New Affidavit Sheds More Light On Death of Negro Convict Here

More light on the death of Ike Crawford, Negro convict, was shed in an affidavit of Dr. Virgil Williams, who treated Crawford at University Hospital after he had been admitted there on May 21 for an eye injury.

Crawford died on June 5 from reported natural causes while still under treatment.

Crawford is alleged to have told physicians that he was beaten by guards with a rubber hose but stockade officials insisted he was accidentally struck in the eye with a shovel handle by another guard.

The affidavit of Dr. Williams states that Crawford told him that he was beaten over the head with a stick until it broke then the stockade guard took a rubber hose and continued the beating.

Dr. Williams' statement follows:

Georgia, Richmond County

Personally appeared Dr. Virgil Williams, who on oath deposit and says:

I am in charge of staff patients for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat at the University Hospital. As such I was called upon to attend over Ike Crawford, convicted. This patient had been seen and admitted to the hospital the night before by Dr. R. D. MacRae.

When I first saw the patient he was complaining of pain in his left eye. On inspection questioning I was told by the patient that he received the injury some three days ago when beaten by a guard at a local stockade. He stated that he was first beaten with a stick on the head and shoulders until the stick was broken. He stated that the guard then began beating him with a section of rubber hose. It was with this instrument that he said he was struck in the eye. I first saw this patient on Saturday morning, May 21, 1948.

On physical examination found that this patient's left eye was swollen, red, and extremely tender. There was hemorrhage into the optic orb causing a marked increase in intra ocular pressure. There was hemorrhage

and swelling of a conjunctiva

During the course of my examination I discovered that there was a number of tender areas over the patient's scalp. All other findings in the physical examination were essentially uninteresting at this time.

During his stay in the hospital a drainage was surgically performed on three different occasions to relieve the intra ocular pressure. Between these procedures manipulations were carried out to ensure that there was no damage to the eye. The x-ray studies taken were negative.

At this time he was suffering from external ocular failure. The eye was tender and enlarged and the abdomen was slightly distended. It was not until June 6 that I ordered nasal oxygen to be started. So far as I know this was continued until the time of patient's death.

Crawford was a simple case of a man suffering from external ocular failure. The eye was tender and enlarged and the abdomen was slightly distended. It was not until June 6 that I ordered nasal oxygen to be started. So far as I know this was continued until the time of patient's death.

E. D. Clary, Byron Mangum Seek Legislative Offices

Virgil Williams

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