

SHERIFF HOWARD KILLED

Lost His Life in a Raid on a Blind-Tiger Joint Near Monetta, This Morning About 9 O'clock.

Henry Howard, the fearless, energetic and much beloved Sheriff of Aiken County, met his death this morning at the hands of a family of bootleggers near Monetta, about a mile from the Columbia-Aiken highway. Deputy Nollie Robinson was badly beaten in the head by an infuriated woman.

The family of bootleggers were named Lowman, and of this family the mother, Annie, is dead, shot through the head, Bertha, a daughter, is shot through the body, and will probably die, and Clarence, shot through the left shoulder, and Son, shot through the left arm.

Sheriff Howard in company with Deputies Nollie Robinson and Arthur Sheppard went to the home of the Lowman's this morning to make a raid for liquor.

The story as gathered by a reporter of the Journal and Review who went to the scene at once, and after interviewing a number of people was gathered as follows:

A Mr. Jones stated that he saw the Sheriff and his party as they approached the house of the Lowman's, and before he could get to the house the shooting commenced. It seems that Sheriff Howard, according to one story, was shot in the house, but from other reports, he met his death in the yard, just to the right of the negro house.

On the side of the house, just above where the body of the Sheriff was found was a number of bird shot. The balance of this load went into the body of the officer, and it is likely that he was shot from the kitchen of the house. It was first reported that he was shot through the face but that is not correct and it is believed that the person who shot him was so close that even though he was shot with small bird shot, that they penetrated his vitals, as he lived only a short time. During these intense moments the officers shot a number of times and when they saw their brave Sheriff drop to the ground, they came out of the house and went to his rescue.

Robinson had rushed into the front of the house, and there he was in personal combat with several women, and he was beaten over the head by one of them with a pistol.

Bertha Lowman was possibly shot in this melee, as she has a bullet through her body, and is not expected to live.

Annie Lowman, the mother of the family, rushed upon Deputy Robinson with a drawn axe. Robinson retreated some distance as his pistol was empty, and then she turned on Deputy Arthur Sheppard, and to save his life, he shot her through the head, and she fell dead near a small barn across the road.

In the meantime, Clarence, a sixteen year old son, came running from the field and he was joined by another boy called "Son." They evidently took part in the shooting. Soon they fled. Clarence left from the back of the house pursued by Sheppard, Robinson and D. L. Cato, who went to their assistance. They opened fire on him but he fled across the field.

He was pursued, the officers using a machine, and he was finally intercepted just as he was crossing a road. Robinson ran him into the bushes, and there the negro was caught. It was found that he had been shot through the left shoulder. The darkey was carried to Monetta and lodged in jail, and finally brought to Aiken by Mr. Luke Rodgers.

MEMBERS OF SHERIFF'S PARTY

Sheriff Henry Howard, shot dead.

Deputy Sheriff, Arthur Sheppard.

Deputy Sheriff, Nollie Robinson, beaten about face.

Deputy Sheriff Robert McElhanney.

MEMBERS OF THE LOWMAN FAMILY

Sam Lowman, father, in jail.

Annie Lowman, dead, shot through head.

Bertha, daughter, shot through body, and expected to die.

Birdie, Eleanor and Rosa Lowman, daughters escaped.

Clarence, a son, shot through shoulder.

Son, a son, shot through arm.

Other boy, "Son" escaped from the front of the house and he was chased many miles. Governor McLeod was called upon by Mr. D. L. Cato for blood hounds, and within a short time the dogs were at Monetta. This negro was trailed by the citizens and finally lost track of, and the dogs were never used. In the meantime, various reports were brought to Monetta that he had been captured.

The crowd was increasing as time went by and many ugly expressions were heard and it is fortunate that "Son" was not captured, as there might be another story to tell.

The fleeing negro went to the home of Mr. D. W. Yonce, about three miles from the scene, and there surrendered. He was carried to Magistrate Thornton Jones, at Jones Cross Road, and by that officer was sent to Aiken by Constable J. P. Kneece.

In the meantime old man Sam Lowman father, was arrested, and taken to Monetta, and he with his son Clarence were brought to Aiken.

Interviewed in Jail

When seen at the Aiken jail this afternoon Sam Lowman and his two sons, Clarence and "Son" Lowman, gave but meagre details of the killing, and while being questioned, Clarence turned over on his stomach and said he knew nothing of how the Sheriff was killed. Both the Lowman boys are wounded, "Son" in the left shoulder, and Clarence in the left arm. Sam Lowman, father of the boys, stated that he was at a grist mill some distance from his home at the time of the shooting, and knew nothing of how it happened.

The house in which this affair happened was a small house, two rooms in the front, with two rooms in the rear. The back rooms having a porch the full length. Between the back rooms and the two front rooms there is a small alcove. Liquor was here. Some of it had been poured out, but there were empty fruit jars, and in the slop jar there was liquor. About the floor there had been considerable whiskey thrown out. Evidently the whiskey had been poured out at the approach of the officers.

The news of the killing was first brought to Aiken by the passengers on the bus that is operated between Aiken and Columbia. Within a short time the road leading to Monetta was filled with friends of the dead Sheriff and his deputies, to render any assistance that they might be called upon to do.

Governor McLeod when advised of the affair got into communication with Sheriff Oswald, of Lexington, and ordered him to the scene at once. Sheriff Swearingen, of Edgefield was also present, and did all that he could to aid in the search for "Son" Lowman.

The dead body of Sheriff Howard was brought to Aiken in the afternoon, and an inquest was held at 3 o'clock.

The Lowman family bear a bad reputation. Dozier an older son was tried in Batesburg some months ago for violation of the Prohibition law, and it is stated that others members of the family have been offenders against the law. Sketch of his life.

Sketch of His Life

Sheriff Henry H. Howard was in his fifty-fifth years of age, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Howard, long residents of the Horsecreek Valley section. His mother was before marriage Miss Caroline Horton, sister of the Rev. Benjamin Horton, well known clergyman of this section in his day.

Surviving are two brothers, Messrs. William and Pierce Howard and one sister, Mrs. Amy Feaster, of Graniteville; his widow, formerly Miss Stroble and the following seven children: Isabelle, Lucile, Mildred, Marjorie, Hampton, Edward and Marian. He was a member of the Independent order of Odd Fellows, the Red Men, Knights of Pythias and Council No. 198 of the Jr. Order U. A. M. Though he had never affiliated with any church he was at heart a professed Christian, with always the deepest reverence for things religious.

He was elected Sheriff of Aiken county for the first term in 1912 after serving as Chief of Police for eight years, to which position he was elected after serving as constable at Graniteville for eight years. He was kind hearted and always gentle, though known far and wide for his fearlessness and unbounded courage in the discharge of his duties as an officer. The news of his death in Aiken today felt like a pall over the whole community and from every side was voiced in deep grief lament at his tragic death.

The funeral of Sheriff Howard will take place Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, from the Aiken Baptist church, and interment will be made by the side of his father and mother in the Graniteville Cemetery, it being the wish of the dead officer expressed always in life that he be buried at his boyhood home.

The services will be conducted by Dr. Graves L. Knight, formerly of Graniteville, but now president of Anderson Female College. He will be assisted by Dr. P. J. McLean and Rev. O. E. Tebow.

Body to Lie in State

Coroner J. Tom Tarver, now acting Sheriff has announced that the body of the slain officer would be placed in the County Court House to lie in state from 7 o'clock this evening until 11 a. m. Sunday morning. The body will then be taken to his home until removed to the Aiken Baptist church for the funeral, which takes place at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Coroner T. J. Tarver will assume control of the Sheriff's office at once. The law of the State provides that in case of a vacancy in the office of sheriff, the Coroner of the county, in which vacancy occurs, shall assume responsibility for the enforcement of the law, and carry on the duties usually performed by the Sheriff.