

Paper: The Current

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Victim(s):

Dave Walker and Family

COVERAGE:
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THE HICKMAN COURIER*"Governs Western Kentucky Like the Devil"*W. C. SPEER and J. C. SEXTON,
Editors and ProprietorsONE DOLLAR PER YEAR
CASH IN ADVANCE.Entered at the Hickman, Kentucky,
postoffice as second-class mail matter.

Thursday, Oct. 8th, 1908



Derelict Barges Visible.

Protruding above the water, on account of the present low stage of the river, opposite Hickman, may be seen the derelict barges, which were wrecked during a terrific storm in January, 1895. This is the first time since the ill fated barges sank that they have been visible; and being loaded with Pittsburgh coal, tons and tons of the fuel is now being recovered. The coal is practically as good as the day it sank.

The taking up of this coal, calls to mind that there is a veritable coal mine in the river at this point. As stated above, the disaster occurred one stormy night in January, 1895. The Steamers Tom Ress and the Mariner were enroute from Pittsburgh to points on the lower Mississippi with 22 barges of coal in tow. About sunset they would have passed Hickman had it not been for fear of an approaching storm. On this account the Ress, being ahead of the Mariner, put to land opposite town and was soon followed by the latter. Both tied up for the night at the place where the barges may now be seen. The twilight deepened into the blackest night, and with it came the storm increasing in fury until about 11 o'clock when the waves began running over the decks of the steamers and breaking over into the barges. Pumps were kept busy until the crews finally deserted both boats, with the exception of the chief engineer and captain on the Ress, who stayed and kept her from going to pieces. The panic which followed the breaking up and sinking of the fleet would be hard to describe.

When morning dawned, the entire tow of both boats had gone down. With the barges, about 14,000 tons of Pittsburgh coal was lost, valued in the neighborhood of \$60,000. Dredging boats were sent to Hickman for the purpose of raising what coal they could, which was probably a fourth, or \$15,000 worth. The remainder, worth about \$45,000 still lies under the water.

Should the river continue to fall, thousands of dollars worth of coal may yet be taken from the old wreck. It is costing about \$3 per ton to get it out, but that is cheap.

We are told that A. A. Faris is now the owner of the sunken treasure, but like Captain Kidd, he may only have the satisfaction of knowing it is there—a pseudo legacy for his posterity.

Wm. Stoker has a curiosity, which he plowed up on his place east of town. It is a petrified Irish potato, of the Peach Blow variety, and looks now just like any other potato. Before petrification, it seems to have been cut in two by a hoe, and there is little telling how long ago that may have been.

Judge F. S. Moore was in Charleston, Mo., on legal business, Monday.

Night Riders Wipe Out Negro Family—4 Dead, 4 Wounded

Set Fire to Dave Walker's Cabin, Killing Him, His Wife, Two Children and Wounding Four Others Seriously

A band of about 30 or 40 masked men made a raid on the home of Dave Walker, a negro living 4 miles southwest of Hickman, early Sunday morning and shot the entire family of eight members and burned their home. Three were killed instantly, five were wounded so that one died Monday and one more cannot live.

Those killed were:

Dave Walker, age 40.

Walker's wife, age 38, who died Monday.

Susan Walker, age 16.

Ransey Walker, age 2.

The wounded are:

A 12-year-old boy—shot about the shoulders—not fatal.

A 14-year-old boy—shot in abdomen and head—cannot recover.

An 18-year-old girl—shot in hand and arm—not fatal.

A 20-year-old boy—shot in foot—slight wound. He escaped and was found Monday near A. H. Leet's home—bare-footed, haggard and in his night clothes.

Those dead were all shot in the abdomen, and No. 12 shotguns seem to have been the instruments of death.

It is hard to get the real facts of the case, but it is said that Walker was a bad negro. He was recently arrested on a warrant sworn out by Williams, a white man, of the same neighborhood, for cursing Mrs. Williams and flourishing a gun when Mr. Williams interfered. Judge Naylor fined the negro, and he was released upon payment of same. He is said to have remarked to bystanders after the trial that he would be fixed for him next time. In other instances he was charged with being brazen and impudent.

Shortly after midnight the riders rode up to the home of Mr. Williams and called him out, telling them they were going to give the negro a thrashing and wanted him to go with them. Williams did not want to go—telling them that his wife would be left alone—and the riders told him he could stay behind and look after the horses. Three of the masked men remained with Williams and the horses and the rest of the party walked to the negro's home, arriving there about 12:30. The wounded negro says that the night riders called to Walker to open the door. This he refused to do. Arming himself and two sons, they prepared for the attack, which was being made from the outside. When the masked men burst the door down, Walker began shooting. The riders then opened

fire on the negroes, while a part of them poured coal oil on the house and set fire to it, forcing the occupants to flee from the burning building. As they ran out, all were shot. Walker was the first to go out and was shot first. When Walker's wife appeared in the doorway she held in her arms their infant child and begged the night riders for mercy. Disregarding her pleadings the infuriated mob opened fire and a bullet pierced the body of the infant in its mother's arms. A second shot struck the mother in the abdomen and she fell, still holding the dead body of her infant.

The disturbance aroused Tom Bone, a white man residing not far away, and thinking the shots were fired for the purpose of giving a fire alarm, he started in the direction of the Walker home, but was suddenly stopped as he turned into the lane when two men grabbed his horse's rein. He was told to try going back over the same road. He was only told once he went.

It is evident the riders took every precaution, and did their work with the greatest secrecy. They came from the direction of Lake county, and numbered from 30 to 50. Most of them wore black masks.

Walker was doubtless looking for trouble, as he was well armed and had a good supply of ammunition. He always carried considerable money with him, and it is reported that \$800 was burned in the house.

County Coroner Smith held an inquest over the bodies Sunday morning, and the jury's verdict was that the negroes were shot to death by unknown persons. As soon as the last victim fell, the night riders mounted their horses and rode away, leaving no trace whatever of the identity of any member of the band. For this reason it is hardly probable that the law will take hold of the master.

A wagon load of coffins went out of Hickman Sunday—the first thing of the kind to happen in a long time—and the dead bodies were buried Monday, in Tennessee.

A special from Frankfort, Monday, says: "Adj't Gen. Johnson said this morning that the affair at Hickman had not been brought to his attention in any way. He has a company of soldiers at Columbus, the nearest point, but will take no action until he is thoroughly familiar with the situation. There is a standing reward for the apprehension of any one guilty of confederating or banding together for the purpose of intimidation."

Best Time in the Year To Paint Your House

"Mastic Mixed Paint"
The Kind That Lasts

Is What You Should Use. Our Mr. Swaine Has Been Selling this Brand of Paint since 1884. We GUARANTEE it to Give Satisfaction in Every Particular.

Hickman Drug Co., Incorporated

FOUND: One leather spring seat saddle, between Dr. S. W. Lutens' and Alex. Barnes' residence on Troy avenue. Owner can have same by calling at this office and paying for this notice.

Lee Diuguid and wife are here from Fulton, visiting friends.

Five gallons White Rose gasoline, \$1, at Courier office. It's pure.

Indian War Dance, by real Indians at the U. D. C. Carnival.

Misses Ethel and Victoria Nelson returned home Monday after spending two weeks with B. F. Powell and wife, near Water Valley, Ky., who accompanied them to Hickman Tuesday.

WANTED: A first class milk cow with calf.—Mrs. L. P. Ellison.

Miss Ellen Jones and L. J. Walters were united in marriage in Fulton, Sunday. Both are residents of that city.



Handsome Present...

FREE

With each CASH purchase or payment on note or account, amounting to or over

\$5.00

we will give the customer a handsome present. This offer will be good only up to and including Saturday, December 12th. The articles we are giving away are assorted—all are beauties, but you might like some better than others—so the first of our friends taking advantage of this offer get first pick and choice of the lot, of course

Now Is a Good Time to Pay Off Your Note !!

Remember, we handle everything in hardware. See us!

**HICKMAN HDW.
COMPANY**

[Incorporated]

**Dorena.**

Guy Hall went to East Prairie Monday.

Tobe George, of East Prairie, was here Sunday.

J. O. King is in Charleston this week.

John Maddox made a flying trip to Henson Sunday.

Bill West attended the barbecue Thursday, at Charleston.

Chas. LaRue went to Memphis last Thursday, on business.

Milt Polston and Jim Ringo, of Wolf Island, were here Sunday.

Mrs. B. D. Doss and family are visiting relatives in Charleston this week.

Arlie Fletcher, of Charleston, was in the neighborhood Friday, on business.

Miss Grace DeLeon, of James Bayou, passed here enroute to Hickman Saturday.

Rev. Miles, of Martin, Tenn., will preach at Locust Grove Sunday and Sunday night.

Miss Marietta Faulks opened her school Monday morning, after a week's vacation on the account of sickness.

Joe Polhamus went to East Prairie Wednesday, thence to Charles-ton, and attended the barbecue Thursday.

Mrs. Howell and son returned to their home in Greenway, Ark., last Wednesday after a short visit at the home of Mrs. Polhamus.

Mrs. Dimore, teacher at Bryant's

WINTER

is close at hand, and is the time of all times that you want Shoe service !!



This is a Packard, built for Service, and sold at a reasonable price, by

Bradley & Parham

school house was called to her home in Dyer, Tenn., on account of the illness of her mother, last Wednesday. Her daughter, Miss Ruby is teaching in her place.

Alice, the two year old daughter of W. E. Parker, died at her home in East Fulton, Sunday night.

OASES OF CHILE'S DESERT.

They Play a Great Part in Developing Nitrate Beds.

Northern Chile, which is so largely desert, is generally regarded as a forbidding wilderness, but here may be found a number of oasis, the most famous of which are Pica and Matilla.

It has been found that in various parts of the great Atacama desert the earth underneath the surface layer of sand is so moist that it is possible to grow crops, capillary attraction spreading the water through the soil.

The rainless Atacama desert is the scene of the greatest industry of the kind in the world, yielding enormous quantities of nitrates used to enrich the fields of Europe and the United States.

The oases play a very important role in the industries of the region, supplying valuable food stuffs for the support of the workmen, alfalfa for the cattle, and various fruits, and also serving as the base for the nitrate works which require none.

There is no part of the world where agriculture is more intensively carried on than in these green spots in the Atacama desert.—Zion's Herald.

Don't forget that several voting precincts in the county have been changed since the last time you voted. Better get wise before the time comes. You will see the changes in this week's Courier.

Patronize the "Hokey Pokey Man" U. D. C. Carnival.

W. S. Burnett, of Moscow, was in Hickman on business, Monday. My, how you are growing, W. S.

Largest Flowers. The raffia of Sumatra is the largest flower in the world. It has five petals, each one foot wide.

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Henry Colbert*

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