

Suspect never indicted in 1915 train yard murder

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orchard."

The farmer, incidentally, knew Mershon by sight and was sufficiently frightened to ask that his name be kept secret. Another piece of evidence was to be given by a man who claimed he had overheard

Mershon say he would "get" Eads before Sunday morning.

Despite a full docket, the grand jury ruled swiftly in the Mershon case. The *Courier* reported on Oct. 22, "Contrary to the expectations of many local people, the last grand jury did not return any indictment against 'Bill' Mershon for assault and battery of Perry Eads, who died of a murderous attack. The grand

jury evidently did not stir up enough evidence against Mershon and for this reason did not give the sheriff a warrant. Mershon, however, is being held on a former charge of robbery."

The grand jurors who chose not send Mershon to trial for the murder of Eads probably had memories that stretched back to 1871, when Cornelius Mershon was accused of

murdering a visitor to Bloomington and stuffing his body in the fire box of a Monon engine standing in the Bloomington station. His brother, Charles, were considered dangerous.

Cornelius' trial for the murder of John Moore ended in a life sentence, but the Indiana Supreme Court ordered Monroe County to try Cornelius and Charles again.

Before the trial, a vigilante group believed to be made up of prominent citizens with their faces covered, entered the jail and shot Cornelius.

They left behind a letter, which said, "The Mershon harlots must and shall leave the country . . . This family has cost the county over \$30,000."