

The Centre Democrat.

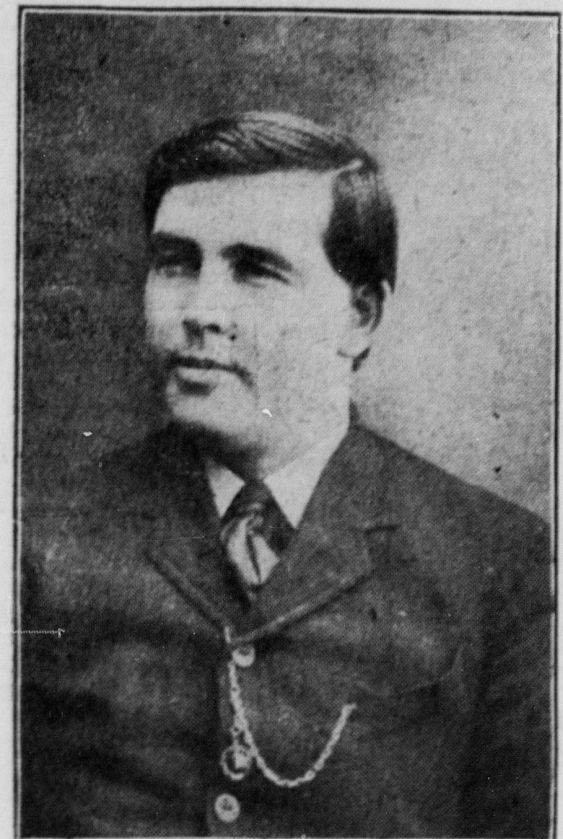
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WILLIAM DILLEN.



IRA GREEN.

GREEN AND DILLEN PAY THE PENALTY

The Blood of Jerry Condo Avenged on the Scaffold. Sentence of the Court Fulfilled.

THE DROP FALLS AT 10:55

Judge Auten Refuses a Petition for Respite—Gov. Pennypacker Would Not Interfere—Last Days in Jail—Sad Parting with Friends and Family—A Sad Day for Bellefonte—Scenes at the Scaffold.

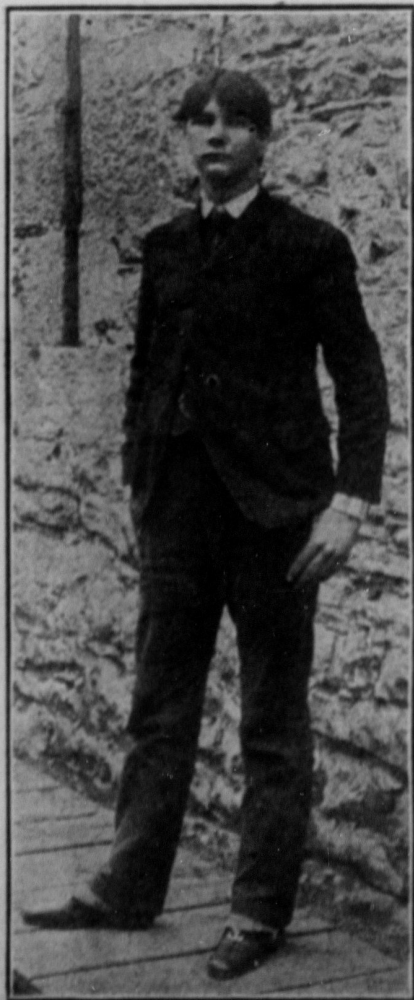
Ira Green and William Dillen paid the full penalty, they gave their lives for killing Jerry Condo.

They mounted the scaffold at 10:50 and the trap was sprung at 10:55. Thus the majesty of the law has been maintained and the solemn decree of the courts has been fulfilled.

Beginning with the next paragraph we give a complete account of the last scenes, in the jail from the "last night" in consecutive order up to the time the drop fell, bodies were cut down and sent away.

THE LAST NIGHT.

The intense suspense as to the decision of the Court, and which like a dark cloud finally dispelled the last ray of hope; the awful ordeal of bidding loved ones and family a sad farewell; and the thought that but one night intervened



WILLIAM DILLEN.

(In jail yard, by Mallory.)

until they should be hurled into eternity was the awful experience all day Monday for the doomed men. And it was remarkable that they had strength and vitality to endure the strain as they did. At 9 p. m. a visit was made to the prison; prior to that they had just partaken heartily of clam broth. Dillen enjoyed this, as he had a slight attack of indigestion during the day from eating too much rich food. Green ate heartily, because he always is hungry. Then each was given two half-hour's walk in the corridors. Dillen was in good spirits as he took his constitutional. Had a good word to all and occasionally he humed a familiar song from the Gospel Hymns. At the end of the time he gathered the inmates and others about him and lead in singing, "What a Friend we Have in Jesus," and "Nearer My God to Thee" and then entered his cell.

Green took his exercise next. He jollied the boys along, took pride in displaying his massive features and finally gave an exhibition in turning hand springs and other acrobatic feats, at which he is clever. He had a jolly good time with the other prisoners, he was a boy again, happy as a bird, apparently with no thought for the morrow.

Messrs. Trafford and Schreffler, the two guards, decided to be on duty the last night. Dillen's brother, from Altoona, was allowed to spend the last night with him in prison, but remained in the corridors.

Both prisoners expressed an intention not to sleep; the sheriff gave permission for the other inmates (except those implicated in the Osceola affair) to be out of their cells, this night and they also had no inclination to retire. J. Fred Kurtz, of the Lewisburg, Pa., Journal as a reporter for this paper, was also accorded the privilege of spending the night in prison.

As the writer left at 11 pm. he could hardly realize that two young men, with less than twelve hours to live, until they would give up their lives on the scaffold and their souls into eternity, could display such wonderful courage and be in such remarkable good cheer. It is beyond comprehension—but nevertheless it was true.

As a precaution, when the men were returned to their cells, Sheriff Taylor ordered them to exchange cells. The movements of the two men were closely watched by the guards Fred Shreffler and John Trafford. A brother of Dillen who came to take the body of his brother home, spent the night in the jail. About eleven o'clock Dillen asked the second time that some hymns be sung, and was allowed to leave his cell to join the small choir composed of the guards and other prisoners. Green joined lustily in the singing.

In the corridor Green said he proposed to die on the scaffold like a man. "I am an American," he said, "and Americans are no cowards."

Both men slept soundly until morning. Dillen was the first to awake from his slumbers and was in good spirits. R. A. Beck, the barber, was on hand promptly at 7 o'clock and Dillen received the first attention and was given a good clean shave.

PREPARING FOR THE SCAFFOLD.

Dillen awoke from a sound sleep at 6 o'clock in the morning. He slept uninterruptedly, shortly after awakening he began to sob and was distressed. The terrible situation he was facing, in that death should end his earthly career in a few short hours, apparently, weighed heavily upon his mind. He picked up his Bible and read for a short time, and then became more self-possessed and composed.

Green slept very soundly until half past seven o'clock, when he had to be awakened. His impending fate certainly did not disturb his slumbers in the least.

Both the boys were shaved by R. A. Beck and then served with their breakfast consisting of bread, beefsteak, biscuits, potatoes and coffee was served. They ate heartily and with appetite. Green stated that his appetite was still good and not in the least affected. With a small handmirror from his cell windows, he was able to note the preparations for the hanging in the jail yard. He was eager to ask questions of the reporter regarding the crowd that would be present, the size and quality of rope to be used, with other details.

At 8:30 Trafford gave each of the doomed men their suits. These were of black material and the men took great pains in attiring themselves. Green had



JERRY CONDO.
The Murdered Turnkey.

desired a tailor-made suit and was somewhat disappointed with his fit, but once dressed, he paced about his cell quietly, admiring himself and jocularly remarked to Dillen that he was going to make a swell figure. Dillen seemed more depressed and every now and then read a verse or chapter from his Bible. Shortly after this—Dillen, the condemned man's brother, with his wife and toddling child entered the room with the death watch and the prattling of little boy was a sharp contrast with the sad melancholy tone of the relatives.

FINAL SERVICES.

At 9 o'clock Rev. W. B. Cox, the spiritual adviser of the condemned men, entered the cell of Green and assisted by Reverends Johnson, Davidson, Crittenden and C. C. Schuey, conducted the final services. The scene here was heartbreaking, outside the iron door the friends stood with bowed heads and directly in front was the bereaved father with son and daughter. A portion of the 23 chapter of Luke was read and this was followed by a song, and then the 23rd Psalm.

Words fail to describe the pathos of the occasion, for this the hearts of all were filled with sadness. The other prisoners in the jail were noticeably affected, and their downcast countenances spoke only too plainly their sorrow.

Dillen's brother and his sister-in-law parted with him after 9 o'clock. They spent the entire morning with him. He bore up bravely through the ordeal, but his relatives were broken-hearted, and wept. The boys made a request to have their hair cut and it was done for them.

Both Green and Dillen had given their fellow-prisoners a small token and these were the occasion for many tears. Meanwhile the murmur of the crowd outside kept growing louder and this with the excitement so worked upon the feelings of Dillen's sister-in-law that she had to be taken to an adjoining room.

The final parting of Green with his father was the saddest incident of the morning. All visitors were excluded from the room and in low tones the father and son carried on the last conversation. With bowed head and tears streaming down his face the father could only look at his boy in mute appeal. The sister, was overcome and had to be supported by the guards. On leaving her eyes seemed riveted on her brother alone.

Outside the door of the death cell Rev. Cox presented to Miss Green the Bible used by the boys in their last hours and this was the climax. With loud cries and in an almost hysteric condition it became necessary to take the young lady from the building.

Final services were held in the presence of both men and they eagerly joined in the singing.

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NOTES FROM THE JAIL.

What Occurred of Interest During the Last few Days.

Thursday.

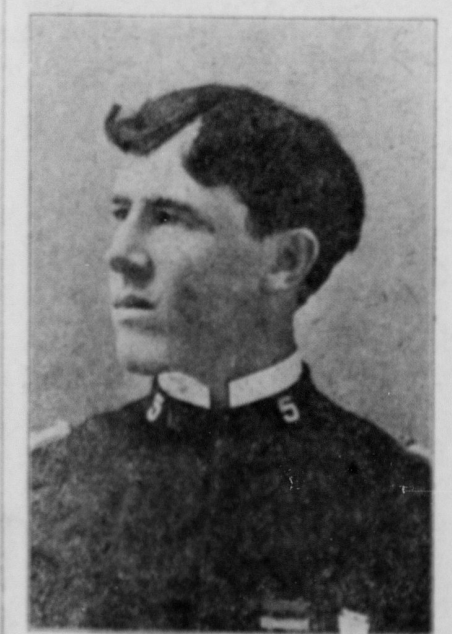
The notice last week from the Sheriff that no more visitors would be admitted to the jail brought a change over that place. No one calls at the sheriff's office except on business. By taking several to the Huntingdon Reformatory and the penitentiary last week it decidedly reduced the number in the prison. As a result there was no excitement, quiet prevailed. In consequence Dillen and Green had nothing to distract their attention. From that on they became quieter, spent more time in reading their Bibles; the change impressed them more than ever of the near approach of the fatal day.

On Thursday Mrs. Anna Mose, of Clearfield county, who is a sister of Wm. Dillen, paid her first and final visit to the jail. She had a child with her and as she entered the prison, she was seen to waver and likely would have fallen had not one of the attendants caught her arm in time. She was scarcely able to go up the steps. The greeting at the cell was another scene that was pitiful and sad. She tried her best to comfort and console her doomed brother. She urged him to put his trust in God, and when she bade him farewell forever, she completely broke down, and with assistance was led away, sobbing and broken hearted.

Friday.

Friday the writer was at the prison and found the two boys in a more serious mood than formerly. Their greeting was kindly and cheerful, with an absence of former levity and boisterous conduct. Green was engaged reading his Bible, which he could do, though occasionally found it necessary to have some words pronounced.

Copies of their photographs, made for publication in this paper, were presented to each. They were greatly pleased over the elegant result, and kept referring to them frequently, and deciding to what relatives they desired duplicates sent. They had been provoked at the pictures taken and published when brought back to jail, and accused the newspaper men of trying to make them as ugly as possible. Those first pictures are republished on the last page of this issue and the camera only produced what was before it at the time. The fact is, that the nine month's of prison life, and Sheriff Taylor's bill of fare, brought about this change, along with Mr. Mallory's workmanship. The contrast certainly is remarkable.



Sheriff H. S. TAYLOR.

Who was away at N. G. P. encampment as Captain of Co. B when the prisoners broke jail.

Before leaving, Green's full confession was carefully read to him and he approved of it by giving his signature at the bottom.

According to custom, condemned men during the last ten days are not bound by the former regulations. They have the privilege of ordering anything they may want to eat. In various ways they gathered up money and upon leaving we saw them give an attendant the cash for a gallon of ice cream and other dainties.

Saturday.

On Saturday Ira Green's two sisters from Gum Stump paid him a visit. They are young ladies and appeared greatly distressed over the sight of the brother. Their stay was brief and the parting was a great trial to them.

Sunday.

Sunday afternoon the two were given a half hour walking exercise around the upper balcony. Green stopped once and made the remark that he had a notion to plunge headfirst over the balcony and put an end to his troubles. He seemed serious, and after that the guard kept constantly by his side, as a precaution.

Sunday Dillen received a letter from a cousin in Clearfield county, in it was a blossom from a familiar apple tree. It impressed him seriously and he said: "I know the very tree that bore this flower, oh! how I wish I was out of here and

Continued on Page 4, Column 3.

IRA GREEN'S FINAL CONFESSION

Implicates George Henderson, Dominic Constance and George Livingstone in the Murder.

WM. DILLEN'S STATEMENT

Confirms What Green Says on the Important Details—Henderson Was the Ringleader and Delivered the Fatal Blow—Never Intended to Kill Jerry Condo—How the Escape Was Made—Green's Final Statement.

Introductory.

For some weeks past Dillen and Green announced that when the proper time arrived they would have a final statement to make to the public, regarding the crime. Ira Green informed the writer that he wanted to tell the whole truth, and would do so. Dillen said he was preparing to do the same.

Wednesday evening a message came from the prison that Green was ready to make his statement. At 9 pm., the writer was ushered into the prison; all was quiet, inmates were locked in their respective cells for the night.

By request of Green the interview took place in one of the empty cells, on first floor, where table and chairs were provided; the young man, accompanied by two guards, as special precaution, soon entered. Green said he did not want to make the statement in his cell as Dillen would hear all that was going on, and would be offended. He was taken from his cell under the pretext of answering a telephone call, to allay Dillen's suspicions.

Green was attired in a short sleeved, gauze shirt, pantaloons and socks; it gave an excellent idea of his massive form. He is a man of powerful build; the heavy neck is overlapped with strong muscles; has arms that would do justice to an athlete—all massive and well proportioned—he was the picture of physical development and health.

He said he was prepared to make his statement, which he realized would be his last to the public, and for that reason he wanted to tell the full truth, and the doing of this would make him feel freer to meet his fate.

For over an hour he went over the various incidents connected with the killing of Jerry Condo, answering every question promptly, fairly and with an honest purpose. As he has little education and can not write, notes were carefully taken and the story was rearranged by the writer and submitted again to him Friday afternoon for review and final approval.

In another part of this issue we give a "History of the Crime" from the court records, and much of his statement, that is immaterial, is omitted as it is embodied in that.

IRA GREEN'S STATEMENT.

Realizing that I soon must abide by the sentence of the Court and forfeit my life, for contributing to the death of Turnkey Jerry Condo, it is my wish that the following statement be made public, which I solemnly declare to be the truth as I can best tell it:

While in jail, in some way Sheriff Tay-

lor got a suspicion that we were planning to get out. For that reason Wm. Dillen and myself were locked in the one steel cell; Henderson and Constance were put in the other. Before this I never knew Dillen, although both of us traveled with the Rhoda Royal circus. I was an acrobat and trapeze performer and could do some clever turns. I traveled with other circuses. The Royal was wrecked at Hastings, Pa., where I was injured and spent three weeks afterwards in the Altoona hospital for a fracture of the skull. (Here he called attention to a lump, two inches above the right ear, which he said was a silver plate underneath the scalp. The lump can be felt.) While we were in the steel cell they cut down my grub one day for being noisy that night. I did not think it was right. The turnkey cut down the amount and we did not get as much to eat that day as we thought we should have. I was told that it was Condo's fault, because the sheriff was away at camp and left the buying and dishing out of the food entirely in his hands. He was a little particular with us while the sheriff was away and refused to buy us tobacco. With all this, I never made any threats or cursed the old gentleman. I have more respect for an old man than to do that.

Prisoners Carried Notes.

While we were in the cells, notes often were carried back and forth between Henderson and Dillen; I can't write, but Dillen can and he would read them to me. These notes were carried by Ed. McCallough, Geo. Kline, and Simon McGhee. In them we talked and planned

Continued on page 4, column 1.



IRA GREEN.

(In jail yard, by Mallory.)