

# Explosion rocked Stinesville

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mills and quarries. Hite was carried to the home of "ex-commissioner Walker," where it was found that he was suffering from the loss of one hand, fingers on the other; eye injuries and flesh wounds in the abdomen. The battle to save his life began.

Less heroic but equally necessary was the grisly task that awaited G.W. Edwards, a Spencer undertaker. Only Watts could be identified by his face. Williams, Wampler and Grubbs were identified by their clothing only. In fact, reported the *Telephone*, "The bodies were so fearfully mangled that it was impossible to dress them, and the severed pieces of flesh and

limbs were bandaged to the places where they once belonged." As if that detail was not graphic enough for the newspaper's readers, there followed — victim by victim — more lurid and specific descriptions of the condition of the bodies, which were eventually taken to the Williams Hall in Stinesville and "kept over night."

Monroe County Coroner Dr. R.C. Rogers traveled to the town in the northwest part of the county to gather information for an inquest. He began his work by talking to Samuel Swafford, Doctors Holtzman and O.K. Harris of Ellettsville and Edwards, the undertaker.

*Next week: Willie Lyford finds his voice at last.*