

# **The Lynching of Norris Dendy**

*May 29, 1900 – July 4, 1933*



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**(Working Document)**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

*“The Case is of such a nature it can best be investigated and developed quietly.”*  
- Governor I. C. Blackwood, July 13, 1933<sup>1</sup>

Norris Dendy was a 33-year old African American male who was lynched by a mob on July 4, 1933 in Clinton, South Carolina.<sup>2</sup> The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project (CRRJ) has investigated the legal proceedings following his death. In 1934, a state grand jury declined to indict five of the men believed to have been leaders of the mob.<sup>3</sup> After the criminal case ended, Norris Dendy’s father filed a civil suit against their county.<sup>4</sup> The civil suit invoked a South Carolina anti-lynching statute which could grant exemplary damages to the legal representative of a lynching victim against the county in which the lynching took place.<sup>5</sup> CRRJ has not presently found the final outcome for this civil suit. However, the facts indicate that the civil suit was dropped after plaintiff’s counsel passed away.

## II. THE LYNCHING OF NORRIS DENDY

On July 4, 1933, Norris Dendy was driving picnic-goers in his truck to Lake Murray in South Carolina.<sup>6</sup> Allegedly, he got into a fight with a white man, Marvin Lollis, about which man’s truck was faster, and Dendy struck Lollis on the lip.<sup>7</sup> The NAACP investigator who reported on the case, said that “Lollis cursed Dendy, who in retaliation, struck him.”<sup>8</sup> Dendy

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<sup>1</sup> *Continue Probe Clinton Slaying*, LAURENS ADVERTISER (Laurens, S.C.), July 13, 1933.

<sup>2</sup> Helen Boardman Dep.; NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.36; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>3</sup> *Grand Jury Returns No Bill in Dendy Lynching; Brother Says He Will Continue His Fight*, N.Y. AGE, June 30, 1934.

<sup>4</sup> *Suit for \$2,000 In Dendy Death Filed*, GAFFNEY LEDGER (Gaffney, S.C.), Apr. 23, 1935.

<sup>5</sup> *\$2,000 Claim Is Filed By Dendy*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1934.

<sup>6</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.9; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> Boardman Dep., *supra* note 3, at 37.

immediately tried to flee home, but he was stopped by a police officer from Goldville who shot out his tires and then arrested him on a speeding charge.<sup>9</sup> It was rumored that Lollis, or one of his compatriots, had called ahead to the police in Goldville to alert them to be on the lookout for Dendy.<sup>10</sup>

The Goldville officer took him to the Clinton jail.<sup>11</sup> The two officers on duty that night were Officers Weir and Young.<sup>12</sup> Norris Dendy's wife came to the jail shortly after he was confined there and later returned to the jail with their five children and her mother-in-law around 9:00 P.M.<sup>13</sup> When they approached the jail, they heard Norris shouting.<sup>14</sup> They pushed the door open and saw the room filled with men. One man, Pack Pitts, shot a pistol at them and told them to get out, which they did.<sup>15</sup> Purportedly, the mob forced open the lock to Dendy's cell, and dragged him out.<sup>16</sup> A few minutes later, the men put him into a car.<sup>17</sup> His mother, wife, and children witnessed the mob then put him in a car and drive off.<sup>18</sup> In her testimony, Amanda Dendy indicated that her mother-in-law went up to the car and one of the men struck her a heavy blow across her back before the mob made off with him.<sup>19</sup> There was some question as to whether or not Dendy was drunk in his cell. This was disputed by the African-American

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<sup>9</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.9; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> *Id.*

<sup>12</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.20; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>13</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.10; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.*

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Boardman Dep., *supra* note 3, at 38.

<sup>17</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.10; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>18</sup> *Id.*

<sup>19</sup> *Id.*

witnesses who testified at the grand jury proceedings.<sup>20</sup> One such witness, Ernest Mims, saw Hubert Pitts drive up to the jail cell and take a long rope out of his car before entering.<sup>21</sup> Mims stayed in the alley with an African-American woman named Clara Belle Peak.<sup>22</sup> Together, they saw Pack Pitts drive up too, after Hubert went in.<sup>23</sup> Mims testified that the mob was yelling at Norris to come out of his cell, and hitting him with brooms and clubs.<sup>24</sup> This was about the time Amanda, Demdy's wife arrived.

The next morning Dendy's body was discovered at the Old Sardis Church by Thad Moore, a white deputy sheriff in Laurens County.<sup>25</sup> According to the NAACP investigator's report: "there were signs of his having been strangled, his skull was fractured, there were bruises on his head, under his arms and around his neck, and he was tied with very strong rope."<sup>26</sup>

### **III. THE SOCIO-HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

One factor that distinguishes this case from the array of Jim Crow era lynching cases was the family's social power. Not only did their social standing play into the mob's desire to put down a prominent, educated African American man, but it also framed the course of the legal remedies the family pursued. This paper will contextualize the family's determination to find restorative justice with the resources at their disposal and their ability to leverage their social

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<sup>20</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.20; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>21</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.21; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *Id.*

<sup>24</sup> *Id.*

<sup>25</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.11; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.* at 12.

power. In the absence of a federal anti-lynching law, a father set out to hold his county liable for his son's death.

### A. The Family and the Community

Norris Dendy was the son of J. E. Y. and Martha Dendy.<sup>27</sup> The nine children they reared all received college training.<sup>28</sup> In 1933, one son was a dentist, another worked in New York City as a post office clerk, one operated the family store, and one was a principal of a school.<sup>29</sup> Dendy himself was a carpenter turned contractor.<sup>30</sup> A NAACP investigator assigned to their case referred to them as “the most prominent colored family in Clinton.”<sup>31</sup> The Dendys were also among the first families to settle the township of Clinton.<sup>32</sup> Nancy Griffith, a local resident of Clinton who used to work as an archivist at Presbyterian College, included a short write-up about the Dendy lynching in her book *Clinton: A Brief History*. She said that she felt compelled to do so particularly because the event was front-page news and “worthy of inclusion in any history.”<sup>33</sup>

Clinton itself was not incorporated until 1852, but information is known about the county it resides in – Laurens.<sup>34</sup> In 1800, Laurens County had a population of about 12,800, of which 2,000 were slaves.<sup>35</sup> In the next few decades, the slave population increased by almost 50 percent.<sup>36</sup> In 1850, the slave population actually surpassed the white population.<sup>37</sup> Martha Dendy was born in 1867, the daughter of freed slaves.<sup>38</sup> By the turn of the century, Clinton had

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<sup>27</sup> *Dendy Relatives Tell What it is Like To See a Member of Family Lynched*, AFRO-AMERICAN (Balt.), Aug. 19, 1933 [hereinafter AFRO-AMERICAN].

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*

<sup>29</sup> *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> *Id.*

<sup>31</sup> Boardman Dep., *supra* note 3.

<sup>32</sup> Chris Barrus, *The Dendy family*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Mar. 22, 1985, at 3C.

<sup>33</sup> NANCY GRIFFITH, CLINTON: A BRIEF HISTORY (2010). No pages were available in the Google preview of this book.

<sup>34</sup> *Id.*

<sup>35</sup> *Id.*

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

<sup>37</sup> *Id.*

<sup>38</sup> Barrus, *supra* note 12.

industrialized to become a mill town, building cottages for millworkers and factories equipped with machinery.<sup>39</sup> J. E. Y. Dendy, a carpenter, came to own his own business, as did Martha, who started her own laundry service at Presbyterian College while many poorer whites remained at these mills.<sup>40</sup> The NAACP investigator observed that the Dendy family was not well regarded by the poorer and lower class whites who worked at the mills.<sup>41</sup> She commented on a division between the educated people and the mill workers, observing that the Dendys faced great hostility from others on account of their being African-American.<sup>42</sup>

The family were close with a white attorney W. R. Richey, Sr., who said, after the lynching, “a feeling of enmity toward Norris sprang up . . . because Norris was more intelligent and better educated than they were.”<sup>43</sup> There was also the matter of the house on Adair Street, which caused an uproar since the Dendys – carpenters by trade – had built a large two-story home outside the recognized African American community.<sup>44</sup>

### **B. The Federal Anti-Lynching Campaign and the South Carolina Statute**

By 1933, the NAACP had long been engaged in a national campaign to enact federal anti-lynching legislation. NAACP Executive Secretary Walter White believed that South Carolina’s failure to act in the Dendy case was additional evidence of the necessity for a federal anti-lynching law.<sup>45</sup> In fact, in the year of Norris Dendy’s lynching, a federal anti-lynching bill was before Congress – the Costigan Wagner bill.<sup>46</sup> White gave testimony on the details of

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<sup>39</sup> Griffith, *supra* note 13.

<sup>40</sup> AFRO-AMERICAN, *supra* note 7.

<sup>41</sup> Boardman Dep., *supra* note 3.

<sup>42</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.8; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.* at 12.

<sup>44</sup> *Id.* at 12.

<sup>45</sup> *Second Death Letter Keeps Dendy Lynching Witnesses North*; NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.41; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>46</sup> Costigan-Wagner Bill, S. 1978, 73rd Cong. (as reported by Subcomm. of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, Feb. 20-21, 1934).

Dendy's lynching before a Subcommittee of the Committee on the Judiciary of the United States Senate in February 1934.<sup>47</sup> The bill (S.1978) was proposed to assure to all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States the equal protection of the laws, and to punish officers or employees acting under state or municipal authority for conspiracy or neglect in their duty to keep a person in custody for the crime of lynching, as well as holding counties liable for mob death.<sup>48</sup>

In the absence of a federal anti-lynching law, a handful of states had passed their own laws aimed at discouraging lynchings. One such law existed in South Carolina – § 15-51-210. The statute was enacted in 1896 to implement an earlier provision of the Constitution of South Carolina, which had been adopted in 1895.<sup>49</sup> It is still current law. The statute affords a special right of action where death is caused under particular circumstances and it imposes liability on the county under the umbrella of 'wrongful death' doctrine.<sup>50</sup> The South Carolina Constitution states that the courts of common pleas shall have jurisdiction in all civil cases.<sup>51</sup> The text of the statute appears below.<sup>52</sup>

The overall effectiveness of the law has not been well documented. One of the most-cited accounts of its implementation was published by James Harmon Chadbourn in 1933. Chadbourn

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<sup>47</sup> Punishment for the Crime of Lynching: Hearing on S. 1978 Before the Subcomm. of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 73rd Cong. (1934) (statement of Walter White, Executive Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People).

<sup>48</sup> Costigan-Wagner Bill, S. 1978, 73rd Cong. (as reported by Subcomm. of the S. Comm. on the Judiciary, Feb. 20-21, 1934).

<sup>49</sup> STATES' LAWS ON RACE AND COLOR 13 (Pauli Murray ed., 2nd ed.) (1997).

<sup>50</sup> S.C. CODE ANN. § 15-51-210.

<sup>51</sup> S.C. CONST. art. V, § 11.

<sup>52</sup> S.C. CODE ANN. § 15-51-210. When county is liable for damages for lynching.

In all cases of lynching when death ensues the county in which such lynching takes place shall, without regard to the conduct of the officers, be liable in exemplary damages of not less than two thousand dollars, to be recovered by action instituted in any court of competent jurisdiction by the legal representatives of the person lynched, and they are hereby authorized to institute such action for the recovery of such exemplary damages. A county against which a judgment has been obtained for damages in any case of lynching shall have the right to recover in any court of competent jurisdiction the amount of such judgment from the parties engaged in such lynching and is hereby authorized to institute such action.



reported six cases that invoked the state law to impose fines against South Carolina counties.<sup>53</sup>

Note that this record did not include failed attempts at enforcement, or cases that won at the district level but were overturned on appeal.

Chadbourn, at the time an Assistant Professor of Law at University of North Carolina, collected data in the 1930s in an effort to propose a model lynching law.<sup>54</sup> Attempting to evaluate how municipal liability laws have been administered and to what effect, he studied the South Carolina law and recorded every known case where it had actually been enforced against a county.<sup>55</sup> The chart below, copied from Chadbourn's book – *Lynching and the Law* – shows the only six counties that had ever paid fines to legal representatives in lynching cases.<sup>56</sup> The column to the right of the names of the counties records the number of reported lynchings the year the fines were imposed.<sup>57</sup> Chadbourn notes that during the year following the imposition of fines, none of the same counties reported lynchings within their borders.<sup>58</sup> It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive record from which conclusions should be drawn, but may be merely an indication of what data was available in 1933. Data collection was complicated by politicized definitions of what constituted a lynching versus a murder. In a review of the six enforcement cases, there was no indication that plaintiffs received any more than the minimum amount of \$2,000 in each case.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> James Harmon Chadbourn, *LYNCHING AND THE LAW* (1933).

<sup>54</sup> *Id.*

<sup>55</sup> *Id.* at 50.

<sup>56</sup> *Id.* at 50-51.

<sup>57</sup> *Id.* at 52.

<sup>58</sup> *Id.*

<sup>59</sup> (Clarendon) *Clarendon Lynching Case*, *KEOWEE COURIER*, May 12, 1915, [http://genealogytrails.com/scar/clarendon/news\\_stories\\_clarendon.htm](http://genealogytrails.com/scar/clarendon/news_stories_clarendon.htm); (Barnwell) *Best v. Barnwell County*, 103 S.E. 479 (S.C. 1920); (Laurens) NAACP, *TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT* 53 (1922); (Allendale) *Kirkland v. Allendale County*, 123 S.E. 648 (S.C. 1924); (Lexington) *Lowman Lynching Brings Suit Against The County*, *AIKEN STANDARD* (Aiken, S.C.), Nov. 12, 1926; (Oconee) *Green v. West*, 159 S.E. 23 (S.C. 1931).

| Year | County      | No. Lynchings<br>Year of<br>Enforcement |        | No. Next Year |        | Average Lynchings Per Year |        |       |        |
|------|-------------|---|--------|---------------|--------|----------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
|      |             | State                                   | County | State         | County | Before                     |        | After |        |
|      |             |   |        |               |        | State                      | County | State | County |
| 1913 | Clarendon.  | 2                                       | 1      | 4             | 0      | 3.5                        | 0      | 1.2   | 0      |
| 1918 | Barnwell..  | 1                                       | 1      | 1             | 0      | 3                          | .12    | 1     |        |
| 1921 | Laurens...  | 5                                       | 0      | 1             | 0      | 2.14                       | .095   | 1     | 0      |
| 1924 | Allendale.. | 1                                       | 0      | 0             | 0      | 2.48                       | .04    | .5    | 0      |
| 1926 | Lexington.. | 1                                       | 0      | 0             | 0      | 2.33                       | .07    | .5    | 0      |
| 1930 | Oconee....  | 2                                       | 1      | ?             | ?      | 2.16                       | 0      | ?     | ?      |

James Harmon Chadbourn, *LYNCHING AND THE LAW* 50 (1933).

The NAACP produced an annual report in 1921 giving the specific details of the case won against Laurens county.<sup>60</sup> This was the only successful record of enforcement of the South Carolina statute against Laurens County in the time preceding Dendy's death.<sup>61</sup> The suit was brought by the victim's widow.<sup>62</sup> Her husband, an African American male, was taken from the jail at Laurens and hung from a railroad bridge in April 1920.<sup>63</sup> On November 11, 1921, the judge directed the jury to bring a verdict of \$2,000 to be paid to her.<sup>64</sup>

Chadbourn wrote that the conventional ground of the attack on this legislation was that it was unfair to make all the taxpayers of a county bear the financial burden for the "malfeasance of a group."<sup>65</sup> In response to this critique, Chadbourn said "when the peace officers, the chosen representatives of the electorate, have not done all that could reasonably be expected to prevent the lynching, the taxpayers may reasonably be considered to have shirked a duty and justly invoked a penalty."<sup>66</sup> Chadbourn's argument for a legal remedy to hold law enforcement personnel accountable is supported by news reports of the Dendy lynching, which often included

<sup>60</sup> NAACP, *TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT* 53 (1922).

<sup>61</sup> Chadbourn, *supra* note 29, at 50.

<sup>62</sup> NAACP, *supra* note 60.

<sup>63</sup> *Id.*

<sup>64</sup> *Id.*

<sup>65</sup> Chadbourn, *supra* note 29, at 53.

<sup>66</sup> *Id.*

a description of the family as educated taxpayers who greatly contributed to their community. The NAACP investigator noted that, notwithstanding the opinion of some of the poor whites working in the mills, many in Clinton had a high regard for the family.<sup>67</sup> One of the national black newspapers, the *Afro-American*, had this to say: “This family is considered to be an asset to the town of Clinton by the wealthy and educated people of Clinton. The family owns enough property in Clinton today to pay taxes to Laurens County and the State of South Carolina \$400 a year.”<sup>68</sup>

#### **IV. THE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS**

The following section covers the legal proceedings that took place in the matter of Norris Dendy. The first subsection covers the criminal process, and the second, a civil suit filed pertaining to South Carolina’s anti-lynching statute.

##### **A. The Criminal Case**

With the help of N. J. Frederick, an attorney from Columbia, the family was put in touch with Roy Wilkins, then Assistant Secretary for the NAACP.<sup>69</sup> Frederick wrote to Mr. Wilkins in a letter dated August 15, 1933 – “This is a prominent family and it is rather distressful that such indifference seems to be the order.”<sup>70</sup> The family was not impressed by the work the state detectives had done thus far in the way of investigation.<sup>71</sup>

Robert Dendy, one of Norris Dendy’s older brothers came to spearhead the initiative to pursue criminal charges. He hired a NAACP investigator saying on August 17, 1933 – “I will

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<sup>67</sup> Boardman Dep., *supra* note 3.

<sup>68</sup> AFRO-AMERICAN, *supra* note 7.

<sup>69</sup> Letter from Robert Dendy to Roy Wilkins, Assistant Sec’y, NAACP (Aug. 17, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.30; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>70</sup> Letter from N. J. Frederick to Roy Wilkins, Assistant Sec’y, NAACP (Aug. 15, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.33; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>71</sup> *Id.*

pay the reasonable expenses of this investigation.”<sup>72</sup> When the NAACP interviewed many witnesses, colored and white, the investigator commenting that the Clinton residents reported members of the mob to her as matters of “common knowledge.”<sup>73</sup> The NAACP procured affidavits from three African American witnesses, also securing placements for them outside of South Carolina in the period leading up to the first Grand Jury session on February 20, 1934.<sup>74</sup> State highway patrolmen were enlisted to escort them to Clinton.<sup>75</sup>

The bill of indictment named five white men from Clinton: Marvin Lollis, P. M. Pitts, Hubert Pitts, Roy Pitts, and J. Pitts Ray.<sup>76</sup> The officers responsible for monitoring the jail that night were not named in the bill of indictment. The Grand Jury adjourned without action after this session.<sup>77</sup> On June 1, 1934, Robert Dendy wrote to Walter White, the executive secretary of the NAACP, asking him “[i]f you have not heard from the Governor or some other official I wonder if it would be proper for the Association to inquire for we do not want them to make the claim that we did not appear.”<sup>78</sup>

Walter White wrote to the Governor of South Carolina himself to ensure that the Grand Jury had another session that year.<sup>79,80</sup> The Grand Jury eventually returned a no bill in June 1934.<sup>81</sup> Robert Dendy exerted many efforts to have a Grand Jury reconvene, hiring additional

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<sup>72</sup> Letter from Robert Dendy, *supra* note 55.

<sup>73</sup> Boardman Dep., *supra* note 3, at 39.

<sup>74</sup> Telegram from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP, to Gov. Blackwood (May 23, 1934); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F13, Lynching, General p.23; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>75</sup> Letter from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP, to Gov. Blackwood (Feb. 5, 1934); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F13, Lynching, General p.5; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>76</sup> *Five Clinton Men Charged With Beating Negro To Death*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Feb. 20, 1934.

<sup>77</sup> *Id.*

<sup>78</sup> Letter from Robert Dendy to Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP (June 1, 1934) NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F13, Lynching, General p.18; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>79</sup> Letter from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP, to Gov. Blackwood (Mar. 31, 1934); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F13, Lynching, General p.14; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>80</sup> Letter from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP, to Gov. Blackwood (June 14, 1934); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F13, Lynching, General p.27; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>81</sup> *Clinton Men Get Clean Slate In Slaying of Norris Dendy*, LAURENS ADVERTISER (Laurens, S.C.), June 14, 1934.

private investigators, but to no avail. Frustrated by the stagnation, the family refocused its efforts on a civil suit against the county.

By this time, the family did not have full confidence in the NAACP strategy.<sup>82</sup> As late as April 1935, the NAACP was still working the case, sending out inquiries to local attorneys in South Carolina who would be willing to help seek an order from the court to reopen the minutes of the grand jury, both times it convened in 1934.<sup>83</sup> However, this course of action did not lead anywhere and Robert Dendy formally asked the NAACP to withdraw their assistance on June 13, 1935.<sup>84</sup> Robert Dendy communicated this request to Walter White in a letter, writing that he was advised by several members of the “Board of the NAACP” that the apathy with which the organization handled his brother’s case was so great that it was “inadvisable to leave the matter in their hands.”<sup>85</sup>

In response, Walter White wrote that Robert Dendy could not know the vast number of appeals made to the Association and how incapable they were to work every case.<sup>86</sup> Pointing out that not having a local attorney on the ground in South Carolina seriously impeded their efforts, White also remarked upon the burden of the Association to bear all the work that had to be done to further protections to African Americans - “[W]e have a staff here so sorely overworked that it requires long hours seven days a week. If people who really wanted freedom were willing to do their share this would not be true and we would be able to handle not only your case but many others, equally worthy and fully as startling, more effectively.”<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>82</sup> NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F14, Lynching, General p.13; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>83</sup> Letter from Roy Wilkins, Assistant Sec’y, NAACP to L.G. Southard, Esq. (April 4, 1935); (NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F14, Lynching, General p.5; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>84</sup> Letter from Robert Dendy to Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP (June 13, 1935); (NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F14, Lynching, General p.13; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>85</sup> *Id.*

<sup>86</sup> Letter from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP to Robert Dendy (June 14, 1935); (NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F14, Lynching, General p. 11-12; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>87</sup> *Id.*

Despite the strain in this relationship, Walter White continued to correspond with Robert Dendy, writing to him on June 18, 1935 that he should connect with Arthur Raper of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.<sup>88</sup> White wrote, “Please do not consider this letter a violation of your request that the NAACP have nothing further to do with your case. I want to say, however, that we hope that your efforts may be successful and that if at any time there is any assistance which we can render we shall be willing to render if it lies within our power to do so.”<sup>89</sup>

In the meantime, Walter White continued to press for national action. Reportedly, Walter White received a private interview with then President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who explained that he could not come out and publicly endorse S. 1978 without antagonizing Southern congressmen who controlled key committees and the bill was tabled.<sup>90</sup> A similar bill to S. 1978 was introduced in 1938, but it faced the same fate – a filibuster in the Senate and ultimate stagnation.<sup>91</sup> While Walter White pursued a national remedy for the problem of lynching, the family sought relief on a local level, employing their relationship with W. R. Richey, Sr., a prominent white attorney who was a former mayor and president of the Laurens Bar Association.<sup>92</sup>

## **B. The Civil Case**

W. R. Richey, Sr. reported that Solicitor Blackwell asked him not to bring the civil suit against the county until the criminal investigation was over.<sup>93</sup> Once it was clear the criminal case

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<sup>88</sup> Letter from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP to Robert Dendy (June 18, 1935); (NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F14, Lynching, General p. 10; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>89</sup> *Id.*

<sup>90</sup> SHELDON AVERY, *UP FROM WASHINGTON: WILLIAM PICKENS AND THE NEGRO STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY, 1900-1954*, 143-45 (1989).

<sup>91</sup> *Id.* at 145.

<sup>92</sup> *Richey Rites Are Held At Laurens*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.) Feb. 1, 1936.

<sup>93</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.13; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

would not move forward, J. E. Y. Dendy still did not immediately file a civil suit against Laurens County. He first came to the Laurens County Board of Commissioners to propose that his plans to file a lawsuit against the county could be avoided if they compromised and settled out of court for \$2,000. If the Board decided to reject his claim, he would file his lawsuit.

### **1. The Laurens County Board of Commissioners**

On December 27, 1934, J. E. Y. Dendy met with attorney W. R. Richey, Sr., and brought a claim to the Laurens County Board of Commissioners.<sup>94</sup> His claim was that the county was responsible for the lynching of his son and that they were liable to pay damages of "at least \$2,000" to the estate pursuant to the South Carolina anti-lynching statute.<sup>95</sup> J. E. Y. Dendy had filed to become his son's legal representative prior to this action.<sup>96</sup>

Dendy, Sr. was essentially offering a carrot or a stick to Laurens County. He told the Board of Commissioners that they could either pay \$2,000 right then ("the carrot"), or they could be faced with a lawsuit ("the stick").<sup>97</sup> Dendy, Sr. also argued that the statute provided for damages of "at least \$2,000" and if he went to court, a judge could award an infinite amount to the family.<sup>98</sup> However, all known cases of enforcement of the South Carolina anti-lynching statute recorded as of 1933 revealed that plaintiffs had received no more than the minimum amount of \$2,000 in each and every case. It is unclear why Dendy, Sr. believed that a jury would award more than what had become a 'standard' amount despite the language of the statute. The body of the claim was published in the *Laurens Advertiser*:

Laurens county is liable to J. E. Y. Dendy as Administrator of the estate of Norris Dendy, deceased, and to J. E. Y. Dendy as legal representative of Norris Dendy,

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<sup>94</sup> *County Facing Law-suit In Alleged Negro Lynching Case*, LAURENS ADVERTISER (Laurens, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1934.

<sup>95</sup> *Id.*

<sup>96</sup> *Citation for Letters of Administration*, CLINTON CHRONICLE (Clinton, S.C.), Aug. 3, 1933.

<sup>97</sup> *County Facing Law-suit In Alleged Negro Lynching Case*, LAURENS ADVERTISER (Laurens, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1934.

<sup>98</sup> *Id.*

deceased, in exemplary damages for not less than \$2,000 for the lynching of the said Norris Dendy in the said county of Laurens on July 4, 1933.

We understand that the Board of County Commissioners have no jurisdiction to adjudicate this claim. We think, however, that the commissioners have the power to settle the claim by compromise. The administrator and representative of Norris Dendy, deceased, do hereby offer to compromise said case and will accept in full settlement of the claim Two Thousand Dollars.<sup>99</sup>

The Board told Dendy, Sr. that they could not take action before consulting with the county attorney, R. E. Babb.<sup>100</sup> Babb advised rejection of the claim.<sup>101</sup> “The state law,” Babb said in discussing the matter informally, “does provide for recovery in proved cases of lynching, the minimum being placed at \$2,000. Suit for a larger amount may be entered in any case of like import in the county in which an *established lynching* had occurred.”<sup>102</sup> The newspaper continued to say that in Norris Dendy’s criminal case, there were no indictments and quoted Solicitor Blackwell who said after the June 1934 Grand Jury hearing that “he had done all he could to bring the case into court and that the action of the grand jury, so far as he knew, ended the case.”<sup>103</sup>

It is worth noting Solicitor Blackwell’s words in light of his suggestion to W. R. Richey, Sr. that the civil action be withheld until the resolution of the criminal case. The only case of comparison in Laurens County was mentioned above – the case of a widow who prevailed in her civil claim for damages. Very little is known about that case at this time, including the outcome of the criminal investigation.

There is a question of what R. E. Babb may have been getting at with his emphasis on a “proved lynching.” He may have been implying that there would have needed to have been a

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<sup>99</sup> *Id.*

<sup>100</sup> *\$2,000 Claim Is Filed By Dendy*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1934

<sup>101</sup> *Id.*

<sup>102</sup> *Id.* (emphasis added).

<sup>103</sup> *Id.*



criminal conviction, not just an indictment against a mob member. Defendants of counties may have tried to defeat civil cases with the absence of criminal matter. For there to be a viable claim to go forward, there may have had to have been a *proven lynching*, the definition of which seems to have been inferred by the criminal outcome. This legal argument would be supported by Solicitor Blackwell's instruction to W. R. Richey Sr. that he should wait until the criminal case was over before filing a civil claim. The Plaintiff would argue of course that there was a *proved lynching* and that the criminal outcome should not be determinative since grand juries were reluctant to indict for political reasons. The NAACP investigator wrote in her report that "a lynching is death caused by violence committed by an unlawful assembly."<sup>104</sup> However, legal precedent from *Kirkland v. Allendale County*, was that a lynching did not have a technical legal meaning, but was a descriptive phrase "universally understood to signify punishment by a combination of persons for an alleged crime."<sup>105</sup>

Ultimately, the Board unanimously denied the claim and Dendy Sr. proceeded to file the lawsuit a few months later. The official record of the Board's minutes indicated that while they denied Dendy, Sr.'s claim, they granted \$25 to a R. M. Gregory for injury to a mule that very same night.<sup>106</sup> Importantly, precedent from *Best v. Barnwell County* held that a County Board lacked jurisdiction over an action in claim for damages.<sup>107</sup> That is, a rejection of a claim by the Board would not bar filing in civil court because the County Board had no "machinery for trial by jury." That was in reference to an appeal by Barnwell County in a lower court finding for the plaintiff in an action by the widow of Walter Best for his lynching on February 23, 1918.<sup>108</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.13; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>105</sup> *Kirkland v. Allendale County*, 123 S.E. 648, 650 (S.C. 1924).

<sup>106</sup> Culbertson, Laurens County Commissioners' Minutes, Dec. 27, 1934 (on file with the South Carolina Department of Archives and History).

<sup>107</sup> *Best v. Barnwell County*, 103 S.E. 479 (S.C. 1920).

<sup>108</sup> *Id.* at 481.

## 2. The Civil Suit

In April, 1935, local newspapers reported that J. E. Y. Dendy had filed a complaint against Laurens County for liability in his son's lynching.<sup>109</sup> These newspapers continued to cover the case, stating that it was scheduled for the Fall term of the Court of Common Pleas in Laurens, Judge Hayne F. Rice of Aiken presiding.<sup>110</sup> The Fall term opened on October 28, 1935.<sup>111</sup> On November 1, 1935, the *Greenville News* reported that the case was continued on motion of plaintiff's counsel.<sup>112</sup> On January 29, 1936, plaintiff's counsel, W. R. Richey, Sr. was reported dead at age 81 after his illness the previous year.<sup>113</sup> The case was not scheduled for the following two court terms and the Laurens County Court of Common Pleas yielded no records on the matter.

## V. THE FAMILY ARCHIVE

In the course of this author's investigation, it was discovered that Norris Dendy's son, Young Dendy, had given materials to Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina, where his grandmother had patrons for her laundry business. Young Dendy's uncles--Robert Dendy, David Dendy, and William Dendy--had founded a scholarship fund in honor of their mother, Martha Dendy and their father, J. E. Y. Dendy. The entire collection contains information on Norris Dendy's lynching, including the confidential report cited throughout this paper by Helen Boardman, one of the NAACP investigators. The archive also contains newspaper clippings and periodicals which covered the aftermath of the lynching, as well as a biography of Fayette Young

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<sup>109</sup> *Suit for \$2,000 In Dendy Death Filed*, GAFFNEY LEDGER (Gaffney, S.C.), Apr. 23, 1935.

<sup>110</sup> *Jurors Drawn For October Civil Court*, LAURENS ADVERTISER (Laurens, S.C.), Oct. 17, 1935.

<sup>111</sup> *Id.*

<sup>112</sup> *\$25 Verdict Awarded In Soft Drink Case*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Nov. 1, 1935.

<sup>113</sup> *Richey Rites Are Held At Laurens*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.) Feb. 1, 1936.

Dendy (an enslaved ancestor of Norris Dendy), and an interview of Young Dendy conducted by a student at San Jose State University.

Young Dendy's interview was recorded on October 1, 2009, and it covers a span of years including formal segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and the election of President Barack Obama.<sup>114</sup> As Young Dendy recounts memories from his childhood, being drafted in the Army, and his decision to finish college after two years of military service, it is easy to see the impact that growing up without his father had on him, particularly because his father was lynched at the hands of known individuals in his hometown.<sup>115</sup> Young Dendy described his mother taking him and his brother to Washington D.C. for an extended time after the lynching and after they returned, receiving strict instructions to avoid the same mill community that Helen Boardman described in her investigation.<sup>116</sup>

In recalling the circumstances of his father's death in 1933, Young Dendy stated, "They took him out of jail and killed him overnight. That's right. The police are the ones that let that happen here in this town and some of the same ones we've had here show the same things."<sup>117</sup> Remarking that Clinton had just appointed its first-ever Black police chief in 2009, Young Dendy commented that from his perspective, he felt the same lack of protection by the police throughout his adult life.<sup>118</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> Interview by Jamie Cutter with Young Dendy, Clinton, SC. (Oct. 1, 2009) (transcript available in the Presbyterian College Library).

<sup>115</sup> *Id.*

<sup>116</sup> *Id.*

<sup>117</sup> *Id.*

<sup>118</sup> *Id.*

## VI. CONCLUSION

*“In all the history of lynching there has never been a more flagrant example than this one of the state’s inability to act or its unwillingness to act.”*

*- Walter White, June 14, 1934<sup>119</sup>*

The Dendy family’s social standing meant that they had greater access to resources and powerful allies. They had flexibility in their legal strategy and could hire private investigators and attorneys. Their determination to bring a civil suit spoke to their audacity in the light of a paucity of successful claims enforcing South Carolina’s anti-lynching statute.

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<sup>119</sup> Letter from Walter White, Exec. Sec’y, NAACP, to Gov. Blackwood (June 14, 1934); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F13, Lynching, General p.27; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

## NAME INDEX

### Victim

- Norris Dendy (May 29, 1900 – July 4, 1933)<sup>120</sup>

### CRIMINAL CASE ACTORS:

#### Alleged Perpetrators

##### Named in the Bill of Indictment

- Marvin Lollis (unknown)<sup>121</sup>
- Hubert Pitts (unknown)<sup>122</sup>
- P. M. Pitts (unknown)<sup>123</sup>
- Roy Pitts (unknown)<sup>124</sup>
- J. Pitts Ray (unknown)<sup>125</sup>

##### Not named in the Bill of Indictment

- Officer Henry Young, of the Clinton Police (unknown)<sup>126</sup>
- Officer Carl Weir, of the Clinton Police (unknown)<sup>127</sup>
- Chief of Police George Holland, of the Clinton Police (unknown)<sup>128</sup>
- Simon Pitts of the Clinton Police (unknown)<sup>129</sup>
- Lewis Bagwell (unknown)<sup>130</sup>

#### Witnesses who Testified before the Grand Jury

- Ernest Mims (unknown)<sup>131</sup>
- William Crawford (unknown)<sup>132</sup>
- Clara Belle Peake (unknown)<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> Helen Boardman Dep.; NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.36; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>121</sup> *Grand Jury Returns No Bill in Dendy Lynching; Brother Says He Will Continue His Fight*, N.Y. AGE, June 30, 1934.

<sup>122</sup> *Id.*

<sup>123</sup> *Id.*

<sup>124</sup> *Id.*

<sup>125</sup> *Id.*

<sup>126</sup> Helen Boardman Dep.; NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.38; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>127</sup> *Id.*

<sup>128</sup> William Crawford Dep. 2; NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F11, Lynching, General p.35; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>129</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.11; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>130</sup> *Id.*

<sup>131</sup> Report from Helen Boardman to NAACP (Sept. 29, 1933); NAACP Admin Subj Files, I-C366-F10, Lynching, General p.11; Library of Congress – Manuscript Division.

<sup>132</sup> *Id.*

<sup>133</sup> *Id.*

- Mrs. Martha Duckett Dendy (Aug. 1865 – Apr. 9, 1953)<sup>134</sup>
- Mrs. Amanda Dendy (unknown – Sept. 9, 1988)<sup>135</sup>

## CIVIL CASE ACTORS:

### Attorney for Plaintiff

- William Razor Richey, Sr. – commonly known as W. R. Richey, Sr. (Sept. 24, 1854 – Jan. 30, 1936)<sup>136,137</sup>

### Representative for the Defendant

- R. E. Babb, Laurens County Attorney (unknown)<sup>138</sup>

### Victim's Family

- Parents
  - J. E. Y. Dendy (Dec. 1863 – May 21, 1940)<sup>139</sup>
  - Martha Duckett Dendy (Aug. 1865 – Apr. 9, 1953)<sup>140</sup>
- Wife
  - Amanda Dendy (later changed name to Amanda Dendy James when she remarried) (unknown – Sept. 9, 1988)<sup>141</sup>
- Brothers and sisters, including:
  - Dr. William F. Dendy (Oct. 18, 1891 – Mar. 23, 1974)<sup>142</sup>
  - Robert Y. Dendy (Aug. 9, 1890 – Nov. 9, 1972)<sup>143,144</sup>
  - Viola E. D. Howard (unknown – Dec. 21, 1989)<sup>145</sup>
  - Rev. Spurgeon C. Dendy (Dec. 22, 1882 – Apr. 1, 1965)<sup>146</sup>
  - Mary Dendy (Jan. 29, 1908 – May 20, 1959)<sup>147</sup>
  - Prof. David D. E. Dendy (May 2, 1902 – Apr. 1, 1985)<sup>148</sup>
  - Mattie D. Purry (unknown, deceased)<sup>149</sup>

<sup>134</sup> “Dendy, Mrs. Martha” *Browning Genealogy Database* (Evansville, IN), <http://browning.evcppl.lib.in.us/> (last visited Aug. 22, 2017).

<sup>135</sup> “Deaths: Amanda D. James,” *The Greenville News* (Greenville, SC), Sept. 12, 1988.

<sup>136</sup> *\$2,000 Claim Is Filed By Dendy*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1934.

<sup>137</sup> *W. R. Richey, Laurens, Dies*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Jan. 30, 1936.

<sup>138</sup> *\$2,000 Claim Is Filed By Dendy*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1934.

<sup>139</sup> *J. E. Y. Dendy*, CLINTON CHRONICLE (Clinton, S.C.), June 20, 1940.

<sup>140</sup> “Dendy, Mrs. Martha” *Browning Genealogy Database* (Evansville, IN), <http://browning.evcppl.lib.in.us/> (last visited Aug. 22, 2017).

<sup>141</sup> “Deaths: Amanda D. James,” *The Greenville News* (Greenville, SC), Sept. 12, 1988.

<sup>142</sup> “Medical Certificate of Death” (Indiana State Board of Health).

<sup>143</sup> “Registration Card” (WWII Draft Card, accessed through [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

<sup>144</sup> *Robert Dendy*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Nov. 10, 1972.

<sup>145</sup> *Obituaries: Viola D. Howard*, CLINTON CHRONICLE (Clinton, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1989.

<sup>146</sup> “Social Security Index” (accessed through <https://newspaperarchive.com>).

<sup>147</sup> “Medical Certificate of Death” (Indiana State Board of Health).

<sup>148</sup> “Social Security Index” (accessed through <https://newspaperarchive.com>).

<sup>149</sup> *Obituaries: Viola D. Howard*, CLINTON CHRONICLE (Clinton, S.C.), Dec. 28, 1989.

- J. E. Y. Dendy, Jr. (June 16, 1883 – unknown)<sup>150</sup>
- Children, including:
  - Viola Chase (1926 – unknown)<sup>151</sup>
  - Othello Gray (1928 – unknown)<sup>152</sup>
  - Othella Evans (unknown, deceased)<sup>153,154</sup>
  - Norris F. Dendy (1932 – as of 2017, lives in Indianapolis, IN)<sup>155</sup>
  - Young Dendy (1933 – as of 2017, lives in Clinton, S.C.)<sup>156</sup>
- Grandchildren:
  - Byron Dendy (as of 2017, lives in Greenville, S.C.)<sup>157</sup>
  - Brent Dendy (lives in IN)<sup>158</sup>
  - Deidra Dendy Davis (lives in Oklahoma City, OK)<sup>159</sup>
  - Kimberly Amanda Dendy (lives in Indianapolis, IN)<sup>160</sup>
  - Denise Pritchard (lives in Indianapolis, IN)<sup>161</sup>
- Great-grandchildren
  - Megan Jeter (lives in IN)<sup>162</sup>

### Civil Rights Advocates

- Helen Boardman (unknown)
- Martha Gruening (1889 – 1937)<sup>163</sup>
- Walter White (July 1, 1893 – Mar. 21, 1955)<sup>164</sup>
- Roy Wilkins (Aug. 30, 1901 – Sept. 8, 1981)<sup>165</sup>

### Government

- Homer S. Blackwell, *County Solicitor* (unknown)

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<sup>150</sup> “Registration Card” (WWII Draft Card, accessed through [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)).

<sup>151</sup> “Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940” (Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Clinton, South Carolina, 1940).

<sup>152</sup> “Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940” (Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Clinton, South Carolina, 1940).

<sup>153</sup> *Deaths: Amanda D. James*, GREENVILLE NEWS (Greenville, S.C.), Sept. 12, 1988.

<sup>154</sup> Norris F. Dendy, Jr., interview by Rieko Shepherd, Aug. 8, 2017.

<sup>155</sup> “Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940” (Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Clinton, South Carolina, 1940).

<sup>156</sup> “Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940” (Department of Commerce – Bureau of the Census, Clinton, South Carolina, 1940).

<sup>157</sup> Byron Dendy, <https://www.facebook.com/public/Byron-Young-Dendy/city/Greenville-South-Carolina-107600062603098/> (last visited Aug. 22, 2017).

<sup>158</sup> Brent Dendy, <https://www.facebook.com/brent.dendy> (last visited Aug. 23, 2017).

<sup>159</sup> Deidra Dendy Davis, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000261244393&fref=ufi&pnref=story> (last visited Aug. 23, 2017).

<sup>160</sup> Kimberly Dendy, <https://www.facebook.com/kadendy?fref=ufi> (last visited Aug. 23, 2017).

<sup>161</sup> Denise Pritchard, <https://www.facebook.com/denise.pritchard.98> (last visited Aug. 23, 2017).

<sup>162</sup> Megan Jeter, [https://www.facebook.com/megan.jeter.18?fref=pb&hc\\_location=friends\\_tab&pnref=friends.all](https://www.facebook.com/megan.jeter.18?fref=pb&hc_location=friends_tab&pnref=friends.all) (last visited Aug. 23, 2017).

<sup>163</sup> Martha Gruening, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha\\_Gruening](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martha_Gruening) (last visited Aug. 25, 2017).

<sup>164</sup> Walter Francis White, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter\\_Francis\\_White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walter_Francis_White) (last visited Aug. 25, 2017).

<sup>165</sup> Roy Wilkins, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy\\_Wilkins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Wilkins) (last visited Aug. 25, 2017).

- I. C. Blackwood, *Governor of South Carolina* (Nov. 21, 1878 – Feb. 12, 1936)<sup>166</sup>
- John A. Thomas, *Coroner* (unknown)
- John W. Richardson, *State Constable in criminal investigation* (unknown)
- W. Fred Newman, *State Constable in criminal investigation* (unknown)

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<sup>166</sup> Ibra Charles Blackwood, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibra\\_Charles\\_Blackwood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibra_Charles_Blackwood) (last visited Aug. 25, 2017).