



# BROKEN HEARTED FATHER TELLS OF BOY'S LIFE TODAY

Defense Reaches Climax in Williams Case When Father Is Put on Stand

## TEAR TRYING TO SPEED UP TRIAL

Tears Trickle Down Father's Face As He Is Put Through Cross Examination

(BY C. B. TAYLOR)

The defense in the hearing to determine the sanity of Marshal Williams in the Cumberland superior court reached its climax at this morning's session when the broken hearted father of the defendant with tears trickling down his cheeks, breaking down at times under the ordeal, told to the jury rather dramatic story of the life of his wayward boy, of his efforts to restrain him in his youth and in hoping against hope that in the coming years the lad would form and would make a real man out of himself.

Pressed to tell the jury why he did not have a court to inquire into the boy's mental condition, he most broke down when he replied that he like every father who loves his boy prayed every night and hoped that he would improve without having him confined.

### Speeds Trial

Judge John H. Kerr, who is pressing with such consummable ability is trying to rush the lawyers to a final conclusion but instead of his efforts the case drags on, way through the long days and will likely run into the coming week.

The second witness called at the morning session the father of the defendant remained on the stand more than an hour and underwent searching cross examination at the hands of Attorney Cook but at all times he held before the lawyer a great love for the boy who gave him so much trouble. He told the court that he has been an elder in the Presbyterian church for about 31 years and is at present teacher of the young men's Bible class.

### Is Commissioner

He has served as county commissioner and it is present a member of the county board of agriculture. He laid bare the fact of his second marriage to a daughter of Marshal Kornegay who spent some time in the Insane Asylum at Raleigh and for the sake of the mother of this boy and because his other son Mack told him to always be good to Marshal he allowed him to do about as he pleased. He went further and did so much more for him than for his other sons because of his mental condition.

### Tells of Troubles

Then with tears flowing down his wrinkled cheeks he related in minutest detail the many troubles the boy had been in; of the stealing of his bacon; of cutting the wires of the railroad automatic signal; the shooting at him one night as he was riding home along the road. He said he finally consented to the marriage of the boy only after he plead with him time and time again not to do so hoping his consent might help to reform him. He related the sending of the youth to the military school at Blackstone to help if possible to find out what he really wanted and see if the military was not his place and if that would please the chap he wanted to do what he could for him.

### Boy Expelled

When the boy stole the guns and shipped the stocks home he took the very first train to Blackstone but on arrival was told by Col. Ligon the boy had been expelled and was on his way home. He discussed the sanity of the boy with the colonel.

He went into the long conversation his son, Mack, had with him on that night when he was told that Marshal was insane and be careful with him and good to him. He did all he could for him. Marshal has never been self supporting and has always gotten help from home. He knew that the boy is insane and as such did not know right from wrong.

### Deny's Remark

He was very emphatic that he did not know Marshal was operating a still and if he had known it he would have told the sheriff. He denied that he made the remark "I have paid Marshal's way out of trouble and will spend \$10,000 to get him out of the killing of Pate."

Marshal Guy, Coy Wade, E. L. Bell, all former employers of Mar-

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shal, testified they were certain he is insane.

## Brother on Stand

Leon Williams, a younger brother, identified a letter written home by Marshal to his mother from the military school, about winning a big rifle shoot and about getting down into a grave in a lonely grave yard near the school. He denied that Marshal told him the morning after Pate was killed that he did the shooting.

Mr. Ezzell, who operates the carriage and blacksmith shop where Marshal worked, was put to a very severe cross examination at the hands of W. C. Downing regarding his copartnership with Williams in the still-making of liquor and of his efforts along with Columbus McClellan to help hide Marshal from the sheriff the night Pate was killed.

Noon recess was taken with Rev. A. R. McQueen on the stand undergoing cross examination. On direct examination the Dunn minister had told of his 14 years knowledge of the Williams family and of his belief of Marshal's insanity.

Uncle Bob Godwin, the 80 year old negro, furnished the direct evidence of the making of liquor yesterday afternoon when he told on the stand all about the still. He was one of Marshal's hands in the operation and hauled meal to the place and carried wood and sugar down-to-the-plant, according to his testimony. When Judge Kerr asked how much liquor Marshal usually made in a day, Uncle Bob said "About 15 gallons each day I reck-on, Judge." He said the day of the raid he was told by Marshal to come late in the afternoon and to bring it out and he had just gotten in there when the high constable came up on them. He said Marshal's trusty rifle was hanging up in a corner of the still and Marshal was doing the distilling when the sheriff came.

On cross-examination Uncle Bill said when the still was running Marshal was always there and was always able to do business. "He sure was a fine business man and knew how to have the rest of us work for him," he said.

When court reconvened after noon lunch Dr. J. Allison Hodges was in through one of the stiffest and most bristling cross examination at the hands of Solicitor McLean ever heard in this court house. The fine technical testimony given out during the morning session was all out except away by admissions rung from him by the solicitor. He admitted that he reached the conclusion that Marshal is sane not as the result of his examination of him but after conference held with members of the family and relatives. Then an argument ensued as to the inheritance of insanity and disease or simply the tendency and the doctor said it was the latter. The solicitor showed an amazing knowledge of pathology, heredity and kindred hot points the doctor every misfortune he was on the stand.

Riverside S. Anderson, Dr. K. G. Morris and others testified during the afternoon as to his insanity but Thornton told about Marshal going to the Buff Church yard and digging in a grave because it was buried there gave him some trouble.