

Authorities were suspicious of apparent suicide in 1925

Looking back, from page C1

grand jury had had another look at the case five years later.



There is a postscript to the case of the death of Ellis Medlock in 1928. Shortly after the grand jury consideration of the case, a story was circulating in the Kirksville community that a woman knew all the particulars of the murder.

The story implicated her husband, his brothers and two other men. She said the men knew Medlock carried a lot of money on him, and the reason for the attack on him was robbery. Unfortunately, the women's motive for saying anything was regarded as suspect, since her relationship with her husband had not been good.

Monroe County Prosecutor Vern

Rubie and the sheriff made a valiant effort to get the suspects to confess. Meanwhile, the woman and her mother changed their minds about talking to the grand jury.

The murdered man's father declared that two of the men who had been arrested were innocent. He said, "I am convinced of the innocence of these men. I am satisfied they had nothing to do with the murder; so sure I am of this I would rather take their place than see them suffer for the crime."

Ellis Medlock's daughter remembered her father with affection. The last time she saw him was when he left the house just before his death.

She said that a few months before the murder a cross was burned in a field near their home, and it frightened her father.