

GUARD LAUDERBAUGH SHOT TO DEATH BY CONVICTS.

Armed With Revolvers, Smuggled in by Friends,
John Atkinson and Frank O'Neal, Cuyahoga
County Prisoners

MAKE A DESPERATE BREAK FOR FREEDOM.

A Fusillade in the Hoe Shop Followed by a Run-
ning Fight Through the Prison
Yards.

Guard Gump's Splendid Nerve Ends the Episode--
Both Convicts in the Hospital.

Guard Charles R. Lauderbaugh of the penitentiary was shot dead in his tracks by two desperate convicts, who were trying to escape, at 7:30 Friday morning. The murderers were both seriously injured and they are now in the prison hospital.

It was the most desperate attempt to escape from the prison which has been recorded in years.

For several hours after the shooting,



GUARD LAUDERBAUGH.

the greatest excitement prevailed, but every precaution was taken to prevent a similar outbreak on the part of others confined within the walls. Guards at the stockade under direction of Captain Saxbe, armed themselves with Winchester and stood ready to fire upon the first convict who attempted to gain freedom by going from the front gates, while the guards of the different shops kept their eyes on all of the prisoners, who might in the excitement attempt to leave the shops and make a break for freedom.

The prisoners who will be charged with the murder of Guard Lauderbaugh are John Atkinson and Frank O'Neal, both Cuyahoga county prisoners serving fifteen years each on the charge of robbery. Both of them are badly wounded. Atkinson has a shattered right arm, the result of a couple of bullets fired by the



JOHN ATKINSON.

brave guard who was afterward murdered in cold blood, and O'Neal is very low as the result of injuries received by a club in the hands of Guard E. O. Gump, who bravely went after the prisoners, despite the fact that two revolvers were emptied point blank at him.

Convict James O'Neil was an unwilling witness to the affray, as he was sent to the shop by the other prisoners to secure the ladders with which O'Neal and Atkinson intended escaping. He claims to have been compelled to do this

AT THE POINT OF THE REVOLVERS

in the hands of the two desperadoes, one of whom he claims was masked and wore a large slouch hat. Although closely questioned O'Neil denies that he had ever met either one of the men, although he came from Cleveland also.

The prompt action of the guards at the prison, of course, deterred the other prisoners from following in an attack upon them, as every one was excited when the first shot was heard. The news spread about the big prison like wild-fire. Warden Coffin was notified at once of the tragedy and started for the hospital, where Lauderbaugh had been removed. Later on the two injured convicts were taken to the hospital and James O'Neil, the innocent accomplice, was taken to the cellar until he could be questioned with regard to the terrible affair.

All of the officers and guards expressed the hopes that both of the prisoners had been killed, but upon arrival at the hospital it was learned that they would probably recover, although O'Neal is pretty badly injured. Drs. Wagenhals, Sanor and Rehnert held a post-mortem examination of the body of the dead guard as soon as Coroner Birmingham arrived.

That

THE PLAN OF ESCAPE

was carefully studied out is admitted by Atkinson, who said that since July

Fourth, himself and O'Neal had talked of the matter and had only been waiting their chance. Revolvers were smuggled into the prison on the Fourth of July and delivered to O'Neal, who, according to the statement of Atkinson, gave them to him. The weapons were afterwards concealed in the bolt-shop, where they have remained until Friday morning, when the convicts saw they had an opportunity to make a break for liberty. Atkinson said they had no intention of killing anyone in the shops, as they did not think anyone would be there, but they were prepared to make a desperate fight if obstructed in their purpose.

The manner in which Atkinson had planned the escape was to first procure the ladders, then go to the walls, where they would afterwards use a rope which they had provided, and if any wall guard bothered them, "keel" him over with their weapons. They were not afraid of the wall guard retreating, because, they said, he would be shooting at long range, and his aim would not be true. This is the only obstacle they thought lay between them and liberty, which they were seeking at no matter what cost.

It was at 7:30 in the morning that he attempted escape was made. The companies from the bolt shop and from the hoe shop were at the bathhouse. Atkinson and O'Neal are employed at the shop 4 and 3, respectively, and O'Neil works at the hoe shop. In the latter shop are kept the long ladders which the two first named convicts were so anxious to obtain. They were permitted to be at their shops earlier than



FRANK O'NEAL.

the other prisoners, because they have held trusted positions. Both men knew that the ladders were in the hoe shop and decided to go there for the purpose of getting them, but in the meantime they saw O'Neil and ordered him to go to the shop for them.

According to the story told Warden Coffin and Deputies Dawson and Wells by O'Neil Friday afternoon, he was at his shop assisting the foreman in putting up a pipe. O'Neil generally goes to his bath on Fridays, but desired to tighten the bolts on his machine, therefore postponed going to the bathhouse until Saturday morning. O'Neil says he was covered by a couple of revolvers in the hands of Atkinson and O'Neal, who demanded of him that he get the ladders for them. They asked him where the guard was and, pointing to Guard Anderson, O'Neil said: "There he is, right down there. What do you want of the ladders?" One of them said, "We want to do business with them." Turning to his companion O'Neal said, "You go get the guard," and to O'Neil, "Get the ladders."

Presently a shot was heard and Guard Lauderbaugh hurried into the shop. He drew his revolver and pulled the trigger twice, but the cartridges did not explode. When O'Neil saw the convicts cover Guard Lauderbaugh he saw a good opportunity to make his escape



JAMES O'NEIL.

from the shop, and did so, jumping from a window and running.

It was within a few moments after this that the brave guard met his death. The two convicts approached Lauderbaugh and immediately demanded that he throw up his hands. This the plucky guard refused to do, but instead drew his own revolver and attempted to fire. Just what happened is known only from the convicts who committed the murder and Guard Ben Queen, who was in the hoe shop at the time, and who says both the convicts were to blame for it. Guard Lauderbaugh was completely

RIDDLED WITH BULLETS.

At the post-mortem examination five bullets of the 32-calibre size were extracted from his body by Drs. Wagenhals, Sanor and Rehnert, who say that any one of four would have proven fatal. The guard lived nearly ten minutes and was not conscious after he was shot.

In the hoe shop, where the prisoners had expected to get the ladders, Convict Atkinson was shot by Guard Lauderbaugh and his right arm rendered useless. One of the bullets from the guard's revolver completely shattered the shoulder and large bones in the arm. Although several shots were fired in the hoe shop Atkinson claims to have fired but one of them, and that O'Neal fired the balance. After they saw they had probably killed the guard

Continued on Page 4.

they ran from the shop, going in the direction of the broom shop. Atkinson was not able to use his right arm, but still held the revolver in his right hand as he ran. He was bleeding from his wounds and the revolver had been broken open by one of the shots from the revolver of Guard Lauderbaugh.

Snatching the gun from the hands of the injured convict, O'Neal reloaded and fixed it for action as he ran. He then handed the weapon back to his partner and ordered him to stand by him, saying: "We have begun this thing and by — I intend that we shall see the finish. Stand by the game and shoot when you meet anybody!"

Rushing into the broom shop, at the north end of the prison, the two men with revolvers in hand, approached Guard L. H. Davis of Pike county, demanding that he should turn over his revolver. Davis announced that he had no weapon, and advised them to quiet themselves as it would do no good to act in such a manner. By this time Guard Lime at the east end of the broom shop, took in the situation and OPENED FIRE ON THE TWO PRISONERS.

None of the bullets took effect and the convicts turned and began firing at Lime, at the same time ordering him to throw his weapon on the floor. Seeing that resistance was useless Guard Lime threw his revolver to the floor and Atkinson was ordered by his fellow-prisoner to pick it up.

While the fusillade was in progress in the broom shop Runner William Botts ran out of the building and notified Guard E. O. Gump, who also does patrol duty in the hollowware foundry. It is also said that Convict Kline also notified Gump that Atkinson and O'Neal were coming. The prisoners in the shop were mostly all under their benches when the firing was going on. When the prisoners rushed from the broom shop, Atkinson told O'Neal that he could do nothing further, as he could not shoot on account of his injury, and advised him to surrender. This O'Neal refused to do and Atkinson gave him his revolver.

By this time Guard Gump was on the scene and was coming in the direction of the desperadoes. Seeing the guard, O'Neal, who had a revolver in each hand and one in his pocket, opened a fire on him, but Gump returned the fire, neither hitting the other. O'Neal

FIRE TEN SHOTS AT GUMP

and the latter emptied the contents of his revolver at him. The bravery of Guard Gump, is said to have been unequalled in the history of the institution. Facing the two revolvers in the hands of the desperate convict, who was firing rapidly, he kept rapidly advancing, revolver and club in hand. After the ten shots had been fired at him, he saw O'Neal reach for his pocket and then he closed in on him so quickly that he did not have a chance to fire before the guard hit him twice over the head with a heavy hickory club.

The blows brought O'Neal to the ground, and Gump followed with a couple of well-directed body blows with the club, aimed at the heart. O'Neal was completely knocked out and Gump afterward said he was only sorry that he had not finished him. In the meantime Atkinson had given up and ran into the arms of Guard Van Scoy, asking to be taken to the hospital. O'Neal was unconscious and he also was removed to the hospital.

ATKINSON TALKS OF THE EPI-SODE.

After the wounds of Atkinson were dressed in the hospital, and he had recovered from the excitement sufficient to talk, he was seen by a representative of The State Journal. As the reporter approached the prisoner, the latter smiled and, pointing to his right arm, said: "Well, they winged me good I guess. You are a reporter, I see, and I guess you want to know all about this. The fact is that we meant to get away from the prison, but we did not know that we were going to encounter such difficulties in doing so. We got the revolvers last Fourth of July, and I hid them for O'Neal. Then we were talking about going out of the place and just waiting for the opportunity. We figured pretty well on the matter, as we had the guns with us and were not afraid of a few wall or house guards."

"We might have done the thing before this, but figured that in the fall was the best, because the wall guards would be in their little houses, and then the men do not go to work in the shops until late in the morning. We thought that we could get a rope, and then go for the ladders which we knew were in the hoe shop, but we did not think that anyone would be there. O'Neal had the rope with the hook and we intended to get away with this

AFTER WE HAD POPPED OVER THE WALL GUARD,

who might interfere with our plans. We did not have any fear of the wall guards, but thought that they would take a couple of shots at us with the chance of missing us altogether. James O'Neal, we did not know, but made him tell us where the ladders were.

"Now, I'll tell you about Lauderbaugh. He was a brave man, because we leveled our guns on him and he did not waver. He just reached for his gun and began firing at us. He winged me the first time. My shoulder is broken and all of the bones are shattered. The second shot hit my gun and broke the cylinder and I could not raise my hand as it seemed paralyzed. I did shoot once, though, and after that I asked O'Neal to surrender, as I was wounded, but he fixed my revolver and loaded it for me. We then went to the broom shop and you know the story of us holding up Davis and Lime and about Lime shooting at us. Davis did not have a revolver. We shot at Lime. Then we ran out and when we saw Gump coming out with his revolver I gave my gun to O'Neal. He fired ten times at Gump, and then I surrendered to Van Scoy.

"I suppose I am in for it and may get life, but I tell you there was no one else in the game but us two and there was no plan for a wholesale escape. We was not going to let anyone in with it, but had made up our minds to fight it

through no matter what came of it. Lauderbaugh and Gump

WERE BOTH FEARLESS MEN, but we would not have had any trouble if we had got to the walls.

"We had taken one of the long ladders in the hoe shop and ordered O'Neal to show us where the ladders were kept. That is when Lauderbaugh came in and we ordered him to give over his pistol, but he refused to do it and beat us to it with the shot. We loaded our guns outside the door of the broom shop and went in and O'Neal kept loading mine afterwards."

GUARD LAUDERBAUGH

was 37 years of age and a resident of Mt. Vernon, Knox county. He was always recognized as one of the most fearless guards at the institution and was respected by all who knew him. He was a police officer at Mt. Vernon and his brother-in-law, C. E. McManus, was then mayor of the city, but now resides at Milo. Lauderbaugh had some trouble at one time with John Ray, the convict who shot him after the robbery of the Mt. Vernon postoffice by Powell and Ray. He leaves a wife and four children. Immediately after his death Assistant Clerk Shook went to the residence of the bereaved family at 160 Vine street, and broke the sad news to Mrs. Lauderbaugh. She was completely prostrated and it was found necessary to call Dr. Green. As soon as the death was made known, telegrams poured in from all parts of the state, and word was received from the Knights of Pythias lodge by Edward S. Strang to the effect that the burial would be by the order. The funeral will take place at Mt. Vernon, but the date has not yet been fixed.

THE RECORDS OF THE MURDERERS.

O'Neal and Atkinson are dangerous men and are now serving their third terms at the prison. They are serving fifteen years each on the charge of highway robbery and would stop at nothing. O'Neal was received Nov. 24, 1896, and Atkinson, June 5, 1897.

Guard Queen said he saw the shooting and claims that both men are to blame for the crime as both fired at the guard. Dr. Birmingham will hold an inquest Saturday at which time all of the witnesses will be examined.

Warden Coffin called up the office of Prosecutor Voorhees, late Friday afternoon, and asked that a special grand jury be impaneled to try Atkinson and O'Neal for murder in the first degree.

On the left side of the body of the murdered man, one of the bullets went six inches, one seven and another eight inches from the spinal column in the back, and the clothing was powder-burned. A fourth went in at the left side in front, passing through the last rib on the left side and the fifth was about an inch from the spinal column.

O'Neal received a six-inch scalp wound and a two-inch wound on the head from the club of Guard Gump, who ended the riot, and also several body blows above the heart, which may yet prove fatal. He was not considered out of danger by the prison authorities last night.

Atkinson received the two bullet wounds which shattered his right shoulder and arm and rendered him hardly fit to participate further in the row.

Guard Lauderbaugh is the first guard killed at the prison in 55 years.

CONFLICTING STATEMENTS

Made by Convict O'Neil Implicates
Him in the Plot to Escape
from the Prison.

CORONER BIRMINGHAM

Reaches This Conclusion Saturday---
Rumors of Warden Coffin's
Suspension Unfounded.

Guard Lauderbaugh's Funeral Will
Take Place Today.

Coroner Birmingham, after a partial examination of witnesses in the shooting of Guard Charles B. Lauderbaugh Friday morning by Convicts John Atkinson and Frank O'Neal, has reached the conclusion that James O'Neil, another Cuyahoga county convict, serving five years for burglary and larceny, was in the plot to escape. The coroner was at the prison Saturday, busily engaged in taking the testimony of several of the guards and prisoners. Among the statements taken was that of James O'Neil, who claims that he was sent after the ladders by the two desperate convicts, who pointed a revolver at his face.

O'Neil told several conflicting stories in regard to this matter when interrogated by Deputies Dawson and Wells, and an entirely different story to the coroner. Thomas Davis, a convict serving a four-year term from Cincinnati, told the coroner that he had seen O'Neil running toward the broom shop with the other two prisoners. This O'Neil acknowledged, but said he did it to be able to run around to the shop, and not be suspected. Davis also said that O'Neil carried the ladder to the end of the shop, where the two convicts got it before being approached by Guard Lauderbaugh.

Davis and Guard Queen claim to have been witnesses to the tragedy, and to have seen both Atkinson and O'Neal fire the shots at Lauderbaugh before the latter fired at them. The statement of Atkinson was taken, but O'Neal, who is rapidly recovering from the effects of the fearful blows administered by the plucky guard, Gump, refuses absolutely to talk of the murder of the guard. Atkinson seems anxious to talk to everyone who comes near his cot in the hospital. When seen by The State Journal Saturday evening Atkinson said that he was sorry Guard Lauderbaugh was killed, and that he and O'Neal had no intention of killing him, as they anticipated no trouble from that source.

"You see," said Atkinson, "O'Neal was desperate and is that way now. He don't care what becomes of him. I know that, because he was despondent, and it was through him that I got into trouble, as he did not care what was the outcome of the affair. It has been said that Lauderbaugh pulled his gun at long range, but he did not, because I had my hand to his pocket when he reached for it. Then he beat me to it and shot. I am glad it was not me that shot him. I don't think they ought to take my life for this thing, because we did not intend to kill the guard and did not expect any trouble there. They ought not to put me in the chair, but I would not care if they did, as I would rather they would take my life than put me here for life. O'Neal don't care, either. I did not see the fight with Gump, for I gave up to VanScoy and told him I was shot while attempting to escape."

It was rumored Saturday that Warden Coffin was to be suspended on account of the riot, but Governor Bushnell emphatically denied this rumor to a State Journal reporter. The governor said that Warden Coffin and the board of managers were investigating the affair thoroughly, and he had every assurance that the investigation would be thorough. The governor deprecates the unfortunate occurrence, but cannot attach any blame to the warden or the officials. He has been informed by Warden Coffin and Manager Rose that an investigation is in progress, but no blame attaches.

Governor Bushnell spoke in the highest terms of the bravery and coolness of Guard Gump and said that his conduct was unprecedented in the history of the penitentiary.

The body of the dead guard has been removed to Mt. Vernon and interment will take place in that city Sunday afternoon under the auspices of the K. of P. lodge, of which the deceased was a member. The penitentiary guards will attend the funeral 100 strong, leaving Columbus on a special train at 11:30 in the morning. A movement is on foot to pay off the mortgage of \$200 on the Lauderbaugh home and the money will be raised among the guards. A beautiful floral tribute has been purchased and sent to Mt. Vernon. Saturday a subscription was started among the prisoners of the penitentiary and in a short time over \$50 was raised to be given to the bereaved family.

Assistant Prosecutor Florizel Smith visited the penitentiary Saturday afternoon and took the testimony of many of those in a position to know something about the tragedy. To him Warden Coffin and Manager Rose appealed for a special grand jury, but it is not probable that one will be impaneled. The prosecutor said it would be late in December when the case would be set for trial, and as the regular grand jury met in January it would be well to wait until then.

THE PRISONERS ARE ANXIOUS

To Do What They Can to Relieve
the Condition of Lauder-
baugh's Family.

THE WIDOW'S MITE.

In Several Instances Convicts Turned
Over the Last Cent They
Possessed.

Crowds Turned Away from the In-
stitution Sunday.

The penitentiary was a gloomy place all day Sunday. The chapel services were held earlier than usual to permit the guards to go to Mt. Vernon, where they attended the funeral of Guard Lauderbaugh. The morning prayer meeting was dispensed with, thus enabling the officials to hold the services earlier. Before leaving for Mt. Vernon Warden Coffin gave strict orders that no visitors were to be allowed within the walls, and the convicts were to receive no visitors. Only those who were absolutely needed as trustees about the big prison were permitted to be away from their cells.

Warden Coffin said that the prison was closed to everyone just the same as a business house would be closed to the general public because a member of the firm had died. Many hundred people were disappointed when they called at the prison and found they were denied admittance to see their friends. There were excursions from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, and crowds came from Toledo and other cities to visit a relative or a friend inside of the walls. At the little guard-house on the outside of the prison the visitors were met by Guard H. D. Smith and informed that they could not enter. On the inside at the stockade Guards J. W. Moore and A. T. Brown were on duty and saw that no person entered the prison without they had a right to do so.

Manager Rose and Dr. Sanor were at the prison also to see that these orders were carried out, and Deputy Dawson had charge of the prison during the entire day. Many people who had come from a distance were disappointed, but many left articles of wearing apparel and food when they found they could not enter. To everyone the guards and officials said the prison was closed on account of the death of Guard Lauderbaugh. Many who called were anxious to know whether or not this rule was to be observed strictly in the future, and were informed that it was not. Warden Coffin said that he intended to run the prison as it had been conducted before, as the hundreds of prisoners inside were not responsible for the conduct of a couple of desperate men who attempted to escape, and fully two thousand prisoners deplored the terrible tragedy of Friday. Warden Coffin does not intend to hold the balance of the prisoners responsible for the actions of these two men, and will continue to allow the prisoners to be visited by their relatives.

As told in The State Journal Sunday, the prisoners started a subscription for the widow of the deceased guard. This movement was instituted by Harry Hulse, a life prisoner employed at the fire department, and was heartily seconded by Robert Bruce, a Cleveland prisoner. Hulse sought Warden Coffin and requested that a committee be allowed to collect money from the prisoners, who were anxious to assist the family of the dead guard. Warden Coffin readily gave his permission and prisoners were assigned as follows: Robinet, ranges G and H; Malone, I and K; Anderson, E and F; Bruce, Montague and Jackson, in the east hall.

These prisoners started at once to make the collection and Sunday afternoon had nearly \$200 and many prisoners had not yet been seen. The indications are that a larger sum will be realized and a neat amount will be given Mrs. Lauderbaugh for herself and family. The prisoners collecting said that it must be remembered that at least 500 prisoners never have a penny while in the institution and have no way of getting the money. These prisoners all said they would willingly give if they had wherewith to pay.

In their experience the prisoners found convicts who had but a single penny in their pockets, and gave that, wishing that they had more to be able to give. This money will be turned over to Warden Coffin and sent by him to Mrs. Lauderbaugh from the prisoners. The convicts all express themselves well pleased with the remarks of the warden at the chapel services.

CORONER'S INQUEST

On Guard Lauderbaugh Will Be Con-
tinued Today.

Coroner Birmingham has not concluded taking testimony in the penitentiary tragedy and will resume Monday morning, at which time a number of the guards and prisoners will be examined. The coroner is still of the impression that James O'Neil, the boy prisoner from Cuyahoga county, was in the plot to escape, as he has told a number of conflicting stories about the murder of Guard Lauderbaugh. Coroner Birmingham will go to the institution Monday morning, when he will take the further testimony of all the witnesses to the crime.

Both Atkinson and Frank O'Neal are getting along well at the prison hospital and unless blood poisoning sets in in the case of O'Neal, both will recover. Atkinson is not injured beyond having his right arm badly shattered from bullets from the gun of the deceased guard. Warden Coffin and Manager Rose, who is still at the prison, were in hopes that a special grand jury would be called to try the two men for murder in the first degree, but as they have been informed by Prosecutor Smith that this will not be done, they will continue the investigation, that the case may be presented at the January term of the grand jury.

Convict O'Neal refused to say anything about the attempted escape, and when approached on the subject will turn over in his cot and indicate by a frown that he does not care to discuss the matter. Atkinson still talks to everyone who asks about the affair and still maintains that he did not fire a shot at the guard.

PRISONERS DO NOT APPROVE

Of the Dastardly Assault of Friday
as Signified by Their
Acts.

WARDEN E. G. COFFIN

Denounces the Assailants and the
Prisoners Cheer Him to
the Echo.

An Impressive Service at the Big
Prison Sunday.

Services at the penitentiary chapel Sunday were held an hour earlier than usual to afford the guards opportunity to attend the funeral of the martyred Guard Lauderbaugh, who was interred at Mt. Vernon Sunday afternoon. Mr. E. Dow Bancroft, secretary of the Railway Y. M. C. A., conducted the services and the Rev. Mr. Patterson of this city offered the invocation. Mr. Bancroft said:

"I am unable to conceive how so many people get along without God's word. I know we who pray, or a great number of us, pray for ourselves first, as illustrated in 'Now I lay me down to sleep,' and even in the Lord's prayer we do not put ourselves last. But after all, it is our lives which preach the best sermons. How little do we remember of what our deceased parents may have said, but how much we can recall of what they did, how they lived, acted, etc."

Mr. Bancroft read from the book of Jonah and after describing his disobedience in not obeying God's command to visit the wicked city and his flight to Tarsus, said:

"Jonah, like many of us, tried to flee from God. He paid his fare to Tarsus. Nobody flees from God without paying his fare, and very dearly, too, for his flight. Jonah was found in the ship asleep. He was already hardened by his first disobedience and could now sleep while the storm raged above."

"Now another thing about Jonah's sin which applies to your condition specially. Others suffered by it. The innocent were wronged, but Jonah confessed to the ship's crew what he had done. He couldn't keep the burden to himself of his wrong-doing. He had to confess. Jonah, though forgiven, had the scars remaining on him of his sins, as we all have who have sinned. Salvation does not mean that the sins we have committed and been forgiven for shall be forgotten. And it is better our memories retain them, as warning and reminder of what we were before we were given God's strength to walk in the narrow path of righteousness."

Mr. Bancroft concluded his brief discourse with a prayer and introduced Mrs. Lorimer of London, England, a delegate from the Railway Y. M. C. A. of England to the international conference recently held at Fort Wayne, Ind. Mrs. Lorimer said:

"When I found I was a sinner, that I was black in the sight of the Lord, I was living in a fool's paradise and thought I was as good as anyone. I found I had built on sand instead of on rock ten years ago, and since then God has given me new life, new nature and a new heart. Previous to my conversion I did not like religious people. I knew little about the devil until my conversion, but when Jehovah became my strength and since then I have experienced peace, joy and comfort of heart."

Mrs. Lorimer was applauded as she resumed her seat, and as Warden Coffin arose there was an instant hush of expectancy among the 2300 prisoners. The warden said:

"Men—I am sorry, indeed, to be compelled to announce a lamentable occurrence with which you are all familiar. I refer to the martyred death of Charles Lauderbaugh at the hands of two of the most dastardly and murderous wretches on the face of the earth. (Applause.) Now I am convinced that you do not approve of this terrible homicide. (Long continued applause by the prisoners.) I do not believe there are ten men here present who approve it. (Applause.) If I were to yield to the pressure and indigested opinions of others I would have to put you back where I found you when I assumed the duties of warden. But I will not punish two thousand men for the act of two cowardly, murderous villains. (The applause which greeted this announcement lasted many minutes, and almost rocked the chapel on its foundations.) The people of Ohio and, I am proud to state, the people all over the United States, who are interested in the system now in operation here, approve my methods, and I cannot and will not be stampeded from their continuance by criticism or opposition which I know to be founded in panic, passion or impulsive indignation. (Tremendous applause.)"

"Under the repressive system which formerly existed and which you experienced, you witnessed in this sacred edifice the head officials of the prison fight on this platform during divine service; you saw men shot dead at their work and others chased through the prison by bullets. Fights were of daily occurrence and killings were not infrequent. Now we have had harmony among the officials, but few fights among the prisoners of a serious nature and no murder until this ever-to-be-regretted homicide of a brave and gallant man who died at his post. (Great applause.) Shall I be asked to change from a system which shows less than 60 reports for infractions of the rules among 2300 men the past week to a system where there were more than that number daily? Shall we abandon a system which is restoring men to society who have paid the penalty of violated law and who average 90 per cent of reformatations? (Applause.) More than 90 per cent of you inside the walls are never reported (Applause.) I do not believe that the people, nor the legislature, and I know the board of managers and the executive power of the state do not desire that this 90 per cent shall be punished for the less than 10 per cent of you who violate the rules. Nevertheless, I desire to announce by way of warning to this 10 per cent that the iron hand of discipline will and must fall on them more heavily for every repetition of the violations and insubordinate acts they commit. My guards, my officers, know and believe that you all repudiate and condemn the infamous act of O'Neal and Atkinson in their cowardly murder of Guard Lauderbaugh." The applause lasted some time after the warden resumed his seat.

GUARD GUMP ILL.

Guard Gump of the penitentiary, who overpowered O'Neal, the murderer of Guard Lauderbaugh with a club, is suffering with rheumatism and is not able to leave his house. He was suddenly afflicted Monday morning and at noon had to go home. It is thought he will be laid up for several days.

O'NEAL IN THE ANNEX.

The Desperate Murderer of Guard
Lauderbaugh Under Surveillance
Day and Night.

ANOTHER WEAPON

Found Concealed in the Bedding of
His Cot in the
Hospital.

A Special Grand Jury to Be Drawn
to Examine the Case.

Frank O'Neal, who will be charged with the murder of Guard Lauderbaugh last Friday morning at the penitentiary, was taken to the prison annex Monday afternoon. O'Neal is the first prisoner to be committed to the annex before receiving the death sentence. Guard Johnston during the day and Guard Donahue during the night have been placed over him with instructions that no one be allowed to see him, for fear that he may secure a weapon with which to make another attack or attempt self-destruction.

The order to place O'Neal in the annex was issued by Warden Coffin, after he received a report from Guard Coleman of Athens county that O'Neal had been acting badly in the hospital. It seems that O'Neal has rapidly recovered from the effects of the blows administered by Guard Gump, and as he is considered a dangerous prisoner, orders were given to remove him nearer to the door of the guardroom of the hospital, that he may be watched more closely. When this was done O'Neal raved and cursed everyone about the institution.

Guard Coleman, who is on duty at the hospital through the night, caught O'Neal reading a newspaper and took it from him, as none of the prisoners are permitted to read in the hospital. Then he began to swear and volunteered the information that he would have been pleased to have taken a shot at Coleman—would much rather Coleman had been killed than Lauderbaugh. When this was reported to Warden Coffin, O'Neal was ordered taken to the annex at once. Before the removal was made, the guards found concealed under the covering of his cot a fork which he had taken from the plate on which his food was served. When this weapon was taken away from him he raved and swore again.

Warden Coffin said he did not intend that O'Neal should in any way be able to communicate with Atkinson, his partner in the crime, who is still in the hospital, suffering with a broken arm, the result of having been shot.

It has been learned that this is not the first time O'Neal has been in a plot to escape. Other escapades have been brought out by his show of enmity to Guard Coleman. It appears that over a year ago, or when he was first brought to the institution, he declared that he would never serve his full sentence of 15 years. He was taken sick and removed to the hospital, staying there for about four months. Then Guard Coleman recommended that he be placed at work. Some time before that O'Neal and James O'Neill, who is supposed to be implicated in the recent attempt to escape, and who is still in solitary confinement, awaiting a further investigation, and a convict named French, were found in possession of several keys to I and K cell blocks, and a wholesale escape was contemplated at that time.

Afterwards Warden Coffin, against his own wishes, placed O'Neal back in the hospital as a nurse, but Coleman knew him to be a dangerous man and requested that he be taken from the hospital. After he was placed at work again he was caught trying to escape, and was on top of the wall at the time. He still refuses to talk regarding the killing of Guard Lauderbaugh.

Warden Coffin is investigating the tragedy and Monday afternoon had James O'Neill in the prison court. The result of the examination was not made public, as Prosecuting Attorney Voorhees will be given all the statements for use before the grand jury, which has been specially drawn.

Monday afternoon Dr. Sanor examined the condition of O'Neal and announced that it was safe to remove him to the annex. When he arrived at the annex he passed the electrocution chair without a tremor.

A TRIBUTE

To the Memory of Brave Guard Lau-
derbaugh.

The penitentiary officers and guards held a meeting after they finished the duties of the day Tuesday evening. The committee appointed Friday evening to draft resolutions on the death of Guard Charles B. Launderbaugh, killed by Convicts O'Neal and Atkinson, submitted the following, which were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, Our fellow-officer, C. B. Launderbaugh, guard, of Knox county, while fearlessly discharging his duties at the peril of his life, was murderously shot down; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the officers and guards of the Ohio penitentiary, extend to his bereaved family our deepest sympathy in this, their hour of sorrow, at the loss of a loving husband and kind father.

Resolved further, That we attend the funeral in a body, in respect to a brother officer and a noble man.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished the family of the deceased and the press of Mt. Vernon.

Signed—Charles B. Calderwood, Martin B. Saxbe, Joseph C. Laney, Committee.