

Docket

Criminal Nº 43995 A

Commonwealth

V. Edward Source Shifflett Defendant

Appearance Date 8-19-63

Trial Date 9-27-63

CIRAND JURY 9-24-62 PRA. Judge



Comp. Form 18-150M-2-1-63

STATE OF VIRGINIA Harrison	burg	To-Wit:	No
City OF	iour g	_]	
TO ANY SHERIFF OR			
Whereas,		James R. Sipe	
has this day made complaint and inf	ormation on oath befo	re me.	John G. Leake
as this day made complaint and info Justice of The Peace			(Name)
(Title) Edu	vard Lewis Shiff	said Count y, that Lett	Rockingham in theose id Coun
about lid on/theday of	August	, 19 <u>63</u> : Un	lawfullyand feloniously
kill and murder one George			
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These are, therefore, to comma Rockingham County Court of the Said County, to further dealt with according to law	the body (3332533) of	the above accused, to as	to apprehend and bring before t nswer the said complaint and to
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or furth	er heard, an offense with	d before a	ny court	thereafter ha	ving or h	olding any	proceeding	s in connect	nes to which the ion with the cha court, the said o	arge in th	ngs may nis warra to remain	at, to answe
and effe	ct until the	charge is f	finally dis	sposed of or	until it is	declared v	oid by ord	er of a compo	etent court; and	upon the	further o	condition that
he said . from the	date hereof.	Nonappear	ance shall	l be deemed	to constitu	keep the p ite a waive	eace and be of trial by	of good behav jury.	ior for a period of			days
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STATE OF VIRGINIA COUNTY OF		To-Wit:		No
TO ANY SHERIFF OR F		a respective general		
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has this day made complaint and info				(Name)
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These are, therefore, to command you, in the name of the Commonwealth, to apprehend and bring before the County Court of the said County, the body (bodies) of the above accused, to answer the said complaint and to be further dealt with according to law. And you are also directed to summon:

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as witnesses.				
Given under my hand and seal,	this	day of		, 19
		(Title of Is	ssuing Officer)	(Seal)

City STATE OF VIRGINIA-COUNTY OF	larrisonhurg	
John G. Leake		to-wit: City and State of Minister de service
that Edward Lewis Shifflett	Justice of the Peace	or the County aforesaid, State of Virginia, do certify
The Trans M. Childen th The I	1 . 0.01 1.1	
Willian C. Shifflett & Reva S	hifflett	have this day each acknowledged themselves indebted
		and tenements to the use of the Commonwealth to
be rendered, yet upon this condition: That the said. Rockingham	27+h	Court Court
of 2 P M at Harrisonburg	County, on the County, on the	day of September, 19_63, or times to which the proceedings may be continued nnection with the charge in this warrant, to answer said court, the said obligation to remain in full force
or further heard, and before any court thereafter ha	wing or holding any proceedings in col	nnection with the charge in this warrant, to answer said court, the said obligation to remain in full force
and effect until the charge is finally disposed of or	until it is declared void by order of a c	competent court; and upon the further condition that
from the date hereof. Nonappearance shall be deemed	shall keep the peace and be of good l to constitute a waiver of trial by jury.	behavior for a period ofdays
Given under my hand, this 22nd da	ay of August	, 19
from the date hereof. Nonappearance shall be deemed Given under my hand, this <u>22nd</u> da		John J. Zuky Juse. J. P.
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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the Jury that murder in the first degree is any willful, deliberate and premeditated killing of one human being by another with malice.

Murder in the second degree is the willful killing of one human being by another with malice, but without any deliberation and premeditation.

Voluntary manslaughter is the intentional killing of one human being by another without malice, in the heat of sudden passion engendered or brought about by reasonable provocation or in mutual combat.

Involuntary manslaughter is the killing of one accidentally, contrary to the intention of the parties, in the prosecution of some unlawful, but not felonious, act; or, in the improper performance of a lawful act.

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EDWARD L. SHIFTLETT

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V. EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that every unlawful homicide in Virginia is presumed in law to be murder in the second degree. In order to elevate the offense to murder in the first degree, the burden of proof is on the Commonwealth; and in order to reduce the offense to manslaughter, or to show a justification or excuse, the burden is upon the accused.

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ROWARD L. SHIFFLETT

INSTRUCTION

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INSTRUCTION 5

The Court instructs the jury that if they believe from the evidence in this case beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Edward L. Shifflett, inflicted the mortal blow upon George Pickett Shifflett, the law presumes him to be guilty of murder in the second degree, and the Court further instructs the jury that if the defendant relies upon self-defense to excuse or justify the killing, the burden is upon the defendant to introduce supporting evidence that he acted in self-defense; and in deciding whether or not the plea of selfdefense is established by such supporting evidence, it is the duty of the jury to take into consideration all the facts and circumstances proved in the case, both by the Commonwealth and the defendant.

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

The Court instructs the jury that if they believe from the evidence in this case beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant, Edward L. Shifflett, inflicted the mortal blow upon George Pickett Shifflett, the law presumes him to be guilty of murder in the second degree, and the Court further instructs the jury that if the defendant relies upon self-defence to excuse or justify the killing, the burden is upon the defendant to introduce supporting evidence that he acted defense is established by such supporting evidence, it is the duty of the jury to take into consideration all the facts and circumstances proved in the case, both by the Commonwealth and the defendant.

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that to constitute a willful, deliberate and premeditated killing, it is not necessary that the intention to kill should exist for any particular length of time prior to the actual killing; it is only necessary that there was some deliberation and premeditation given by the accused to his purpose at the time of the killing or at any time previously.

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

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INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that malice necessary to constitute the crime of murder may be either express or implied. The work "malice" in the foregoing definitions of murder is used in a technical sense, and includes not only anger, hatred and revenge, but every unlawful and unjustifiable motive. It is not confined to ill will to any one or more particular persons, but is intended to denote an action flowing from any wicked and corrupt motive, done with an evil mind and purpose and wrongful intention, where the act has been attended with such circumstances as to carry in them the plain indication of a heart regardless of social duty and deliberately bent on mischieft; therefore malice is implied by law from any willful, deliberate and cruel act against another however sudden.

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

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INSTRUCTION 6

The Court instructs the jury that in the absence of proof to the contrary, malice may be implied from the deliberate use of a deadly weapon, when used to cause another death or serious bodily injury.

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IDWARD L. SHIFFLEIT

The Court instructs the jury that in the absence of proof to the contrary, malice may be implied from the deliberate use of a deadly weapon, when used to cause another death or serious bodily injury.

INSTRUCTION ____

The Court instructs the jury that malicious wounding or injury is committed when one person unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously and maliciously wounds or causes bodily injury to another, intending thereby either to maim, disfigure, disable or kill such other. Unlawful wounding is committed when one person wounds or causes bodily injury to another unlawfully and wilfully, but not maliciously, intending thereby either to maim, disfigure, disable or kill such other.

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BOWARD L. SHIFFIETT

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that malicious wounding on injury is committed when one person unlawfully, wilfully, feloniously and maliciously wounds or causes bodily injury to another, intending thereby either to main, dissigure, disable, or kill such other. Unlawful wounding is committed when one person wounds or causes bodily injury to another unlawfully and wilfully, but not maliciously, intending thereby either to maim, dissigure, disable or kill such other.

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that the difference between a malicious cutting, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill, and unlawful cutting, with like intent, depends upon the presence or absence of malice on the part of the accused.

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that the difference between a malicious cutting, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill, and unlawful cutting, with like intent, depends upon the presence or absence of malice on the part of the accused.

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

INSTRUCTION ____

The Court instructs the jury that a man is presumed to intend the natural and probable consequences of his act.

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BOWARD L. SHIFFLETT

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

INSTRUCTION 0

In considering whether or not the Commonwealth has met its burden of proving the guilt of the accused beyond reasonable doubt, the Court instructs the jury that you should not overlook the word "reasonable" nor its meaning. A reasonable doubt is a doubt which is founded on reason, and is not to be confused with imaginable or possible doubt, for the law does not say that a man must be proved guilty beyond every imaginable, conceivable or possible doubt.

In passing upon the sufficiency of the proof of the charge, the jury must limit its consideration to the evidence presented at the trial of this case, including the natural and reasonable inferences of the frawn there from.

Furthermore, the jury should bear in mind that any doubt arising from lack of evidence, from conflicting testimony or from questionable proof of any particular fact, should be a doubt of a material fact essential to the proof of the guilt of the accused and not a mere doubt concerning immaterial and non-essential circumstances.

If, after a reasonable and honest consideration of all of the evidence, your minds are left in such a state of doubt as to prevent you from reaching a convinced belief of the guilt of the accused, then the Commonwealth has failed to meet its burden.

If, on the other hand, after an impartial and reasonable consideration of all the evidence in the case, you have an abiding conviction of the truth of the charge, you are then satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt.

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EDWARD L. SHIFFLETT

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If, on the other hand, after an impartial and reasonable consideration of all the evidence in the case, you have an abiding conviction of the truth of the charge, you are then satisfied beyond all reasonable doubt.

INSTRUCTION

The Court instructs the jury that the credibility of witnesses is a question exclusively for the jury; and from the appearance of the witnesses on the stand, their manner of testifying, the reasonableness and consistency of their testimony, their apparent candor and fairness, their apparent intelligence or lack of intelligence, the opportunity of the witnesses to know whereof they speak, the relationship of the witnesses to the parties, if any, the interest of the witness in the result of the trial, if any appear, and from all other surrounding circumstances appearing on the trial, the jury has the right to determine which witnesses are more worthy of credit and what is the relative weight of any such testimony and to give credit accordingly.

H.H.

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The Gourt instructs the jury that the credibility of witnesses is a question exclusively for the jury; and from the appearance of the witnesses on the stand, their manner of testifying, the reasonableness and consistency of their testimony, their apparent candor and fairness, their apparent intelligence or lack of intelligence, the opportunity of witnesses to know whereof they speak, the relationship of the witnesses to the parties, if any, the interest of the witness in the result of the trial, if any appear, and from all other surrounding chrcumstances appearing on the trial, the jury has the right to determine which witnesses are more worthy of credit and what is the relative weight of any such testimony and to give credit accordingly. The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to murder in the first degree it must involve on the part of the defendant wilfulness, deliberation and premeditation, with malice aforethought, and if the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant cannot be guilty of that crime.

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The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to murder in the first degree it must involve on the part of the defendant wilfulness, deliberation and premeditation, with malice aforethought, and if the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant cannot be guilty of that orime." The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to murder in the second degree, it must involve on the part of the defendant malice, though not necessarily **diffulness**, deliberation and premeditation. If the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant is not guilty of that crime.

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The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to murder in the second degree, it must invalve on the part of the defendant malice, though not necessarily (SiNalsons, deliberation and premeditation. If the Commonweilth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant is not guilty of that crime. The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to voluntary manslaughter, such killing must involve on the part of the defendant an intentional act, but without malice, such as upon sudden heat of passion, and if the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant cannot be guilty of that crime.

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The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to voluntary mansleughter, such killing must involve on the part of the defendant an intentional act, but without malice, such as upon sudden heat of passion, and if the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant cannot be guilty of that crime. The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to involuntary manslaughter it must involve on the part of the defendant a killing contrary to intention, in the prosecution of some unlawful but not felonious act, or in the improper performance of a lawful act. If the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant cannot be guilty of that crime.

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The court instructs the jury that in order for the killing to amount to involuntary manslaughter it must involve on the part of the defendant a killing contrary to intention, in the prosecution of some unlavful but not felonious act, or in the improper performance of a lawful act. If the Commonwealth has not proved such beyond all reasonable doubt, then the defendant cannot be guilty of that crime.
The court further instructs the jury that, every homicide in Virginia is presumed to be murder in the second degree. In order to elevate the homicide to murder in the first degree, the burden of proof is upon the Commonwealth, and in order to reduce the offense to manslaughter, or to justify or excuse it, the burden of proof is upon the accused. It is, however, the duty of the jury to consider all of the testimony, no matter by whom introduced, and ascertain therefrom if the accused is guilty or innocent, and if guilty, of what offense.

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The court further instructs the jury that, every homicide in Virginia is presumed to be murder in the second degree. In order to elevate the homicide to murder in the first degree, the burden of proof is upon the Commonwealth, and in order to reduce the offense to manslaughter, or to justify or excuse it, the burden of proof is upon the accused. It is, however, the duty of the jury to consider all of the testimony, no matter by whom introduced, and ascertain therefrom if the accused is guilty or imnocent, and if guilty, of what offense. The court instructs the jury that it is not sufficient to surmise that the licks struck by the defendant might or possibly or probably did result in the death of George Pickett Shifflett, but you must believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the death was the actual result of the blows before you can find the defendant guilty of mander on

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man slaughter.

The court instructs the jury that it is not sufficient to surmise that the licks struck by the defendant might or possibly or probably did result in the death of George Pickett Shifflett, but you must believe from all the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the death was the actual result of the blows before you can find the defendant guilty. The court further instructs the jury that if one is unjustifiably add for an assaulted he does not have to retreat, but may stand his ground and repel force by force and may use such force as to him may seem reasonably necessary to repel the attack, even to the taking of the life of the assailant.

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The court further instructs the jury that if one is unjustifiably aid to be assaulted he does not have to retreat, but may stand his ground and repelforce by force and may use such force as to him may seem reasonably necessary to repel the attack, even to the taidne of the life of the assaultant. The court instructs the jury that where there is more than one assailant, the slayer has the right to act upon the hostile demonstration of either one or all of them, and to kill either one or all of them, if it reasonably appears to him that they were present for the purpose and acting together to take his life or to do him, some serious bodily injury.

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H.H.

The court instructs the jury that where there is more than one assailant, the slayer has the right to act upon the hostile demonstration of either one or all of them, and to kill either one or all of them, if it reasonably appears to him that they were present for the purpose and acting together to take his life or to do him some serious bodily injury.

The court instructs the jury that if they believe from the evidence that George Pickett Shifflett or George Pickett Shifflett with others, did any act or that there were circumstances brought about by them of such a character as to afford the defendant a reasonable grouns for believing that the said George Pickett Shifflett, or he in conjunction with others, designed to kill him, the said defendant, or to inflict on him great bodily harm, and there was immin@nt danger of carrying such design into immediate execution, then, under these cifcumstances, the killing is excusable, although it may have turned out afterwards that the appearances were deceptive, and there was no design on the part of George Pickett Shifflett to kill the defendant or to do him great personal injury, and the jury must acquit the defendant.

H-H,

The court instructs the jury that if they bolieve from the evidence that George Fickett Shifflett or George Fickett Shifflett with others, did any act or that there were circumstances brought about by them of such a character as to afford the defendant a reasonable grouns for believing that the said George Fickett Shifflett, or he in conjunction with others, him great bodily harm, and there was imminent danger of carrying such design into immediate execution, then, under these circumout afterwards that the appearances were deceptive, and there was no design on the part of George Fickett Shifflett to kill the defendant or to do him great personal injury, and the jury must acquit the defendant. The court instructs the jury that in passing upon the danger, if any, to which the accused was exposed, you will consider the circumstances as they reasonably appeared to the accused and draw such conclusions from these circumstances as he could reasonably have drawn, situated as he was at the time; in other words, the court instructs you that the accused is entitled to be tried and judged by facts and circumstances as they reasonably appeared to him and not by any intention that may or may not have existed in the mind of the deceased.

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ine court instructs the jury that in passing upon the danger, if any, to which the accused was exposed, you will consider the circumstances as they reasonably appeared to the accused end draw such conclusions from these circumstances as he could reasonably have drawn, situated as he was at the time; in other words, the court instructs you that the accused is entitled to be tried and judged by facts and circumstances as they reasonably appeared to him and not by any intention that may or may not have existed in the mind of the deceased. The court instructs the jury that if they believe that to the accursed threats were communicated, which he believed, it is immaterial whether the threats were true or false, so far as their influence upon the action of the defendant is concerned.

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The court instructs the jury that if they believe that threats were communicated, which he believed, it is immaterial whether the threats were true or false, so far as their influence upon the action of the defendant is concerned. The court instructs the jury that when a person reasonably apprehends that another intends to attack him for the purpose of killing him or doing him serious bodily harm, then such person has a right to arm himself for his own necessary self-defense.

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The court instructs the jury that when a person reasonably apprehends that another intends to attack him for the purpose of killing him or doimg him serious bodily harm, then such person has a right to arm himself for his own necessary self-defense. The court instructs the jury that the failure of the evidence to disclose any other criminal agent than the accused is not a circumstance which may be considered by the jury in determining whether or not he is guilty of the crime wherewith he is charged. The prisoner is presumed to be innocent until his guilt is established, and he is not to be prejudiced by the inability of the Commonwealth to point to any other criminal agent; nor is he called upon to vindicate his own innocence by naming the guilty agent.

K. H.

The court instructs the jury that the failure of the evidence to disclose any other criminal agent than the accused is not a circumstance which may be considered by the jury in determining whether or not he is guilty of the crime whorewith he is charged. The prisoner is presumed to be innocent notil his guilt is established, and he is not to be prejudiced by the inability of the Commonwealth to point to any other criminal agent; nor is he called upon to vindicate his own innocence by maxing the guilty agent. The court further instructs the jury that circumstances of suspicion, no matter how grave or strong, are not proof of guilt, and that the accused must be found not guilty unless the fact of his guilt is proven beyond every reasonable doubt to the actual exclusion of every reasonable hypothesis of his innocence consistent with the fact proven.

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A.A.

The court further instructs the jury that circumstances of suspicion, no matter how grave or streng, are not proof of guilt, and that the accused must be found not guilty unless the fact of his guilt is proven beyond every reasonable doubt to the actual exclusion of every reasonable hypothesis of his innocence consistent with the fact proven. COMMONWEALTH

SHIFFLETT

CHARGE TO JURY

If you find the accused, Edward Lewis Shifflett, guilty of murder, as charged in the indictment, and that the murder was committed with malice aforethought, and that it was willful, deliberate and premeditated, you will find him guilty of murder in the first degree and fix his punishment at death, or by confinement in the penitentiary for life, or for any term not less than twenty years.

If you find him guilty of murder, as charged in the indictment, and that the same was committed with malice aforethought, but that it was not willful, deliberate and premeditated, then you will find him guilty \mathcal{A} of murder in the second degree, and fix his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for not less than five nor more than twenty years.

If you find him not guilty of murder in the first degree, nor of murder in the second degree, but that he killed George Pickett Shifflett without malice aforethought, actual or implied, upon sudden heat, on reasonable provocation, or in mutual combat, you will find him guilty of voluntary manslaughter and fix his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years.

If you find him not guilty of murder in the first degree, nor of murder in the second degree, nor of voluntary manslaughter, but find \checkmark him guilty of involuntary manslaughter, you will say so and fix his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years, or, in your discretion, by a fine of not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by confinement in jail not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

If you find him not guilty of murder or manslaughter, but find him guilty of maliciously cutting and wounding George Pickett Shifflett, with a knife, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or

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CHARGE TO JURY

If you find the accused, Edward Lewis Shifilett, guilty of morder, is charged in the indictment, and that the murder was committed with malice aforethought, and that it was willful, deliberate and premeditated, you will find him guilty of murder in the first degree and fix his punishment at death, or by confinement in the penitentiary for life, or for any term not less than twenty years.

If you find him guilty of murder, as charged in the indictment, and that the same was committed with malice aforethought, but that it was not willful, deliberate and premeditated, then you will find him guilty of murder in the second degree, and fix his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for not less than five nor more than twenty years.

of murder in the second degrae, but that he killed George Pickett shifflett without malice aforethought, actual or implied, upon sudden heat, on reasonable provocation, or in mutual combat, you will find him guilty of voluntary manslaughter and fix his punishment at confinement in the penitentiary for not less than one nor more than five years.

of murder in the second degree, nor of voluntary manshaughter, but find him guilty of involuntary manshaughter, you will say so and fix his punishment at confinement in the pericattiary for not less than one nor more than five years, or, in your discretion, by a fine of not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by confinement in juil not exceeding one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

If you find him not guilty of murder or manslaughter, but find him guilty of maliciously cutting and wounding George Fickett shifflett. With a knife, with intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill, you will say so and fix his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for a period of not less than three years nor more than twenty years.

If you find him not guilty of murder or manslaughter or maliciously cutting or wounding as aforesaid, but find him guilty of unlawful cutting and wounding with a knife, you will say so and fix his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for a period of (not less than one year nor more than five years, or, in your discretion, by confinement in jail not exceeding twelve months and by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars.

If you find him not guilty, you will say so and no more.

kill, you will say so and fix his puntshment by confinement in the penitentiary for a period of not less than three years nor more than twenty years.

If you find him not guilty of murder or manslaughter or maliciously cutting or wounding as aforesaid, but find him guilty of unlawful cutting and wounding with a knife, you will say so and fix his punishment by confinement in the penitentiary for a period of not less than one year nor more than five years, or, in your discretion, by confinement in jail not exceeding twelve months and by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars.

If you find him not guilty, you will say so and no more.