

[Watertown, Jefferson Co.]

SERMON IN AS EVIDENCE

Counsel for Convicted Murderer Says Jury Was Influenced by It.

*Special to the New York Times*

WATERTOWN, N.Y., Oct. 31.—Contending that the jurors had been influenced by hearing a sermon preached last Sunday at All Souls' Universalist Church by the Rev. Moses H. Harris, the counsel for James Farmer, found guilty of murder in the first degree, this afternoon moved for a new trial.

For two hours after the jury had rendered its verdict, Farmer sat in suspense while the city was scoured for the minister. When he was finally located he was summoned to the courtroom with his manuscript sermon in his pocket. The sermon was offered as a part of the evidence and accepted, the text being heard by Justice De Angelis.

The motion for the new trial was denied and Farmer was sentenced to die at Auburn prison during the week beginning Dec. 13. His wife is now confined at the same institution under sentence of death, being jointly implicated in the killing of Sarah Brennan at Brownville last April and concealing her body in a trunk found in Farmer's kitchen.

*New York Times*, New York NY, 1 Nov 1908

Transcribed on 25 Jul 2009 by Karen E. Dau of Rochester, NY