

Paper: Okolona Messenger

Location: Okolona, Mississippi

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*Victim(s):
Andrew Williams*

*COVERAGE:
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OKOLONA MESSENGER.

Democratic in Principle, But Independent in Thought and Action. Devoted to Honesty, Truth and Good Government.

VOL. 41

OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1913

NO. 7

A POPLAR LADY KILLED

The most shocking tragedy ever enacted in Chickasaw county occurred at Houston last Thursday when Mrs. Bessie Williams, wife of Deputy Sheriff Clerk, J. C. Williams, was murdered and her body thrown into a pit under the house and two negro men suffered the death penalty for the crime committed, at the hand of the informed people.

The facts as best we can learn them are as follows:

Mrs. Williams, who was Miss Bassie Farr before her marriage to Mr. Williams, on November 25th, last, was at home, preparing dinner, when Divil Rucker, a negro, who had been in the employ of Mr. Farr, for some years, and, who often did odd jobs about the Williams home entered the house ostensibly to bring in some wood and coal. After a few words, he grabbed the unconscious lady and choked her down and knocked her in the head with the tongue which she happened to have in her hand at the time the assault was made.

On returning home about the same hour, Mr. Williams found no one in the house and the doors all closed and the shades pulled down. He telephoned Mrs. Farr and learned that his wife was not there. Returning to the living room, he found blood on the floor and a trail of blood from this point directed his steps to the pit under the kitchen where he found the body of his murdered wife.

The alarm was given and soon the place was crowded with people bent on finding the head and devising out summary punishment. Hands were procured and put on the trait, but they could follow it only a half ways. Every clue was taken up and about a dozen suspects, two of whom were white men, were taken into custody and lodged in jail. The investigation continued all afternoon and all night on the theory that robbery was the motive of the murderer.

In the night two negro women, who live near the scene, told the party questioning them that one Andrew Williams, a negro who lived in the house with them, had told them that he was going to commit the deed; that they saw him carry the body of the lady to the old pit; and that he returned, washed his hands and told them that if they told it that he would cut their throats. Williams, who was already in custody was questioned but refused to make a statement, saying "If I tell what I know you will do the same to me that you are going to anyway."

The sheriff was called into a room and locked in and the lock to Williams' cell broken and he was taken out and hung to a nearby limb without troubling his wife. Most of the assembled citizens were satisfied with the fact that there were those who clamored for the death of the women also. However, wiser counsel prevailed until the women were secretly removed by the sheriff to some unknown place of safety.

All the suspects were then released and it seemed that quiet was about to be restored. But not so. Conflicting statements made by the Rucker negro excited the suspicion of Mr. Farr and led him to believe that Rucker knew more of the murder than had been brought out. Rucker was cross-questioned, and, after telling several lies, broke down and confessed the whole story, even to motive, and where the diamond ring taken from his victim's finger could be found.

The negro was questioned by District Attorney Knox and his confession taken down by Court Stenographer Draper.

The statement made by Divil Rucker as to the details and the confession in full is as follows, as appears from the transcribed notes of Mr. Draper, court reporter:

Divil Rucker in his confession said:

"Well, I went into the front door and knocked and Miss Bessie told me to come in. I went in and she sat down in front of the fire, and I sat down by the fire, and she asked me how all the folks were over home. What was they doing."

"Well, I asked her for something sweet, some cake or something of that kind, and she said she did not have any. Didn't have nothing cooked. Well I just sat there and talked and asked her for some money and she didn't have any. Well, I kept sitting there and talked and then I got up and started towards her and reached my hand at her that way. She began to holler, she had the dog tongs in her hand and then I grabbed her and smacked her when she started to muller, to keep her from hollering.

Mr. Knox—"Go ahead and make any statement you want to make."

Rucker—"I checked her to the floor and hit her on the head with that piece of iron and she had on a sweater and took hold of it and I went to pick her up and pulled over her head and carried her down through the kitchen and put her down in the cellar and came back through the kitchen and buttoned the door and came out the front door."

"When was it that you took the ring off?"

"That was when I killed her there in the front room."

"After you had choked her to the floor?"

"Yes, sir; it was all at the same time."

"What did you do with the ring after you took it off away from the house?"

"I brought it here and hid it under the corner of the house."

"Where is the ring now?"

"This man here has it."

"Mr. Farr has it. You brought it here and hid it under the corner of the house and told Mr. Farr where was?"

"Yes, sir."

"After you confessed to him that you had done the crime?"

"Yes, sir."

"Who got the ring?"

"I could not swear who got it, but this man I told him where to get it last night."

"Anybody help you?"

"No, sir."

"Did you do it yourself?"

"Yes, sir."

"What did you go over there for?"

"Well, white folks, there ain't no good to go all the way around the thing now, but I had gone over there and toted in her wood and coal and paid the penalty of his crime."

—
It Happens Only in Fiction.

It is only in romantic fiction that a man can work strenuously to the limit of his power and come home to be sweet, sunny and entertaining.

G. Wells in the American Magazine.

"Criminal assault?"

"Yes, sir."

"Did you try to accomplish this after you choked her?"

"Yes, sir, while I had her down. After I seen what I done—after I seen how everything was, then I didn't."

"But did take the ring off?"

"Yes, sir."

"You carried her through the kitchen, and where did you put her?"

"Down in the cellar."

"How did you come back?"

"Well, I come right back the way I went, right through the kitchen, and buttoned the kitchen, and come up through the front door. That is the way I first went in."

"Then where did you go?"

"I come back home here to the hotel."

"Were there any vegetables on the floor about the premises?"

"Mr. Williams, there was not. If they did, I sure would tell it that way because there ain't nothing going to save me now."

"What time was it when you wen into the house? Do you know when it was when you went there and left?"

No response.

"Have you said all you want to say now?"

"Tell me mother to see after my wife as far as she can, and for her to make Miss Farr a good home here in the house and a back-yard, and forward to my mother at night. Tell them all bye-bye."

The news of this confession spread rapidly Saturday morning, and men began to pour into Houston, rapidly augmenting the large number which had not dispersed after the lynching of the day before. It was soon apparent to the authorities that the law would not be allowed to take its course and that another, and a more horrible execution was imminent, Gov. Brewer was appealed to by Sheriff Harrington for aid, but the Governor could not send assistance in time to prevent summary justice being meted out. Speeches were made by District Attorney and others. The crowd listened attentively, but their souls fell on deaf ears. The negro was in their charge, the sheriff and his force were locked in and on schedule time at about 2 o'clock Rucker was chained to an old pump in the courtyard and the torch applied to the gathered fagots and his life paid the penalty of his crime.

Not a Hopeless Case.

Owing to the Inclement WEATHER THIS WEEK

We Will Continue Our White Goods Sale

Until

Saturday Night, February 22nd

J. Rubel & Co.

"Here For The Past 40 Years" OKOLONA, MISS.

WOMAN SICK FOURTEEN YEARS

Restored to Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Elkhart, Ind.—"I suffered for fourteen years from organic inflammation, rheumatism, weakness, debility and insomnias.

The pains in my sides were increased by walking or sitting or lying down.

I had a most awful bearing down feelings, was depressed in spirits and abdomen was pale dull, heavy eyes.

I had six doctor

from whom I received only temporary relief.

I decided to give Lydia E.

Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

I used the Sanative Vege-

tative.

I am now

and have been

for four months

and have no

more trouble.

If these medicines be of any benefit

you will let me know and I will publish

them."

—Mrs. SADIE WILLIAMS, 423

James Street, Elkhart, Indiana.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Com-

ound, made from native roots and herbs,

contains no animal or mineral drugs,

and today holds the record of being the

most successful remedy for female ills

we know of, and thousands of voluntary

testimonials on file in the Pinkham

Laboratory at Lynn, Mass., seem to

prove this.

If you have the slightest doubt

as to Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegeta-

ble Compound will help you write

to Lydia E. Pinkham Medical Co.

Lydia E. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., for

free service.

Your letter will be opened,

read and answered by a woman,

and held in strict confidence.



At prices which are no very great tax.

You Expend So Much Effort
In the wielding of an Ax that
You should think of using Nothing but the Best

YOU CAN GET MORE COONS

And get 'em quicker.

We sell the best.

Let's make a dicker.

Our Store

Where we have Axes galore.

At prices which are no very great tax.

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*Victim(s):
Dibrell Tucker*

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1907-02-13 Page 1*

Paper: Okolona Messenger

Location: Okolona, Mississippi

*Victim(s):
Henry Sykes*

*COVERAGE:
1907-10-23 Page 8*

The Messenger

THE MESSENGER accept display advertising from reputable business men and persons who desire to have their names and interests reading notices or local ads at 10 cents per line, and will pay for each additional insertion. If cuts are used, the charge will be 15 cents per line. NOTICES OF MARRIAGES, deaths, obituaries, socials, christenings or other events will be accepted free of charge up to 10 lines. All in excess of 10 lines must be paid for at 10 cents per line. Notices of 10 lines or less will be published at legal rates, payable before a dividend of publication is due.

OKOLONA, MISS., OCT. 23, 1907

Is Your Hair Sick?

That's too bad! We had noticed it was looking pretty thin and rough of late, but naturally did not like to speak of it. By the way, Ayer's Hair Vigor is a regular hair grower, a perfect hair tonic. The hair stops coming out, grows faster, keeps soft and smooth. Ayer's Hair Vigor cures sick hair, makes it strong and healthy. The best kind of a testimonial— "Sold for over sixty years."

Made by J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.
SARASAPILLA.
PILLS
CHERRY PECTORAL.
Ayers

Negro Lynched

CITIZENS OF THIS COMMUNITY VENT THEIR WRATH ON HENRY SYKES

First News of Death Was Thought That the Negro Had Been Walked to Death by Constable in Charge While Attempting to Save Him

HENRY Sykes, a negro, was taken from constable C. C. Johnson five miles below here, early Tuesday night and lynched by a mob of citizens. He was captured while trying to get to Houston to be confined to jail there for safe keeping. Mr. Johnson was riding horseback and the negro was on foot. Shortly after their departure the fact became known and the mob quickly formed and started in pursuit, overtaking the officer and his prisoner about 6:30 o'clock, and the officer, seeing that resistance was useless, gave up the ghost and was quickly killed. The mob then hung the negro from a tree in the woods and swung up to a limb.

Sykes was arrested Monday night by Stanford Bradly and Myers Hodges in the railroad yards a mile below town, while in a telephone booth talking to a well known young lady to whom he made an indecent proposal and threatened to kill her if she did not yield. He was held in custody doing this for some time and a trial was laid for him and he was caught in the act. When these young men broke in on him he tried to kill them but had neglected to load his pistol, so was quickly captured.

Sykes was placed in jail and all day Tuesday quiet but determined crowd with him, finally awaiting the call to action. Hence the attempt to take him to safer quarters.

For obvious reasons the name of the young lady is withheld.

Okolona is one of the most lawabiding and peace-loving communities in this union but when in a case like this there is no law to reach the offender the law is applied by the people — just take reins in hand and meet out justice promptly and surely.

The hanging was quietly and quickly done — no carousing and noise, but quiet, cool headed determination.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the *Castor* Signature

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

I will be at the following time and places for the purpose of collecting taxes for the fiscal year 1907:

New Hope, Saturday, Oct. 28

Vidalia, Tuesday, Oct. 29

Houle, Wednesday, Oct. 30

Besson, Thursday, Oct. 31

Pleasant Grove, Friday, Nov. 1

Atlanta, Monday, " 2

Woodland, Tuesday, " 3

Woodland, Tuesday, " 5

Sparta, Wednesday, " 6

McCondy, Thursday, " 8

Buena Vista, Friday, " 9

Egypt, Saturday, " 10

Okolona, December 1 to 15

John W. Hill,
Sheriff and Tax Collector

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

KING-KIMBALL

LARGE party of relatives and friends of the bride and groom witnessed the wedding ceremony Wednesday afternoon, Oct. 16th, uniting Miss Leona Kimball and Mr. Sam T. King, both of Buena Vista. The wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Welch, at Shuplak at 3:30 p.m.

Rev. J. W. Moseley, Jr., of Okolona officiated.

After the happy greetings and well wishes the young couple took the evening train for Buena Vista and are now at home there to their many friends.

Both come from prominent families of distinction and are well known in Okolona.

Miss Ellen and Arthur Thompson of Buena Vista, Frank King, of Gibson Jim King and wife, of Egypt were among the guests.

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

Mr. Curt Ivy, of Houle, is visiting here this week the guest of the Babbitt home.

Miss Susie Peel of Egypt, is the charming guest of Mrs. Jim Baskin this week.

A fine new line of harness just received. Prices right.

Mrs. and Mrs. B. A. Abbott and little granddaughter Mary Green spent Sunday in Aberdeen.

Mrs. J. J. Pleasant and little son of Clarkdale, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. Houseman.

Mrs. J. W. Moseley, Jr., left Tuesday for West Point, where she attended the Young-Oiley wedding.

G. W. Foster, who has been managing an ice plant at Collins, returned home Monday quite sick and is now confined to his bed.

Adams & Neubert have just received a carload of new buggies. Take a look at them and see how easy it is to own one.

Mrs. Tom Tatum entertained the Etowah Club with a hen party last Friday night. Everybody had a good time and plenty to eat.

H. C. Hague, of Vaden, has accepted the agency of this company for the Singer Sewing Machine Co., and will soon move his family here.

A call meeting of the Okolona Chapter will be held at Mrs. Z. T. Harper's Saturday afternoon, at 3 o'clock sharp. Positively we must have a full attendance.

Joe Reeder has bought the Beatty cotton yard and expects to build a much larger shop than the one he now has and will be better prepared to do work in every way.

If you need anything for your farm, come and see us. If we haven't what you want, we can get it for you mighty quick and with pleasure.

Adams & Neubert

Miss Ada Nix and Mr. Ward Rueck, of Wren, were quietly married at the Presbyterian church Sunday night after services, by the pastor, Messrs Mathews and Wedley were the only friends attending as it was a run-away match. Both young people come from excellent families in their neighborhood and have the well wished of all. "Here's hopin."

This has been an eventful week for Okolona. The quick retribution Tuesday night before the black brute who had been captured in the woman, circuit court, and the burning Wednesday night of the notorious house near the depot occupied by the negro Easter Harris. Truly we are getting into city movements. Rather ahead of them as for justice and retribution, in the larger cities of the United States, is slow indeed. But here in Okolona where we have the high est type of American manhood the traditions and purity of our race shall be maintained in the manner of the old South.

It's hot summertime but we are still receiving cars loads of wagons and selling them at prices that almost compel you throw that old one in the scrap heap.

ADAMS & NEUBERT.

Mrs. T. J. Campbell, wife of Dr. Campbell, died at her residence in Okolona, Sunday night, after an illness of several months. The death of Mrs. Campbell is unusually sad by reason of the fact that she leaves two little boys, in addition to a broken hearted young husband. It has been said, "A boy home and to have the Angle of Death come and sever its ties seems terrible indeed." Mrs. Campbell was such a lovely Christian character; so devoted to her husband and children, that her friends were legion and she will be mourned by one and all. The services were held at the residence Monday afternoon, conducted by Rev. J. W. Moseley, Jr., and Dr. C. C. Johnson. The funeral was made in Odd Fellow Cemetery.

Sheriff and Tax Collector

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

FRANK STANFORD LOSES HIS ARM.

FRANK Stanford, an old Chickasaw country boy, but now a trusted employee of the Dumas Mercantile Co., of Dumas Ark., suffered a terrible misfortune Monday, the 14th. While trying to prevent a clogged nail stand his sleeve was caught in the saws and his right arm absolutely torn off at the elbow.

He was immediately carried to a doctor's office where his arm was properly dressed and it is now hoped and expected that the young man will soon recover.

Frank Stanford has worked with his present company for the past seven years, is trusted implicitly by his employers and has made many strong friends in Dumas and they, as well as his boyhood friends here, take comfort in the thought that his life will be spared.

His brother Jim left last Thursday to be at his bedside.

Letter to Brother Brothers.
Okolona, Miss.

Dear Sirs: What will it cost to sow ten acres half wheat and half barley mixed? and what is the best way?

We don't know what kind of seed cost half wheat and half barley; it would make a big crop of daisies, and last a long time; the wheat might be short.

The parable throws some light on the cost of a paint half whitewash. Whitewash, mixed with paint, is all-paint in look and feel; Indeed nine-tenths of the "paint" in stores is paint whitewash.

Paint has to be spread with the brush, the surface prepared, the ladders scaffolds pulleys and ropes arranged and moved there's a great deal of labor in putting paint on; it costs \$2 to \$4 a gallon to do it.

What does it cost to paint whitewash? It's the same. Half-white wash doesn't last. It doesn't wear well, for the whitewash does harm, not good.

Will the paint hold the whitewash fast? or the whitewash loosen the paint?

Better paint pure paint, the least gallons paint, the least-money paint, Devoe.

Yours truly
F. W. DEVOE & CO.
P. S. Parchman Bros. sell our paint.

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

Adams & Neubert

The badge of honesty is on every wrapper of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medal Discovery because it has a full list of the ingredients composing it printed there in plain English. Forty years of experience has proved its worthiness to those who are suffering from many so-called Rheumatism remedies, patent medicines, etc., some of which do give relief, few really give permanent results, and the above will, no doubt, be greatly appreciated by many sufferers here at this time.

Inquiry at the drug store of this neighborhood elicits the information that these drugs are harmless and can be bought separately, or the druggist here will mix the prescription for our readers it to go.

This pleasant mixture, if taken regularly for a few days, is said to overcome almost any case of Rheumatism. The pain and swelling, if any, diminishes with each dose, until permanent recovery is secured. It is a safe remedy for those who are suffering from many so-called Rheumatism remedies, patent medicines, etc., some of which do give relief, few really give permanent results, and the above will, no doubt, be greatly appreciated by many sufferers here at this time.

Inquiry at the drug store of this neighborhood elicits the information that these drugs are harmless and can be bought separately, or the druggist here will mix the prescription for our readers it to go.

Mr. G. W. McGhee and daughter Miss Anna returned last week from an extensive visit in Virginia and the East.

Mrs. J. A. French and little ones are home again after spending the summer in Kentucky.

Four carloads more of wagons and buggies coming. That means you can get one at a rock bottom price.

Adams & Neubert

A religion that will make a man pay his debts will make him a better man, pay his debts and help his neighbor and work every day to support his family, is good enough to live on and to die by. Anything short of this is a sham and a fraud, and the individual who has it mistaken stomach trouble for religion.

On last Sunday the Okolona Baptist Church elected Dr. Bartholomew King, Sludder, Cox and Ellwood that the church will be held where the pastor and his family will be located.

Mr. J. W. Moseley, Jr., of Okolona, was elected pastor. He has been a member of the church for thirty years and has a large number of friends.

He dragged the girl along, despite her scolding and expostulation, at a pace which kept her breathless.

Suddenly, either from a whim of his own or because somebody had him in the habit of taking him there, he darted through the swinging doors of a corner saloon. The little girl, however, had met him at the door and followed him out of the saloon. She had heard his charge and the girl, swinging shut behind her, the saloon door, heard him say, "I'm a good boy."

"Oh, stand off! Don't you know the ladies don't go there? It's only a place for men!"

ADAMS & NEUBERT.

Rev. D. D. Jamison stated to his church last Sunday that he did not wish to be pastor of the church longer than this year. He also stated that he did not expect to be pastor of any church next year, but would give himself to religious work, but not to the pastorate. The church decided to call him at the present regular rate at which time the present board of deacons will be increased by the election of two or three new deacons. Rev. W. M. Rees will fill the pulpit at the Baptist church next Sunday.

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

Adams & Neubert

We have the finest line of buggies, wagons, wagons and farm machinery in North Mississippi. We want to show them to you. It's easy to get one if you'll tell us what you want.

Adams & Neubert

The Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church will take orders for children's garments and underwear.

Rev. W. M. Rees will fill the pulpit at the Baptist church next Sunday.

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

Adams & Neubert

COTTON

Don't sell your cotton until you see me. Will always treat you fairly, paying full prices. Office in Tom Lyles' store.

Okolona, Mississippi

P. C. GRACNON

Cotton Buyer

Both Telephones Local and Long Distance Connections.

MURFEE BROKERAGE CO.

DEALERS IN COTTON, STOCKS, GRAIN AND PROVISIONS

Orders Accepted For 25 Bales or More
Direct Wires to All Exchanges.

Office First Door West of Elliotts Okolona, Mississippi J. Walton Murfee, Manager

CONTINUED GROWTH

The Cumberland Telephone & Telegraph Company, Incorporated, has issued statement of its business for the past year ending Sept. 30th, 1907 and the increase in the number of its subscribers is shown as follows:

Number of subscribers, Sept. 1st, 1906,	159,405
Number added during past year	50,077
Number discontinued	39,634
Net increase	10,443
Total number subscribers.	169,748

TELLS HOW TO MIX IT

A well-known authority on Rheumatism gives the readers of a large New York daily paper the following valuable, yet simple and harmless prescription, which any one can easily prepare.

Fluid Extract Dandelion, one-half ounce; Compound Karoon, one ounce; Compound Syrup Sarsaparilla, three ounces.

Mix by shaking well in a bottle, and take a teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime.

He states that the ingredients can be obtained from any good prescription-chemist and that the decoction may be prepared by boiling the roots of the plant in water, and then straining the decoction.

For Sale or Rent—The south half of the Greenwood place, one and a half miles east of Okolona, Compton 320 acres, good residence, cabin and water. Address R. W. Chandler

For sale—312 acres fine prairie land adjoining the corporation of Okolona sold in lots to suit buyers. J. M. Haley

For Sale—312 acres fine prairie land adjoining the corporation of Okolona sold in lots to suit buyers. J. M. Haley

STATEMENT Showing the Condition of the Merchants & Farmers Bank, ——————
OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI
October 1, 1907

Published by direction of Chapter 14 of Mississippi Code of 1906.

RESOURCES

Loans and deposits including personal endorsements, real estate or negotiable securities \$11,960.97

Overdrafts unsecured 2,411.35

Deposits 14,386.75

Sight Exchange 49,564.43

Cash on hand 11,868.57

Total \$283,145.61

LIABILITIES

Capital Paid In \$25,000.00

Capital and Deposits Subject to Withdrawal 178,721.51

Deposits 14,386.75

Bankers' Balances 9,548.89

Expenses 9,548.89

Sight Exchange 49,564.43

Cash on hand 11,868.57

Total \$283,145.61

STATEMENT Showing the Condition of the Okolona Banking Company, ——————
OKOLONA : MISSISSIPPI,
Oct. 1, 1907.

Published by direction of Chapter 14 of Mississippi Code of 1906.

RESOURCES

Loans and Deposits including personal endorsements, real estate or negotiable securities \$15,200.00

Overdrafts ELLIS, Cashier, of the Okolona Banking Company, of Okolona, Miss., a true, full and exact statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Bank, with the books of account as shown by the books of same.

ELLIS to and submitted before me a true, full and exact statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Bank, with the books of account as shown by the books of same.

W. E. SAVAGE, Notary Public.

Examined and found correct.

T. M. HENRY, Auditor.

This 21st day of Oct. 1907.

H. L. Morrison, Mayor.

We have the finest line of buggies, wagons and farm machinery in North Mississippi. We want to show them to you. It's easy to get one if you'll tell us what you want.

Adams & Neubert

The Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church will take orders for children's garments and underwear.

Mr. Will Harlowe, President.

\$100.00 in valuable presents given away. See Walter Smith.

Adams & Neubert

Mr. J. Caven, who has been visiting relatives in Kansas, will return Monday and Tuesday and has Friday afternoon.

Mr. Will Harlowe, who will look over this section and probably decide to stay.

See Walter Smith.