mine. I did go to meet a negro boy near the road, who sent for me by Mrs James Scott — the boy gave me a message from Laura Foster I was arrested & sent to Jail for what I said in a Jest to Jack Atkins & Ben Ferguson. I had been over into Tennessee and after my return. One evening Ben Ferguson said to me. That I had killed Laura Foster — and I replied, "Yes, I and Dula killed her & I run away to Tennessee." I told James Melton I had had this conversation with Ferguson & Atkins in a Joke — and he told me not to Joke about such a thing. I was arrested 2 or 3 weeks after I had made this remark.

I did have a fight one day with Ann Melton at Mrs James Scotts. Ann Melton on that occasion said to me — "you are a drunken fool, you have said enough to Ferguson & Atkins to hang you & Tom Dula" I admitten then that I had said it, but had said it in a Joke I admit that I said on one occasion to George "I would swear a lie any time for Tom Dula would, nt you George?" I said this also in Jest ~~a Joke~~ I have been twice sworn as a witness about this matter — Once at Wilkeboro, and again after the body was found, I deny that I ever told James Melton, that it was true I had