

July 22, 1921

BURLESON COUNTY NEGRO SENTENCED

Date for Execution is Set For
Next Wednesday

Charlie Sanders entered a plea of guilty for the murder of Sam Richardson (white) near Caldwell. The jury rendered a verdict in four minutes and the judge set the date July 27th. There were witnesses to the crime and only a few of them were put on the stand.

Sanders made a statement telling about the crime and giving his reasons for it and his statement is about as follows:

He was mad at Mr. Richardson because Mr. R. had refused to sell Sanders meat on credit, and he went to the Richardson home that night about 11 o'clock to make another attempt to get meat, and he was fully determined that if Mr. R. did not let him have the meat he would kill him and take it anyway. He rode up to the Richardson home and called Mr. R. out and talked to him a few minutes. He then told Mr. R. that his hogs were out (he did this to get the man away from the house). Mr. R. went back into the house and put on his shoes and got a bucket of slop and started out to his hog pen, and Sanders followed behind. Sanders struck the man several times with a cedar post. The little daughter then came running out of the house and Sanders hit her. She ran into the house and he followed her and struck her with a dog iron out of the fire place, knocking her down. He thought she was dead and he left her.

He said he blamed the army for his downfall, for while in the army he was thrown with white men and he associated with them all during his stay in the army and he began to think that he was as good as the white people. He says that he now realizes that the only friend the negro has on earth is the white man and he advises all negroes to profit by his experience and give the white people the side walk and the right of way, wherever they may meet. He says the white people will give the negro his rights as long the latter will stay in his place. He knows that he deserves the punishment coming to him and he blames no one for his crime except himself and his brutal temper.