



Historic Fairfax City, Inc. "Fare Fac - Say Do"

Executive Officers

Sandra S. Wilbur	President
Deborah E. Mullan	Vice-Pres.
Albert L. Leightley	Treasurer
Christopher Kelley	Secretary

Ann F. Adams	Director
Linda M. Barringhaus	Director
Hildie Carney	Director
Patricia A. Fabio	Director
Mary D. Gauthier	Director
Linda C. Goldstein	Director
D. Lee Hubbard	Director
Hon. Wm. Page Johnson, II	Director
John A.C. Keith	Director
Benny Leonard	Director
Jenée L. Lindner	Director
Wayne A. Morris	Director
John P. Murphy	Director
Mary S. Petersen	Director
Hon. Penny A. Rood	Director
Edward C. Trexler, Jr.	Director

woman returned to bed. Moments later, she heard someone attempting to gain entry to her house by means of a downstairs window.

Ida von Bethmann Riedel

Ida von Bethmann Riedel, age 63, was a native of Germany who spoke no English. She had immigrated to the United States in 1895. Although married, she travelled alone, as a "steerage" passenger on the S.S. *Weimar* to the United States. The ship departed Bremen, Germany on September 19, 1895 and arrived in Baltimore, Maryland October 3, 1895. The *Weimar's* manifest indicated that Mrs. Ida Riedel intended to join relatives in

The Fare Facs Gazette

The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

Volume 13, Issue 3

Summer 2016

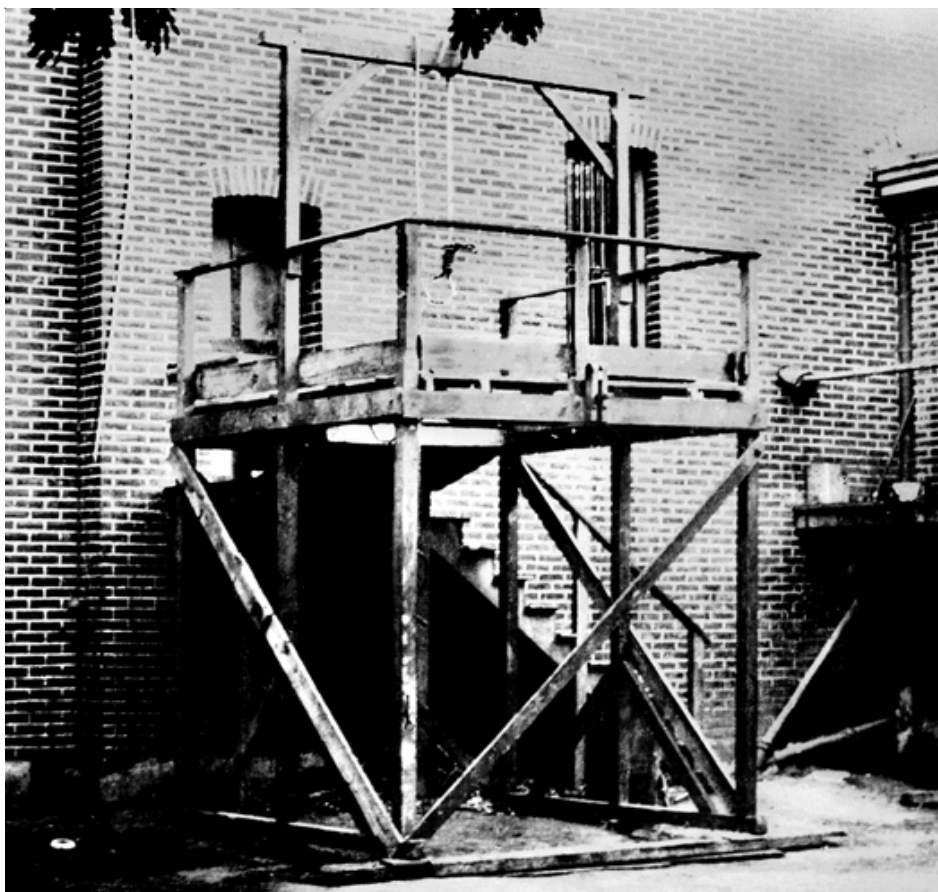
The Last Hanging in Fairfax County

by William Page Johnson, II

*"I'm Going Home to Die No More"*¹



In the early morning hours of Wednesday, April 14, 1897, an elderly woman was asleep in her home on the *Rose Hill*² estate in Fairfax County, near Alexandria, Virginia. She was awakened by a light rapping on her door. The woman got out of bed opened the window and peered out. In the bright moonlight the figure of a man was clearly visible below. The man knocked again and spoke to the woman. The elderly woman recognized the man, but could not understand what he was saying as they did not speak the same language. She thought he may have been looking for her son who lived nearby. She tried to tell him where her son lived and pointed in the direction of her son's house. The man left in that direction and the old



Scaffold Gallows at Fresno, California, 1893. Similiar to that constructed at Fairfax Court House for the Last Execution in Fairfax County in 1897.

Photo courtesy: Fresno County Sheriff's Office, Fresno, CA.

From the Desk of the President-

Fairfax, Virginia - July 2016

HFCI participated in the City's 4th of July parade this year. Three HFCI Board members in period costumes led our marching unit with our banner followed by our car and HFCI marchers celebrating with American flags. All HFCI members are invited to join our merry band!

Taste of the Vine, our annual fund raiser, will be held on Saturday, September 17, 6 to 9 pm at Blenheim Interpretive Center. Come – and bring your friends – and celebrate with good wine and paired food tastings. There will be many offerings at TOV's silent auction that will include a Civil War themed handmade quilt. Please contact me if you would like to make a contribution to our silent auction. Your contribution is tax-deductable.

So again, be sure to come and show your support of HFCI!

Our HFCI committees continue to provide financial and "boots on the ground" support for maintenance and operation of existing historic sites – including the new Kitty Poser Garden in Old Town Square – as well as providing historic preservation advocacy for the Paul VI (Old Fairfax High School), Rust Curve and Jermantown Cemetary projects.

Have a good Summer!

Sandra Wilbur, President
Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

**Visit us on the web:
HFCI Website!**

<http://www.historicfairfax.org>

At the Fairfax Museum and Historic Blenheim...

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

The Fairfax Story - Hamill Gallery. Permanent Fairfax history exhibition.

Strong Men & Women in Virginia History - Temporary Exhibition July 18 - August 27 Gano Gallery.

Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center "Second Sunday" Programs

Programs are held at **2 p.m.** on the second Sunday of each month. Unless otherwise noted, programs are held at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street. Free (unless noted). Check back to find out about additional programs planned throughout the year. Information: **703-385-8414**.

Sunday, August 14, 2 p.m.

"Hispanic & Latino Heritage in Virginia"

Book Talk and Signing with author and visual storyteller Christine Stoddard, a native of Arlington, who traces the history and culture of Hispanics and Latinos in Virginia.

Sunday, September 11, 2 p.m.

Susan Kelly as "The Yankee Schoolmarm"

Enjoy a preview of the new exhibition, "Chalkboards to Smartboards: Education in Fairfax County." Learn about school days in the nineteenth century.

Sunday, October 9, 2 p.m.

"The Mystery of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Postage Stamp Quilt"

Kyra E. Hicks, author and historian of African-American quilting traditions, will tell the story of Indiana quilter Estella Weaver Nuke and her gift to President Roosevelt.

Sunday, November 13, 2 p.m.

"Discovering Colchester's History"

Christopher Sperling, Senior Archaeologist with Fairfax County Park Authority, will share discoveries from his work at Colchester, a bustling port on the Occoquan River in 1700s.

Sunday, December 11, 2 p.m.

“American Holiday Postcards, 1905-1915: Imagery and Context”

Book talk and signing with Daniel Gifford from George Mason University, who will discuss the uses and meanings of holiday cards in the early twentieth century.

Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim

PERMANENT EXHIBITION

“Blenheim’s Civil War Soldier Signatures: A Diary on Walls”. Explores the local Fairfax Court House history and the experiences of soldiers who wrote on the walls of the Willcoxon home (Historic Blenheim.) The replica attic is a life-sized replica of the house attic that shows the clearest graffiti in the house.

Historic Blenheim Civil War Interpretive Center Program Series Programs are free and held at 2 p.m. on Saturdays (unless otherwise noted) at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Information: 703-591-0560.

Saturday, July 23, 2 p.m.

“The Civil War and the Two Fairfax Courthouses”

Katrina Krempasky and Heather Bollinger of the Fairfax Circuit Court Historic Records Division, will share the stories of the physical building in present day City of Fairfax abandoned during the war and the continuation of the Court held in the West End at Bruins House and Jail under the Restored Government of Virginia.

Saturday, August 27, 2 p.m.

“PTSD and the Civil War”

Join Beth White, president of the Lynchburg Civil War Round Table as she examines the psychological burdens felt by Civil War soldiers long past the end of the war. She uses example from the 11th Virginia Infantry, CSA.

Sunday, September 25, 2 p.m. - SPECIAL DATE

Fall for the Book

“The Battle of Bristoe Station - Myths and Memory”

Authors Rob Orrison and Bill Backus, with the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division, will discuss the many myths surrounding the Battle of Bristoe Station. The Battle of Bristoe Station was the last major battle of the Civil War in Prince William County. Backus’ recent book and Orrison’s “A Want of Vigilance” will also be for sale.

Saturday, October 29, 2 p.m.

“Tournaments in Fairfax County and Fairfax Court House”

Historian Jeanne Niccolls will present her research on jousting tournaments, a dominant form of chivalric entertainment, in the antebellum and post-Civil War periods.

Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m.

“Clashing Dynasties: Charles Francis Adams and James Murray Mason in the Fiery Cauldron of Civil War”

Book talk and signing by Gerard Gawalt.

Sunday, December 4, Noon - 4 p.m - SPECIAL DATE and TIME

“Christmas in Camp”

Holiday customs, Victorian crafts, music, and camp drills with Company D, 17th Virginia Infantry, “*Fairfax Rifles*,” C.S.A

Other Information of Interest:

Walking Tour

10 am Guided walking tour (approx. 90 min.) of Old Town Fairfax with stops at the Fairfax County Courthouse, several antebellum homes with a Civil War history, and the City of Fairfax Cemetery (formerly Fairfax Confederate Cemetery).

Location: Meet at Fairfax Museum and Visitors center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax 703-385-8414. Wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

Volunteers and docents are sought for the city's historic buildings: Ratcliffe-Allison House, Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center and Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Additionally, volunteers may be interested in assisting with walking tours and special events. For information [email](#) or call **703-385-8415**.

The city has published a free self-guided walking tour brochure that provides a brief history of the city and noteworthy buildings in the Old Town Fairfax Historic District. This brochure is available from the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, or call **703-385-8414**.

Select historic buildings are open during city special events, including the Chocolate Lovers Festival, Civil War Weekend, Independence Day Celebration, Fall Festival and Festival of Lights and Carols. To arrange group tours of city-owned historic buildings [email](#) or call **703-385-8414**.

The Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. It includes a variety of building and monument types and styles, including:

Fairfax Courthouse (1800)
 Ratcliffe-Allison House (1812)
 Joshua Gunnell House (c.1830)
 William Gunnell House (c.1835)
 Ford House (c.1835)
 Fairfax Elementary School (1873)*
 Old Fairfax Jail (1885)
 Old Town Hall (1900)
 Marr Monument (1904)

*Fairfax Elementary School was converted into the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center in 1992.



"The dead continue to live by way of the resurrection we give them in telling their stories." - Gerda Lerner

Fairfax News of 50 Years Ago

Fairfax City Sets Hearing on Tax

Fairfax City, the last metropolitan Washington jurisdiction to act on a 1 per cent optional sales tax, will hold a public hearing on the issue July 19, two weeks before City Councilmen are due to make their decision on the levy.

Fairfax City Mayor E. A. Prichard indicated earlier that the city would follow the lead of Fairfax County Supervisors, who approved the tax a week ago. If approved, the tax would go into effect in the city Oct. 1 — a month later than other area jurisdictions — on top of a 2 per cent state-wide sales tax.

Prichard said he hoped the levy, which would bring in an estimated \$30,000 per month, would be earmarked for capital improvements or regional projects.

Washington Post, July 7, 1966, C1, p. 1, c. 4.

Fairfax May Reverse Rejection of Sales Tax

By Kenneth M. Boyd
Washington Post Staff Writer

Fairfax City's surprise decision Tuesday to become the only jurisdiction in the Washington area without a 3 per cent sales tax may be only temporary.

City Councilman George Hamill, the key figure in the 4 to 2 vote rejecting adoption of a 1 per cent optional sales tax, has said the issue would undoubtedly be raised again in January when the city's budget discussions get under way.

Another councilman who voted against the tax, Phillip D. Fisher, said he felt "there's a strong chance" that the levy would be adopted at budget time, although he may not necessarily vote for it.

Little Effect Seen

Along with the other councilmen contacted, Hamill and Fisher rejected arguments that without the sales tax the city might become a commercial oasis after Sept. 1 when surrounding jurisdictions levy a 1 per cent tax on top of a state-wide 2 per cent sales tax. That would bring sales taxes in the rest of Northern Virginia to

the same level imposed in the District and Maryland.

"People aren't going to change their shopping habits just to save 50 cents on a \$50 grocery bill," Fisher said, adding that the city has no large department or appliance stores where the 1 per cent might make a difference.

The only large business concerns in the city, Mayor E. A. Prichard noted, are in automobile sales, where the consumer tax doesn't apply.

The conditions under which Hamill and Fisher would change their vote in favor of the sales tax next January are not the same, however.

Sees No Need for Tax

Fisher said he voted against the levy Tuesday because "we don't have a demonstrated need for the tax at this moment." The city, he said, has several capital improvement projects in the "idea stage," but nothing as a firm proposal.

He said he would vote to raise the \$400,000 that the tax would produce annually if such projects materialize and if the city agrees to use the revenues to pay off principal and interest on bonds that would pay for the project.

Alexandria, Virginia.³ Presumably, this was her son, Emil Gustav Albert Riedel.

Emil Gustav Albert Riedel

Emil Gustav Albert Riedel was born near Berlin, Germany in August 5, 1858.

“Emil Riedel, Former. Actor (Genoff pens. 7658), † in America (where?), Born Manschnow-Cüstrin 5. Aug. 1858 1882-85 Member of Town Theater in Hamburg, Writer and Journalist, recently correspondent of “New York State Newspaper,” formerly worked on theater history areas, wrote: “School Drama and Theatre”, “The First Traveling Comedians”, “The Schönemannsche, Schaubühne and its members in Lüneburg.”⁴

Emil was a writer, who principally wrote for German-American newspapers, and periodicals such as *Staats Zeitung* (Chicago) and *Westermann’s Monatshefte*, a German monthly cultural magazine.⁵ While on an assignment in Italy in 1885, he met Clara B. Atherton (1858-1939) who was touring that country with her parents. Clara’s parents were U.S. Representative Charles Gibson Atherton of Ohio and Margaret Ann (Kumler) Atherton. Clara was “a linguist of considerable ability” who worked in the War Department, in Washington, DC.⁶

Emil and Clara were married on the Island of Malta March 17, 1886.^{7,8} They spent several years in Rome, where their first child, Gibson Riedel, was born in 1886.⁹ The couple immigrated to the United States through Hamburg, Germany on July 10, 1887. They travelled in a first class cabin on board the *S.S. Gellert*, arriving in New York City on July 23, 1887.¹⁰

The couple initially settled in Newark, Licking County, Ohio with Clara’s parents where their second child, Ferdinand Atherton Riedel, was born in 1888. Emil Riedel was interested in language and travel, as well as writing. In 1888, he travelled with his young family throughout the American Southwest, principally, Yuma, Arizona, where he studied the Yuma Indians. Later, they went to California, before briefly settling in Mexico City. While in Mexico,

Emil published a *A Practical Guide of the City and Valley of Mexico*, in 1892.

Shortly thereafter, they returned to the United States and settled in Fairfax County. In 1894, Emil Riedel purchased a 391-acre plantation in the Mount Vernon area called *Rose Hill* as a wedding gift for his wife although a deed was never recorded.^{11,12,13}

At 6 A.M. on February 1, 1895, Emil Riedel awoke to the smell of smoke at *Rose Hill*. A fire, from a defective flue, had started in one of the upper floor rooms. The flames quickly spread beyond control and the house, along with most of its contents, was completely destroyed.¹⁴ Emil would rebuild. Shortly after this event Emil’s mother, Ida Riedel, came to live with them at *Rose Hill*. He constructed a small home for her on the estate.

A Dastardly Crime

At 2 a.m., Wednesday, April 14, 1897, sixty-three-year-old, Ida Riedel was startled by the sound of someone attempting to enter a lower window in her house. Ida bolted out of bed and managed to escape out of the window to the ground below, injuring herself in the process. She intended to head to the home of her son Emil, less than a quarter mile away. She had hardly begun to stand, however, when someone pulled her to the ground and began choking her almost senseless. The moon clearly illuminated the man’s dark features. She recognized the man as someone who had previously worked for her son and on surrounding farms. The man attacking her was James Lewis, a black fieldhand. He raised the old woman’s nightgown and accomplished his purpose and fled.¹⁵

Ida, dazed and injured, manage to walk to her son’s house. Emil immediately reported the incident to the Alexandria police. A thorough search was made but, there was no sign of James Lewis.

The Hunt for Lewis

For two days the Alexandria police searched all of James Lewis known haunts in Fairfax and Alexandria. They first went to his home and spoke with his wife, Frances. James Lewis and Sarah Frances Davis had only been married just a few months. Alexandria policeman, Weston H. Atkinson received a tip from her that Lewis had left home on Tuesday night, April 13th. She indicated

that her husband packed a small bundle intending to go to Charlottesville to look for work. She likely also told Atkinson that James Lewis was from the Charlottesville area. Armed with this information, Officer Atkinson intended to go and arrest Lewis. However, as a local police officer, Atkinson had no authority beyond the limits of Alexandria. Therefore, he sought permission from the Mayor of Alexandria to travel to Charlottesville, at his own expense, in an attempt to capture Lewis. The Mayor gave his permission. However, when Alexandria Police Chief, James F. Webster, was informed of this, Atkinson's permission was rescinded. Chief Webster's son, William Webster, an Alexandria Constable was then informed and intended to set out for Charlottesville as soon as possible. In the 19th c. constables in Virginia were elected officials whose authority extended statewide. Officer Atkinson was incensed as he wanted to effect this important arrest. He tendered his resignation, which was "*not accepted*."¹⁶

On Friday, April 16th Atkinson travelled to Fairfax Court House to speak with Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney James Monroe Love. Love was aware of the crime, but only through newspaper accounts, as no one had thought to formally notify Fairfax County authorities. Atkinson was deputized to act as a Constable for Fairfax County. Fairfax County Sheriff George Gordon instructed Atkinson and Webster to return with Lewis to Fairfax County so Lewis could be placed in the Fairfax County jail.

Atkinson and Webster travelled by train from Fairfax Station to Charlottesville the morning of Saturday, April

17th. The authorities in Charlottesville, having been notified in advance, immediately went to the home of James Lewis' parents, William and Charlotte Lewis in Charlottesville. They found Lewis there and arrested him on Sunday, April 18th, just four days after the crime. When he was arrested by Charlottesville authorities, James Lewis denied he had done anything. However, he incriminated himself by asking if he was a suspect in the assault on Mrs. Riedel before the crime had even been mentioned.^{17, 18}

On the return trip to Fairfax, James Lewis professed his innocence and begged the officers not to take him to Fairfax Court House as he feared he might be killed.¹⁹ At 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 19th, Atkinson and Webster arrived at the Alexandria depot with their prisoner who was placed in the Alexandria jail.²⁰ Early on Tuesday, April 20th Fairfax County Sheriff, George Gordon, indignant that Atkinson and Webster had not followed his instructions, arrived in Alexandria. He took charge of Lewis, and accompanied by Alexandria Policeman Herbert Knight, transported him back to Fairfax Court House.²¹

Over one hundred people were waiting at Fairfax Station when the train carrying Lewis arrived. As he was taken off the train he was immediately threatened with lynching. Someone shouted, "*Get a rope!*"²² Lewis was placed in the "*little stage*" of Robert Lewis Sisson "*that makes daily trips to Fairfax Court House*."²³ He was transported to the Fairfax County jail without incident. Later that evening Mrs. Riedel arrived at Fairfax Court House and was taken to the jail. There were approximately a dozen other prisoners housed in the jail at that time. The prisoners,



Fairfax County Courthouse, c. 1916.

Photo credit: Unknown.

Source: Fairfax City Regional Library.



Fairfax County Courthouse, c. 2016.

Photo credit: Page Johnson

all black, were assembled in front of her. She positively identified James Lewis as her assailant.

After his arrest Lewis denied the allegations against him. He did acknowledge that he was near *Rose Hill* that night however. He indicated that he had quarreled with his wife and left Alexandria *"and went to the farm of Mr. Reid, near the scene of the crime, and later visited a the home of a colored woman named Mary Ennis, where he stayed until about 12 o'clock, when he went to the farm of Mr. Riedel to see a colored man, whom he did not see. He then returned home..., he said he decided to go to Charlottesville, and told his wife to that effect. About 7 o'clock Tuesday night he left home; he said, and walked to Manassas..., where he caught a train and rode to Charlottesville, where he remained up to the time of his arrest."*²⁴

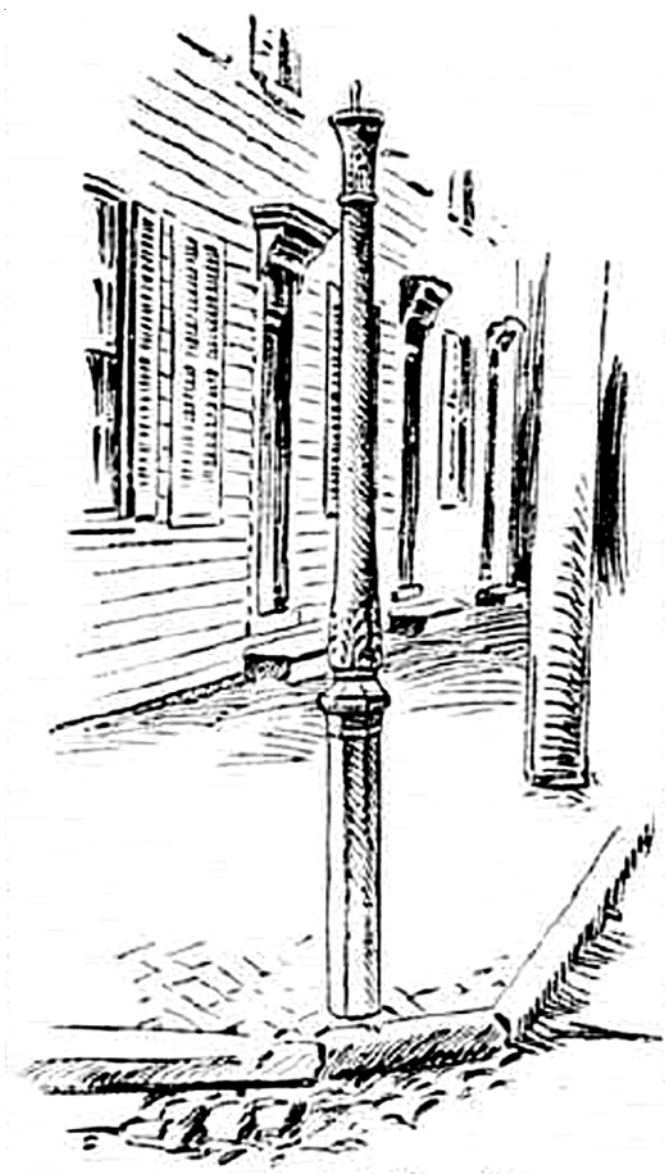
On April 20th, a special Grand Jury was hastily assembled. The Grand Jurors summoned were all men from the Fairfax Court House area: Stephen R. Donohoe, Newspaper Editor, age 46; James Adams, Merchant, age 35; Alexander C. Bleight, Salesman, age 48; Frank Wooster, Farmer, age 67; John C. Davis, Retired, age 69; Isaac C. France, Stone Mason, age 59; John B. Rawlings, Grocer, age 37; William H. Pettit, Carpenter, age 66; and Stockton S. Holbrook, Store Clerk, age 29.²⁵ Within a very short interval they returned an indictment of rape against Lewis. Judge William E. Lipscomb²⁶ of Prince William County was called in to preside as Fairfax County justice Daniel McCarty Chichester was ill. A trial date was set for Friday, April 23, 1897 at 11 a.m. The Commonwealth was represented by Commonwealth's Attorney, James Monroe Love. Judge Lipscomb appointed attorneys Richard Ewell Thornton²⁷ and Charles Vernon Ford to defend James Lewis.²⁸

Lynching of Joseph McCoy

Simultaneously, a similar drama was unfolding in Alexandria, Virginia. On the morning of Thursday, April 22, 1897, ten-year-old Annie Lacy, of Alexandria, the daughter of Tobias Lacy, was taken to Dr. Matthew W. O'Brien²⁹ and found to be suffering from some form of venereal disease. Annie, who was white, acknowledged that she had been raped repeatedly for several weeks by an employee of the Lacy family, Joseph McCoy, age twenty-one, who was black.

An immediate search for McCoy was undertaken. At approximately 7 p.m. that night he was found hiding in a stable behind the Lacy home on S. Washington St. near the Catholic Cemetery. He was arrested and confined in the Alexandria jail in the same cell occupied by James Lewis only three days before. News of the crime spread quickly throughout the town and a large crowd, led by Tobias Lacy, began to assemble around the jail.

Among the police officers present were Chief James F. Webster, Lt. James Smith, and Officers William Wilkinson, Weston H. Atkinson, William Lyles, Keith Davis, Herbert Knight and Constable William Webster.



Lamp Post on the s.e. corner of Cameron and Lee Streets, Alexandria, Virginia, from which Joseph McCoy was lynched in 1897.

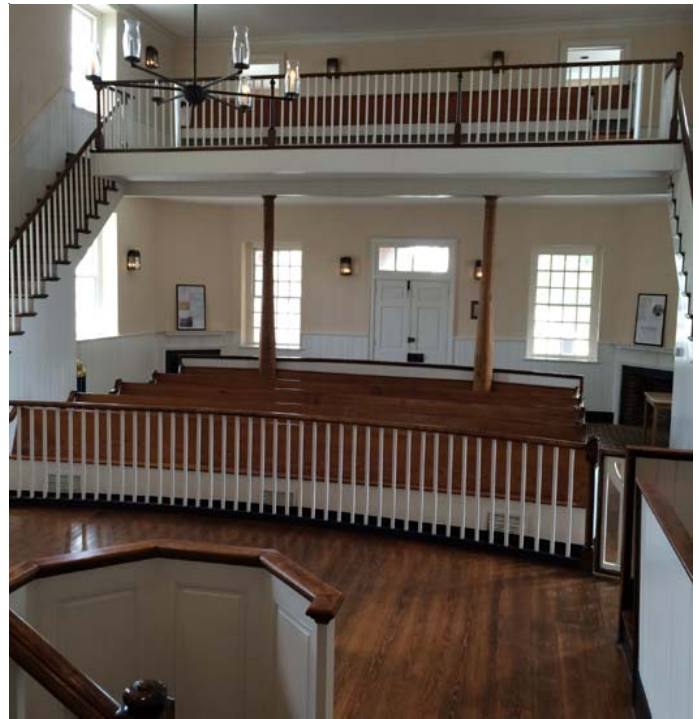
Source: Alexandria Gazette, April 23, 1897, p. 2.

After rocks were thrown at the front door of the jail and windows were broken, Lt. Smith appeared at the door and implored the crowd to *“let the law take its course. If the Negro is guilty he will be hung all right. Now go home and be quiet. For God’s sake don’t make us have to shoot some of you.”*³⁰ Smith succeeded in getting many in the crowd to disperse. However, this was only temporary. By midnight the crowd had again swelled, this time to almost 700 hundred. In the early morning hours of Friday, April 23, 1897, the angry mob stormed the front door of the jail. The officers inside, fired their weapons in the air in a last ditch effort to disperse the crowd. It worked. The door was battered but held. The officers piled additional items up against the door and formed a barricade.

At about 1 a.m. the mob returned. They had procured a twenty foot wooden beam which they employed as a battering ram. The door to the jail was demolished. The officers inside, who were either out of ammunition or reluctant to shoot their neighbors, were quickly over powered and disarmed. A terrified Joseph McCoy was then dragged from his cell outside to the street. He was severely beaten. Blood gushed from his nose and mouth. The mob then dragged him kicking and screaming to the southeast corner of Cameron and Lee Street where he was strung up from a lamp post using the rope from an awning. As he convulsed, he was shot several times and a torch applied to a specific part of his body. An unknown assailant stepped forward and split his head open with an axe. His brains splattered out onto the pavement. At about 2 a.m. the crowd quietly dispersed. McCoy’s



Interior view of the courtroom of the old Fairfax Courthouse, c. 1917. Photo credit: Fairfax County Circuit Court Archives.



Interior view from the witness stand of the courtroom of the old Fairfax Courthouse. James Lewis was tried here in April 1897. The room behind the upper gallery was used as the Jury Room. Photo credit: Page Johnson, 2016.

body was simply left hanging on the lamp post. It was removed the next morning by the authorities and taken to Demaine’s Funeral Home.^{31,32} A Coroner’s Inquest was held that day. The Jury determined that Joseph McCoy *“came to his death by strangulation at the hands of persons unknown...”*³³

Lewis Case Continued

Later that morning, Friday, April 23th at Fairfax Court House the case of the *Commonwealth v. James Lewis* was continued until Monday, April 26th as the witnesses and jury could not be assembled in time. By then, the news of the McCoy lynching at Alexandria had reached Fairfax Court House. Sheriff George A. Gordon³⁴ took the precaution of removing his own family from his quarters inside the Fairfax County jail. He also took additional precautions to protect James Lewis.

On Saturday, April 24th, Sheriff Gordon transported James Lewis to the Loudoun County jail at Leesburg, Virginia for his own protection.³⁵ Lewis was kept in the Loudoun County jail until Monday, April 26th. Early that morning Fairfax County Deputy Sheriff George A. Williams³⁶ of Herndon, escorted Lewis back to Fairfax

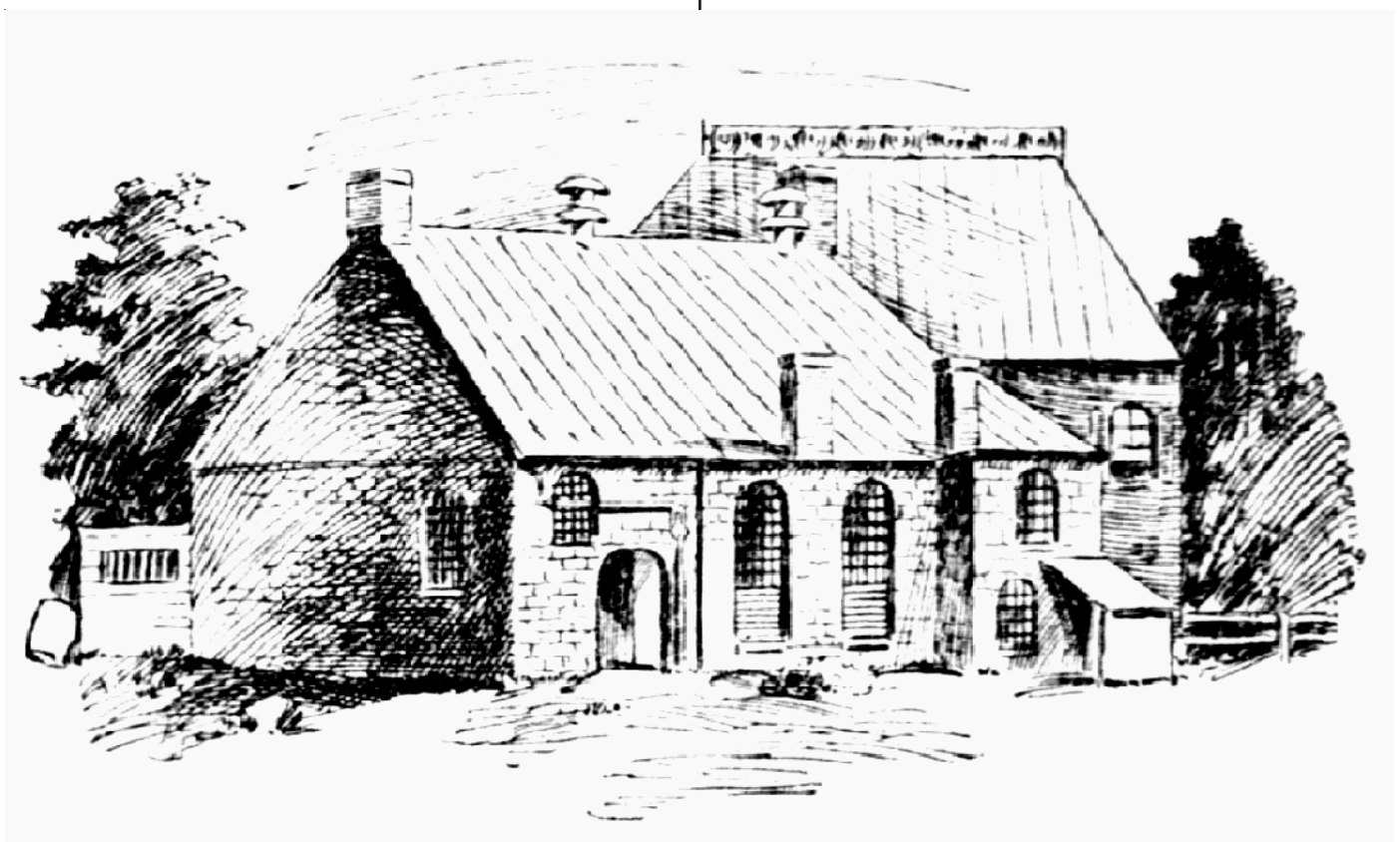
Court House by way of the Washington and Old Dominion R.R to Hunter Mill Station and from there by wagon to Fairfax Court House. Williams was accompanied by a sheriff's posse of several armed men. It was reported that 30 to 50 private citizens were also out that night scouring the county roads looking for the deputy sheriff Williams and his prisoner.³⁷

First Trial Begins

On Monday, April 26th the trial of James Lewis began. There was some question as to whether a further continuance should be granted as a result of the death of Judge Daniel McCarty Chichester, of Fairfax County the previous day, Sunday, April 25th. However, it was decided that court would be recessed as soon as it convened to attend the funeral of Judge Chichester at Truro Episcopal Church. Ordinarily the Fairfax County Court would not have met that day out of respect for the passing of Judge Chichester.³⁸ However, tensions among the people of Fairfax County were running high and the Lewis case was the reason.

Judge Lipscomb decided to go ahead with the trial. Testimony began with two prosecution witnesses from Alexandria. Wilson Jennings, aged 93, and his wife Rosie, aged 45, testified that James Lewis had tried unsuccessfully to assault Rosie Jennings, earlier the same day as the attack on Ida Riedel. Rosie Jennings and her husband Wilson Jennings lived at Ft. Lyon a few miles from the Riedel farm. They both testified that while at work in a field James Lewis had approached them looking for work. Rosie Jennings returned to the house looking for seed. Lewis followed her and attempted to assault her. Wilson Jennings, alerted by his wife's screams, came to her defense and fought with Lewis. He escaped but returned with a heavy club intending to strike Wilson Jennings. Lewis was frightened off by the approach of a neighboring farmhand and went off down the road in the direction of the Riedel farm.³⁹

Mrs. Riedel then testified and related the facts of her assault in detail. She also said that she could clearly identify James Lewis as her attacker as there was a full-



The Fairfax County Jail, June 1897. The gallows for the execution of of James Lewis were likely constructed in the foreground.

The private quarters for the Sheriff and his Family were in the portion of the building in the background.

Source: The Evening Times, June 4, 1897, p. 1, c. 5 & 6.

moon shining the night of the assault. As she spoke no English, her testimony was translated to the court by Fairfax County resident George Appich.

Although severely injured from being thrown from a carriage in Washington, D.C. the day before the trial, Emil Riedel travelled to Fairfax Court House with his mother and gave testimony against James Lewis.⁴⁰

After a one-day trial, the case went to the jury that evening. The jurors consisted of George W. Beach (Foreman), George R. Wells, Robert D. Haines, John F. Jerman, Henry A. Broadwater, John H. Renney, Andrew J. Burke, Thomas B. Martin, Greenbury M. Cronk, John H. Swart, and Harry P. Willcoxon.⁴¹ An initial vote was taken and three of the 12 jurors would not agree to death. Minutes turned into hours. Finally, jurors "*Martin and Wilcoxon were brought over to the death sentence.*"⁴² When court reconvened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27th the foreman, George Beach, reported that they were hopelessly deadlocked. Of the twelve white male jurors, eleven were for hanging, while a lone juror, real estate

agent John F. Jerman, favored 20 years in the penitentiary at Richmond, Virginia.⁴³ Judge Lipscomb dismissed the jury and ordered Sheriff Gordon to summon a new jury.

Second Trial

As nearly everyone at Fairfax Court House had heard of the case, Sheriff Gordon was forced to go to Clifton to secure a new jury venire. Late on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 27th, Sheriff Gordon returned to Fairfax Court House with the second jury.⁴⁴ The second jury consisted of Andrew J. Kidwell, Melvin M. Payne, Fleming G. Mayhugh, John M. Ford, Frederick M. Ford, Louis B. Hunt, Thomas Harrison, Robert N. Ions, Alexander W. Robinson, Berkley Kidwell, James F. Johnson, and Edward Stalant. The second trial of James Lewis began at approximately 6 p.m., April 27th. A large crowd from all over the area had begun to gather around the old Fairfax courthouse. They were quite worked up that the first jury was unable to render a verdict.⁴⁵



The Old Fairfax County Jail, June 2016.

Now Administration Support Offices for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office.

Photo credit: Page Johnson

The testimony given during the second trial was nearly identical to the first. At 1:20 a.m. on Wednesday, April 28th the case was again handed over to the jury. After an hour-and-a-half the foreman of the second jury reported that they were also deadlocked. Eleven jurors stood for hanging and one for six years in the penitentiary. The lone holdout was Frank Johnson, who flatly refused to vote for death.⁴⁶ When this information was conveyed to the crowd outside the courthouse pistol shots rang out illustrating the growing impatience of the public. Immediately after this, R. Walton Moore, a future United States Congressman, walked into the courtroom and announced *“that he and his friends were not the cause of the disturbance outside, but the patience of the people of Fairfax was being severely tested.”*⁴⁷ Several other men followed Moore into the courthouse and moved toward the prisoner, who had been kept in the courthouse as a precautionary measure lest he be shot or attacked while being moved back to the jail. Sheriff Gordon spied a rope dangling beneath the coat of one of the men. He snatched it away and laid it on Judge Lipscomb’s bench, who exclaimed, *“Oh put it away!”*⁴⁸

The jury continued to deliberate all night long. As daylight approached *“the courtroom presented an interesting study. Men lay about in all kinds of attitudes*



Jury Room Fairfax Courthouse where three separate juries deliberated the fate of James Lewis. Credit: Page Johnson, 2016.

*on desks and benches, some asleep, and some smoking and discussing the events of the past week. Judge Lipscomb said it was his first all-night trial, and he sincerely hoped it would be his last. ... Clerk Richardson stated that the last hanging in the county occurred in 1852 when a Negro was hanged for killing a member of the patrol.”*⁴⁹

At 5 a.m. on April 28th, as with the first jury, the foreman announced that they were hopelessly deadlocked. Judge Lipscomb dismissed them adjourned court until 10 a.m. He ordered Sheriff Gordon to secure a third jury for trial. The crowd outside were now openly visceral in their expressions and threats of violence. *“If the county will not buy a rope to hang the man, the citizens will provide one themselves and use it.”*⁵⁰ A prominent resident told a reporter, *“The negro shall never be allowed to lie in jail for any terms of years. If he is guilty, and there is no doubt of that, he certainly will swing.”*⁵¹

Governor O’Ferrall Calls Out the Militia

Virginia Governor Charles T. O’Ferrall had been kept apprised of the situation at Fairfax Court House during the Lewis trial. The lynching of Joseph McCoy was the second one that had occurred during O’Ferrall’s administration and he was determined stop any further attempts. After the second jury had failed to reach a verdict, Sheriff Gordon, fearing a lynching, sent O’Ferrall a telegram requesting troops be sent immediately to Fairfax Court House.⁵² O’Ferrall agreed and ordered the *Monticello Guards*, of Charlottesville, Virginia to proceed to Fairfax Court House immediately. At 10:30 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday, April 28th a special train conveyed the Guards directly from Charlottesville to Fairfax Station without stopping.

Third Trial

At 2 p.m. on April 28th the Fairfax Courthouse bell announced the start of the third trial of James Lewis. Although Judge Lipscomb had adjourned court only until 10 a.m., a considerable delay resulted from Sheriff Gordon having to go to both Chantilly and Falls Church in order to secure enough jurymen. The third jury consisted of Wesley W. Swart, Jacob Fox, Benjamin Simpson, Daniel L. Sanders, Albert J. Cross, George F. Harrison, George Powell, George Lee, William M. Ellison, Frank L. Birch,

Davis L. Gheen, and Charles N. Stewart.⁵³ The crowd outside the courthouse indicated that if a jury failed a third time, the case would be turned over to *Judge Lynch*.

As the trial got underway, the *Monticello Guards*, thirty-four strong, and commanded by 1st Lt. Herbert Wingfield, marched into Fairfax Court House. The men stacked their Winchester rifles in front of the courthouse and retired to the Willcoxon Tavern for supper.

As was the case with the previous two trials the testimony given during the third trial was essentially the same. At 8:35 p.m. the case concluded and was given to the jury. After just fifty-five minutes of deliberation the jury returned to the courtroom. Judge Lipscomb admonished the crowd to remain silent during and after the reading of the verdict, which was only partially complied with. The foreman, Benjamin Simpson, handed the verdict to Frederick W. Richardson, Clerk of the Fairfax County Circuit Court. Richardson read the verdict:

"We, the jury, find the prisoner James Lewis, guilty as charged in the indictment, and fix the penalty for the same at death."^{54, 55}

There were deafening cheers and shouts from inside and outside the courtroom after the verdict was read. Lewis' defense attorney, Mr. Thornton, immediately asked that the jury be polled as to their verdict, which they affirmed. Judge Lipscomb immediately cleared the courtroom, ordered the prisoner back to jail and adjourned court until 10 a.m. the following morning.

Lewis is Sentenced

At 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 29th, James Lewis was brought back into the Fairfax County Courthouse. Judge Lipscomb asked him if there was any reason why the verdict of the jury should not be carried out. Lewis spoke for several minutes. *"Judge, your honor, I am innocent, and these people are persecuting me. I did not commit this hideous offense and should not have been convicted for it."*⁵⁶ Lewis then asked for a new trial. He said if he had been guilty he would not have returned to his home in Alexandria or gone to his parent's home in Charlottesville as it would be the first place the authorities would look for him. He also attempted to discredit Mrs. Riedel's testimony indicating she could not

have seen his face with the moon shining at his back.⁵⁷ Lewis paused for a moment and Judge Lipscomb asked, *"Well, have you got anything more to say?"* To which Lewis replied, *"No sir, judge, your honor I can't say anything more, except I am innocent."*⁵⁸

Judge Lipscomb then pronounced the sentence on James Lewis:

*"You have had a fair and impartial trial, and have been ably defended by counsel assigned to defend you. The jury have by their verdict said that you are guilty of the heinous crime of rape, and that you should suffer the punishment of death. The verdict meets with my full approval. It is now my duty to pronounce the sentence of the law against you. It is, therefore, the judgement of the court of this county that you be remanded to the jail of this county and remain in close confinement until Friday the 4th day of June, 1897, on which day between the hours of 6 o'clock and 10 o'clock in the forenoon, the sheriff of this county shall cause you to be hanged by the neck until you are dead. May the Lord have mercy upon your soul."*⁵⁹

The place of execution was to be the jailyard between the courthouse and the jail.⁶⁰

Lewis Awaits Execution

During the month of May 1897, James Lewis languished in the Fairfax County jail awaiting his fate. He was visited often by clergymen, both black and white, who were concerned with his soul. Reverend L.D. Brewer, a black Baptist minister visited him most often. Rev. Brewer *"offered prayer, in which he asked the Lord to bless the prisoner and everybody except the sheriff."*⁶¹ Rev. W.H.K. Pendleton of Truro Episcopal Church also visited. James Lewis' wife, Frances, visited him only once for about twenty five minutes when she left, Lewis was seen to wipe tears from his eyes.⁶² He received only a post card from his mother in Charlottesville, stating *"that she could do nothing for him and could not go and see him."*⁶³

James Lewis continued to maintain his innocence and held out a lingering hope that Governor O'Ferrall would

grant him a pardon or at least a new trial. According to Lewis the Governor must have been interested in him because he sent troops to protect him from being lynched.⁶⁴

Lewis also appealed to his trial attorney, C. Vernon Ford. However, Ford had been appointed Commonwealth's Attorney, succeeding James Monroe Love who was appointed Judge following the death of Judge Chichester. A clear conflict of interest now existed for Ford. Mr. Ford indicated that a naive Lewis had told him *"it was against the law to hang a man when he swore he was not guilty."*⁶⁵

On May 21, 1897, William H. Sadler, an attorney who was also black, arrived at Fairfax Court House and obtained a full transcript of Lewis case. Sadler, an 1894 graduate of Howard University, had agreed to try and help James Lewis get a new trial.⁶⁶ On June 2nd, after reviewing the case, Sadler submitted a petition to Judge C.E. Nichol of the Alexandria County Circuit Court to reverse the verdict on the grounds that 1) Judge Lispcomb had no authority to continue to try the case in the absence of Judge Chichester, who was ill and subsequently died during the trial; and, 2) that the court erred and did not place the jury in the hands of any officer of the court when they retired to deliberate. Judge Nichol refused to approve the motion.

Sadler immediately travelled by train to the Virginia Court of Appeals in Richmond. The Court of Appeals also refused to set aside the conviction in the Lewis case.⁶⁷

As his execution date approached many people applied to Sheriff Gordon for permission to witness the event. However, Gordon was determined to limit the number of witnesses to insure the execution would not become a spectacle.

Sheriff Gordon ordered that a scaffold gallows and enclosure be constructed. Work began about a week before the execution.⁶⁸ The material utilized to construct the *"scaffold is the same used to hang two men, White and Robinson, negro ravishers of two white women at Manassas, several days ago. One of the ropes used on that occasion would be employed to hang Lewis."*⁶⁹ The scaffold gallows and board fence were constructed in the small area between the jail and the courthouse.

As the work progressed each day, Lewis could clearly hear the ring of the carpenter's hammer and the rhythm of his saw. He knew when it stopped, his time would be up. The hammering and sawing stopped on June 2nd.

Lewis Confesses

On the morning of Thursday, June 3rd, the day before his scheduled execution, James Lewis, at the urging of Rev. Robert Nourse of Falls Church, indicated that he was ready to confess. Rev. Nourse left, but returned to the jail shortly with more than a dozen men including Stephen Donohoe, editor of the Fairfax Herald to act as witnesses. James Lewis, intimidated by such a gathering, indicated he had changed his mind. As the men filed out of the jail he asked Mr. Donohoe to come back later. Donohoe returned shortly with men familiar to Lewis: Rev. L.D. Brewer, Rev. Nourse, and Sheriff Gordon.

Rev. Brewer offered a prayer after which he asked: *"Are you guilty or not?"*



James M. Lewis

Source: Evening Times, June 4, 1897, p. 1.

"Guilty," Lewis replied.

"Do you understand what I said?" asked Brewer.

"Yes," Lewis replied.

"Then it was a lie that you told..., when you said you were innocent?" asked Brewer.

"Yes, but I tell you the truth now. I am guilty of the assault and hope to be forgiven," said Lewis.

Lewis continued to make a full confession before the assembled witnesses. He indicated that the crime for which he was condemned to death was the fourth such offense that he had committed. The first was occurred in 1887, when he was just thirteen. He raped a seventeen-year-old black girl named Lucy Meade at Glendower, Albemarle County, Virginia. He was arrested and confined in the Albemarle County jail for a year instead of the penitentiary at Richmond, because of his age. On his release in 1888, he committed the same offense toward Edmonia Gardner, another black girl, aged eighteen, also in Albemarle County. She did not come forward and he escaped prosecution. In 1892, James Lewis raped a prominent twenty-five-year-old white woman at Red Hill near Charlottesville. He again escaped prosecution as he thought she was unable to identify him. He refused to reveal the identity of the woman, however.

He further indicated that when he left his home the evening of April 13, 1897, he fully intended to commit the act for which he was to hang. He indicated that he had denied his guilt to this point to spare his wife, not to escape punishment. He further indicated that he was confessing to repent and be forgiven. After he was finished he signed the following statement:

*"I am guilty, and I know I am paying the penalty for which I deserve, and I believe I am forgiven. James Lewis."*⁷⁰

Later that evening Lewis was in good spirits. He was certain of his forgiveness and eternal salvation. He ate a hearty supper of steak, ham and eggs, bread and butter, coffee, and several vegetables.

Lewis is Executed

At 4:00 a.m. on the morning of Friday, June 4, 1897,

James Lewis awoke. He drank a cup of coffee and ate two cakes. Rev. L.D. Brewer and Rev. Milligan, two black preachers then entered his cell. There was prayer. The 23rd Psalm was read and all three sang the hymns "*Have Mercy on My Soul, Oh Lord*"⁷¹ and "*I'm Going Home to Die No More*" until 4:35 a.m.

At 4:45 a.m. Sheriff Gordon and one of his deputies entered the cell. Sheriff Gordon read the death warrant to Lewis. After which Rev. Brewer led Lewis down the corridor of the jail and out into the jailyard. They were followed closely by Sheriff Gordon, his two deputies and Rev. Milligan.

Outside, low clouds hung over Fairfax Court House. Some 50 to 75 people stood inside the enclosure and were gathered around the scaffolding as witnesses. There were very few people outside the fence.

At 4:55 a.m. Lewis climbed the scaffold singing "*Nearer My God to Thee*." He was accompanied by Sheriff Gordon, his two deputies and the Reverends Milligan and Brewer. His hands were then tied behind his back and his feet pinioned together. Rev. Brewer read the 19th Psalm and offered a prayer.

Sheriff Gordon then asked, "*Jim, do you wish to say anything before you die?*"

Lewis unhesitatingly replied, "*Truth shines out in darkness. It can't be smothered. But a lie is always black, and sooner or later will be found out. I am guilty of the crime for which I was tried and deserve this punishment, and I am also guilty of three other crimes, which I have confessed. I thought I could continue to do as I had done, but I got found out. I carried the pitcher to the well once too often, and it broke. I am sorry, and ask the Lord for mercy and pardon, and hope you will all meet me on high. Goodbye.*"^{72,73,74}

A black hood was then pulled down over his face. The hangman's noose was placed over his head and drawn tightly around his neck with the knot being placed behind his left ear.⁷⁵ Several minutes then passed. Sheriff Gordon had grown emotional and indicated that he could not spring the trapdoor. Robert N. "Bert" Ions,⁷⁶ a member of the second jury, stepped forward and said, "*I'll do it!*"⁷⁷ At 5:03 a.m. the trap door was sprung and Lewis fell approximately six feet straight down. His body rebounded

up slightly three times, followed by several minutes of involuntary convulsions and twitching. Lewis' neck was not broken in the fall. Therefore death was not instantaneous. Lewis died of strangulation twenty-minutes later. He was pronounced dead by Dr. Quick, Coombs, Russell, Leigh and Moncure, who were all in attendance.

At 5:30 a.m. the body was cut down and placed in a rough wooden coffin. An autopsy was performed by Dr. Thomas Fisher of Alexandria and Dr. Coombs of Fairfax. The only operation they performed was the taking off of the top of the skull and removal of the brain, which was said to have appeared to be normal. The brain, it was said, would be further examined by Dr. Coombs, after which he would report his findings to the Fairfax Medical Society.⁷⁸

The body of James Lewis was not claimed by any relative and was buried in a pauper's grave at the Fairfax County Poor House at Clifton, Virginia.^{79,80}

Double Jeopardy?

Although James Lewis was tried three times for the same crime his case was not considered one of *double jeopardy*.⁸¹ For almost two hundred years, the United States Supreme Court has held that the double jeopardy clause of the fifth amendment of the United States Constitution does not bar retrial following a hung jury.⁸² It has done so consistently, without discussion of the issue, by peremptory citation to the 1824 decision of *United States v. Perez*.

Rape and Race in the Jim Crow Era

The history of race relations in the post-Civil War south is extremely complex. The issue of interracial rape is particularly controversial. Rape laws prior to and during the Civil War were far less complex than today, but far more difficult to prove. The standard for proving rape was extremely high. Accusers had to demonstrate that both force and penetration had been employed. Attempted rape, therefore, by definition, was not considered a sex crime, merely an assault. For many victims, the shame associated with publically coming forward and along with the high standard of proof required was probably too much to bear. Consequently, prior to the Civil War, many rapes, perhaps a majority, went unreported.

Additionally, during this period, white male juries were far more divided in their support of black male defendants and their white female accusers. Black men facing rape charges were not automatically assumed to be guilty as would later be the case. White male jurors were more likely influenced by *gender* and *class* rather than *race*. Allegations of poor white accusers were often viewed with skepticism. White male jurors were also far more reluctant to believe the word of a woman – even a white woman.

Race relations in the south deteriorated markedly after the Civil War. Undoubtedly this is because southern whites feared the expanding freedoms enjoyed by newly freed slaves. This was particularly true during the Reconstruction period from 1865 to 1877. After Reconstruction, many southern whites came to believe that “*rape was the foul daughter of Reconstruction*.”⁸³ Consequently, they sought to regain a measure of control by imposing harsh racial segregation laws designed to separate the races in nearly all facets of life. These laws also included a clear legal segregation of sexual relations between races and was strictly enforced.

Jim Crow Era

This period, often referred to as the *Jim Crow Era* existed from 1877 to 1954.⁸⁴ *Jim Crow* is a derogatory euphemism for a black person. The pinnacle of the Jim Crow Era came in 1896, just one year before the Lewis trial. That year, the United States Supreme Court, in *Plessy vs. Ferguson*, upheld the constitutionality of state *Jim Crow* laws imposing racial segregation and ushered in the new doctrine of *separate but equal*.

Sadly, all of this strengthened the justification for the terrorization of blacks through the use of exploitative of sexual stereotypes. Black men were often depicted as shiftless and untrustworthy. Or worse, insatiable “*sexual fiends*” or “*beasts*” in need of white control. As a consequence, in the early twentieth century *rape hysteria* and lynchings of black men was almost commonplace. Subsequent historians have concluded that charges of rape by white women against black men in the post-Civil War south were often trumped up resulting in justice that was denied, or, at best, elusive.

In spite of this, it is clear that in the case of the *Commonwealth vs. James Lewis* the all-white male jury did get it right. Lewis was indeed a serial rapist, having admitted to four separate rapes during his brief lifetime. However, the speed of his indictment, subsequent trials, constant threat of lynching, combined with the fact that it took three juries to impose the harshest possible sentence, were all indicative of the racially motivated atmosphere of *rape hysteria* pervasive in south at the time.

The End of Local Executions

At the time of Lewis trial, Virginia had officially banned public executions. Enlightened Virginians had recognized that it was a horrifying fact that most public executions gave rise to scenes of revolting, callous, often drunken and profane, debauchery, which one eye-witness likened to “*A Carnival of Death and Disgrace.*”⁸⁵ In addition to the circus-like barbarity, hangings were often botched by inexperienced amateur executioners.

Accordingly, in 1856 the Virginia General Assembly made the first of several key changes. That year they mandated that “*all executions of a sentence of death to take place within the enclosed yard of a jail.*”⁸⁶ The issue of whether to make these events open to the public was still left to the discretion of circuit court justices and the sheriff. However, in 1879, the Virginia General Assembly unequivocally prohibited all public executions.⁸⁷ Thereafter, all hangings were to be conducted within the confines of an enclosed jailyard, or a high board fence was to be erected within the jailyard to screen the execution from public view.

Finally, in 1908, the Virginia General Assembly established “*a permanent death chamber*” at the State Penitentiary at Richmond, Virginia. The act further stipulated the creation “*all the necessary appliances for the proper execution of felons by electrocution.*” The electric chair replaced the hangman’s noose as the means of execution in Virginia.

James M. Lewis

James M. Lewis (1873-1897) was the son of William and Charlotte Lewis of Charlottesville, VA; m. Sarah Frances Bryan Davis (1867-????), February 16, 1897.⁸⁸ Sarah was a widow and the daughter of Thomas and Lou Bryan.

Riedel Family Epilogue

On October 14, 1895, a Philip Lewis, colored, was arrested on suspicion of having stolen a gold watch from Emil Riedel.⁸⁹

Emil Riedel died of Tuberculosis, at *Rose Hill*, on November 29, 1897.^{90,91}

In 1899, Clara Riedel, who was then living in Washington, DC, advertised *Rose Hill* farm for rent.⁹²

In June 1901, Clara Riedel, by now a widow, had an affair with a married man, William Morey, a native of Sri Lanka. Morey also worked at the War Department as a Civil Engineer. When the affair was discovered, Clara abruptly sold *Rose Hill*, for \$20,000. The lovers, their reputations tarnished, then fled Washington, D.C. Leaving their children behind, they went to live in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Clara’s mother was awarded custody of Clara’s young children. The affair ended quickly however. William Morey returned to his wife and moved to New York City. Clara Riedel moved to Denver with her children.

According to the Federal Census of 1900, an “*Ada Reidel*” was employed as a House Keeper in the home of John Angermann. Her birth was listed as August 1835, in Germany. Ida Riedel, widowed, died January 15, 1901 in Washington, DC, and was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC in an unmarked grave.⁹³

Among the many descendants of Ida Riedel are Steve and Emily Riedel, father and daughter, actors in the television show *Bearing Sea Gold*, produced by the Discovery Communications and aired on the Discovery Channel.

Endnotes:

¹ The Evening Times, June 4, 1897, p. 1, c. 5.

² Rose Hill

³ Records of the US Customs Service, RG36; NAI Number: 2655153; Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1787-2004; Record Group Number: 85; The National Archives& Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁴ Neuer Theater-Almanach, Theatergeschichtliches Jahr- und Adressen-Buch (New Theater Almanac, Theatre History year and address book. Ed. By the Guild of the German Stag.), © 1899, Berlin, Germany.

⁵ The Arizona Sentinel, March 30, 1889, p. 3, c. 2.

⁶ Alexandria Gazette, February 18, 1902, p. 1, c. 2.

⁷ Science Education, v. 47, n. 2, March 1963.

⁸ Coshocton Tribune, April 23, 1886, p. 5, c. 2.

⁹ Newark Daily Advocate, January 6, 1887, p. 4, c. 1.

Fairfax C. H. News contd.

Hamill, on the other hand, said he voted against the tax because the Council had not changed the city's tax structure so that businesses "will at least be competitive with the County."

Cites Higher Rates

He referred to the city's personal property and gross receipts taxes on wholesale and retail merchants, all of which, he said, are higher than Fairfax County's tax rates.

Prichard, who favors the sales tax, but votes only in case of a tie, could provide the swing vote if either Hamill or Fisher decides in January that his conditions have been met for the sales tax.

Councilman Nathaniel Young and John W. Russell, who also voted against the sales tax Tuesday, could not be reached for comment.

In the Next Issue...

Fairfax Freedmen's Bureau School. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (often simply referred to as the *Freedmen's Bureau*) was created in 1865 at the end of the Civil War to supervise relief efforts of the newly freed slaves. Such efforts included education, health care, food and clothing, refugee camps, legalization of marriages, employment, labor contracts, and securing back pay, bounty payments and pensions.

Fairfax News of 100 Years Ago

MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING.

Fairfax County Doctors Hold Annual Session at Alexandria.

WASHINGTON POST BUREAU,
703 King Street, Alexandria, Va.

The annual meeting of the Fairfax County Medical Society was held at the Hotel Rammel, this city, yesterday morning, with Dr. Llewellyn Powell, of Alexandria, presiding. Papers were read by Dr. Samuel B. Moore, of Alexandria, and Drs. W. P. Caton and J. P. Smallwood, of Fairfax, and were discussed by the members of the society. These officers were elected to serve a year: Dr. R. L. Wilkins, of Alexandria, president; Dr. C. L. Starkweather, of Occoquan, first vice president; Dr. J. C. Blackston, of Washington, second vice president; Dr. T. C. Quick, of Falls Church, secretary, and Dr. F. M. Brooks, of Fairfax, treasurer. Dinner at the hotel followed the election of officers.

Washington Post, August 4, 1916, p. 3, c. 4.

WASHINGTON WILLS RESTORED

Library of Congress Expert Skillfully Repairs Ravages of Time.

The wills of George and Martha Washington, which are kept in the old Fairfax county courthouse, in Virginia, have been restored nearly to their original condition by William Berwick, an expert in the old manuscripts division of the Library of Congress. The work has been so well done that these historical documents have the appearance of freshly written manuscripts.

It was stated that the will of George Washington was in very bad condition because of long years of exposure and innumerable handlings. The distinctive chirography of Gen. Washington has been perfectly preserved in the restored will. Both wills are now in a sealed case in the vault in the office of the clerk of Fairfax county.

Washington Post, August 20, 1916, p. 6, c. 3.

Endnotes Continued

- ¹⁰ Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1820-1897. Microfilm Publication M237, 675 rolls. NAI: 6256867. Records of the U.S. Customs Service, Record Group 36. National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.
- ¹¹ Alexandria Gazette, September 15, 1894, p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹² DB H6, p. 214, June 3, 1901, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk's Office.
- ¹³ Science Education, v. 47, n. 2, March 1963.
- ¹⁴ Alexandria Gazette, February 1, 1895, p. 3, c. 2.
- ¹⁵ Evening Star, April 14, 1897, p. 11, C. 4.
- ¹⁶ Evening Star, April 17, 1897, p. 8, c. 6.
- ¹⁷ Evening Star, April 17, 1897, p. 8, c. 6.
- ¹⁸ Alexandria Gazette, April 20, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ¹⁹ Alexandria Gazette, April 20, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ²⁰ Alexandria Gazette, April 19, 1897, p. 3, c. 2.
- ²¹ Alexandria Gazette, April 20, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ²² Alexandria Gazette, April 20, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ²³ Evening Star, April 20, 1897, p. 1, c. 6.
- ²⁴ Evening Star, April 20, 1897, p. 11, c. 5.
- ²⁵ Commonwealth v. James Lewis, 1897, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Fairfax, VA.
- ²⁶ William Edward Lipscomb b. April 4, 1833; d. March 26, 1911. Judge Lipscomb served the Prince William County Court from 1884 to 1904. Thereafter, he served as Deputy Clerk of Court. He served as a 1st Lt. in Co. F, 49th Va. Inf. and later as Pvt. in Co. H, 15th Va. Cav.
- ²⁷ Richard Ewell Thornton, Attorney; b. January 7, 1865, King William Co., VA; studied law at the Univ. of Va.; m. Susan Contee Plummer, June 25, 1891; served in the Virginia State Senate 1908 to 1920; appointed Major Judge Advocate, WWI; d. March 27, 1928; bur. Arl. Natl. Cem.
- ²⁸ Alexandria Gazette, April 21, 1897, p. 3, c. 2.
- ²⁹ Matthew Watson O'Brien, Medical Doctor; b. Baltimore, MD, May 6, 1855; grad. Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati; Cincinnati Medical College, 1876; m. Elizabeth Virginia Evans, 1892; d. December 28, 1916; bur. St. Paul's Cem., Alex., VA.
- ³⁰ Evening Star, April 23, 1897, p. 3, c. 2, 3 & 4.
- ³¹ Alexandria Gazette, April 23, 1897, p. 2, c. 4, 5 & 6.
- ³² Evening Star, April 23, 1897, p. 3, c. 2, 3 & 4.
- ³³ Baltimore Sun, April 24m 1897, p. 6, c. 5.
- ³⁴ George Alexander Gordon, Sheriff, Fairfax County Virginia 1890-1904; b. Georgetown, Wash., DC, November 16, 1840; m. Margaret Ann Burroughs, 1870; Fairfax Town Sergeant, 1896; d. Centreville, Fairfax Co., VA, February 20, 1909; ser. Sgt., Co. F, 6th Va. Cav.; bur. Fairfax Cem.
- ³⁵ Alexandria Gazette, April 24, 1897, p. 3, c. 2.
- ³⁶ George Alexander Williams b. May 19, 1859, Fauquier Co., VA; d. August 29, 1934, Herndon, VA; bur. Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon, VA.
- ³⁷ The Times, April 28, 1897, p. 5, c. 7.
- ³⁸ Evening Star, April 27, 1897, p. 11, c. 4.
- ³⁹ Evening Star, April 26, 1897, p. 2, c. 7.
- ⁴⁰ The Morning Times, April 26, 1897, p. 3, c. 4.
- ⁴¹ Commonwealth v. James Lewis, 1897, Fairfax County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Fairfax, VA.
- ⁴² Roanoke Times, April 29, 1897, p. 1, c. 2.
- ⁴³ Roanoke Times, April 29, 1897, p. 1, c. 2.
- ⁴⁴ Alexandria Gazette, April 27, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁴⁵ Alexandria Gazette, April 28, 1897, p. 3, c. 2 & 3.
- ⁴⁶ Alexandria Gazette, April 29, 1897, p. 2, c. 4.
- ⁴⁷ Alexandria Gazette, April 28, 1897, p. 3, c. 2 & 3.
- ⁴⁸ Alexandria Gazette, April 28, 1897, p. 3, c. 2 & 3.
- ⁴⁹ Evening Times, April 28, 1897, p. 1, c. 7.
- ⁵⁰ The Times, April 28, 1897, p. 5, c. 7.
- ⁵¹ The Times, April 28, 1897, p. 5, c. 7.
- ⁵² Evening Star, May 12, 1897, p. 8, c. 6.
- ⁵³ Alexandria Gazette, April 29, 1897, p. 2, c. 4.
- ⁵⁴ Alexandria Gazette, April 29, 1897, p. 2, c. 4.
- ⁵⁵ Evening Star, April 29, 1897, p. 1, c. 3.
- ⁵⁶ Evening Star, April 29, 1897, p. 1, c. 3.
- ⁵⁷ Alexandria Gazette, April 29, 1897, p. 2, c. 4.
- ⁵⁸ Evening Star, April 29, 1897, p. 1, c. 3.
- ⁵⁹ Morning Times, April 30, 1897, p. 2, c. 2.
- ⁶⁰ Evening Star, April 29, 1897, p. 1, c. 3.
- ⁶¹ Alexandria Gazette, May, 14, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁶² Alexandria Gazette, May, 14, 1897, p. 3, c. 1.
- ⁶³ Alexandria Gazette, May 7, 1897, p. 3, c. 2.
- ⁶⁴ Evening Star, May 17, 1897, p. 2, c. 4.
- ⁶⁵ Evening Star, May 21, 1897, p. 16, c. 2.
- ⁶⁶ Alexandria Gazette, May 21, 1897, p. 3, c. 3.
- ⁶⁷ Evening Star, June 3, 1897, p. 1, c. 6.
- ⁶⁸ Evening Star, May 28, 1897, p. 3, c. 5.
- ⁶⁹ Evening Star, May 29, 1897, p. 3, c. 4.
- ⁷⁰ Alexandria Gazette, June 4, 1897, p. 2, c. 5.
- ⁷¹ Baltimore Sun, June 5, 1897, p. 7, c. 4.
- ⁷² Evening Times, June 4, 1897, p. 1, c. 5.
- ⁷³ Baltimore Sun, June 5, 1897, p. 7, c. 4.
- ⁷⁴ Alexandria Gazette, June 4, 1897, p. 2, c. 5.
- ⁷⁵ Evening Times, June 4, 1897, p. 1, c. 5.
- ⁷⁶ Robert Nevins Ions, b. June 26, 1855, Shepherdstown, VA; d. March 9, 1949, Washington, D.C.
- ⁷⁷ Personal communication of Lee Hubbard July 12, 2016, as told to him by Vincent Sutphin.
- ⁷⁸ Evening Star, June 4, 1897, p. 1, c. 4.
- ⁷⁹ Evening Star, June 4, 1897, p. 1, c. 4.
- ⁸⁰ Baltimore Sun, June 5, 1897, p. 7, c.
- ⁸¹ Double Jeopardy clause: The fifth amendment to the United States Constitution provides in part: "[N]or shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb."
- ⁸² A hung jury or deadlocked jury is a jury that cannot agree upon a verdict after extended deliberation and is unable to reach the required unanimity.
- ⁸³ Bowers, Claude G. The Tragic Era: The Revolution After Lincoln, © 1929, Riverside Press, Cambridge, MA.
- ⁸⁴ The term Jim Crow is believed to have derived from West African folk tales of trickster animals, including crows, who seem foolish, but who always manage to get what they want through cleverness and luck. The slave trade brought these folk tales to America and Jim Crow was a favorite. Many slaves even adopted a Jim Crow type persona as a way of coping with their enslavement. They would play dumb or act the fool as a clever way of avoiding work. A traditional slave song Jump Jim Crow grew out of this trickster folk tale. In 1828, a white entertainer and playwright, Thomas Dartmouth "Daddy" Rice (1808-1860), encountered this folk tale and song while performing in the South. He adapted both into the character and act he called Jim Crow. In his act, Rice appeared in blackface dressed in rags. He danced and sang, mimicking slave speech while impersonating a Negro slave trickster, Jim Crow. The overtly racist act was wildly popular with white audiences in the North and South from 1830 to 1845. The perpetuation of the stereotype of Jim Crow (i.e. black persons) as shiftless tricksters caught on with whites and came to define and justify an era, the legal segregation of non-whites.
- ⁸⁵ Providence Evening Press, May 16, 1873, p. 3, c. 5.
- ⁸⁶ Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, Passed in 1855-6, Richmond, VA.
- ⁸⁷ Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, Passed in 1878-9, Richmond, VA.
- ⁸⁸ The Morning Times, April 15, 1897, p. 2, c. 5.
- ⁸⁹ Alexandria Gazette, October 14, 1895, p. 3, c. 2.
- ⁹⁰ Alexandria Gazette, November 30, 1897, p. 3, c. 2 (Obituary).
- ⁹¹ Alexandria Gazette, June 10, 1901, p. 2, c. 6.
- ⁹² Alexandria Gazette, August 8, 1899, p. 3, c. 4.
- ⁹³ Prospect Hill Cemetery, Section E, Lot 14, Site 27.

"Preserving the Past. Protecting the Future."

Return Address - Historic Fairfax City, Inc.
Sandra S. Wilbur, President
10209 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22030



The Newsletter of Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

The Fare Facs Gazette © 2016
Editor: William Page Johnson, II

E-mail: historicfairfax@aol.com
Website: www.historicfairfax.org