

# The Corvallis Times.

WEEKLY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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CORVALLIS, OREGON, FEBRUARY 3, 1904.

E. F. IRVING  
Editor and Proprietor.

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### EXECUTION AT SALEM.

HARRY EGBERT PAYS THE PENALTY FOR HIS CRIMES ON THE SCAFFOLD.

Without any Sign of Fear He Ascends the Scaffold With a Firm Step—He Gives Words of Advice—First Execution Under New Law.

Salem, Jan. 19.—"My friends, take me as an example, if you have children, remember me and bring them up so that they will not follow in my steps. My heart aches for them. Keep them in at night away from the saloons and out of bad company. Bad raising and bad company brought me here. I repent of my sins and am ready to die. It is not true that I have any hatred for the woman I love. I still love her with all my heart and it is true to her. My heart is too full to say anything more."

With farewell addresses to those assembled to witness the first legal execution at the penitentiary, Harry D. Egbert, or John H. Frost swung into eternity at 12:42 o'clock this afternoon. The drop was seven feet. At 12:45 Dr. J. D. Shaw, prison physician, and Dr. E. Pierce, member of the state health board, pronounced that the heart had ceased beating. Death was caused by the dislocation of the neck.

As the doomed man stood on the trap door no finer built man ever faced death. He bore the ordeal with military fortitude, and as he faced the witnesses, scarcely a tremor went through his strong physique. Robust and athletic, he was at the threshold of another world all ready to die.

The march from the cell begun at 12:35. Just prior to this Superintendent C. W. James announced that all was ready and produced the death warrant. Egbert waived its reading. Superintendent James and Rev. St. Pierre, the spiritual advisor, led the procession while supporting the condemned man were Warden Frank Curtis and Assistant J. D. Smith.

They had to wait a moment until the prisoner rolled the last cigarette. This he smoked nonchalantly on his way to the scaffold.

His last request to Warden Curtis that he be not shackled was granted, and like a soldier he marched to meet his doom. Guard Warren Cyrus, to whom Egbert took so great a liking, was with him during the last few minutes in the cell.

Without assistance Egbert mounted the steps of the scaffold. Spectators removed their hats and the prisoner stepped to the front to deliver his parting address. Placing his hand on the railing he spoke in a clear distinct voice. During the speech he bowed his head and it was feared he was about to break down. But he recovered in a second and he resumed.

As he finished, his voice was filled with emotion and tears welled to his eyes.

The minister read the well-known verse of John 3:16 as the mask was adjusted and Curtis placed the noose over Egbert's head.

"Father unto Thy keeping I commit my spirit," said Rev. St. Pierre and the body dropped to death. The black cap was disarranged, but did not expose the features. Physicians held the body counting the heart beats. In ten minutes the man was dead and the law had been fully satisfied. The rope was removed and the corpse laid in a plain coffin. Superintendent James summoned the required number of citizens to certify to the fact that the hanging had been legally carried out.

The dean of Willamette University requested the body, but the superintendent will hold it until satisfied the relatives will not claim it.

From 10 o'clock, when Egbert rose and dressed, the minister was with him, listening to his professing religion and repenting for his sins. Before noon he was shaved in the chapel. Then he dressed neatly in a dark blue suit, roll collar and black necktie. He constantly found solace in cigarettes. The cell where the murderer had been closely guarded for six weeks was at the far end of the second story cell row.

Harry Egbert was a native of

Exira, Audubon county, Iowa, where he was born, raised and educated, and where he began his career as the operator of a "blind pig" or unlicensed saloon, after graduating from the high school. From that point he strayed West and in 1900 he came to Oregon, and soon thereafter, in March, 1901, he was arrested and convicted for the crime of larceny from a building in Laas county, and sent to the penitentiary for one year. He was received at the penitentiary March 22, 1901, and was released from that institution February 19, 1902. In 1903 he was wanted for burglary in Douglas county, but he escaped, and notice was sent to the sheriff of Harney county that he was believed to be in that county, and that a warrant had been issued for his arrest, and requesting the Harney county officer to arrest him. Attorney John G. Saxton, a man of unquestioned nerve, was deputized to secure the man. He found and arrested him, but the criminal made his escape and left the state; but a few days later it was learned that he had again been seen in Wild Horse valley, 85 miles south of Burns, and only 20 miles from the Nevada line.

Hearing of his whereabouts, Attorney Saxton, accompanied by another deputy sheriff, Jack West, started out after their quarry, with the result that neither man came back alive.

It seems that Egbert was in love with a half breed woman known as Mabel Rhodes, and with her he was living at the ranch of Charles Fields in Wild Horse Valley, the woman passing as his wife. When the two officers approached the house, the fugitive opened fire on them from behind the corner of the ranch house, killing West. He then went into the house through a window, while the woman made her escape, and Saxton entered the house through the door. A thin partition separated the two men, and a terrible hand to hand battle ensued, the fugitive firing with a rifle and the officer with a revolver. It seems that Saxton running out of cartridges, went to West for a fresh supply, when Frost, as he was called there, shot the officer from the second story of the building, inflicting a mortal wound.

After the fight the fugitive and a terrible murderer went to a nearby ranch, where he secured a horse and went to Nevada. Here a large party started on his trail, and when near Elko, Nevada, a posse of Mormon settlers, headed by Deputy United States Marshal McCoy, ran him down, arrested him after a running fight for nearly four miles, and held him until Sheriff Allen of Harney county could come with a requisition and return him to Burns, where he was tried December 8, last, and on December 10 he was sentenced to be hanged on January 29, 1904, between the hours of 10 a. m. and 2 p. m. He was brought to the penitentiary a few days later and on the way up he attempted to kill the deputy sheriff accompanying the sheriff as a guard, and was prevented by the latter officer from adding another crime to his already black record.

Enterprise, Or., Jan.—29.—A telephone message received here yesterday gave a meagre account of an accident to the Joseph and Elgin stage. While coming through Wallowa canyon it tried to pass a team on a narrow grade where the wheel horses slipped and the stage and passengers fell over a fifty-foot grade into the river. Two passengers, Mrs. Henderson of Promise, Or., were seriously injured and Mrs. Henderson may die. Billy McWilliams, the driver was also hurt, but will likely recover. The injured were removed to Wallowa and medical attention was given them.

Are You Restless at Night?

And harassed by a bad cough? Use Ballard's Horehound Syrup, it will secure you sound sleep and effect a prompt and radical cure. 25c, 50c and \$1.00. Sold by Graham & Wortham.

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Guinea fowls, \$1.50 per pair. S. C. W. Leghorn cockles, 75 cents each.

F. L. Howe, Corvallis,  
R. F. D. No. 1.

For Sale.

O. K. Grubbers. Best in Oregon; three state premiums; one horse has the power of 99; can grub an acre a day. James Finney, Brooks, Or.

### IS NOW FREE.

MRS. MAYBRICK, AMERICAN WOMAN, HELD FOR POISONING HER HUSBAND.

For Years She Was Imprisoned in England Until King Edward Concluded to Release Her—Details of the Case.

London, Jan. 31.—Lloyds Weekly Newspapers says this morning that Mrs. Florence Maybrick, the American woman who was serving a life sentence for having poisoned her husband, was released from Aylesbury female prison at 6:45 o'clock on the morning of January 25 on special license. Her mother, the paper says, had visited her Saturday, January 23, and evidently was the bearer of important news. The governor of the prison on Sunday conferred with the prison officials with a view to arranging for the departure of the prisoner, which was carried out very quietly. Mrs. Maybrick, accompanied by one of the prison matrons, entered a closed carriage and drove to Aylesbury Station where she took a train for London. She drove from Euston station and from there went to a private house not far from the metropolis.

She will remain there for a short period in order to recuperate and to await the completion of certain formalities which will give her a freedom of movement not allowed by persons on ordinary ticket-of-leave.

Mrs. Maybrick, the paper continues, during the last few months in prison was employed in the lightest work, as a reward for good conduct.

A British jury found Mrs. Florence Maybrick guilty of the murder of her husband, James Maybrick, August 7, 1889, by the use of arsenic. She was sentenced to be hanged. Petitions poured in on the British home secretary from all parts of England and America, and the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life. It has always been a question in the minds of many persons, especially Americans, whether Mrs. Maybrick had any part in the killing of her husband, or whether or not, in fact the husband was killed. The contention of the defendant at the trial was that James Maybrick killed himself by accident. Gail Hamilton, Dr. Helen Densmore, Lord Russel of Killowan, Colonel Andrew H. H. Dawson and others worked for Mrs. Maybrick's release. Mr. Blyard, Mr. Choate and Mr. Hay, in their ambassadorial terms, presented the matter to the home office, but their requests and the numerous petitions from America were ignored. It was hoped that the American woman's case might come under the coronation amnesty but the British authorities refused to include her name in the list.

Florence Elizabeth Maybrick is the daughter of the late William C. Chandler, of Mobile, Ala. He was a nephew of the late John A. Campbell, formerly of the supreme court of the United States, and was a member of Jefferson Davis' cabinet from 1862 to the close of the civil war.

Mrs. Maybrick was one of two children. Her brother died several years ago in Paris. Mrs. Maybrick's husband was a Liverpool cotton merchant who had large dealings in the Southern states. After the death of the future Mrs. Maybrick's father, his widow, the mother, went to Germany and married the Baron von Roque, a German officer on the staff of the late Emperor Frederick. While in Europe Mr. Maybrick fell in love with Baroness von Roque's daughter, then less than 20 years old at the time of his marriage.

The notorious Maybrick case was precipitated by a baby's dropping a letter in a muddy street. A nurse maid found the letter and opened it to put the letter into a clean envelope. Several rather extraordinary phrases caught her eye and she read the letter. It was written to A. Brierly, Huskisson street, Liverpool. The letter was as follows:

Dearest: Your letter under cover to G. came to hand just after I gave them for you on Monday. I did not expect to hear from you so soon, and delay occurred in giving him the necessary instructions. Since my return I have been nurs-

ing him all day and night. He is sick unto death. The doctors held a consultation yesterday. Now all depends upon how long his strength will hold out. Both my brothers-in-law are here and we are terribly anxious. I cannot answer your letter fully today, darling, but relieve your mind of all fear of discovery now or in the future. M. has been delirious since Sunday, and I know he is ignorant of everything, even of the name of the street, also that he has not been making any inquiries whatever. The tale he told me was a mere fabrication, and only in order to frighten the truth out of me. In fact, he believes my statement, although he will not admit it.

You need not, therefore, go abroad on this ground, dearest; but in any case don't leave England until I have seen you once again. You must feel that those two letters of mine were written under circumstances which must ever excuse their injustice in your eyes. Do you suppose I could act as I am doing if I merely felt what I inferred? If you wish to write to me about anything, do so, as all letters pass through my hands at present. Excuse this scrawl, my darling,

but I dare not leave the room for a moment, and I do not know when I shall be able to write to you again. In haste, your own.

FLORIE.

About two hours after the nurse maid found the letter, James Maybrick died. The girl gave the letter to Edwin Maybrick, a brother of James, who allowed the funeral to proceed, but had Mrs. Maybrick watched closely by detectives.

Mrs. Maybrick was arrested by the police while she was ill in bed and was charged with the murder of her husband.

The events leading up to the arrest, as brought out in the first trial, began when Mrs. Maybrick wrote to her brother Michael, saying she ought to tell him her husband was taking a white powder which she feared might have something to do with the pains in his head and his nervous irritability. That same month Maybrick consulted Dr. Drisdale. He mentioned several drugs which he was taking, but arsenic was not one of them.

At the same time Mrs. Maybrick wrote to a hotel in London saying she wanted rooms for another Mr. and Mrs. Maybrick. She then left home, saying she was going to nurse a sick aunt. She met a Mr. Brierly and spent two days with him there. She returned home and her husband met Brierly at the Grand national races. While there she had a quarrel with her husband about Brierly, and she afterward said that when they reached home her husband beat her because she had persisted in walking with Brierly against his expressed command. She had a black eye.

The meeting with Brierly is what turned the judge against her and made in charge to the jury so severe. It was this which has since been used as an argument for her pardon—that she was convicted not of murder, but of immorality—and that her conviction was a sentimental one, not according to the evidence.

Shortly afterward Mrs. Maybrick went to the shop of Wokes, in Liverpool, and bought fly paper. Her husband had an account there, but she paid cash for it. It was said that the arsenic in the fly papers was used to poison Mr. Maybrick. The defense alleged that Mrs. Maybrick used the arsenic to make a face wash.

Later, Mrs. Maybrick went to a chemist named Hanson, about ten minutes walk from her house, where she bought a lotion, a cosmetic consisting of tincture of benzoin, and elder flowers, and two dozen fly papers. She did not pay for the lotion, her husband having an account there, but did pay for the fly papers. She took them with her. They were not seen in use by any one in the house. The lotion, Hanson said, while it did not contain arsenic, was a cosmetic into which arsenic would very likely be put by persons who use arsenic.

Soon after Maybrick sent after Dr. Humphreys and told him the medicine did not agree with him. "All doctors are fools," said Mrs. Maybrick to the nursemaid.

A month later Dr. Carter was called in consultation. He, too, thought that Maybrick had dyspepsia. Then came suspicion. It was fanned by a letter of Mrs. Maybrick to Brierly and by her own statements.

Concluded on Fourth Page.