and amused himself for some time dancing to the banjo music of a cell mate. He had

formerly expressed his belief in a future state of reward or punishment, but yesterday announced that he had arrived at the conclusion "there is no damnation hereafter!" He says he will have but little or nothing to say on the scaffold, unless it be in reference to his treatment by officers while in prison. To a Chronicle reporter, Taylor states that he had many things of interest to say regarding his brothers and himself, but thought he ought to receive \$150 for his confession, and would reserve the story of the crime for which he is to hang, in order to give the purchaser the benefit of it.

The prisoner is much more communicative than formerly. He talks glibly upon almost any subject but religion. He says he has not positively refused to see ministers. On the contrary, he will talk to them respectfully. But he intimated that their presence was not wanted. "You see," he said, "I'm not going to break down so easily as many supposed. I never had a better appetite nor slept better than now, and I'm passing the time the best way I can. I think my life would sell well here and in Missouri, where Bob was killed and John died. I want \$150 for my confession. It must be paid to me before Friday, so I can give it to my mother."

The prisoner went on at length to speak of his mother, during which he exhibited deep emotion for the first time. He says he is the youngest of eight brothers. He also has three sisters. They were all born in Roane county, and raised in East Tennessee. "It's mighty hard on mother," said the prisoner, sorrowfully, "but I guess it's all right; we have to die anyhow, and I'm not afraid of anything." As the prisoner completed the sentence, he carelessly turned away to listen to the banjo music furnished by his cell-mates, as if a long life awaited him. *The Knoxville Chronicle. Reprinted in The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Thursday, November 22, 1883. Page 1.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Swing Him Off In Style. What appeared to be an invitation to some swell ball, when the mail was opened yesterday, turned out to be the following, stylishly printed on glazed cardboard:

Office of Joe D. Foute, Sheriff, Loudon, Tenn., Nov. 9, 1883 – Reporter of the American – You are hereby designated and specially appointed to be present at Loudon, Tenn., Nov. 23, 1883, to act as a guard and assistant of mine in the private execution of the death penalty of Andy Taylor, between the hours of 2 and 4 p.m. – Joe. D. Foute, Sheriff. P.S. – Guards and assistants are requested to meet at the Court House at 12 o'clock N.

The "guard and assistant" detailed from the American's corps is thoroughly au fait in such little affairs, and will not fail to materialize on the interesting occasion. Sheriff Foute's elaborate preparations show that he knows how to hang as well as catch a murderer. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Thursday, November 22, 1883. Page 4.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - The Noted Desperado to be Hanged To-Day. A Desperate Attempt to Kill Sheriff Foute Thwarted. The Prisoner Claims to Expect a Rescue To-Day. Andy Taylor, Tennessee's

notorious outlaw, who is to expiate his atrocious crime on the gallows to-morrow, attempted to signalize his last full day on earth this evening by murdering the officer appointed by law to execute him. Since the sentence of death was pronounced Taylor has been in jail at Knoxville for safe keeping.

This evening Sheriff Foute, of Loudon county, who is to execute Taylor, went to Knoxville to convey him to Loudon. He was accompanied by a posse of 40 men. Soon after leaving Knoxville, and while the train was running at the rate of forty miles an hour, Taylor, who was manacled and shackled, by some means, slipped a pistol out of the guard's pocket who was sitting near him and in an instant had it leveled on Sheriff Foute and pulled the trigger, thinking it was a self-cocker.

Sheriff Foute was standing with his back to Taylor, not three feet distant, and when the would-be murderer saw the pistol was not a self-cocker, he made a superhuman effort to cock it, at the same time placing it against Foute's head saying, "Damn you, die," expecting that the pistol would fire, but he was disappointed.

Twenty men seized him and he was quickly disarmed. Taylor could control himself no longer, and cried like a child because he had failed to add another chapter to the dark catalogue of his life of lawlessness. Taylor stated afterward that he intended to kill Foute, and the three nearest guards, which he felt confident would so incense the remaining guards that they would riddle his body with bullets, and he would thus escape his ignominious fate. He states that his friends will rescue him to-morrow. When the guards disarmed Taylor the coach was crowded, and everyone thought an attempt was being made to rescue him, and in an instant forty Winchester rifles and an equal number of pistols were leveled. The greatest confusion prevailed, and ladies attempted to throw themselves from the car.

He was conveyed from this place to Loudon, to day. "I'm getting ready for the racket," he said, while shaving. At the bar he drank to the crowd near the depot. Holding up a glass of wine, he said: "Boys, here's what brought me where I am."

He assumes a fearless air. While being taken from Knoxville to Loudon, he slipped a revolver out of the pocket of one of the guards, and though heavily manacled managed to get the muzzle of the pistol within a few inches of the head of Sheriff Foute, of Loudon, but owing to the fact that Taylor thought the pistol a self-cocker it was knocked down before he could raise the hammer of the pistol. He remarked: "If I had not mistaken the pistol for a self-cocker you (Foute) would have got to hell several hours before me." The prisoner became boisterous and abused Foute, saying he would like to spill his blood. Taylor is but 21 years old, but seems to have no fear of the gallows. The execution will be private. The crime was one of the most atrocious and daring

ever committed in the State. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, November 23, 1883. Page 1.*

KNOXVILLE, TN. - Andy Taylor Hanged. The Knoxville Tribune says that Andy Taylor, the day before he was hanged, asked Sheriff Foute for a drink of whisky, and the Sheriff replied, "I will give you a drop to-morrow." We don't know that this was a premeditated pun of the Sheriff, but it was a good one. Andy got the "drop" next day. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Monday, November 26, 1883. Page 1.*

LOUDON, TN. - Defiant To The Last. Andy Taylor, the last of the three notorious Taylor brothers, was executed at 3:15 o'clock p.m. He maintained the same indifference to the last, and refused to converse with a minister. He ate dinner with much relish, and at 2:30 o'clock was taken from the jail. He mounted the gallows with a firm step. When asked if he wished to address the crowd, he said he did not want to say "a G-d d-n word."

He was entirely unmoved on the gallows. After the noose was adjusted he said to the sheriff of Hamilton county, "G-d d-n you, I could drink your heart's blood." The trap was sprung at 3:15 p.m. He died of strangulation in nine minutes, and was cut down at 3:37 p.m. The crowd was orderly. The gallows was screened. It was the first private execution that ever took place in the State. *The Milan Exchange, Milan, Tennessee. Saturday, December 1, 1883. Page 4.*

NASHVILLE, TN. - Taylor's Captor Kicking For More Money. At the time the arrest of Andy Taylor was accomplished, the reward budget of the State Treasury was in an impoverished condition, and it was only partially paid. Marshal Sawyer, of Newton, Kansas, who effected the arrest, writes to the Sheriff of this county that he will endeavor to secure the residue, saying that Dixon, the farmer who employed Taylor, received the amount paid and refuses to divide. *The Tennessean, Nashville, Tennessee. Friday, November 30, 1883. Page 1.*

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