Home > Murder of Chicken Stephens New York Times Article

# Murder of Chicken Stephens New York Times Article

## Murder of Chicken Stephens New York Times Article

Complete transcription of article below.

#### LIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Murder of Benator John W. Stephens-A Terrible Scene-Shall His Assamins Be Amnestici 7

Spread Inspatch to the New York Dimen

Raimon, N. C., Feb 25 The Amnosty Rai thom, a to, tro briday, and was dis-bill came up in the House to day, and was dis-cussed to adjournment. Measure Watson and Morrison, Demoorais, spoke in favor of the bill. Measrs, Mariez and Bryan, of Alleschapy, Democrais, opposed the bill upon the ground that it would encourage crime, relard immigration and rapital, and provoke had blood throughout the State. Mr Buwman, Republican, made an State. Mr. Howman, Republican, unde an raronal, dispansionate appeal is the Hennesov is pass the bill. He read from the Ammenty act, passed in 106 by the Lottalastre, at Hills-bure, which contained a provise that parsons willly of willful and deliberate movider should not reverse amounty and pardon. He also re-ferred to the banging of Wyart, an outlaw, on the Courthenses given in the town of Graham, he thes related from the swirth evidence of one of the per-ties present the particulars of the morder of the Secator John W. Hiephens, of Caswell, which occurred in Jone, 1870, and that warrants bad been haused for the guilty parties. He stated that a public Democratic unceting was in prog-ress in the court-homse at Yanceyville, the rounty seal of Caswell; that Bieph att-udance on that meeting ; that a prominent Democrat of Caswell approached displaces with a smille, and saked him to so down stars with h m - hisphene samued, and they westings a room formerly occupied by the Clerk of the Court of Lquity, that as along as they entered the room the door was licked, that there were in the room eight white men and one perro-Stephene was emprised to find the room rail of men and was strork which horror when a rope, fired as a lasse, was thrown over his nock from belind, and he was told by the spakesman of the Kuklus crowd that he must renomer his Republican principles, laste che constry, or die. Hisphens said he sould not gracup his Republican principles ; that he be-lieved they were right, and that the Republic would prosper if they were carried out . that he could not insert the country and State, because his a'l was there, that the courted people backed upon him as a leader, that they depended on m, and that he could not descri them. See plicus was then fold that he must don. He then asked to be allowed to take a last look from the window of the office, at his home and any of his family that might be in view. The request was prouted, and when flipplens slepped to the window he beheld his bills bone and his two little children playing in front of his house. He was then shrown down on a table, two of the Kukica bolding has area. The more was ordered to be drawn tighter, and the nears was ordered to get a bucket to each the boost This done, our of the growd severed the sugular win, the negro eaught the blood in the bucket, and Simphene was dead. His body was laid on a pile of wood in the room, and the murderers with opetairs, took part in the inveting, and stamped and applauded Demo-

Develop, and surged all appliance beams Mr Howman was within if he made this states meet of his own how'right. He repide that he was no possession of the source visiones of me of the posters who was prevent and assu-ed at the burder, that the statement was made and waven to before an offlere axistants to administer outles and to insue warrants of arrant.

The state of the second second

**Citation (Chicago** Style):

"Life in North Carolina: The Murder of Senator John W. Stephens -- A Terrible Scene -- Shall His Assassins Be Amnestied?" New York Times, February 26, 1873.

[Courtesy of the Newspaper Archive, https://access.newspaperarchive.com/us/new-york/new-york/new-york/times/1873/02-26]

Read the related<br/>article:Primary Source: The Murder of "Chicken"<br/>StephensTranscript:Stephens

#### LIFE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The Murder of Senator John W. Stephens -- A Terrible Scene -- Shall His Assassins Be Amnestied?

#### Special Dispatch to the New York Times.

RALEIGH, N.C., Feb 25 The Amnesty bill came up in the House today, and was discussed to adjournment. Mssrs Watson and Morrison, Democrats, spoke in favor of the bill. Mssrs. Marler and Bryan, of Alleghany, Democrats, opposed the bill upon the ground that it would encourage crime, retard immigration and capital, and provoke bad blood throughout the State. Mr. Bowman, Republican, made an earnest, dispassionate appeal to the House not to pass the bill. He read from the Amnesty act, passed in 1795 by the Legislature, at Hillsboro, which contained a provision that persons guilty of willful and deliberate murder should not receive amnesty and pardon. He also refereed to the hanging of Wyatt, an outlaw, on the Courthouse green in the town of Graham, he then related from the sworn evidence of one of the parties present the particulars of the murder of Senator John W. Stephens, of Caswell, which occured in June, 1870, and that warrants had been issued for the guilty parties. He stated that a public Democratic meeting was in progress in the courthouse at Yanceyville, the county seat of Caswell; that Stephens was in attendance on that meeting; that a prominent Democrat of Caswell approached Stephens with a smile, and asked him to go down stairs with him. Stephens accepted, and they went into a room formerly occupied by the Clerk of the Court of Equity, that as soon as they entered the room the door was locked, that there were in the room eight white men and one negro. Stephens was surprised to find the room full of men and was struck with horror when a rope, fixed as a lasso, was thrown over his neck from behind and he was told by the spokesman of the Kuklux crowd that he must renounce his Republican principles; that he believed they were right, and that the Republic would prosper if they were carried out, that he could not leave the country and State, because his all was there, that the colored people looked upon him as a leader, that they depended on him, and that he could not desert them. Stephens was then told that he must die. He then asked to be allowed to take a last look from the window of the office, at his home and any of his family that might be in view. The request was granted, and when Stephens stepped to the window he beheld his little home and his two little children playing in front of his house. He was then thrown down on a table, two of the Kuklux holding his arms. The rope was ordered to be drawn tighter, and the negro was ordered to get a bucket to catch the blood. This done, one of the crowd severed the jugular vein, the negro caught the blood in the bucket, and Stephens was dead. His body was laid on a pile of wood in the room, and the murderers went upstairs, took part in the meeting, and stamped and applauded Democratic speeches.

Mr. Bowman was asked if he made this statement of his own knowledge. He replied [illegible] he was in possession of the sworn evidence of one of the parties who was present and [illegible] at the murder, that the statement was made and sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths and to issue warrants of arrest.

This information fell like a bombshell from a batter in ambush. The Democrats were astounded; a death-like stillness pervaded the House, and at the conclusion of Mr. Bowman's speech the House adjourned.

Since the Amnesty bill passed the Senate, the Kuklux of Alamance County have been raiding and committing outrages again. About two weeks ago a number of these midnight assassins went in the night time to the house of Alexander Russell, a peacable, honest citizen of Alamance County, and assaulted and stabbed him severely. On Sunday night, the 16th last, a party of disguised men went to the house of a negro woman living on the land of J W Stockard in Alamance County, and with their pistols and threats to kill, drove the [inmates?] of the house from the premises. The screams of the woman aroused Stockard, who went to the source of the outrage, and upon remonstrating with the crowd, he was told he would be killed if he interfered with them.

Other outrages of a similar character to these have been committed in Alamance County during the last month. To prove that these outrages actually took place, I have only to say that I have seen the Superior Court Clerk of Alamance County, who informs me that the Superior Court was in session in that county, and that true bills of indictment were found by the Grand Jury against the parties who stabbed Russell and outraged the colored woman on Stockard's land. Such is the effect of the passage of the bill through the Senate.

#### **Usage Statement:**

### **Public Domain**

Public Domain is a copyright term that is often used when talking about copyright for creative works. Under U.S. copyright law, individual items that are in the public domain are items that are no longer protected by copyright law. This means that you do not need to request permission to re-use, re-publish or even change a copy of the item. Items enter the public domain under U.S. copyright law for a number of reasons: the original copyright may have expired; the item was created by the U.S. Federal Government or other governmental entity that views the things it creates as in the public domain; the work was never protected by copyright for some other reason related to how it was produced (for example, it was a

speech that wasn't written down or recorded); or the work doesn't have enough originality to make it eligible for copyright protection.

Source URL: https://ncpedia.org/media/image/murder-chicken-stephens