

OFFICE OF
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CASWELL COUNTY
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YANCEYVILLE, N. C.
Board Meets First Monday in January,
April, July and October.

YANCEYVILLE, N. C., Jan 22 1917

Miss Edna:

The rise & fall of
Stephens, are the most tragic
events associated with our
County's history - the boldness
of the assassination, the secrecy
maintained, taken with the
causes which bring it about
the tragedy, ~~and~~ all
appeal to human interest,
Stephens, was a Magistrate,
& also a State Senator -
and a politician of that
stripe, developed by the
training of his time.

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He had a complete mastery over the negroes in the County & they were ready to follow his lead. His speeches to them were said to have ^{been} inflammatory & incendiary - & I have been told that barns & houses as many as 3 or 4, could be seen burning from the Court House vestibule. He was not a man of wealth, - I know the Cognomen of Charles thief Stephens, having been indicted, I am told

① passions and prejudices in the courts of Rockingham County growing out of the war

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YANCEYVILLE, N. C., 191

upon that charge -
The Conditions of Caswell
under his leadership, became
intolerable & it was determined
to make way with him -
The Conspiracy was a
long one - For some time
it was impossible to
get an opportunity - but the
opportunity came in this
way - In May 20, 1890,
there was a public speaking
in the Court room, a
large crowd being present,
Stephens was in the Court
room and man was

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I have a message from
 Frank Wiley - it is what
 it was stated that Wiley
 wished to meet him
 in conference, regarding
 a political matter. At
 the first time Stephens was
 taken off his guard &
 followed the messenger,
 they went to an unused room
 in the Court house - the
 room now occupied by
 Mr. Julius Johnson. As they
 entered the room, the
 door was closed, a rope
 thrown over Stephens' neck.

stepping his cries and
 someone taking a knife

3/ room, a man was sent
 to him professing

⑤

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severed his jugular vein —
 The Conspirators, left him
 lying on a pile of wood,
 coasted the door, & one
 of the men caught up the
 key & threw it into the
 waters of County line Creek,
 at a crossing, known as
 Pate's bridge — You will
 understand, Miss Edna, that
 I cannot authenticate the
 scene of the tragedy, yet
 the above is actually
 the true story — I must
 believe, did just do the
 Millins was only used

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YANCEYVILLE, N. C., 191

This was not a perpetration
of the "Blair" - though
possibly, there were
the "Blairs", among the
conspirators.
Immediately after the
murder, Gov. Holden,
declared our County
to be in a state of insurrection,
& the infamous Gen. Shirke
was sent here, with an
army of "bummers," collected
from the mountain
regions of the state - Our
people were subjected to
the most mortifying

6/ indignations

5/ as a decay

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many of first citizens were
arrested, incarcerated in
the Court room - being
held there for quite a
period - Among the men
imprisoned, that I recall
from memory were
the following: J. M. Neal
Proell Hodson, Daniel Weedon,
Dr. A. G. Yarnes - Sheriff Driffelt,
J. A. Wiley, D. J. Wornack
Doc D'Jares, George Williams
Jenn. Chris. Gast Brasley
Wm. B. Bowe, & Dops Moore
These men were liberated,

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g
proceeding, before Judge
Brooks, of the Federal
Court at Raleigh -
that was the end of the
prosecution, the men
never being again called
into court.
Wanted to state that Stephens
body was found by
his brother, I have given
you a very meagre account,
as I am very much
pressed for time but
will state - that
Judge Jourgay colored
the matter to

without bail, as a result
of his book to make it
appear to the
of Abraham Cargues,

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prejudices of the North, or
it is possible, that he "was
led, by distorted facts, into
error
Stephens' murder, was
brought about, in my
opinion, purely as a
means of self preservation
of our County. A volume
could be written about this
tragedy & circumstances
thereof. I trust what I
may have written, will give
you the assurance that
our people were justified

8/ With best wishes

Very truly yours

George A. Anderson