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September 2021

# 1918 Murder and Lynching that Followed - Fact or Fiction

Stephen W. Edmondson

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UUID: 0D9981EE-4F13-F68D-4B24-6972CF2717AB

**Recommended Citation:**

Edmondson, Stephen W. (2021, September). *1918 Murder and Lynching that Followed – Fact or Fiction*. Retrieved from Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, Brooks County Museum Collection, <https://hdl.handle.net/10428/7253>

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**Murder of C. Hampton Smith May, 1918  
And the Lynchings following it.**

**August 24, 2021**

**Brooks County Museum**

**Ms. Sheila Selph, Curator**

**121 North Culpepper Street**

**Quitman, Georgia 31643**

**Dear Sheila,**

**We will not be able to come to Brooks County again this year. As life is uncertain, especially when the virus is stalking, I am sending the enclosed which I hope you will put in a special file for anyone interested in the murder of Hampton Smith and the lynchings which followed in 1918. So much propaganda has been generated. As I lived on a farm as a boy near the site of the murder, I did hear much and have done some research.**

**The article in GHS Quarterly in 2006 was poorly researched and quite slanted. However, I did not have the energy to struggle with the academics who screen articles for publication in it. I have sent the text which is enclosed to Savannah and hope they will keep it. Tell anyone who is researching Brooks County families that I have much material on many families. Contact me at [swedmondson@windstream.net](mailto:swedmondson@windstream.net).**

**Craig and I enjoyed our visit in May. She was delighted with you, Walter Romine and Jean Logan.**

**Let me know that you receive this, especially if you have any questions. Feel free to provide it to anyone interested. Some of the details appear nowhere else.**

*Sincerely,*

*Stephen W. Edmondson*

## **THE MURDER OF C. HAMPTON SMITH, MAY, 1918 AND LYCHINGS FOLLOWING IT**

**C. Hampton Smith grew up in the East Side of Brooks County, Georgia, a section made into Briggs District in 1908. He was born Jan. 4, 1893, son of Dixon Smith, a man who owned a substantial farm but was not in any sense a wealthy planter. C. H. Smith rented land from the Burton family near Little River about three miles northwest of the small village of Barney. A search of deeds by Stephen W. Edmondson in the Brooks County courthouse revealed no record of his receiving any land from 1857 to 1925 or any sale of the farm where he lived after he died. Hampton probably owned no land. The farm on which he lived was apparently rented from Charles Burton. This was deeded to C. H. Burton by J.J. Joyce in 1910, the east half of Lot 492, 9<sup>th</sup> District. He sold the land to Mrs. Sarah E. Burton in 1910 (See Deeds U-304, and Deeds V-379). It was bounded on the east by land of William Rountree and appears to have been rented to Smith. Smith and his wife had no children but she was pregnant when a colored man appeared at their door on the night of May 16, 1918. Much has been published on what happened next, a lot of it socio-political fiction used as propaganda. The colored man was leased from the prison system and worked for Smith.**

**Smith was shot down in the door of his farm home in the early evening after dark and died. His pregnant wife was wounded seriously and left for dead in the yard. The killer and others with him looted the house and took several valuables including Mrs. Smith's ring and her husband's watch. While the criminals were occupied, Mrs. Smith managed to crawl across a wide field to a tenant house on the Joyce farm, about a half mile, where the colored family there took her in. They hid her in some fear that her attempted killers might look for her. She was soon moved to the home of the J.W. Joyce family to the south and**

**recovered. She was able to deliver her baby and recovered, moving away.**

**Almost nothing has been written about this young family except the unsupported claim that Hamp Smith was severe with his tenants. He had no tenants and was a quite young man but had two leased workmen. Smith is buried in the cemetery of Pauline Baptist Church on the Morven-Valdosta road near his childhood home. Burtons lived in the East Side section and in Madison, Florida, before settling on land which some of the family own today in the Barney district.**

**The Quitman Free Press carried the story of the murder with an account next to it entitled "Four Negroes Were Lynched". (Need the full text)**

**In part the news account said:**

**"...The funeral took place Saturday at 2:30 o'clock at Pauline church north of Quitman, and the services were conducted by Rev. W. T. Gaulden, a longtime friend of the family. An enormous crowd of people were present from all parts of the county. The body of the murdered man was brought to the McGowan Undertaking Co. Friday afternoon by Mr. McGowan and prepared for burial. Mr. Smith had been shot twice one shot going through his shoulders from one side to the other and one going through his breast as though he had half turned way round between the two shots. Mr. McGowan took the body to the home of Mr. Smith's parents Mr. and Mrs. Dixon Smith at two o'clock Friday night and the funeral was from there. In addition to his parents, Mr. Smith is survived by one sister, Mrs. Henry Spell of Valdosta, and four brothers, Thomas, Will, Walter and Bob Smith who live in this county. The family is prominent and the whole county has been terribly shocked over this frightful tragedy".**

**The other article:**

**"The series of lynching in the county in connection with the murder of Hampton Smith and the attack on....."l**

**A Free Press article told of Johnson's killing in Valdosta. JOHNSON KILLED BY POLICEMEN. Murderer of Hamp Smith Comes Out of Swamp for Food; Troops in Valdosta. WOUNDS TWO MEN BEFORE HE'S KILLED. Valdosta, May 23. The Chatham Home Guards arrived in Valdosta early this morning, having been ordered out by the Governor to assist in quelling any disorder incident to the capture of Sidney Johnson. They found everything here quiet following the battle between Johnson and police officers last night in which two officers were shot and Johnson was killed. It is expected the guards will return to Savannah last today. The two officers shot last night are not seriously wounded. Sidney Johnson shot Chief of Police Calvin Dampier, wounding him in the left arm; shot Dixon Smith, father of Hampton Smith, in the hand and Patrolman M. Dampier was badly wounded on the side of the neck by the flash of a pistol, while Johnson was literally shot to pieces at 10:45 last night when he was surrounded in a negro house on South Troup and South streets. The negro was undoubtedly Johnson as he was well known in Valdosta. He came out of the swamp where he had been hiding nearly a week since the Smith murder and asked for food at a negro house. The Valdosta policemen surrounded the house and when they entered Johnson opened fire on them. He had a shotgun and a pistol and Chief Dampier was shot with the pistol after the gun was emptied. The negro was riddled with bullets and in the meantime a crowd of several hundred men gathered and took the body of the negro which was tied to a car and dragged it through the streets of Valdosta and afterward went to Barney, it was reported. "**

**A next article reported the Red Cross Fund was still growing. A great war was being fought in Europe.**

**The Free Press carried another story of the trial of eleven men in Illinois for lynching a German national, age 29, who had been outspoken in April. In jail for his safety, he was**

**taken by a mob and hanged. World War I was not settled and the United States was at war with Germany.**

**Sensational stories in newspapers distorted a distressing situation. The Free Press complained:**

**"Sensational Story Sent From Valdosta. Brooks People are waiting in amazement for the next phase of the Hampton Smith tragedy which has apparently been taken over by the "foreign" correspondents of neighboring counties who are sending out accounts of "developments". The latest "development" appears in yesterday's papers under a Valdosta dateline, and it also appears that for convenience the correspondent has moved the tragedy overt to that section as it is referred to as having happened "near here". The plot to kill Hampton Smith and attack his wife it seems was framed by "pro-Germans" who have incited the negroes to an uprising against the whites and tried to disorganize farm labor in this section. Who these pro-Germans are or where they came from remains a mystery which even the correspondents seem unable to explain, but it was announced that several Lowndes county officials had "disappeared from the city and presumably gone to investigate the report, so the pro-Germans will be treed. In the meantime the farmers north of Quitman and in the community where the Smiths lived were astonished at the pro-German phase as they all knew the real causes underlying the tragedy. They probably do not realize the correspondent's "angle" to stretch it out another column at so much per column".**

**Another article was entitled: Sheriff Wanted No Troops Sent.**

**"In response to repeated messages from Governor Dorsey and Adjutant General McCollum asking if troops were need in Brooks county to quell disorder, Sheriff Wade informed the state officials that no troops were needed and that he would ask for help if any situation arose which he could not control. The morning's papers announced under Atlanta date lines that Major McCollum left Atlanta last night for Valdosta**

to assume command and help quiet any disturbance in connection with the expected capture of the negro murderer Sidney Johnson. Sheriff Wade received the first message Monday, a telegram from Gov. Dorsey. He was out of his office looking for some escaped convicts in the northern part of the county and did not get the message until afternoon. After his return to his office Gov. Dorsey called him on the telephone and repeated his inquiry as to help needed. Sheriff Wade told him he had just been over most of the section where the lynchings occurred and that people, white and black, were at work in their farms and there was no disorder. Wednesday afternoon Major McCollum called Sheriff Wade on the telephone again and said he was ready to dispatch state troops to assist in quelling the insurrection or disorder in Brooks County. Sheriff Wade assured him there was absolutely no disorder. Sheriff Wade attributed the anxiety of the state officials to sensational stories sent out to the state papers of the Smith murder and the lynchings which followed. He said that beyond the actual fact of the four lynchings there had been no disorder in the county, no mob hunting negroes. The nearest approach to disorder was on Sunday when crowds of people from the surrounding counties poured into the county to visit the scene of the lynchings. Citizens of Barney called the sheriff Sunday afternoon and asked him to come up there. He went with a small posse of deputies and was informed that hundreds of people had been in and around Barney and that they were complete strangers. Most of them visited the vicinity of the Joyce home where Mrs. Smith is lying wounded and ill and created disturbance by their presence, but there was no actual outbreak of disorder among them. (Words are missing)...sense of the term. ...around Barney asked them late in the afternoon to return home quietly and they did. As was stated previously no disorder attended the lynchings beyond the fact that these negroes were lynched after vigilance committee made sure they were involved in the crimes or had previous knowledge of them. At no time has



there been need for troops to quell disorder in the usual sense of the term."

On the same page a related report stated:

**"Smith Not Wounded By Johnson Negro.** The report sent out from Valdosta and published in the morning papers that Dixon Smith was shot through the hand by the Johnson negro last night is untrue. It was ascertained by the Free Press this morning that Mr. Smith was not only not injured but so far as is known was not even at the scene when the Valdosta officers attempted to arrest Johnson, and this is merely another of the many sensational stories published about the Smith tragedy which have contributed no little to the apparent impression in the state that people in this section are running wild."

A Free Press editorial read:

**THAT LYNCHING STORY.** In Monday's Savannah News and one or two other out-of-town papers a story appeared under a Quitman date-line telling of the lynching of the wife of Hayes Turner and stating that this made five persons lynched in Brooks County in connection with the Hampton Smith murder. The story closed by saying the posses were after other negroes and "the feeling among both whites and blacks seems to be growing more intense". The Quitman correspondent of these papers wants it stated that this inaccurate story was not sent from Quitman. Only four persons had been lynched and while one more may not make much difference to people outside the county the people most concerned prefer to have only the truth printed. There was considerable resentment also over the story sent out from Moultrie and published in the Sunday papers giving certain revolting details of the crime which the local correspondent had not published out of respect for the feelings of the victim's family. As a matter of fact, the serious men who conducted the search for the criminals implicated in this murder resented the hordes of people who flocked in from adjoining counties. The whole situation was

**bad enough but it was made worse by the mobs of curiosity seekers. The actual parties who conducted the investigations and hung the four negroes were comparatively small, probably not over forty or fifty men. Only six men examined the Head negro and obtained the detailed confession; they counselled not lynching him until the negroes he implicated were caught and details verified. The hundreds of people—morbid mobs who flocked afterward to the scene of the lynchings and mutilated the victims in their gruesome search for souvenirs—were not members of the vigilance committee which took the negroes out. They were the sort of people probably who would not have nerve enough to act on a vigilance committee. If there is anything consoling about such a horrible experience in the history of the county it lies in the fact that the committee of Hampton Smith's neighbors who started out to find out who murdered him and attacked his wife and to punish them saw to it that there was absolutely no disorder, no hunting of innocent negroes, none of the wild mob outbreaks. There was no "intense feeling among whites and blacks". To prove this it need only be stated that a great many negroes visited the scenes of the lynchings Saturday and Sunday. This is no apology for lynch law, but the sensational stories originating in other towns nearby make it appear that the situation was worse than it really was and the sober-minded people most concerned thought the truth was bad enough without distortions of what actually occurred. It was a county affair and people of the county as well as the local correspondents of papers were quite competent to handle it without assistance.**

**The Georgia Historical Society published in the Summer 2006 quarterly a long article by Christopher C. Myers, associate professor of history at Valdosta State. The article was laced with obvious slant and had many errors. One example is a full page photograph of Police Chief Calvin Dampier with caption that he was wounded in a gun battle with Sidney Johnson on May 22, 1918, as this was first reported. A follow-up news article said he was not wounded**

and was not even at the house when Johnson was killed. Prof. Myers' piece was entitled: "Killing Them by the Wholesale: A Lynching Rampage in South Georgia." See the original article, pp. 214-235. Myers gives a dramatic account of the shootout with Johnson in Valdosta and claims promptly that Chief Dampier and his brother were there and both were wounded. He claims, too, that Dixon Smith, father of Hampton, was "head of the mob". Dixon Smith was reported to have been wounded in the shootout. Myers' definition of lynching did not fit the shootout with Johnson who was resisting arrest by legal authority. Myers repeatedly calls Johnson's death a "lynching". He seems eager to indict Brooks County as "mob prone". He claims, too, that Hampton Smith, the murder victim, was 31 and owner of a large farm called the "Old Joyce Place". I have found no evidence that Smith owned a large farm. He rented from Charles Burton who had bought that part of the old Joyce place a few years before. Smith's age was 25, born in January, 1893. Myers commented on the lynching of Will Thompson, near Campground Church, and claims this was "near the Smith home". It was about 7 miles from the Smith residence where he was murdered and less than a mile from Morven. Myers then spins his idea that the lynching was done as part of a ritual, for which there is no evidence whatever. (See p. 222). The lynching of Mary Turner and her unborn child at Little River east of Barney is described, Myers saying she had Hampton Smith's pocket watch but denied any involvement in his murder. On p. 225, Meyers claims that Sidney Johnson was "the victim of mob violence". This time Myers says two police officers and Dixon Smith tried to arrest Johnson. Their attempt attracted a large crowd. Myers calls this crowd a "mob" and a "crowd". They appear to have turned into a mob, venting their rage on Johnson's body and burning it near Campground Church. Again, Myers says this was "near Barney". Mt. Zion Methodist Church at Campground is just north of Morven and several miles from Barney. He quotes information gathered by Walter White of the NAACP, none of it sworn, several months after the

**murder of Smith and the lynchings, never questioning the accuracy of his report. I have found no evidence that any investigation of the murder of Hampton Smith was done by anyone. On page 232, Myers again claims Johnson was hunted down and "lynched". He wastes no sympathy for Smith's wife who was shot in the chest and pregnant and seems to think the only crime committed was Johnson's shooting her husband. Several were part of the plot and some took part in the killing of Smith, his wife's shooting, and ransacking of the house. Myers concluded his article with this slanted statement, p. 235: "Those lynchings confirmed that Brooks County was the most mob-prone and lynch-prone county in a state that led the nation in mob violence". This was rank propaganda.**

**The Georgia Hist. Society Journal advertised a book written by a woman from Birmingham, Alabama, Southern and white, who did some graduate work at Valdosta State and became interested in the lynchings in 1918 which followed the Hampton Smith murder and the shooting of his wife near Barney. She had researched it pretty well but had some obvious things wrong. Her focus is to show how the lynching of the woman, Mary Turner, influenced attempts to outlaw lynching through articles, art, poetry and so on. She does an adequate job with this, in my opinion, but clearly identified with the horrors of these lynchings. She holds one and all white people in Brooks and Thomas counties guilty, however. Many people living at the time knew little of what went on except what was in the newspapers and through gossip. The book is titled "Mary Turner and The Memory of Lynching", written by Julia Buckner Armstrong. She called Sidney Johnson's death in Valdosta a lynching, far from the facts as he was resisting arrest. His body was mutilated after his death but this was not lynching. She garbles the geography involved, claiming the site of Mary Turner's torture and lynching was near the old Joyce Place near which Hamp Smith was killed. Not so. The site of Hamp Smith's death is about five miles away on the border of Brooks County and**

**Cook County. The writer's main source is a man named White whom even she admits had an axe to grind. She waxes sentimental and poetic while stretching the story to fit her conceptions.**

**My own experience and memories:**

**I never heard the subject discussed except in the most private and somewhat secretive way, never in a public setting. I think most decent people were ashamed of what went on and did not know for sure just who had been involved in the lynchings. My father, who was seven years old when this happened, thought he knew two or three people who were in the lynch mobs but was never sure.**

**One fact is that Mary Turner was found in Quitman, in possession of Hamp Smith's watch, was tortured, lynched and killed, her body mutilated, at the Brooks County side of the Folsom Bridge where the Morven road joined the old Lakeland-Thomasville road. Turner had worked for the Burton family. The old wooden bridge which existed in 1918 crossed the Little River from Lowndes to Cox's Bluff on the Brooks County side. The river makes a sharp turn towards the south near this, washing out a deep swimming hole popular as the "Wash Hole" in later years. The sawed off timbers supporting the bridge were seen by me in 1975 when wading in the river with my small son, the water quite low and clear. The public road from Morven joined the old Lakeland-Thomasville Road near the bridge and ran through part of my grandfather's farm (Stephen W. Bourquin, Jr.). As I grew up and fished and swam in the river, a hardwood tree on the river bank, a few yards south of the site of the old bridge, was pointed out as the site of the lynching. Thirty years later nothing can be seen and the site is in deep woods.**

**The old Folsom bridge, a wood structure, was about two hundred yards north of the concrete one on Hwy 122 which**

**was built about 1940. This was the old Lakeland-Thomasville Public Road which ran past the Bourquin place where my mother was reared and where her mother died in 1920 of the Asian flu. My grandfather owned the land near the bridge. The unpaved road from Morven joined the Lakeland-Thomasville Road at Walton's Creek. The old Wash Hole, a swimming spot, was just north of the old bridge, named for the hole created by the current as the river turned south at Cox's Bluff. The tree where Mary Turner was lynched was pointed out to me on some occasions but I never looked at it. Most people were spooked by it.**

**A group pushed for a history marker to commemorate this and condemn lynching. Ms. Armstrong recounts the exchanges with the Ga. Historical Society over the wording. It was revised by GHS and was a little more objective. The plaque was placed in 2010 on the Lowndes County side of the new bridge, about a half mile from the actual lynching site and across the Little River swamp. Ms. Armstrong clearly saw the plaque as a step in pushing a version of history which promoted colored people as victims. She wasted no concern for Hamp Smith nor his wife. Years later an effort was made to replace the plaque to the Brooks County side of the river, nearer the site of the torture and lynching of Mary Turner.**

**I hate lynching and any form of extra-legal punishment as it so often is excessive and wrong. Human passions must be cooled to weigh evidence. But I know most of the people I grew up with would never have anything to do with such horrors nor would their parents. I have a few candidates around Barney who probably were involved. I have written this account to correct errors, having lived as a boy in the old Joyce house occupied in 1918 by the colored family and hearing for years about the "Hamp Smith place" next door. As I grew up, there was no house there but an abandoned tobacco barn. The Burton family still owned the land in the 1940's.**

**SWE.**

## **Some sources of information:**

**April 11, 1999. Barney, Georgia. Discussion with Pat Blease, son of Mack Blease. Pat listened carefully as a boy growing up to adult conversations about many things. He heard from his father that dogs which belonged to Mack Blease and other dogs of Israel Folsom were used to trail the blacks who killed Hamp Smith towards Valdosta. The dogs lost the trail at a creek near Valdosta. Sheriff Dampier of Lowndes County at a store in Valdosta gave Pat's father a 30-30 rifle to use in the pursuit. They did locate a black man in Valdosta, brought his body back and burned it. A black woman working for the Burtons was found with a ring taken from Mrs. Smith. She knew of the plot to rob Smith. Mrs. Smith was shot with a steel jacket rifle bullet, was pregnant. She crawled to an old house across a field and she and her baby lived.**

**Account of Barbara Jones Moody, widow of Bobby Moody, Barney, Georgia, 2013.**

**"This is what Sherrold Rogers told me about a lynching near my house. He said he and Bobby had found the oak tree near my house on Highway 76, about 1/4-1/2 mile from Campground where one took place. This is the way his mother, Gladys Nichols Rogers, told it. Hamp Smith, a farmer, worked blacks. While he and his wife were eating supper, the blacks slipped up to his window and shot his wife. They found her later in the woods. She had almost bled to death, had covered her wounds with leaves. The Ku Klux Klan chased the blacks. He had turned out the lights in his house so they could not see. The lynching took place in the oak tree. There was a black woman involved. She was going to church and the KKK lynched her in an oak tree on Campground Road, parallel to the oak tree on 76 where the previous lynching took place. They set fire to her, burned her clothes off, then lynched her. He named the men around**

**who did the lynching but told me not to tell. I know Bobby's brother Pete was a member of the KKK but don't know if Pete was involved in this lynching. My children found his clothing when he died. I don't know what they did with it. Sherrold said a KKK outfit sold for \$85,000 that went in a museum. Sherrold did ID his mother. She was the one Mot and Mary Lilla thought favored my Dianne. He kinda agreed to the other ID's we had made. Sure hope Carol B.'s Aunt Barbara can verify... Barbara Jones Moody**

**(Pete was too young to take part in the lynching in 1918. His father might have done so. A gathering place for the local Klan was at Williams Crossing not far from the Moody farm. SWE).**

**From Carol B. Moore, June 2, 2013. "I vaguely remember my granddaddy Moore mentioning one lynching when was a a young man, where a black man was dragged behind either a wagon, or some vehicle, on the Valdosta-Morven road until he was skinless because of some offense. Seems he died from his wounds. I don't recall him mentioning any names. I don't know if the event was published or acknowledged in some other way. Granddaddy was also pretty good at telling scary stories to little boys, so I don't know how valid the above info is. Carol B. Moore, Jr." (Carol's grandfather was Elmer Moore who bought the Hitch place in Morven).**

References:

ROUGH JUSTICE: LYNCHING AND AMERICAN SOCIETY, 1874-1947, by Michael J. Pfeifer. University of Illinois Press. 2004. 245 pp. Pfeiffer researched lynching throughout the United States, not just in the South. Reviewed in GHS Quarterly, Summer, 2005.

"Killing Them by the Wholesale": A Lynching Rampage in South Georgia", by Christopher C. Meyers. Georgia Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. XC, Number 2, Summer, 2006. Page 214.

Articles in the Free Press, 1918.

Compiled by Stephen W. Edmondson, M.D. and sent to the Brooks County Museum in September, 2021.



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### THAT LYNCHING STORY

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The Quitman correspondent of these papers want it stated that this inaccurate story was not sent from Quitman. Only four persons had been lynched and while one more may not make much difference to people outside the county the people most concerned prefer to have only the truth printed.

There was considerable resentment also over the story sent out from Moultrie and published in the Sunday papers giving certain revolting details of the crime which the local correspondent had not published out of respect for the feelings of the victim's family.

As a matter of fact, the serious men who conducted the search for the criminals implicated in this murder, resented the hordes of people who flocked in from adjoining counties. The whole situation was bad enough but it was made worse by the mobs of curiosity seekers. The actual parties who conducted the investigations and hung the four negroes were comparatively small, probably not over forty or fifty men.

### WONDERFUL HEART.

We had planned to devote most of our editorial space to appeals for the Red Cross War Fund this week but what is the use? People here do not seem to need appealing to. And it begins to look like the whole country will oversubscribe the Red Cross fund the first two days of the campaign.

Cross fund the first two days of the campaign.

What a wonderful out-pouring of the great heart of America. What a universal rebuke to the spirit of Teutonic frightfulness. The Germans have deliberately destroyed homesteads, poisoned wells, cut down orchards, left not one stone upon another of those old farm houses of France. Delivered women to shameful slavery and little children to disease and starvation, rooted up a whole people and cast them away to wither on the ash heap of Time.

Thus the Hun proposed to clear out coveted lands for the occupation of his own seed. People capable of such infamy cannot realize that any nation would intervene from motives of humanity. Because America is rich, and perhaps very crude from the Continental view point, they think we are wholly commercial.

What a crushing answer is this outpouring of the Red Cross War Fund from the great heart of America. It is like a flood of golden sunlight into a dark corner of misery; before it the mean shrivelled spirit of Hun destruction shrinks like a poisonous insect of the night. America has been asked for one hundred

Only six men examined the Head negro and obtained the detailed confession; they counselled not lynching him until the negroes he implicated were caught and details verified. The hundreds of people—morbid mobs who flocked afterward to the scene of the lynchings and mutilated the victims in their gruesome search for souvenirs, were not members of the vigilance committee which took the negroes out. They were the sort of people probably who would not have nerve enough to act on a vigilance committee.

If there is anything consoling about such a horrible experience in the history of the county it lies in the fact that the committee of Hampton Smith's neighbors who started out to find out who murdered him and attacked his wife and to punish them saw to it that there was absolutely no disorder, no hunting of innocent negroes, none of the wild mob outbreaks. There was no "intense feeling among white and blacks." To prove this it need only be stated that a great many negroes visited the scenes of the lynchings Saturday and Sunday.

This is no apology for lynch law, but the sensational stories originating in other towns nearby make it appear that the situation was worse than it really was and the sober-minded people most concerned thought the truth was bad enough without any distortions of what actually occurred.

It was a county affair and people of the county as well as the local correspondents

million dollars by the Red Cross. It looks as if the money would be poured into the lap of the "Greatest Mother in the World" heaped up and running over. We hope America will give twice as much as asked for and that Quitman and Brooks county will do a share of this by doubling the quota required.

The story of how Brooks county went "over the top" the first day with her quota of the Red Cross War Fund wont get the big head lines in the papers that a murder case does, but it is much better advertising for the county and a much truer illustration of the real Brooks county spirit. Furthermore, we have no help from surrounding counties in getting up our Liberty Loan and Red Cross quotas as we do on those rare occasions when a mob has an excuse for running loose.

Hahira over in Lowndes county comes to the front again as a purveyor of pep by going "over the top" in the Red Cross War Fund drive the first day. Lowndes county started off the first day with \$5,560 secured toward its quota of \$12,000.

The "foreign" correspondents, who are keeping the world informed as to the developments in the Hampton Smith murder case, now re-

At 2:30 o'clock today Press was advised the had gone "over the top" quota of Red Cross subscribers \$294, while quota was only \$150.

## BROOKS COUNTY BOYS AS ARMY

Two Brooks county boys Rambo and Thomas Rags Valdosta Tuesday afternoon successfully passed an examination government stenographers go to Atlanta for their first examination and will be reported, R. I. These boys visit in the Rocky Ford school southern part of the county rural school in the county business course in connection with the school work. Their stenographers tells its own story.

## RED CROSS PIG SALE AT BARNEY SALES

Five patriotic and liberal citizens of Barney have donated five pigs to the Barney Auxiliary Saturday afternoon five promising porkers were auctioned off and the proceeds went to the Red Cross fund.

There will be appropriate and everybody who is in the Red Cross and in connection to feed the army will like to see that the sale is a success. It is most lucky to start a sale with a Red Cross pig. Any Red Cross flourishes in this county.

Mrs. A. C. Powell and Powell have gone to Athens present at the graduation of Edith Powell at the State College May 29. Mrs. Powell

## Hospital Beds Ready For Army

WASHINGTON, May 13.—One hundred thousand hospital beds will be available for American soldiers under the construction program now in progress under the supervision of the Army Medical Corps is completed. Reports to Surgeon General D. H. Quisenberry show that 62,959 beds now are in National Army and National Guard base hospitals, embarkation, and civilian hospitals including the institutions in charge of the wounded. This total will be increased by more than forty per cent.

## Clean Food For Soldier Men

SANTA, Ga., May 13.—Special order has been issued at Camp Gordon forbidding officers and men from patronizing restaurants and places which have failed to comply with the rules and regulations of the army authorities. Eating houses which have complied are given a certificate to be conspicuously displayed on the wall, and all such places are authorized to feed soldiers and officers. As a part of the health campaign directed toward the soldiers, every public place in the city was inspected and told what to do. About forty were complied.

## Wonderful Spirit Led Cross Rallies

Daniel, who left Quitman to go to tour South Georgia as secretary of the Red Cross, reports the wonderful response of everywhere to the appeal of the Red Cross. He is visiting every part of South Georgia to help complete the plan for the War Fund campaign which begins May 20. It has been over most of this territory previously and he says the interest for all patriotic activities including the Red Cross is full. Daniel is making about three days. He spoke Sunday morning in Newton, Sunday afternoon at Quitman, and Monday at...

# LYNCHERS TRIED PRAGER KILLING

EDWARDSVILLE, Ill., May 13.—The trial of eleven men on murder charges growing out of the lynching at Collinsville of Robert Prager, an enemy alien, was begun today. Sixteen men were indicted, including four policemen. The trial of the policemen has not been set. The twelfth civilian was never apprehended.

The lynching of Robert Paul Prager, German enemy alien, on the morning of April 5 was the culminating tragedy in a series of disassociated demonstrations which for several weeks had been held in various sections of southwest Illinois as a warning to alleged disloyalists. The activities of persons who counselled aggression against pro-Germans previously had been confined to the tarring and feathering of their victims, painting them yellow, forcing them to kiss the flag or to make public declarations of their allegiance to the government. Such demonstrations were held in numerous small towns, for the most part mining camps, where, it is said, German agents had flourished and carried on their propaganda work almost in the open.

Prager, a baker by trade and a miner by force of circumstances, was 29 years old, unmarried and lived here. He was a socialist and on several occasions is said to have been warned against his extreme views. A week before his death he went to Maryville, a small mining camp six miles from here and is said to have expressed himself vigorously but so far as is known his remarks were not disloyal. On April 4 he returned to Maryville. Several miners of that city resented his presence there and when they became menacing Prager fled for Collinsville.

The miners followed him. Barefoot and with an American flag draped around him he was paraded through the street. A local policeman sensing trouble, rescued him from the crowd and escorted him to the city jail for protection. Later the mob took him away from the jailers and hung him

Loses No Time

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Four enlisted men in the navy were specially commended today for bravery in danger by Secretary Daniels. They included Millard F. Station of Jacksonville, Fla., who rescued a shipmate in a rough sea.

## Life Was a Misery

Mrs. F. M. Jones, of Palmer, Okla., writes:

"From the time I entered into womanhood . . . I looked with dread from one month to the next. I suffered with my back and bearing-down pain, until life to me was a misery. I would think I could not endure the pain any longer, and I gradually got worse. . . Nothing seemed to help me until, one day, . . . I decided to

TAKE

# CARDUI

## The Woman's Tonic

"I took four bottles," Mrs. Jones goes on to say, "and was not only greatly relieved, but can truthfully say that I have not a pain. . ."

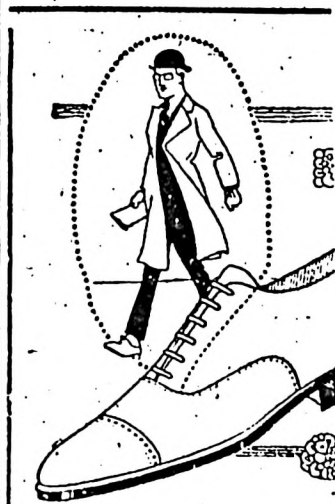
"It has now been two years since I took Cardui, and I am still in good health. . . I would advise any woman or girl to use Cardui who is a sufferer from any female trouble."

If you suffer pain caused from womanly trouble, or if you feel the need of a good strengthening tonic to build up your run-down system, take the advice

### THE TEXAS WONDER



THE Texas Wonder cures bladder troubles, dissolves gravel, cures weak and lame backs, cures all irregularities of the kidneys in both men and women. Your druggist will be sent by mail a small bottle in two cents and seldom fails to perform for testimonials from this town. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2236 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists.



Shoes of Quality and Character

BUSINESS and professional men who choose their Footwear by these two marks will see in our Spring Shoes a fulfillment of all their requirements.

We have a special line of Oxfords that are particularly worthy of your attention.

Made with special care from especially selected stock to insure maximum of fit and comfort.

**\$4.00 to \$10.00**

**Turner-Jones Shoe Co.**

**PARNELL  
WORKHOUSE**

reland, May 23.—  
sketts died today in  
nown as the "South"  
The announce-  
eath in this envir-  
a sensation here

s was the sister of  
Stewart Parnell,  
ably the most fa-  
rn Irish patriots.

**DR FIGHT  
W ORDER**

(Associated Press.)

N, May 23.—Provost  
Crowder has issued  
men of age for army  
ther got to work in  
occupation or they  
This new order will  
professional baseball  
seek some useful oc-  
the army, it is be-

t every man of draft  
fight or get to work,  
e amendment of the  
is announced today.  
is aimed at not mere-  
draft registrants en-  
held to be non-useful  
these will be haled  
boards and given the  
g a new job or join-

**n Soldiers  
Casualties**

(Associated Press.)

N, May 23.—Today's  
ontains a number of  
all from South Car-  
James Cothran, of  
J. W. Jones, of Spar-  
alter Hunter of Laf-

**JOHNSON KILLED  
BY POLICEMEN**

**Murderer of Hamp Smith Comes  
Out of Swamp for Food;  
Troops in Valdosta.**

**WOUNDS TWO MEN  
BEFORE HE'S KILLED**

VALDOSTA, May 23.—The Chat-  
ham Home Guards arrived in Valdosta  
early this morning, having been or-  
dered out by the Governor to assist  
in quelling any disorder incident to  
the capture of Sidney Johnson.

They found everything here quiet  
following the battle between Johnson  
and police officers here last night in  
which two officers were shot and John-  
son was killed.

It is expected the guards will return  
to Savannah late today. The two offi-  
cers shot last night are not seriously  
wounded.

Sidney Johnson shot Chief of Police  
Calvin Dampier, wounding him in the  
left arm; shot Dixon Smith, father  
of Hampton Smith, in the hand and  
Patrolman M. Dampier was badly  
wounded on the side of the neck by  
the flash of a pistol, while Johnson  
was literally shot to pieces at 10:45  
last night when he was surrounded in  
a negro house on South Troop and  
South streets.

The negro was undoubtedly Johnson  
as he was well known in Valdosta. He  
came out of the swamp where he had  
been hiding nearly a week since the  
Smith murder and asked for food at  
a negro house. The Valdosta police-  
men surrounded the house and when  
they entered Johnson opened fire on  
them. He had a shotgun and a pistol  
and Chief Dampier was shot with the  
pistol after the gun was emptied.

The negro was riddled with bullets  
and in the meantime a crowd of sev-  
eral hundred men gathered and took  
the body of the negro which was tied  
to a car and dragged it through  
the streets of Valdosta and afterward  
went toward Barney, it was reported.

Shooting Fire

**RED CROSS FUND  
STILL GROWING**

**Spirit of Enthusiasm Carrying  
Every District in Brooks  
Over Its Quota.**

**QUOTAS ARE EXCEEDED  
IN EVERY REPORT**

**RED CROSS FUND  
OVER THE TOP**

Below are given the figures  
reported up to noon today  
from various district com-  
mittees. All the districts are  
at work and will make a good  
showing but had not report-  
ed.

DIST.	QUOTA	SUBS'D
Quitman	\$3,000	\$5,500
Dixie	400	650
Morven	400	400
Nankin	150	300
Hickory Head	350	400
Barney	400	535

Brooks county has certainly put the  
"fun" in the Red Cross War Fund  
campaign. The committees have work-  
ed, of course, to get the quotas up but  
it has not been drudgery. There has  
been a spirit of jubilation and en-  
thusiasm in the work that has been  
contagious and spread from one dis-  
trict to another all over the county.

"Don't care how much we raise," is  
the word from Dixie.

Nankin telephones in yesterday af-  
ternoon that their quota has been  
practically doubled "and we haven't  
stopped, either."

And Barney. Monday night the Bar-  
ney committee wanted its quota low-  
ered from \$500 to \$400. Everybody  
understood this little bit of camou-  
flage and it was done. This morning  
word comes from Barney that sub-  
scriptions have already gone over  
\$500 and still going.

Some careful soul counseled mod-  
eration and thought if Brooks county  
raised its quota and stopped at that it  
was enough. The committees feel that  
Brooks county will want to be right

## Large Enrollments Have Already Been Reported

The County Agents are now making drive for ten thousand members of boys' Wheat Club to grow an acre of wheat next year. All of these boys are being organized this spring for the purpose of growing one acre of cow peas to be harvested for seed in May as the boys desire and this will be followed by wheat this fall. Many counties have already reported the enrollment of one hundred or more boys for this purpose. Each boy who grows an acre of cow peas will be followed by an acre of wheat which will be feeding one soldier in the trenches.

In addition to the boys' wheat club, many farmers have joined farmers' wheat clubs during the past winter, and many more are preparing to grow wheat next year. Each farmer is urged to grow from one to five acres of wheat or a sufficient quantity to feed a family and labor on his farm. Investigations are that wheat shortage will be as acute in 1919 as it has been in 1918.—Prof. J. Phil Campbell, State College of Agriculture.

## 500,000 WORTH OF EGGS SPOIL YEARLY

### Wasting the Rooster May Prevent This Loss

In Georgia alone, each year, \$500,000 worth of eggs spoil because of neglect or carelessness. This loss represents 10% of all eggs produced or egg out of every 10 laid.

The quickest and most effective way to correct this great loss will be to kill the rooster. A fertile egg will deteriorate much quicker than an infertile egg because in the former the embryo starts to develop at approximately 70 degrees. As it is impossible to keep eggs below that temperature in summer, the egg is bound to spoil. Therefore, as soon as the breeding season is over, catch the rooster. The very best males may be separated from the hens for the next year, those not exceptionally good could be fattened and eaten or sold. Keep the nest free from mites by spraying occasionally with kerosene. Provide clean nest well bedded with hay, straw or excelsior and the

agreed to give one day's wages to the Red Cross Fund and among them was a one-armed negro named Jim Weeks.

## SENSATIONAL STORY SENT FROM VALDOSTA

Brooks county people are waiting in amazement for the next phase of the Hampton Smith tragedy which has apparently been taken over by the "foreign" correspondents of neighboring counties who are sending out accounts of "developments." The latest "development" appears in yesterday's papers under a Valdosta date line, and it also appears that for convenience the correspondent has moved the tragedy over to that section as it is referred to as having happened "near here."

The plot to kill Hampton Smith and attack his wife it seems was framed up by "pro-Germans" who have incited the negroes to an uprising against the whites and tried to disorganize farm labor in this section.

Who these pro-Germans are or where they came from remains a mystery which even the correspondents seem unable to explain, but it was announced that several Lowndes county officials had "disappeared from the city and had presumably gone to investigate the report," so perhaps the pro-Germans will be freed.

In the meantime the farmers north of Quitman and in the community where the Smiths lived were astonished at the pro-German phase as they all knew the real causes underlying the tragedy. They probably do not realize the correspondent's "angle" of making the most of a sensational story and that the introduction of the "pro-German angle" would stretch it out another column at so much per column.

## Tornado Destroys An Entire Village

was directed to mind that he went to a late yesterday and a pair of overalls for

## Honored American Hero

(By Associated Press.)  
HEADQUARTERS, WASHINGTON, (Wednesday)—The American hero has been awarded distinguished Service Recognition was given during the period April 3.

## Cur In Ukraine City

(By Associated Press.)  
May 23.—Serious fight is reported. The newly appointed Ukset up under German been besieged several ps which remained Rada. All forces at the Rada are being con-Kiev.

return home quietly was stated previous-attended the lynchings t that these negroes ter the vigilance com-re they were involved had previous knowl- is there been need for disorder in the usual

Anderson, of Inman, S. C. was wounded severely. The list contains eighty-six names as follows:

Killed in action	14
Died of wounds	12
Died of disense	11
Wounded severely	39
Wounded slightly	9
Missing in action	1

## No Escape For The Slackers

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, May 23.—Slackers who leave the country to escape the draft will be prosecuted on their return is the announcement made by Attorney General Gregory today.

## SMITH NOT WOUNDED BY JOHNSON NEGRO

The report sent out from Valdosta and published in the morning papers that Dixon Smith was shot through the hand by the Johnson negro last night, is untrue.

It was ascertained by the Free Press this morning that Mr. Smith was not only uninjured but so far as known was not even at the scene when the Valdosta officers attempted to arrest Johnson and this is merely another of the many sensational stories published about the Smith tragedy which have contributed no little to the apparent impression in the state that people in this section are running wild.

Mrs. Kate Boone, of Lakeland, will reach Valdosta today where she will undergo an operation at one of the hospitals there. Her sister Mrs. T. A. Sweat went over to Valdosta to be with her.

## American Front

(By Associated Press.)  
WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, (Wednesday)—Artillery fighting on the American sectors has diminished according to the official statement from American headquarters tonight.

## LAST MINUTE NEWS

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, May 23.—A severe earthquake fifty four hundred miles from here was recorded at Georgetown university today.

(By Associated Press.)  
PARIS, May 23.—There is intermittent shelling south of the Avre river on the Amiens front, it is officially announced today. A German raid on French positions in Dois Mongival failed, and French detachments patrolling in Champagne brought in a number of prisoners and some war material.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, May 23.—Reports at the Red Cross headquarters show actual contributions of over fifty millions in the drive for the second one hundred millions war fund.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, May 23.—Jacksonville has been selected by the board of engineers as one location for the construction of concrete ships, it became known today.

Mrs. F. M. Humphrey and children of Nashville are visiting here.

# SHERIFF WANTED NO TROOPS SENT

In response to repeated messages from Governor Dorsey and Adjutant General McCollum asking if troops were needed in Brooks county to quell disorder, Sheriff Wade informed the state officials that no troops were needed and that he would ask for help if any situation arose which he could not control.

This morning's papers announced under Atlanta date lines that Major McCollum left Atlanta last night for Valdosta to assume command and help quiet any disturbance in connection with the expected capture of the negro murderer Sidney Johnson.

Sheriff Wade received the first message Monday, a telegram from Gov. Dorsey. He was out of his office looking for some escaped convicts in the northern part of the county and did not get the message until afternoon. After his return to his office Gov. Dorsey called him on the telephone and repeated his inquiry as to help needed. Sheriff Wade told him he had just been over most of the section where the lynchings occurred and that people, white and black, were at work in their farms and there was no disorder.

Wednesday afternoon Major McCollum called Sheriff Wade on the telephone again and said he was ready to dispatch state troops to assist in quelling the insurrection or disorder in Brooks county. Sheriff Wade assured him there was absolutely no disorder.

Sheriff Wade attributed the anxiety of the state officials to the sensational stories sent out to the state papers of the Smith murder and the lynchings which followed. He said that beyond the actual fact of the four lynchings there had been no disorder in the county, no mob hunting negroes.

# FARMER'S WIFE NEGRO'S VICTIM

**CORDELE, May 23.**—Jim Cobb, a negro accused of attacking and murdering Mrs. Roy Simmons, was taken from jail here early today by a mob and hanged.

The crime occurred late yesterday afternoon at the victims home. She was assaulted, her head was battered in and she was stabbed with a table fork. Her body was found by Will Gibes, an 18 year old white farm-hand who returned to the house. He ran to the field for the husband. Their little child was on the floor of the kitchen near the dead mother.

The nearest approach to disorder was on Sunday when crowds of people from the surrounding counties poured into the county to visit the scene of the lynchings.

Citizens of Barney called the sheriff Sunday afternoon and asked him to come up there. He went with a small posse of deputies and was informed that hundreds of people had been in and around Barney and that they were complete strangers. Most of them visited the vicinity of the Joyce home where Mrs. Smith is lying wounded and ill and created disturbance by their presence but there was no actual outbreak of disorder among them.

In the sense of the term, around Barney asked them late in the afternoon to return home quietly and they did. As was stated previously no disorder attended the lynchings beyond the fact that these negroes were lynched after the vigilance committee made sure they were involved in the crimes or had previous knowledge of them.

At no time has there been need for troops to quell disorder in the usual sense of the term.

After July 1st ev  
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## Southern S Suffer C

(By Associate  
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six names as follows:  
Killed in action .....  
Died of wounds .....  
Died of disease .....  
Wounded severely ..  
Wounded slightly ...  
Missing in action ...

## No Escape The S

(By Associated  
WASHINGTON, Ma  
ers who leave the cour  
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return is the announcer  
Attorney General Greg

## SMITH NOT WOUN BY JOHN SO

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