

TUCKER IS ELECTROCUTED, MEETS DEATH BRAVELY

Sentence Executed at 12:12:30 This Morning—Condemned Man
Asks Warden Bridges Not to Delay Fatal Hour.

Protests His Innocence to His Counsel
Up to a Very Late Hour.

Mr Vahey Issues a Statement
Criticising the Governor.

Eleventh-Hour Attempt to Secure Reprieve
Ends in Complete Failure.



CHARLES LOUIS TUCKER.

Charles L. Tucker was electrocuted for the murder of Mabel Page, at the state prison, Charlestown, at 12:12:30 this morning. He made no confession, but protested his innocence to a late hour. Read brief prayer just before the end.

GOV GUILD AGAIN REFUSED REPRIEVE

After Consideration of Appeal He Said He
Would Not Interfere.

Gov Curtis Guild Jr, in declining last night to grant a reprieve of 30 days to Tucker, as requested by Rev Thomas W. Bishop and James H. Vahey, issued this statement:

"Rev T. W. Bishop called upon the governor at the state house this afternoon and retracted his former statement, expressed to the governor some days since, of his conviction of Tucker's guilt. He said that the basis of this change of opinion was a long serious conversation with the prisoner himself, in which the prisoner's apparent sincerity in his plea of innocence overcame Mr Bishop's previous conviction. Mr Bishop, therefore, urged upon the governor a reprieve.

"Mr James H. Vahey also called upon the governor and stated that the prisoner had similarly in response to his own appeals for confession, if guilty, repeated his assertions of innocence. Mr Vahey also showed the governor Tucker's last letter to his counsel, which likewise asserted his innocence.

"The governor took the letter and the appeal of Messrs Bishop and Vahey under advisement, and at 7:30 sent the following letter to Mr Vahey at his office:

"Boston, June 11, 1906.

"James H. Vahey, Esq.:

"Dear Sir—I have given careful consideration to your last appeal. I am regretfully forced to decline to interfere with the execution of sentence. Faithfully yours,

(Signed) "Curtis Guild Jr."

For Details of Tucker's Execution, His Last Letter, Statement of His Counsel, Scenes at the Prison, Etc, See Pages 3, 4 and 5.



LAWYER JAMES H. VAHEY AND REV THOMAS W. BISHOP
LEAVING THE STATE HOUSE.

LAST EFFORT WITH THE GOVERNOR FAILS

Believing in the innocence of Charles L. Tucker, convinced of it by the young man himself on Sunday, Rev Thomas W. Bishop went before Gov Curtis Guild Jr, yesterday afternoon, to make an urgent appeal for a reprieve for a month, in the hope that before the expiration of that period something might develop which would demonstrate that Tucker had told the truth.

Rev Mr Bishop had believed Tucker guilty of the murder of Miss Page, but the Sunday interview with the prisoner so thoroughly satisfied him that the prisoner was truthful in the assertion of innocence that he could not think of the possibility of the execution of a man who was guiltless of the crime of which he had been convicted.

Yesterday forenoon, after Rev Mr Bishop, assisted by Chaplain Barnes of the state prison, administered the sacrament of baptism in Tucker's cell, the clergyman impressed his views upon Warden Bridges and then hastened to Boston to arrange for an audience with Gov Guild.

An appointment was made to meet the governor at the state house at 5 p m. James H. Vahey, senior counsel for Tucker, reached the governor's office at that hour and told his excellency that he had no new facts to submit to him, only the request which would be made by Rev Mr Bishop that a reprieve be granted for 30 days to see if some evidence to show Tucker's innocence might be secured.

Mr Bishop entered the governor's office at 5:15 and he urged upon the governor the reprieve for an hour and 10 minutes. He told of the earnest conversation he had with Tucker and declared that he felt positive the young man did not murder Mabel Page.

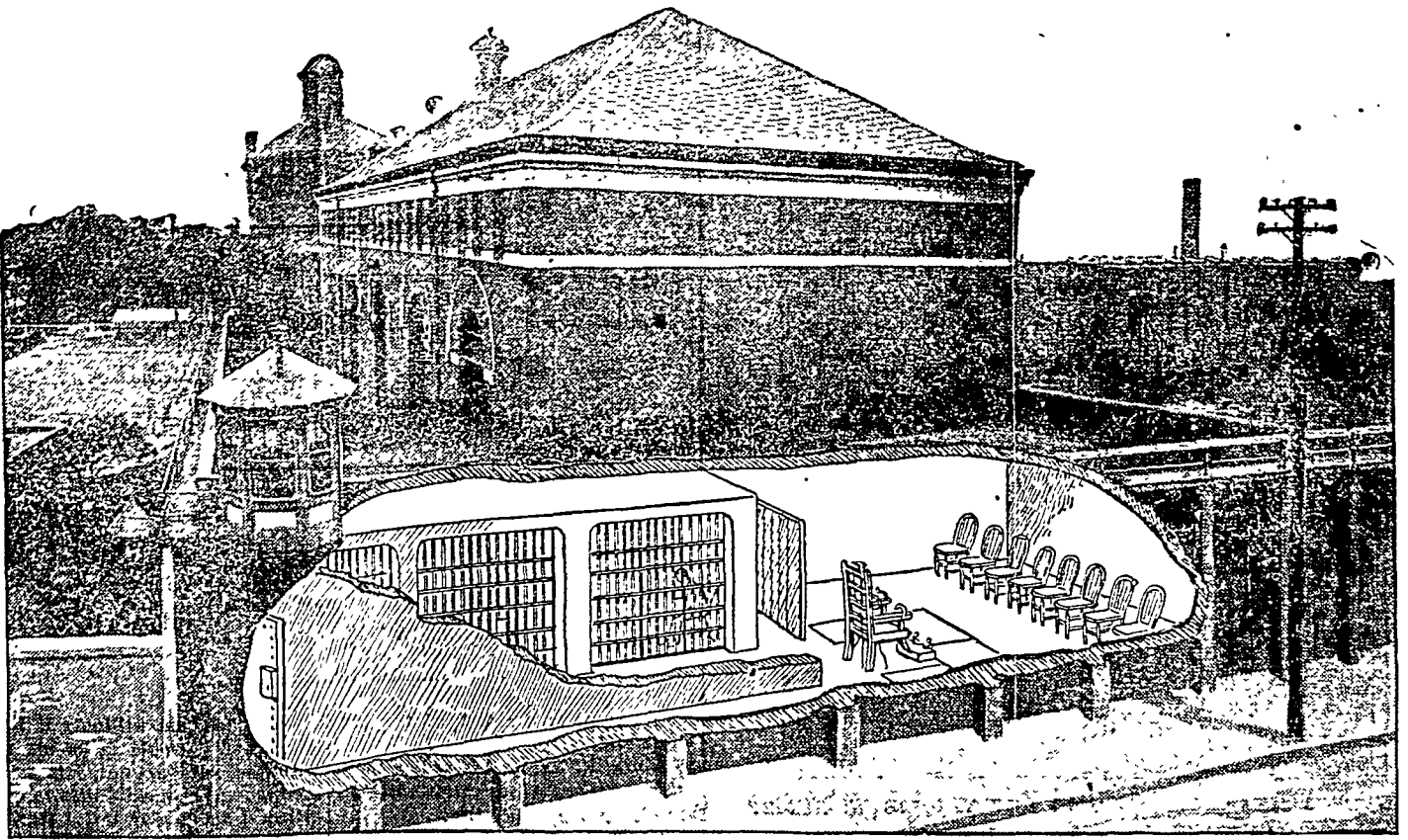
Mr Vahey said very little, but showed the governor the last letter of Tucker, protesting his innocence.

When Mr Vahey and Mr Bishop left the executive office at 6:25 they did not know what his excellency's decision would be, but they went to Mr Vahey's office to await his reply. At 7:30 Gov Guild sent a letter to the attorney notifying him of his refusal to interfere.

The clergyman and the attorney then knew that all was over and appreciated the probability that Tucker had only a few more hours to live.

Rev Mr Bishop was so affected by his experience of the day that a physician was called to attend him in Mr Vahey's office. The doctor advised the clergyman not to return to the state prison for a parting interview with Tucker, but Mr Bishop insisted that it was his duty to minister to the youth during his last hours. Soon after 8 p m Mr Bishop and Mr Vahey went to the state prison to take leave of Tucker.

THE SCENE OF THE EXECUTION OF TUCKER.



THE STATE PRISON, THE DEATH HOUSE, SHOWING TUCKER'S CELL, THE EXECUTION CHAMBER, THE CHAIR IN WHICH HE WAS PUT TO DEATH BY ELECTRICITY AND THE SEATS PROVIDED FOR THE WITNESSES.

CHRONOLOGY OF TUCKER CASE.

1904

- March 31—Mabel Page murdered in her home at Weston.
- April 4—Charles L. Tucker of Weston suspected by police, but not arrested.
- April 9—Tucker arrested on suspicion of being the murderer.
- April 10—Vahey, Innes & Mansfield file appearance as his counsel.
- April 11—Preliminary hearing in Waltham district court before Judge E. T. Luce; continuance for 10 days granted; prisoner held without bail.
- April 21—Hearing before Judge Luce opens.
- April 22—Judge Luce holds Tucker for grand jury and commits him to jail without bail.
- June 9—Grand jury indicts Tucker for murder in the first degree.
- June 16—Tucker pleads "Not Guilty" to the indictment.
- Dec 30—Motion by defence to quash indictment because of presence of state officer Jophanus H. Whitney in the grand jury room at time of deliberations.

1905

- Jan 2—Motion to quash indictment overruled by Judges Sherman and Sheldon of the superior court and commonwealth opens its case against Tucker.
- Jan 14—Commonwealth rests its case.
- Jan 16—Defence opens, alleging an alibi.
- Jan 23—Arguments to the jury.
- Jan 24—Tucker addresses jury; jury retires and after deliberating more than eight hours finds Tucker guilty of murder in the first degree.
- March 27—Motion for a new trial argued.
- April 3—New trial denied by court.
- April 4—Bill of exceptions taken at the trial filed.
- June 6—Judges Sherman and Sheldon allow exceptions to go to supreme bench.
- Sept 7—Arguments on bill of exceptions before the supreme court.
- Nov 28—Full bench of supreme court overrules all exceptions.

1906

- Jan 11—Motion made for sentence by attorney general.
- Jan 13—Motion for new trial filed by defence.
- Jan 22—Judges Sherman and Sheldon deny motion for new trial.
- Jan 27—Tucker sentenced to be electrocuted in the week beginning June 10, 1906.
- March 15—Application for a writ of error presented to a U S supreme court justice.
- March 16—Writ of error denied by Justice Karlan.
- March 31—Petition to Gov Guild to commute Tucker's sentence is offered to the public by his counsel.
- May 22—Gov Guild receives petition, signed by 116,555 people, urging executive clemency.
- May 28—State supreme court informs Gov Guild that question of referring petition to the executive council is within his discretion, and he can seek what advice he wishes.
- June 1—Tucker removed from East Cambridge jail to state prison in Charlestown and placed in the death cell.
- June 5—Hearing and appeal for clemency lasted 12 hours before Gov Guild, with Judges Sherman and Sheldon advising.
- June 8—Gov Guild's decision refusing to commute sentence is made public.
- June 9—Counsel ask Gov Guild for respite of a month, and he denies the request; Tucker's parents say farewell to him.
- June 11—President Roosevelt writes Gov Guild that the law should take its course; Tucker is baptized by Rev Thomas W. Bishop.