

*Question.* Did you ever hear that Darden had shot at Hicks three or four times?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* What for?

*Answer.* A difficulty about the crop. He was cropping with Darden.

*Question.* Give the particulars of the difficulty.

*Answer.* I suppose I heard the pistol fired. I was helping to build a mill at some distance from it, probably half a mile, or three-quarters of a mile, or a mile. Darden has a very shrill voice, and is tolerably profane. I heard him one night. I stepped out and I heard his voice, and a pistol fired, and at an interval of about a minute another, and about a quarter of a minute, until he fired again, and then the noise or talking ceased for a minute or two, and then they commenced again and that ceased.

*Question.* Did you have any conversation with Darden about it afterward?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* What did he say?

*Answer.* He told me that Hicks had threatened him; he had threatened him that day. I think he had told Burton, a white man working there, that he intended taking his ax and knocking him in the head; and about the time he was retiring Hicks did come in the yard with his ax. He said he had his clothes off, and Hicks came in the yard and called him to the gate; the gate is very close to the door of his dwelling. He stepped to the door and ordered him away, and he would not go, and there was a disagreeable conversation started, and he went out with his pistol. He said he did not intend to hit him at all. He said he shot to scare, but he wanted to make him believe he would hit him, and to get him away; that he thought he would hurt him if he did not get him away.

*Question.* He supposed he had come there for that purpose?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* He had been notified of that?

*Answer.* Yes, sir; he told Burton, and Burton told Darden. He and Burton had had some words in the field, and Burton had come to the house and told what Hicks had said; and when he came that night he thought he was going to make his threat good; that Burton's statement was correct, and Hicks was going to kill him.

*Question.* Do you know Burton?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* Did you ever have any conversation with him about it?

*Answer.* No, sir.

*Question.* You say a boy named Frank was whipped?

*Answer.* Yes, sir; I believe his name was Cockerham. I think that was his name. Anyhow, he was working for Dr. Thomas, Thomas & Kidd, at their mill.

*Question.* What did they go there to whip him for?

*Answer.* I do not know; probably some little theft, it strikes me; taking some book, or something of that kind—some little petty theft.

*Question.* You say you are not certain whether they whipped him or not?

*Answer.* No, sir. They frightened him considerably, I suppose. I am not certain whether they whipped him or not, and I am not certain what the theft was.

*Question.* Were those parties in disguise?

*Answer.* I understood so.

*Question.* You say they visited Stevenson?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* Did they do anything to him?

*Answer.* Nothing.

*Question.* Was he keeping school?

*Answer.* No, sir.

*Question.* What was he doing?

*Answer.* He was a member of the board of supervisors of district No. 1, and he stated to me yesterday—I asked him what they said—he said, "They told me what I must do;" and he said no more about it. Soon after the school tax was rescinded, and I suppose that that was what they told him he had to do.

*Question.* Rescind the school tax?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

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COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, November 8, 1871.

EDWARD CARTER (colored) sworn and examined.

By the CHAIRMAN:

*Question.* Where do you live?

*Answer.* I am staying close to Mr. Brown's plantation; teaching school up there; about eleven miles.

*Question.* In this county?

*Answer.* No, sir; half of the plantation is in this county, and the other half in Sanford, Alabama.

*Question.* Where did you come here from?

*Answer.* From Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

*Question.* When did you leave there?

*Answer.* On the 11th of September.

*Question.* How came you to leave there and come here?

*Answer.* I was run away from there by a procession of men that came there on the 8th, disguised; running off me and my family.

*Question.* On the 8th of September?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* Did they come to your house in the night-time?

*Answer.* They came about 7 o'clock, I reckon.

*Question.* At night?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* How many were there?

*Answer.* I can't tell how many. They hitched their horses in the bushes, and some came to the house.

*Question.* How were they disguised?

*Answer.* They had handkerchiefs on their faces; the one that came that I saw had his jaws bound. He came to the gate and hailed, like he had business, and had the gate open, and ordered me to come out and march up the hill; I objected. He held a pistol in his hand. I backed down and ran to the house, about thirty steps, and when I run off he fired the pistol at me; it missed me as I ran, and it went through the entry, and struck the table in the entry; the bullet struck it, and went to the back yard, and hit the fence. I ran off two or three hundred yards, and stopped, to go back. They fired a pistol again, and I went off to the man I rented of, J. W. Mayfield, to get some protection—about a mile off. He told me to stay away that night, and I staid an hour or two, and went back again, and they knocked around right smart, and cut up, and at the time they cut up, my daughter was in the lot, milking the cows, and my little boy, nine years old next December; she had a light in the lot and was milking, and two of them came in there, before she knew anybody was in the lot, and in scuffling their hats fell off, and one was John Cook, that used to be in Mississippi, here, and the other Diller Suddith. He was raised about two miles and a half from me. She went to holler, and John Cook put a leather girth on her neck, to prevent her hollering, and they carried her about a quarter or a half a mile from the house, and they ravished her.

*Question.* These two men did?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

By Mr. BLAIR:

*Question.* John Clark, and who?

*Answer.* Diller Suddith.

By the CHAIRMAN:

*Question.* How many men did you say came there with Cook and Suddith?

*Answer.* I couldn't tell how many.

*Question.* How many do you think?

*Answer.* I can't tell. I went out next day where they hitched the horses, and they were a long train, and all about the woods, and beside the road, and the whole woods was tramped up—nearly an acre of ground.

*Question.* What did they charge you with?

*Answer.* There was no charge against me. I never could learn, and I have inquired of the neighbors what report they made, and I learned they run me off to get what I had.

*Question.* How long did you stay there after that night?

*Answer.* I laid out Saturday night and Sunday night, and Monday night I went down to the landlord's house I rented land from, to see what I could learn from him, and talked to him. Two of these men came with a double-barreled gun, and I got mighty uneasy; I didn't know what they meant by it. They told him they wanted to go driving next day; he said he didn't know what they meant.

By Mr. BLAIR:

*Question.* Was that Mayfield?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* What was his first name?

*Answer.* James W. Mayfield.

*Question.* Does he live at Tuscaloosa?

*Answer.* Yes, sir; at Gizzardville. He told me he didn't consider me safe then there at night, and it was best to stay out of the way awhile, anyhow, till things got somewhat quiet, and his wife said, "John Cook was here cussing, and John Cook said this rape case, he acknowledged he had done that, and that he intended to do it again, and would do what he pleased with all of them, but 'lowed to kill the mother first." That was my wife, that he allowed to kill her first, and that he would do it to all of them; and I thought it was the safest plan to go away.

By the CHAIRMAN:

*Question.* Did you ever prosecute either Cook or Diller Suddith?

*Answer.* No, sir.

*Question.* Why?

*Answer.* I had no protection there at all; they threatened to kill me, because I told in the neighborhood what they had done; we had no friends. Since I have left, they have taken everything I had, and sold it, and I have nothing to go upon—crop and all.

*Question.* Did you bring your family here?

*Answer.* I have two children here, and two up there now with their grandfather.

By Mr. BLAIR:

*Question.* Did you hear Mrs. Mayfield say John Cook admitted that he had ravished your daughter?

*Answer.* She told my wife so, and I was not five steps from her when she told it.

*Question.* You heard it?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* Where was that; at your house?

*Answer.* That was down at her house, out in the yard.

*Question.* What sort of people are these Mayfields?

*Answer.* Some people have right smart charges against them, but he always seemed a very clever sort of man to me and those around him.

*Question.* Does he own a large plantation?

*Answer.* Not very large, not where he lives, but he has got a good deal of land—two or three plantations.

*Question.* An educated man?

*Answer.* A very good education.

*Question.* Is he a planter, or professional man?

*Answer.* Well, he is a planter.

*Question.* Who is John Cook?

*Answer.* He is a son of old Silas Cook, who used to live out here not far from Columbus, here. He formerly lived here, but now he lives forty odd miles from here.

*Question.* What does Cook do?

*Answer.* Well, he is making a small crop this year.

*Question.* John Cook?

*Answer.* Yes, sir.

*Question.* Close by where you lived?

*Answer.* About three miles from me.

*Question.* Who is Diller Suddith?

*Answer.* He lives about two and a half miles from me, just close neighbor of John Cook.

*Question.* What does he do?

*Answer.* He farms with his daddy, though I don't think he is up there now. Him and Jim Suddith passed through here on the 4th of last month—October. They took the cars here.

*Question.* Where did they go?

*Answer.* I don't know where they went to; whether they stopped in the State or not. They aimed to stop in the State, before they got into such big fusses up there, but since that I don't know where they went to, or whether they stopped or not.

By the CHAIRMAN:

*Question.* Did you hear of any other colored people being disturbed in that part of the country?

*Answer.* Not right where I was, but a man is down here I am well acquainted with that run from Fayette County, Alabama, in March.

*Question.* Did you hear much about the Ku-Klux riding in Tuscaloosa County?

*Answer.* I could hear right smart of it, but not from good authority to make a report of it myself. We could hear a good deal of it. Furthermore, about my case; there was two men of my acquaintance who told me they know nearly the whole party.