

10:35 A.M.  
January 10, 1949

STATEMENT OF JOE HENRY HAMPTON

On last Saturday evening just after dark, me, Howard Hairston, Booker T. Millner and Frank Hairston, Jr. were down on the D & W railroad below Mayor Brillaman's place drinking some wine. A white lady and a little colored boy came by and the lady asked us where Ruth Pettie lived. Frank Jr. and Booker T. told her where she lived and they went on. We all planned to get her when she came back. When we saw her coming back we started walking real slow. I was just a little behind the others and when she passed me I grabbed her and the rest of the boys came to me. When they got to me some of them pushed the lady down. The boys were carrying on so trying to see who would be first to get it from her that they got into a little scrap. Me and some of the other boys made her walk down the ridge. She was pushing back and trying to keep us from carrying her down the ridge. Booker T. gave the little colored boy a quarter and told him to go ahead. We took the lady down the ridge about 40 or 50 yards in the woods. When we got her down in the woods Booker T. Millner was the first one to get it from her. Then Frank Hairston, Jr. was next. I was the third one to get it from her. Then Howard Hairston was next after me and DeSales Grayson was on her getting it when I left. James Luther Hairston and John Clabon Taylor were there waiting when I left. James Hairston, John Taylor and DeSales Grayson came up to where we had the lady over in the woods. I don't know how they knew we were over there. When the lady started to hallow one of the boys slapped his hand over her mouth. I don't know which one it was. When we first caught her she put up a big scuffle. When we got over in the woods she was still trying to get loose from the boys. She was begging us not to do anything to her that she had children at home and she belonged to the church.

STATEMENT OF JOE HENRY HAMPTON

I have made this statement to Sgt. Barrow, Nance and Barnes because I wanted to tell the truth and without threat or promise of reward of any kind and after they had told me that I did not have to say anything or make any statement and they had told me what I was charged with.

10:35 A.M.  
January 10, 1949

Signed: *Joe Henry Hampton*  
Joe Henry Hampton

*This above statement is the statement I made to the officers in Martinsville after my arrest and signed by me then. It has been again read to me this day at Stuart, Va. and it is my statement and made by me voluntarily and without any threat or promise and after I have been told it will be used against me at my trial.*

*This the 12th day of Jan. 1949 at 6:15 PM.*

*Joe Henry Hampton*

*witnesses:*

*J. H. Barnes*

*G. V. Barrow*

*R. W. Jester*

*S. R. Tucker*

STATEMENT OF JOHN CLABON TAYLOR

My name is John Clabon Taylor and I live at East Martinsville near the D & W Railroad.

Yesterday afternoon I was at the home of DeSales Grayson when he came home and told me that some boys had a woman upon the ridge and wanted me and James Hairston to go back up there with him. I went with them and when we got there we found Joe Henry Hampton, Frank Hairston, Jr., Booker T. Millner and Howard Hairston <sup>had</sup> with a white woman. Joe Henry Hampton was on the Woman when we got there. I told the other boys that that was a Christian woman and it would cause us some trouble. I told them we had better get away from there. That if she was a drunk we might get by with it but I could tell from the way she talked that she was a good woman. Then the boys told me that I had might as well get it, as I was there and if we got caught I would be in it as well as the rest of them, so, I went to her too. I was the last one to get it from her.

I have made this statement of my own free will to Sgt. Nance, Barrow and Barnes because I wanted to tell the truth and after I was told of my rights and without threat or promise of reward of any kind.

7.30 A.M.  
January 9, 1949

Signed : John Clabon Taylor

*John Clabon Taylor*

*witnesses:*  
*F. H. Barner*  
*M. J. Barrow*  
*R. W. Barnes*  
*S. C. Tucker*

LAW OFFICES  
IRVIN W. CUBINE  
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

*This is a true statement of the statement I made to the officers in Martinsville after my arrest and signed by me then. It has again been read to me this day at 5:10 P.M., and it is my statement and made by me voluntarily and without any threat or promise and I have been told it will be used against me at my trial. This the 12th day of Jan. 1949 at 5:10 P.M. John C. Taylor*

COMMONWEALTH

VS:

JOHN CLABON TAYLOR

The the jury find the defendant,  
John Clabon Taylor, guilty <sup>of rape</sup> as charged  
in said indictment and fix his penalty  
at death in the electric chair.

D. L. Haysne Foreman