

HUMPHRIES HANGED.

A HORRIBLE AND MOST BRUTAL CRIME PROPERLY AVENGED.

The Trap Sprung Promptly at the Noon Hour—The Hanging Devoid of Special Incident—The Doomed Man's Last Words—History of the Crime.

Special to ATLANTA JOURNAL.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., September 24.—

Frank Humphries, the murderer of his sister-in-law, Miss Carrie Raines, and his niece, Miss Ella Humphries, expiated his crime upon the gallows to-day. The trap was sprung promptly at 12 o'clock. His last words were: "Pull the cap up or I will smother." There was nothing unusually tragic about the affair. He made no further confession.

The following is a brief history of the crime:

On the day of the tragedy, Humphries started for a neighbor's house, intending to go hunting. Before reaching his destination the clouds began gathering and fearing rain he cut across the country to the home of his brother, Elisha Humphries, where he spent the day. As night approached he told Miss Carrie Raines, his sister-in-law, that his wife was sick and asked her to go over and spend the night with her. She saw that he had been drinking and refused to go unless Miss Ella Humphries, his niece, would accompany her. Miss Ella consented and the three started for Humphries' home. At a point just three miles from Elisha Humphries' house the tragedy was enacted. At the time of his arrest Humphries alleged that they were attacked by four masked men, heavily armed. He was knocked senseless and the ladies ravished, killed and dragged by the heels a considerable distance out of the road.

Mr. Smith, who oversees the working of the road in the neighborhood, was the first to discover the bloody bodies of the victims the next day. He was overtaken there by a negro boy with a message relative to the murder, to Elisha Humphries. Three times Frank was sent for before he responded. About 12 o'clock the sheriff, coroner and a large delegation of citizens were on the scene. A careful examination of witnesses followed. The clothing Humphries wore that day was different from that worn the day before. The clothes he wore on the day of the tragedy were finally found all covered with blood and the sleeves cut off. The gun wads extracted from the wounds were cut from the striped back of a ledger, just as were those found in the cartridges at Humphries' house. Again, the story Humphries told was a most incredible one. This with other evidence placed the crime on Humphries beyond a doubt. The sheriff saw that Humphries would be mobbed unless a quick exit was made. He therefore arrested and hurried him to jail, where he spent the night. He was taken to Macon next day to protect him from mob law. During his trial, as the Solicitor was impressing the awful character of his crime upon the jury, the tears came to the eyes of many, but Humphries' eyes remained dry. When the verdict was brought in a smile came over his face. Since then he has professed religion and joined the church. He said, then, that he was perfectly prepared and willing to meet his God. He talked freely, laughed and joked as though he was not concerned about his life.

He practically made a confession some time since by saying that he had been drinking about half a gallon of liquor a day, and that very often he imagined some one was trying to kill him. He said that he would not censure any one on account of his execution, and that if the evidence in court was true he should be hanged. Humphries was a splendid farmer, and liked by all who knew him. Liquor was the cause of the crime. He was a tall, wild-eyed man, about 32 years old. Miss Raines was about 40 years old and rather plain. Miss Humphries was young and very handsome.