

LIFE TRIAL CONFESSION AND Execution OF LEVY HARWOOD AND JAMES JONES

COPY OF 75-232,

Of all the crimes on earth the worst
Four Murders of all account
Assaults are by all allowed
Deprived of our punishment is God

We are condemned, and death is nigh
And in two dismal cells we lie
James Jester's harwood our names are true
We're wailer none we pity know.

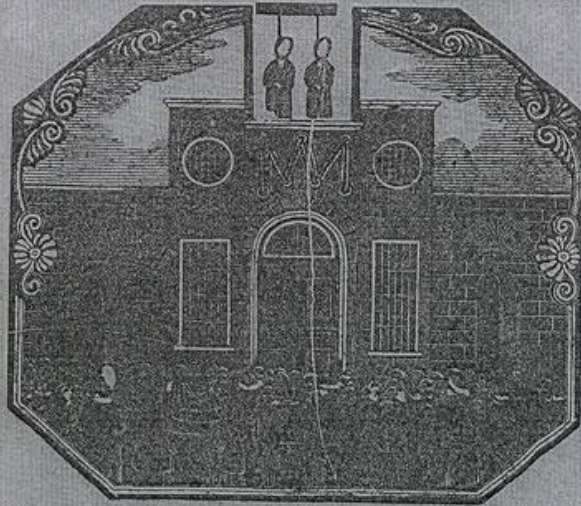
A minister of God we're slain
For the sake of gold man's curse & hate
Your Mr. Hollest kind and good
We let him waiting in his boat

So Friday grove I was there we went
For robbing we were fully bent
The "Honest" house we soon broke in
And then to plunder did begin

With faces marked disquieted and all
And pistol loaded well with ball
Lies vile assassins slowly creep
To where the good we people sleep

But Mrs. Hollest struggled brave,
And nobly fought their lives to save
Mangled bodily her part
A woman with a warrior heart

Mr. Hollest had one pillow down
and held his family on the ground



His earthly work for help all men
twice that the other faced the B.L.

My wound was bad good old man
say "Good" in stress around the ran
and we weared white, then dust blood
the row we suffer for the cost

How could we then such measure poor
to murder them when all did lose
to want 'flow did assistance lead
and always proved the poor man's friend

Widows weep they less they mourn
their only friend they had in gone
and Ophans tears they fast do fall
For thou a Father's home to all

And Mrs. Hollest she was slain
But thou a friend in her did find
her sole delight it seemed to be
to dry the tear of many

God is the Widows friend below
A Father to the Ophan too
Weep not thy loss for 'ere thou shalt
in heaven you both will meet again

Oh we deplore the crimes we've done
'tis there no hope on earth there's none
'tis death will drag us to the tomb
'tis death is the murderers doom

EXECUTION

Horsemoorer Lane, Tuesday morning.

This day being appointed for the execution of Levi Harwood and James Jones who were found guilty at the last Kingston assizes of the murder of the Rev. Mr. Hollest, the highly respected vicar of Frimley, in Surrey, an immense number of persons assembled to witness the last scene in the life of their desperate young men. Since their condemnation great efforts have been made by the jury who tried them in order to obtain a mitigation of their sentence, they believing that Hiram Smith their fellow criminal, and who was admitted as a witness on behalf of the crown was the person who really fired the fatal shot, a memorial was in consequence presented by the jury to the secretary of state, but Sir G. Grey declined recommending the prisoners to the mercy of the crown.

On Monday workmen were busily engaged in erecting the scaffold, and in placing barriers in different directions in order to break the pressure of the crowd, as in the case of the Mannings. Harwood since his condemnation has maintained a sullen demeanour, strongly denying that he had any hand in the murder, but Jones has been more resigned to his fate, and has listened with great attention to the exhortations of the rev. chaplain, and has conducted himself in a very respectful manner. This morning at an early hour, Mr. Rowe was in attendance upon Harwood, beseeching him to make his peace with his maker, shortly after 10 o'clock the sheriff arrived and proceeded to the cells of the prisoners, & shortly after 8 o'clock arrived. The prisoners were then conducted to the chapel of the prison, and divine service performed by the chaplain—Jones seemed deeply to feel his awful situation, and Harwood was somewhat more softened in his demeanour—After the service the prisoners were removed to a room adjoining the chapel, and here remained—the prison bell then con-

menced tolling, and the procession moved towards the fatal scaffold. The scaffold was then reached, and the unhappy pair were received by the executioner & several officers connected with the prison & placed under the fatal beam—After a few seconds the ropes were adjusted and the caps drawn over their faces, when the signal was given, the bolt was withdrawn, and the unhappy culprits, after struggling about three minutes ceased to exist.

Mrs. Hollest said on Friday night I retired to bed about five minutes to 11 o'clock, my husband having gone to bed previously—about three o'clock on Sunday morning I heard noises in our bedroom and I saw two men at the foot of our bed. One of them put his left hand on me, and his right hand held a pistol, which appeared to be levelled at my head. One of the men was a little taller than the other—the tallest seized Mr. Hollest, in the same way and levelled a pistol at him. As nearly as I can recollect, both of them said together that "if we made any noise they would blow our brains out," who expressed was repeated several times. Mr. Hollest at first thought it was our boys playing a trick upon him, and he told him to go to bed. I was at once in a terrible panic and sprang out of bed on the left hand side to ring a bell the rope of which hung down at the head of the bed. On my doing so one of the men rushed towards me and pushed me down with one such force that the bell rope broke in my hand. This was continued to press me down on the floor and held a pistol close to my eyes. While in his position I heard my husband, who had also got out of bed, struggling with another man, on the other side of the room, and presently afterwards I heard the report of a pistol. I struggled hard with my assailant in order to get round to help my husband. I think the man fancied his advantage was that, as he gave way a little, and I, though contending in getting round to the fireplace, and taking hold of a large head-bill, which I rang as loud as I could. The man at that time left the room, followed by my husband. I ran to the window and throwing up the sash, rang the bell again. While doing so I heard a gun fired from the lower part of the house, and at the same time observed two men run across the lawn. One of the men turned back and looked at me, and I shot down the window immediately.

Mr. William Davis was not examined. He said—I was a nurse, and reside in York. Tom's Frimley. I was out for about half past 3 o'clock on Saturday morning

and saw Mr. Hollest was called up by the last witness who told me that the house had been entered by burglars and that his master had been shot & returned with him immediately bringing my assistant with me. I found Mr. Hollest in bed He did not appear to suffer much at that time He was perfectly collected and related to me the whole of the circumstances that had previously occurred he showed me his night shirt which was saturated with blood & examined his abdomen and found an abrasion of the skin within about an inch of the navel and a little to the right of the median line of his abdomen it was a slight scratch in an oblique direction about an inch and a half below the abrasion I found a ragged orifice through which something had penetrated, and on probing the part about two inches the probe came in contact with the muscle of the stomach and prevented any penetrating any further. I did not come in contact with any foreign body, in probing the wound. The wound had every appearance of having been caused by a gun or pistol. I remained with Mr. Hollest until 9 o'clock on Saturday morning. I considered from the appearance and the direction the body had taken that the wound was mortal and I communicated my unfavorable opinion to the deceased's brother, Mr. William Hollest, I saw deceased frequently afterwards and was with him at his death, which took place about twenty minutes past eight o'clock on Sunday evening, as related the most extraordinary agency.

Hiram Smith stated—on the 27th of September last, being Friday, myself with the prisoners at the bar Jones, Levi Harwood, and Samuel Harwood, were at Frimley and broke into Mr. Hollest's house, by taking out a tile. I entered first and Levi Harwood second. With a worm Levi Harwood bored two holes in the frame of the door leading to the kitchen, and pushed back the bolt with his knife, and then myself, Jones, and Levi Harwood went in and there stood about. Levi Harwood then opened a window and took two shillings from it, we all three of us went into the sitting-room and Levi Harwood and Jones searched while I held the candle and there found a silver hunting watch and a small old-fashioned gold one. We then went into another room, and I don't know what was taken from there, they then went past

into the pantry while I stood in the passage. It was then about half-past two o'clock. I then went out and fetched Samuel Harwood in. None of us then went upstairs—myself Jones and Levi Harwood went into a bedroom and removed three ladies' gowns—two out of the drawers and one from the bedstead. There was no one sleeping in that bed-room. We then went down stairs and put on the masks—myself and Jones put on the green ones, and Levi Harwood put on a white one, and a white Gurnsey over his waistcoat. Jones first, Levi Harwood second, and myself third entered the room while Samuel Harwood stood at the door with a screw driver in his hand. Levi Harwood then said, "My still, my good woman or else I will blow your brains out. He was standing at the foot of the bed at the time. Mrs. Hollest instantly got from her bed, and Jones being on her side of the bed Levi Harwood at the foot of the bed and myself against Mr. Hollest's side of the bed. When Mrs. Hollest got out of bed Jones took her and thrust her up in one corner of the room on her own side of the bed. Mr. Hollest jumped out of the bed & went to take hold of Levi Harwood when he (Levi Harwood) immediately fired the pistol at Mr. Hollest and took the gold watch from off the stand in the room and we all four ran down stairs. We were in the room for about five minutes Jones and Samuel Harwood then started for Owl Doord. After we had walked together across the common for about five miles Levi Harwood and myself also parted from them and we went so kind as together there a letter to go to look for having the things with him that had been taken from Mr. Hollest and returned to Gullford. We arranged on the Tuesday previous to commit the robbery on the Friday evening Samuel Harwood and Levi Harwood went first and myself and Jones met them on the top of the hill about two miles from Frimley it was then about nine o'clock and there the pistols were loaded by Levi Harwood.

At a gaoler to even the jury retired and returned at 9, and gave a verdict of Guilty against Levi Harwood and James Jones, both with the unanimous opinion of the jury that the witness Smith fired the fatal shot. The judge then passed sentences of death in the usual form upon both prisoners at Frimley.