

# 'Black Hand' group blamed for murder

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tive country and fled to America, going directly to the quarry district where he secured employment and lived in apparent safety, though often expressing fears for his life."

Enter Nick Pelloni, another immigrant. It was said that he expressed a strong dislike for Ben Corniei, and apparently the feeling was mutual.

Continued the newspaper, early Sunday morning Pelloni armed himself with a .38 Colt revolver and a stiletto (a very thin and particularly vicious dagger) and took the precaution of cutting the telephone wire along the Bloomington and Smithville Road.

"Later" explained the *Courier*, "he went to the home of Brund Corniei and called his intended victim to come outside. Little suspecting

that he was walking to his doom, Ben Corniei responded to the summons."

As they were talking and walking away from the house, Pelloni allegedly pulled out the gun and shot Corniei just above the heart. That was followed by some stabs with the stiletto for good measure.

Although there were no witnesses to the crime, the *Courier* related that Pelloni tried to hide the body in a thicket, but left it along a road, instead. The details were probably deduced by the authorities from a trail of blood.

The cutting of the phone wire did indeed delay the subsequent investigation and search for Pelloni. In fact, the latter's trail was cold by the time the sheriff and a deputy arrived in their buggy.

*Next week: An Italian lawyer arrives.*