

SAM HOSE BURNED AT THE STAKE

Most Horrible Stain Upon
Fair Name of Law
and Order.

CRIME REVOLTING IN ITS DETAILS

Mob Transformed Into Inhuman
Fiends by Sight of Victim Long
Sought—Ears and Fingers Cut Off,
Body Mutilated and Oil Poured
Over His Bleeding Body Which
Was Set on Fire.

Newnan, Ga., April 23.—In the presence of nearly two thousand people who sent aloft yells of defiance and shouts of joy, Sam Hose, a negro who committed two of the basest acts known to crime, was burned at the stake in a public road one and one half miles from here this afternoon. Before the torch was applied to the pyre, the negro was deprived of his ears, fingers and other portions of his anatomy. The negro plead pitifully for his life while the mutilation was going on, but stood the ordeal of fire with surprising fortitude. Before the body was cool, it was cut to pieces, the bones were crushed into small bits and even the tree upon which the wretch met his fate, was torn up and disposed of as souvenirs. The negro's heart was cut in several places as was also his liver. Those unable to obtain these ghastly relics direct, paid their more fortunate possessors extravagant sums for them. Small pieces of bone went for 25 cents and a bit of the liver crisply cooked, sold for ten cents. One of the men who lifted the can of kerosene to the negro's head, is said to be a native of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His name is known to those who were with him, but they refuse to divulge it. The mob was composed of citizens of Newnan, Griffin, Palmetto and other little towns in the country round about Newnan, and of all the farmers who had received word that the burning was to take place.

Hon. W. Y. Atkinson, former governor of Georgia, met the mob as he was returning from church and appealed to them to let the law take its course. In addressing the mob he used these words: "Some of you are known to me and when this affair is finally settled in the courts, you may depend upon it that I will testify against you."

A member of the mob was seen to draw a revolver and level it at Governor Atkinson, but his arm was seized and the pistol taken from him. The mob was frantic at delays and would hear to nothing but burning at the stake.

Hose confessed to killing Cranford, but denied that he had outraged Mrs. Cranford. Before being put to death the negro stated that he had been paid \$12 by "Lige" Strickland, a negro preacher at Palmetto to kill Cranford. Tonight a mob of citizens is scouring the country for Strickland who has left his home and will lynch him if caught.

Sam Hose killed Alf Cranford, a white farmer, near Palmetto and outraged his wife, ten days ago. Since that time the business in that part of the state has been suspended, the entire population turning out in an effort to capture Hose.

Governor Candler has been asked to send troops here to preserve order for a day or two as it is feared the negroes may wreak vengeance, many threats to that effect having been made.

Hose has been on the farm of Jones brothers, between Macon and Columbus since the day after he committed his horrible crime. His mother is employed on the farm and to her little cabin he fled as a safe refuge. She fed him and cared for him, but it is not believed that she knew he was being hunted for by the authorities. The Jones brothers were not aware of the crime until a few days ago and were not sure that he was the much wanted man.

Saturday morning one of the Jones boys met Hose and as he was talking to him noticed that his "ginger" face was ebony black, but just below his shirt collar the copper color was discernible. Convinced that the negro had blackened his face to escape detection, Jones became convinced that he was the negro for whom the authorities, assisted by bloodhounds, had been scouring the country for ten days and they determined to arrest him.—Sunday morning they brought the negro into Macon and put him aboard a Central of Georgia train with the intention of bringing him to Atlanta. At Griffin some one recognized Hose and sent word on to Newnan, the next station, that the negro was on the train bound for Atlanta.

When Newnan was reached a great crowd surrounded the train and pushed into the cars. The Jones boys were told that the negro could be delivered to the sheriff of Campbell county there and that it was not necessary to take him to Atlanta. This was acceded to and the negro was taken off the train and marched at the head of a yelling, shouting crowd of 500 people to the jail. Here they turned him over to Sheriff Brown, taking a receipt for the prisoner, thus making themselves sure of the \$250 reward for the "arrest and delivery to the sheriff of Campbell county of one Sam Hose." Word was sent to Mrs. Cranford at Palmetto that it was

believed, Hose was under arrest and her presence was necessary in Newnan to make sure of the identification. In some way the news of the arrest leaked out and as the town had been on the alert for nearly two weeks, the intelligence spread rapidly. From every house in the little city came its occupants and a good sized crowd was soon gathered about the jail. Sheriff Brown was importuned to give up the prisoner and finally in order to avoid an assault on the jail and possibly bloodshed, he turned the wretch over to the waiting crowd. A procession was quickly formed and the doomed negro was marched at its head through several streets of the town. Soon the public square was reached. Here former Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, who lives in Newnan, came hurriedly upon the scene and standing up in a buggy importuned the crowd to let the law take its course. Ex-Governor Atkinson said:

"My Fellow Citizens and Friends: I beseech you to let this affair go no further. You are hurrying this negro on to death without an identification. Mrs. Cranford, whom he is said to have assaulted and whose husband he is said to have killed, is sick in bed and unable to be here to say whether this is her assailant. Let this negro be returned to the jail. The law will take its course and I promise you it will do so quickly and effectually. Do not stain the honor of the state with a crime such as you are about to perform."

Judge A. D. Freeman also of Newnan, spoke in a similar strain and implored the members of the mob to return the prisoner to the custody of the sheriff and go home. The assemblage heard the words of the two speakers in silence, but the instant their voices had died away, shouts of "On to Palmetto. Burn Him. Think of his crime." arose and the march was resumed.

Mrs. Cranford's mother and sister are residents of Newnan. The mob was headed in the direction of their house and in a short time reached the McElroy home. The negro was marched in the gate and Mrs. McElroy called to the front door. She identified the African and her verdict was agreed to by her daughter, who had often seen Hose around the Cranford place. "To the stake!" was again the cry; and several wanted to burn him in Mrs. McElroy's yard. To this she objected strenuously and the mob complying with her wish, started for Palmetto.

Just as they were leaving Newnan, word was brought that the 1 o'clock train from Atlanta was bringing 1,000 people to Palmetto. This was thought to be a regiment of militia and the mob at once decided to burn the prisoner at the first favorable place, rather than be compelled to shoot him when the militia put in sight.

Leaving the little town whose Sunday quiet had been so rudely disturbed, the mob, which now numbered nearly 1,500 people started on the road to Palmetto. A line of bugles and vehicles of all kinds, their drivers fighting for position in line, followed the procession at the head of which, closely guarded, marched the negro.

One and a half miles out of Newnan, a place believed to be favorable for the burning was reached. A little to the side of the road stood a strong pine tree. Up to this the negro was marched, his back placed to the tree and his face to the crowd, which jostled closely about him. Here for the first time he was allowed to talk. He said:

"I am Sam Hose. I killed Alfred Cranford, but I was paid to do it. Lige Strickland, the negro preacher at Palmetto, gave me \$12 to kill him." At this a roar went up from the crowd as the intelligence imparted by the wretch was spread among them. "Let him go on. Tell all you know about it," came from the crowd. The negro, shivering like a leaf continued his recital. "I did not outrage Mrs. Cranford. Somebody else did that. I can identify them. Give me time for that."

The mob would hear no more. The clothes were torn from the wretch in an instant. A heavy chain was produced and wound around the body of the terrified wretch, clasped by a new lock which dangled at Hose's neck. He said not a word to this proceeding, but at the sight of three or four knives flashing in the hands of several members of the crowd about him, which seemed to forecast the terrible ordeal he was about to be put to, he sent up a yell which could be heard for a mile. Instantly a hand grasping a knife shot out and one of the negro's ears dropped into a hand ready to receive it. Hose plead pitifully for mercy and begged his tormentors to let him die. His cries were unheeded. The second ear went the way of the other. Hardly had he been deprived of his organs of hearing before his fingers, one by one, were taken from his hand and passed among the members of the yelling and now thoroughly maddened crowd. The shrieking wretch was quickly deprived of other portions of his anatomy and the words: "Come on with the oil!" brought a huge can of kerosene to the foot of the tree where the negro, his body covered with blood from head to foot, was striving and tugging at his chains. The can was lifted over the negro's head by three or four men and its contents poured over him. By this time a good supply of brush, pieces of fence rails and other fire wood had been placed about the negro's feet. This pyre was thoroughly saturated and a match applied. A flame shot upward and spread quickly over the pile of wood. As it licked the negro's legs he shrieked once and began tugging at his chains. As the flames crept higher and the smoke entered his eyes and mouth, Hose put the stumps of his hands to the tree back of him and with a terrific plunge forward of his body severed the upper portion of the chains which bound him to the tree. His body, held to the tree, only as far as the thighs, lunged forward, thus cracking about his feet. One of the men nearest the burning negro quickly ran up, and pushing him back said:

"Get back into the fire there" and quickly coupled the disjointed links of the chain.

mile on each side of the burning negro was black with conveyances and was simply impassable. The crowd surrounded the stake on all sides, but none of those nearer than 100 feet of the centre were able to see what was going on. Yell after yell went up and the progress of the flames were communicated to those in the rear by shouts from the eye witnesses.

The torch was applied about half past two and at 3 o'clock, the body of Sam Hose was limp and lifeless, his head hanging to one side. The body was not cut down. It was cut to pieces. The crowd fought for places about the smouldering tree and with knives secured such pieces of his carcass as did not fall to pieces. The chain was severed by hammers, the tree was chopped down and such pieces of the fire wood that had not burned were carried away as souvenirs.

THE MORBIDLY CURIOUS

1,000 Excursionists Go to Newnan
to Gather Souvenirs of Tragedy.

Atlanta, Ga., April 23.—One special and two regular trains carried nearly 4,000 people to Newnan to witness the burning of Sam Hose or to visit the scene of the horrible affair. The excursionists returning tonight were loaded down with ghastly reminders of the affairs in the shape of bones, pieces of flesh and parts of the wood which was placed at the negro's feet. One of the trains as it passed through Fort McPherson, four miles out of Atlanta, was stoned—presumably by negroes. A number of windows were broken and two passengers were painfully injured.

Governor Candler stated during the evening that he had been advised that a mob of citizens of Payetteville and Woolly, were coming to Atlanta to lynch George W. Kerlin from the jail here and lynch him. Kerlin murdered Pearl Knot near Woolly several days ago, and threw her body in the river. The governor immediately ordered eight companies of the fifth infantry (state militia) to be in readiness to march to the jail upon orders. It is believed, however, that the troops are held in readiness to be sent to Palmetto in case of an uprising of negroes there.