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Memphis Tenn
Sept 30th 1863

Hurlbut A.A.
Major Genl.

S. O. no 134 publishing the findings and sentences in the case of certain Negroes tried for ~~murder~~ — published in printed orders.

Read H & D Oct 2 1863

Head Quarters 16th Army Corps.
Memphis Tennessee.

30th September 1863.

General Orders

No 139.

Before a Military Commission convened at Columbus Kentucky in pursuance of Special Orders No 19. 26th February 1863. and Special Orders No 120. 4th June 1863. Head quarters 16th Army Corps. of which Colonel William J. Shaw. 14th Regiment Iowa Infantry Volunteers is President. was arraigned and tried. Joseph Davis. a Negro.

Charge first - Murder Specification. In this. that the said Joseph Davis a Negro. did. on or about the 4th day of August 1863. in the County of Obion. State of Tennessee. Murder and assist in the murder of Major Benjamin Beckham. and his four children. Laura. Kate. Caroline and Richard.

2

Charge second Robbery.

Specification. In this, that the said Joseph Davis, a Negro, did, on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the County of Obion, State of Tennessee, rob Mr — Frank A. Beckham, a citizen of Obion County, State of Tennessee, of property to the value of one hundred dollars.

To which charges and specifications the accused plead as follows.

To the Specification of the 1st Charge Not Guilty

To the First Charge. . . Not Guilty

To the Specification of the 2^d Charge Not Guilty

To the ~~2^d~~ Charge . . . Not Guilty

Finding and Sentence

After mature deliberation the Court does find as follows.

To the Specification of the 1st Charge Guilty

To the First Charge. . . Guilty

To the Specification of the 2^d Charge Guilty

To the Second Charge. . . Guilty

And the Court does therefore sentence him, the said Joseph Davis,

3.
to be hanged by the neck until he
is dead. Said sentence to be execu-
ted at such time and place as the
General Commanding may direct;
two thirds of the members of the -
court agreeing thereto.

Finding and Sentence. approved.
The sentence will be duly executed at
Columbus. Kentucky, on the Second Fri-
day of October 1863. between the hours
of 8. a.m. and noon. under direction
of the Commandant at Columbus.—
Kentucky.

2d Bradley Jones. a Negro.

Charge first Murder.

Specification. In this, that the said
Bradley Jones. a Negro. did. on or about
the 4th day of August 1863. in the County
of Obion. State of Tennessee. Murder.
and assist in the Murder of Major
Benjamin Beckham. Mr Frank A. Beck-
ham and his four children. Laura.
Kate. Caroline. and Richard.

Charge Second Robbery.

Specification - In this, that the said Bradley Jones, a Negro, did, on or about the fourth day of August 1863, in the County of Obion, State of Tennessee, Rob. Mr Frank A. Beckham a citizen of Obion County, State of Tennessee, of property to the value of one hundred dollars.

To which Charges and Specifications the accused plead as follows.

To the Specification of the 1st Charge Not Guilty

To the 1st Charge . . . Not Guilty

To the Specification of the 2nd Charge Not Guilty

To the Second Charge. . . Not Guilty

Finding and Sentence.

After mature deliberation the Court does find as follows.

Of the Specification of the 1st Charge Guilty.

Of the First Charge . . . Guilty

Of the Specification of the 2nd Charge Guilty.

Of the Second Charge . . . Guilty

And the Court does therefore sentence him the said Bradley Jones, to be Hanged.

5.
ed by the neck til he is dead. Said sentence to be executed at such time and place as the General Commanding may direct: two thirds of the members of the court agreeing thereto.

Finding approved. The sentence in this case will be commuted to imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary at Nashville, Tennessee, for and during the full term of five years. The Commandant at Columbus Ry. is charged with the safe delivery of the prisoner under this order.

3. George Harris a Negro.

Charge first Murder.
Specification — In this, that the said George Harris, a Negro, did, on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the County of Obion, State of Tennessee, Murder and assist in the murder of Major Benjamin Beckham. Mr Frank A. Beck-

James and his four children. Laura,
Kate, Caroline and Richard.

Charge Second. - Robbery
Specification - In this, that the said
George Harris, a Negro, did, on or about
the 4th day of August 1863, in the County
of Obion, State of Tennessee, Rob. Mr
Frank A. Beckham, a Citizen of Obion
County, State of Tennessee, of property to
the value of One hundred dollars.

To which Charges and Specifications
the accused plead as follows.

To the Specification of the 1st Charge Not Guilty

To the First Charge. . . Not Guilty

To the Specification of the 2^d Charge Not Guilty

To the Second Charge Not Guilty

Judging and Sentence

The Court after mature deliberation
does find as follows.

Of the Specification of the 1st Charge Guilty

Of the First Charge . . . Guilty

Of the Specification of the 2^d Charge Guilty

Of the Second Charge. . . Guilty
 And the Court does therefore sentence
 him the said. George Harris to be Hang-
 ed by the neck till he is dead. Said
 Sentence to be executed at such time
 and place as the General Command-
 ing may direct two thirds of the
 members of the Court agreeing thereto
Finding approved. The sentence
 in this case will be commuted to
 imprisonment at hard labor in the
 penitentiary at Nashville, Tennessee,
 for and during the full term of five
 years. The commandant at Columbus
 Ky. is charged with the safe delivery
 of the prisoner under this order.

4. Wade Good, a Negro.

Charge first-Murder,
Specification. In this that the said
Wade Good, a Negro, did, on or about
 the 4th day of August 1863, in the County

-of Obion. State of Tennessee. Murder
and assist in the Murder. of Mr.
Benjamin Beckham. Mr Frank A.
Beckham and his four children -
Laura. Kate. Caroline and Richard

Charge Second Robbery.

Specification - In this. that the said
Wade Good. a Negro. did. on or about
the 4th day of August 1863. in the County
of Obion. State of Tennessee. Rob.
Mr Frank A. Beckham a citizen
of the County of Obion State of
Tennessee of property to the value
of One Hundred Dollars.

To which Charges and Specifications
the accused plead as follows.

To the Specification of the 1st Charge Not
GUILTY

To the First Charge. Not Guilty

To the Specification of the 2^d Charge Not Guilty

To the Second Charge Not Guilty

Finding and Sentence,

The Court after mature deliberation

9.

does find as follows

Of the Specification of the 1st Charge "Guilty"

Of the First Charge "Guilty"

Of the Specification of the 2^d Charge "Guilty"

Of the Second Charge "Guilty"

And the Court does therefore Sentence the said Nade Good to be Hanged by the neck till he is dead Said Sentence to be executed at such time and place as the General Commanding may direct two thirds of the members of the Court agreeing thereto.

Finding and Sentence approved. the sentence will be duly executed at Columbus Ky. on the second Friday of October 1863. between the hours of 8. A.M. and noon. under direction of the Commandant at Columbus Kentucky.

5. Abram Cole, a Negro.

Charge first. Murder.

Specification - In this, that the said Abram Cole, a Negro, did on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the County of Obion, State of Tennessee, Murder, and assist in the Murder, of Major Benjamin Beckham, Mr. Frank A. Beckham, and his four children Laura, Kate, Caroline and Richard.

Charge Second Robbery.

Specification. In this, that the said Abram Cole, a Negro did on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the County of Obion State of Tennessee, Rob. Mr. Frank A. Beckham, a citizen of Obion County, — State of Tennessee, of property to the value of One Hundred dollars.

To which Charges and Specifications the accused plead as follows.

To the Specification of the 1st Charge "Not Guilty"

To the First Charge. "Not Guilty"

To the Specification of the 2d Charge
- - - - - "Not Guilty"
To the Second Charge "Not Guilty"

Finding and Sentence.

The Court after mature deliberation does find as follows.

Of the Specification of the 1st Charge

"Guilty"

Of the First Charge "Guilty"

Of the Specification of the 2d Charge "Guilty"

Of the Second Charge "Guilty"

And the Court does therefore sentence him the said Abram Cole to be Hanged by the neck til he is dead. Said Sentence to be executed at such time and place as the General Commanding may direct two thirds of the members of the Court agreeing thereto.

Finding and Sentence approved. The sentence will be duly executed at Columbus, Ky. on the second Friday of October 1863. be-

tween the hours of 8 a.m. and noon, under direction of the Commandant at Columbus Kentucky.

6. Aaron Bridgewater a Negro.
Charge first Murder.

Specification. In this, that the said Aaron Bridgewater, a Negro, did, on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the County of Obion, State of Tennessee, Murder and assist in the Murder of Major Benjamin Beckham Mr Frank A. Beckham and his four children Laura, Kate, Caroline and Richard,

Charge second Robbery.

Specification. In this, that the said Aaron Bridgewater, a Negro, did, on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the County of Obion, State of Tennessee, Rob. Mr Frank A.

Beckham. of property to the value
of One Hundred dollars.

To which Charges and Specifica-
tions the accused plead as fol-
lows.

To the Specification of the First
charge "Not Guilty"

To the First Charge Not Guilty

To the Specification of the Second
charge "Not Guilty"

Finding and Sentence.

The Court after mature delibera-
tion does find as follows.

Of the specification of the first
charge "Guilty"

Of the First Charge "Guilty"

Of the Specification of the Second
charge "Guilty"

Of the Second Charge Guilty

And the Court does therefore
sentence him the said Aaron
Bridgewater to be Hanged by

14.

the week til he is dead. Said sentence to be executed at such time and place as the General Commanding may direct, two thirds of the members of the Court agreeing thereto.

Finding approved. The sentence in this case will be commuted to imprisonment at hard labor in the penitentiary at Nashville, Tennessee, for and during the full term of five years. The Commandant at Columbus Ky is charged with the safe delivery of the prisoner under this order.

Benjamin Robinson. A Negro.

Charge First Murder.

Specification - In this that the said Benjamin Robinson, a negro, did, on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the county of Obion, State of Tennessee, murder and assist in the murder of Mr Frank A. Beckham and his four children, Laura Kate, Caroline and Richard.

Charge Second Robbery

Specification - In this that the said Benjamin Robinson, a negro, did, on or about the 4th day of August 1863, in the county of Obion State of Tennessee, Rob. Mr Frank A. Beckham, a citizen of Obion, State of Tennessee, of property to the value of one hundred dollars.

To which charges and specifications
the accused plead as follows.

To the specifications of the first charge Not Guilty

To the first charge Not Guilty

To the specifications of the second charge Not Guilty

To the second charge Not guilty.

Finding and Sentence.

The court after mature deliberation
does find as follows.

Of the specification of the first charge, Guilty.

Of the first charge. Guilty.

Of the specification of the second charge, Guilty.

Of the second charge. Guilty.

From circumstances within the knowledge
of the court, and from statements made
by others of the party who committed
the murder, the Prisoner is not deemed
worthy of death, and the court does
therefore sentence him the said Benjamin,
Robinson, to be confined at hard labor
for the term of one year, in such
military Prison as the General commanding
may direct.

17.

Finding and Sentence. approved
the penitentiary at Nashville.
Tennessee, designated as the
place of imprisonment.

By Order of Maj. Gen. S. A. Thoburn

Henry Birney

Assistant Adjutant General