

On January 29, 1881, when W. W. Ramsay closed his argument for the state, the Judge gave his charge to the jury who withdrew from the court room at four o'clock for consultation. In less than two hours court was called, and the jury, who had agreed, gave the following verdict:

"We, the jury, find the defendant Charles E. Talbott, and the defendant Albert P. Talbott, guilty of murder in the first degree."

THE SENTENCE.

"In the necessary preliminary steps, and in the trial of the cause we have now spent almost two weeks. On last evening about seven o'clock the case reached a crisis full of solemn and impressive interest. The jury returned a verdict of murder in the first degree against the defendants, and it is now my duty to pronounce the judgment of the law in pursuance thereof.

Upon such occasions it is perhaps customary to review briefly the history of the trial. This I deem unnecessary under the circumstances of this case. Many in this community attended this trial and know the history, and by means of the telegraph many abroad also know it. One thing, however, I feel that I must say in reference to the attorneys in the case. Both the state and these defendants have been well and ably represented, and if the issue has gone against them it was not from want of faithfulness or lack of eloquence, ability and skill in their behalf on the part of those who appeared in their behalf.

Besides reviewing the history of the case, it is also sometimes customary to strongly animadvert on the conduct of the defendants. That example I shall not follow except to say that if the defendants are guilty it is a most wicked, dastardly, ungrateful and atrocious crime—almost unparalleled in the annals of crime. But in my judgment this is no time for speech, but rather for solemn thought and melancholy reflection. No doubt the defendants are sufficiently impressed with the gravity of the situation. If they are guilty—and they know whether they are or not—I can only recommend to them that they heartily repent of their crime, and have washed from their souls the foul stain produced by this awful violation of human and divine law."

He then asked each of the defendants respectively if they had any legal reason why the judgment of the court should not be pronounced against them, to which each responded: "I have; I am not guilty of the charge." His Honor continued:

"The jury says you are guilty, and therefore it is considered and adjudged by the court that you be taken hence to the county jail of Nodaway County, and confined therein till the 25th day of March, 1881, and that on that day you be taken thence by the sheriff to the place of