

Paper: The Purcell Register

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***Victim(s):
Will Davis***

***COVERAGE:
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WOODS-LOVE CO.



This Space.

Something is Going to Drop!

WOODS-LOVE CO.

NET HIS JUST DESERTS.

"Vox Populi Suprema Est Lex" Fittingly Illustrated by the Sturdy Yeomen of the Vicinity of Womack.

In the vicinity of Womack, twenty-five miles north-west of Purcell, on last Friday evening occurred one of those brutal crimes against womanly virtue, the punishment for which is always swift and certain in self-respecting communities. In this instance the punishment was delayed no longer than was necessary to effect the capture of the guilty wretch and establish his identity beyond question.

About dusk on Friday evening, Miss May Robertson, a young lady between fifteen and sixteen years of age, daughter of Ira Robertson, an industrious farmer who has resided for several years near Womack, was walking down the road on her way to the home of a relative, J. B. Arnold, about a half mile distant from her father's home. She had just started down a slight declivity which hid her from sight of her home when she was accosted by a negro, who asked if her father needed any help and then made an insulting proposition. The frightened girl started to run, the lecherous brute seized her and threw her to the ground. He drew a pistol and threatened to shoot her and also to kill other members of her family, did she not submit to his base desires, and then by brute force accomplished his purpose. The girl started toward her home, but was compelled by her brutal assailant to go in the other direction. She went to the Arnold home and related her terrible experience. The news was immediately conveyed to the home of her parents. In brief while the neighbors had been aroused and a large posse of determined men were searching for the negro. Though little could be done in the darkness in the matter of trailing the brute, the work of organizing was kept up and by daylight of Saturday morning not less than three hundred armed men were in the various searching parties, the number increasing all the time.

During the forenoon of Saturday a report was circulated that a negro answering to the description of the one wanted had been arrested at Noble and would be brought to this place on the afternoon train. Many of the searching parties at once came into town and by noon the town was quite well filled with armed men, who made no noisy demonstrations, conducting themselves in quiet, orderly manner and with an air of grim determination which showed their intention of avenging the wrong that had been done. When the 1:30 train from the north pulled in no less than two hundred men were waiting to receive it. As no negro disembarked, the vigilantes conceived the idea that the officers were attempting to run the prisoner through to Ardmore. They at once proceeded to institute a systematic and thorough search of the train, mail, baggage and express cars being closely examined before the searchers were satisfied the negro was not on board. It was found that the report of the arrest at Noble was false.

The first authentic trace of the negro was found Saturday morning. He had doubtless become confused in the night and put in the time wandering around in the vicinity of Womack, as about daylight Saturday morning he applied at a house near the scene of the tragedy for some matches.

From this point his pursuers tracked him steadily all day, a number of clues being picked up which made it comparatively easy to follow him, though by plunging into open fields he managed at times to throw the

trailers off the track for a short time. It was found that at nine o'clock he had stopped at the home of Mr. McCollop to procure food and water, starting in the direction of Naples; then he was seen crossing the graveyard at Naples and proceeding south toward Bradley. Thus the chase was kept up all day. Late in the afternoon the pursuers began to close in upon their prey, finally tracking him into a corn field one and one-half miles from Bradley. The field was surrounded and the hunted man, finding escape impossible, came out and surrendered. He confessed the crime, at first stating that he had merely choked the girl, but later acknowledging the entire crime.

The negro gave his name at the time of his capture as John Fullbright, but it is claimed that to Cliff Mays, for whom he had worked a few days, he gave the name of Will Davis, and claimed to have come from San Antonio, Texas, while other reports say he had come from the vicinity of Paris, Texas. He had been in that vicinity but a short time going out from this place. He was a yellow negro, about five feet ten inches in height, weighing about one hundred and sixty-five pounds and twenty-five years of age.

Immediately after making the capture the crowd started on the ride of twenty miles back to Womack, the negro being conveyed in a buggy and closely guarded. Womack was reached about three o'clock Sunday morning and the negro was at once taken to the Robertson home a mile and a half away, where he was confronted by his victim, who instantly and most positively identified him as her assailant.

The man thus certainly identified, his captors showed no hesitancy in dealing with him. He was taken to the scene of his crime. Near by was a small patch of timber. Here the captors paused and ordered the man to prepare for the end. Fullbright, who had thus far faced his fate in sullen stolidity, now broke out into song and prayer, continuing for several minutes. His hands and feet were tied and a rope put around his neck. The buggy was driven under a large oak tree and the negro made to stand up. The rope was fastened to a limb of the tree and the buggy drawn from under the negro, leaving him suspended in the air.

Up to this time everything had been conducted in quiet, orderly manner. But one or two shots had been fired during the entire chase, and those doing shooting in those instances were sternly rebuked by the leaders. Everything was conducted with stern decorum, all parties seeming to realize the fact that they were performing a solemn duty.

After the hanging the ruling spirits of the crowd dispersed to their homes. As to what followed it is hard to obtain any definite information. A number of newspapers have given lurid accounts of subsequent events, but from all that we have been able to learn as to the real facts the weird imaginations of the reporters were freely drawn upon in their accounts. The men of cool judgment who had been in charge having withdrawn the crowd, released from restraint, degenerated into an irresponsible mob, swayed by unreasoning passion, and driven by unbridled impulse into the commission of a deed that were better left undone, as it evoked more of denunciation than of avenging justice. This was the act of burning the dead body of the negro. There

is no doubt the man was dead when the body was thrown into the flames. A large bonfire was kindled and on this the body was laid, and when the officers arrived upon the scene about daylight Sunday morning only the charred trunk was left, which was buried.

Deputy Marshals Dickerson and Byrd and Constable Bailey were in the field all day and made several attempts to secure the prisoner, but were powerless in the face of a compactly organized army of six hundred men.

The victim of the brutal assault at last report was resting quietly and recovering from the injuries he received and the nervous prostration incident to the shock she had sustained. Her wrists were badly bruised and she received a blow on the head which inflicted a painful wound.

The father of the girl was not present at the lynching, having gone with the party to Noble and from that point followed a clue which led him to Oklahoma City, from which place he returned Sunday morning.

Mr. Robertson has been a resident of the Womack vicinity for three years, coming from Greenwood, Texas. The family is highly respected by all.

Judge Dickerson immediately summoned a special grand jury, which was empaneled at Chickasha on Monday and was made up of the following gentlemen: E. S. Burney, foreman; Clay Donovan, Emmett Goodman, J. F. Bishop, Elwood Smith, J. D. Bridges, S. J. Cradley, J. B. Boen, J. E. Holloway, A. Johnston, A. B. Slosson, M. C. Hecker, E. W. Anderson, J. A. Bateman, Wm. Davis, W. C. Pinn.

This jury held several meetings and examined many witnesses, but so far have not returned any indictments. We understand that they adjourned Thursday evening until next Thursday morning.

Another display of "yellow journalism" was given by those papers which reported that the negroes of this place and of the vicinity of Womack were arming themselves preparatory to launching a race war. The negroes have taken the matter very quietly and the better class of them say that the punishment was justly administered.

Some of the old timers say that this was not the first lynching in the Chickasaw nation. Twenty-five or thirty years ago a negro outraged two women in the vicinity of Erin Springs. He was promptly captured and hanged near the scene of his crime. It is also thought that in those early days a murderer was lynched in the southern part of the nation.

Oklahoma Central.

W. C. Covington's grading outfit passed through this city today enroute to Byars. He has been at work on mile three of the Oklahoma Central and had one of the heaviest fills to make. He said that steel was being laid at mile three and that rapid progress would be made.—Stonewall News.

P. O. Box Rent.

Postoffice box rent must be paid by the 10th of the month. By order of the department. W. STRASSBERGER, Postmaster.

Mr. H. L. Vaden received this (Friday) morning a telegram announcing the death of Koff, Ind. Tex., of the wife of his brother, J. W. Vaden. The funeral is to take place at Sherman, Texas, where the family formerly resided.

JEFFERSON CLUB MEETING.

The meeting of the Jefferson Club was poorly attended on Monday evening, it not having been generally understood that it was to meet at that time. Not much business of any importance was transacted. The entertainment committee, through Mr. Rainbolt, the only member present, reported progress and promised to have a meeting Tuesday morning and get things in readiness for the rally Saturday. It was unanimously voted to extend a special invitation to the ladies of the vicinity to come out and hear the speaking.

The finance committee, consisting of Ike Williams and J. I. Baker, got busy and raised at this meeting a considerable sum towards defraying the expenses of the rally, and will continue that good work until plenty is in hand to defray all the expenses that will be incurred.

The following letter was read, and a motion adopted accepting the invitation and urging as many as possible to attend the barbecue at Wayne on the 11th: Wayne, Ind. Ter., July 2, 1906. Hon. C. M. McCLAIN, Esq., Purcell, Ind. Ter.

My Dear Sir:—The Jefferson Democratic Club, of Purcell, is cordially invited to attend a barbecue to be given by the Wayne Democratic Club on the 11th inst. We want everybody to come and partake of our hospitality and go away feeling it an honor to be a Democrat.

We will expect a large delegation from Purcell. Yours for a Democratic Victory, M. S. CLEMENS, Pres. Wayne Democratic Club.

Byars to Get Depot.

General Solicitor Sharp of the Oklahoma Central Railroad arrived in Byars Thursday afternoon for the purpose of conferring with the citizens of Byars and the making of a new agreement regarding the location of the O. C. depot here, a new contract having been made necessary by the railroad company building a town eight miles east of Byars when the agreement entered into by the railroad stated that the nearest town should be at least ten miles east. The citizens met before the arrival of Mr. Sharp and appointed a committee to meet Mr. Sharp and consider any proposition the railroad might make the people of Byars.

Mr. Sharp and the committee met in conference late in the afternoon and remained in session for two hours.

After adjourning it was announced that all differences had been amicably adjusted and the Oklahoma Central would place its depot in Byars.

The citizens of Byars have taken a keen interest in this question. Now that it is settled they can feel assured of the growth and prosperity of Byars. Congratulations are in order.—Byars Banner.

Kenyon Student Gets Tulsa Call.

Guthrie, Okla., June 28.—Rev. J. E. McGarvey, the Kenyon college student who was slugged by unknown parties, during the past winter, and critically injured while attending that institution, has accepted a call to Tulsa, I. T., where he will be pastor of the Trinity Episcopal church. The assault on McGarvey at Gambier, Ohio, followed shortly after another Kenyon student was found dead, having been tied to the railroad track. None of the perpetrators of either crime was ever apprehended.—Oklahoman.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Ballauf, father and mother of Mrs. A. E. Ramsey, who had been visiting that lady for some time, returned Tuesday to their home at Jefferson, Texas.