

That night after the Fagans left the house the two little girls and Miss Carlin were murdered with an axe, for the purpose, it was supposed, of robbing a drawer of money secreted by Fagan, but known to the murderers. The Scott boys were arrested on circumstantial evidence. Blood spots on their clothing were analyzed by Dr. A. S. Baldwin and pronounced human blood. The trial lasted three weeks; every day the court room on the third floor of the Freedmen's bank building was crowded with spectators, for this murder had created a profound sensation throughout the community. J. P. C. Emmons, J. B. C. Drew, and B. B. Andrews were the prosecuting attorneys, while defending the case were J. J. Finley and W. R. Arno. These old-time lawyers were then in vigorous manhood and their arguments before the jury won wide distinction, especially that of Mr. Drew. T. T. Long was the judge, and H. H. Hoeg was foreman of the trial jury. The Scotts were convicted; William was hanged and his brother Henry was sentenced to life imprisonment, but he died in less than two years after the sentence. For many years this stood as the most sensational murder case in Duval County.<sup>g</sup>

\*In the past 60 years, record to 1924, there have been four legal executions of white men in Duval County, namely:

William C. Scott, as recorded above.

William Keen, hanged February 27, 1874, for the murder of William Valentine. The murder took place on a boat near Mandarin, Keen's motive being robbery.

Otis D. Smith, hanged July 11, 1909, for the murder of his sister in Jacksonville during a quarrel.

Will Alexander, hanged May 3, 1912, for the murder of Jack Sumner in a barroom in Jacksonville.

### 1872-1875

Jacksonville in the period 1872-75 was described as a thriving little city. Bay Street was lined a portion of the way with creditable brick stores, two, and in a few cases, three stories high, and the merchants carried good stocks. The principal industry was the lumber business. Except hay, grain, and lime nearly all of the goods sold here at that time came from New York.

\*A friendliness has always existed between Jacksonville and New York, both in business and in sentiment. When Jacksonville appealed for help in the yellow fever epidemic of