

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/603961095/>

gentleman, as all who know him will testify. Four felonies have been tried and all the parties convicted. The two cases of importance were H. C. Foster for the murder of Cynthia J. Hood, June 30, 1879. Foster was a man of immoral habits. He had a wife and wanted to be divorced from her. He applied to Mrs. Hood to lend his wife some clothing to wear to Cookeville to "get a divorce." Mrs. Hood refused to lend them. A few days afterwards, in the presence of H. Frazier, Foster talked of Mrs. Hood's refusal to lend his wife the clothes, and threatened to "knock her a—d head off." About three weeks after this threat, on the day above named, about daylight, he went to Hood's house, called at the door, and said he wanted to get in. Hood got up and opened the door. Foster had a cocked pistol in one hand. With the other he jerked Hood out of the door but offered no further violence to Hood. Foster said he had raised hell on the mountain with some lewd women, and had broken his pistol and wanted some string to tie it. He gave the pistol to Hood, and they walked into the house. The pistol was laid on the table, and Hood and his wife commenced making a string. Foster took a seat near by, and when no eye was upon him, the pistol was fired, shooting Mrs. Hood through the head. She died in a few hours. Foster fled to the mountains, but was arrested a few days after the murder. He was ably defended, the theory of the defense being that the killing was accidental. The jury thought otherwise and found him guilty of murder in the second degree and fixed his punishment at 20 years in the Penitentiary. The Court, in overruling the motion for a new trial, remarked that the verdict was merciful.

Murder of Cynthia Henry Hood, 1879

Clipped By:
AnitaTally
Nov 29, 2025