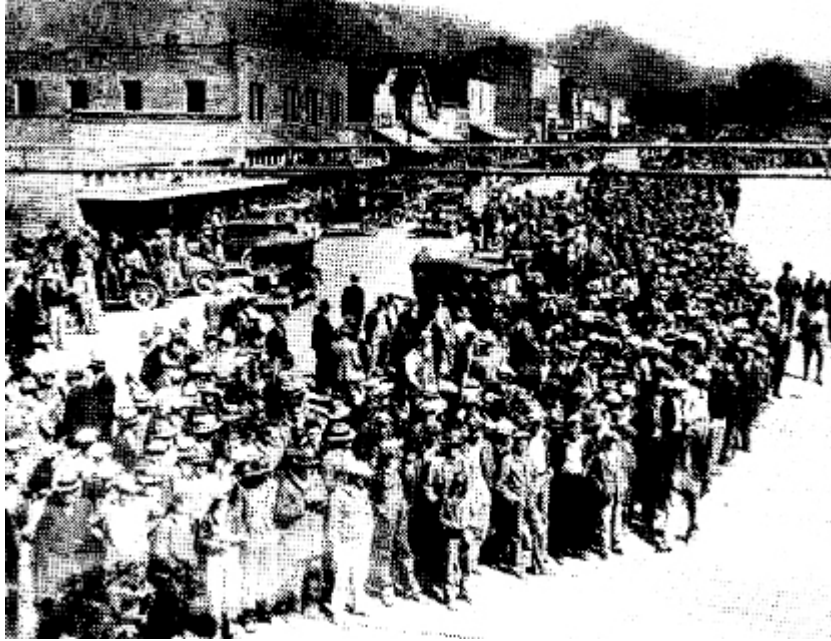


The Scottsboro Boys Trials: A Chronology



Crowd gathers in Scottsboro during first trials

March 25, 1931	Posse stops Southern Railroad train in Paint Rock, Alabama. Scottsboro boys are arrested on charges of assault. Rape charges are added against all nine boys after accusations are made by Victoria Price and Ruby Bates.
March 26, 1931	Scottsboro boys are nearly lynched by crowd of over 100 gathered around Scottsboro's jail.
March 30, 1931	Grand jury indicts the nine Scottsboro boys for rape.
April 6, 1931	Trials begin in Scottboro before Judge A. E. Hawkins.
April 7-9, 1931	Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Haywood Patterson, Olen Montgomery, Ozie Powell, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams, and Andy Wright are tried and convicted, and sentenced to death. The trial of Roy Wright ends in a mistrial when some jurors hold out for a death sentence even though the prosecution asked for life imprisonment.
April -Dec., 1931	NAACP and International Labor Defense (ILD) battle for the right to represent the Scottsboro boys.
June 22, 1931	Executions are stayed pending appeal to Alabama Supreme Court.
July 10, 1931	On the date first set for their executions, the Scottsboro boys listen to the execution of Willie Stokes, the first of ten blacks to be executed at the prison over the next ten years. After hearing

	gruesome reports of the execution, many of the boys report nightmares or sleepless nights.
January, 1932	NAACP withdraws from case.
January 5, 1932	Ruby Bates, in a letter to a Earl Streetman, denies that she was raped.
March, 1932	Alabama Supreme Court, by a vote of 6-1, affirms the convictions of seven of the boys. The conviction of Eugene Williams is reversed on the grounds that he was a juvenile under state law in 1931.
May, 1932	The U. S. Supreme Court announces that it will review the Scottsboro cases.
November, 1932	The Supreme Court, by a vote of 7-2, reverses the convictions of the Scottsboro boys in Powell vs. Alabama. Grounds for reversal are that Alabama failed to provide adequate assistance of counsel as required by the due process clause of the 14th Amendment.
January, 1933	Samuel S. Leibowitz, a New York lawyer, is retained by the ILD to defend the Scottsboro boys.
March 27, 1933	Haywood Patterson's second trial begins in Decatur before judge James Horton.
April 9, 1933	Haywood Patterson found guilty by jury and sentenced to death in the electric chair.
April 18, 1933	Judge Horton postpones the trials of the other Scottsboro boys because of dangerously high local tensions.
May 7, 1933	In one of many protests around the nation, thousands march in Washington protesting the Alabama trials.

June 22, 1933	Judge Horton sets aside Haywood Patterson's conviction and grants a new trial.
October 20, 1933	The Scottsboro cases are removed from Judge Horton's jurisdiction and transferred to Judge William Callahan's court.
Nov.-Dec., 1933	Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris are tried for rape, convicted, and sentenced to death.
June 12, 1934	Judge Horton, who had faced no opposition in his previous race, is defeated in his bid for re-election.
June, 1934	Alabama Supreme Court affirms the convictions of Haywood and Norris.
October, 1934	Two lawyers are charged with attempting to bribe Victoria Price in order to change her testimony.
January,	The U. S. Supreme Court agrees to review the most recent

1935	Scottsboro convictions.
April 1, 1935	The U.S. Supreme Court overturns the convictions of Norris and Patterson because African Americans were excluded from sitting on the juries in their trials. <i>Patterson v. State of Alabama</i> , 294 U.S. 600 (1935); Norris v. State of Alabama , 294 U.S. 587 (1935)
December, 1935	The Scottsboro Defense Committee is organized.
January 23, 1936	Haywood Patterson is convicted for a fourth time of rape and is sentenced to 75 years in prison.
January 24, 1936	Ozzie Powell is shot in the head by Sheriff Jay Sandlin while attacking Deputy Sheriff Edgar Blalock.
December, 1936	Thomas Knight meets with Samuel Leibowitz in New York to discuss a possible compromise.
June 14, 1937	Conviction of Haywood Patterson is upheld by the Alabama Supreme Court.
July, 1937	Clarence Norris is convicted of rape and sentenced to death. Andy Wright is convicted and sentenced to 99 years for rape. Charlie Weems is convicted and sentenced to 75 years. Ozzie Powell pleads guilty to assaulting the sheriff and is sentenced to 20 years.
July 24, 1937	Roy Wright, Eugene Williams, Olen Montgomery and Willie Roberson were released after all charges were dropped against them.
October 26, 1937	The U.S. Supreme Court declines to review the Patterson and Norris convictions.
June, 1938	Alabama Supreme Court upholds the death sentence for Clarence Norris.
July 5, 1938	Clarence Norris's death sentence is reduced to life in prison by Governor Graves.

August, 1938	Alabama Pardon Board declines to pardon Patterson and Powell.
October, 1938	Pardon Board denies the pardon applications of Norris, Weems, and Roy Wright.
October, 1938	Governor Graves interviews Scottsboro boys.
November, 1938	Governor Graves denies all pardon applications.
September, 1943	Charlie Weems is paroled.

January, 1944	Norris and Andy Wright are paroled.
September, 1944	Norris and Wright leave Montgomery in violation of their paroles.
October, 1944	Norris is returned to prison.
June, 1946	Ozzie Powell is paroled.
September, 1946	Norris, paroled again, leaves Alabama.
October, 1946	Andy Wright is returned to Kilby prison.
July, 1948	Haywood Patterson escapes from prison.
June, 1950	Andy Wright is paroled. FBI arrests Patterson, but Michigan's governor refuses extradition to Alabama.
December, 1950	Patterson is involved in a barroom fight resulting in the death of another man. Haywood is charged with murder.
September, 1951	Patterson is convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to 6 to 15 years. He dies of cancer less than a year later.
October, 1976	Clarence Norris is pardoned by Alabama Governor George Wallace.
July, 1977	Victoria Price's suit against NBC for its movie "Judge Horton and the Scottsboro Boys," which she claimed defamed her and invaded her privacy, is dismissed. Price dies five years later.
Jan. 23, 1989	Clarence Norris, the last surviving Scottsboro boy, dies at age 76.

[SCOTTSBORO TRIALS HOMEPAGE](#)