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MURDER OF JOSIAH C. DALE

Remains a Mystery—No Developments to Indicate Who the Cowardly Murderer may have been—The White Horse and Theories—Woman Implicates Man.

Nothing of importance has developed in the murder of Mr. Dale, except that a woman made a statement before District Attorney Runkle, which in a measure may be regarded as connecting a resident of Centre Hall with the affair. The statement, as circulated on the streets, appears elsewhere in this issue.

Other facts and theories relative to the murder follow:

It appears that Mrs. Weaver, at the Pleasant Gap toll gate, has a vague recollection of a white horse passing through the gate Monday evening; that two men were in the buggy, and a short distance from the toll gate alighted, and carrying a lantern walked up the mountain.

A white horse hitched to a buggy, the occupants of which carried a



WHERE MURDER MAY HAVE BEEN COMMITTED.

The above illustration shows the junction of Adams road and the pike, about three-fourths way between Centre Hall and top of Nittany Mountain. To the left of the picture the gap in the railing indicates where the wood road intersects. Where the boy stands is the spot where it is thought by many the murder was committed. This is the spot referred to in Theory No. 2.

The "white horse" that you heard so much about that should have crossed Nittany Mountain about the time Mr. Dale left his farm has been pretty well ferreted out. The fact is the white horse did not cross the mountain at all. On questioning Andy Moyer closely, he stated that the "white horse," two men and the lantern were seen at Horner's lane, below the Dale farm buildings, but were not observed passing the Dale house in which Mr. Moyer lives.

Mr. Packer, a lumberman, stated to the writer that his team, one of which was a "white horse," hitched to a wagon loaded with corn, accompanied by his two sons carrying a lantern, turned into the Horner lane or road about the time corresponding to that mentioned by Mr. Moyer. The Packer team came from the corn field of Hannah Smith, at Black Hawk, via the old road, intersecting the pike at the edge of the mountain below the Dale farm, and consequently did not pass the Dale buildings, which accounts for the "white horse," man and lantern not being observed passing that point.

District Attorney Runkle and Justice W. B. Mingle made a tour Thursday of last week in search of the "white horse," but could find no

lantern, was also seen at Centre Hall passing down the Brush Valley road, between 7:30 and 8 o'clock.

The only importance attached to the "white horse" is that it would fix the time, according to Andy Moyer's story, when Mr. Dale left his farm buildings. Moyer stated that a very short time after Dale's rig disappeared from the barn the white horse approached. If this is correct, the white horse must have passed Mr. Dale and his buggy somewhere on the mountain. This is assuming that Dale was not side-tracked.

At least two theories are being advanced as to how, when and where this murder was committed. Although these are theories, with but little positive evidence to substantiate them, they are given to the reader.

Theory number one is that the murder was committed at or near the farm buildings on Nittany Mountain, between five and six o'clock, and that the buggy, with the dead man in it, was side-tracked until an auspicious moment when it was liberated.

Positive evidence and presumed conditions to substantiate this theory are that it grew dark early on the day of the murder; it was a snowy, disagreeable day, and the evening was of such

a character that no one would linger in a corn field after dark.

When shot it is presumed that Mr. Dale was leaning on the lazy back of his buggy, the vehicle either standing on the level or more likely ascending a hill. Evidence to support this is that blood trickled down the curtain at the back and side, which indicates that he remained in a sitting posture for some time after the fatal shot was fired. When found the dead form was wedged in the front part of the buggy, one knee against the right side of the dash board, and head lying back on the seat. This position would be the most natural one for the limp body to acquire on descending a hill.

Had the shot been fired when the vehicle was descending the mountain, when the natural position of a traveler is to lean forward, the impact would have caused the body to fall forward, and the head to lead.

Mr. Dale was found with his overcoat by his side, which indicates haste in taking leave.

According to a statement made by Andy Moyer he must have gotten his horse from the stable and hitched up in a very short period of time. For the vehicle was at the barn when he (Moyer) went after a calf in an adjoining lot, and when he returned he noticed the buggy had disappeared. Moyer further stated that while in the meadow he heard the bang of a stable door. It might have been the bang of a shot gun.

THEORY NO. 2.

People are not all of the same mind, and happily so. There are many who believe that the murder of Mr. Dale occurred on the south side of Nittany Mountain, at a point where "Adam's" road intersects the pike. This place is three-fourths way up the mountain, and is an ideal point for a vicious, cowardly character to lie in wait for the approach of a victim, commit the murder in his heart, and again go into hiding.

The strongest evidence in support of this is the fact that a number of residents in Centre Hall, and others living along the base of the mountain, heard the report of a gun, supposed to



THE DALE FARM BUILDINGS.

This illustration shows the farm buildings on the Dale farm on Nittany Mountain. The picture was taken from a point south of the dwelling house. The pike passes between the house and barn, and on the north side of the road, a little to the west of the barn, is where Mr. Dale's vehicle stood during the day, and where he hitched his horse to it in the evening.

LOCALS.

Love is sweet because it is made up largely of taffy.

Thanksgiving Day supper in Grange Arcadia. Be sure to be on hand.

The Centre County Pomona Grange held a regular session at Milesburg Wednesday.

Mrs. Solomon Lohr, of near Boalsburg, is in Johnstown, having gone there to consult an oculist.

Dr. J. W. Boal filled the appointment in the Millheim Methodist church Sunday for Rev. G. W. McIlroy, the pastor, who was absent.

Snow fell Thursday of last week. In shaded spots the beautiful was more than one inch in depth. Out in the open the greater part melted almost as fast as it fell.

While eating a piece of meat a portion lodged in the throat of Mrs. Clayton Struble, of Ferguson township, and almost strangled her. Dr. Woods was called and removed the obstruction.

About ten days ago when Martin Smith and J. C. Struble, of Ferguson township, went to their stables each found a dead horse in the stalls. No cause can be given for the unexpected death of the animals, as they appeared to be in good condition the day previous.

John Glasgow, of Colyer, and William Mitterling, the cow drover, had a mixup one evening last week, near Centre Hall station. Mr. Glasgow was driving toward Old Fort and Mr. Mitterling was coming in the opposite direction. On the hill near the Stoner farm house they met, the wheels of their vehicles striking, and as a consequence the front wheel on Glasgow's buggy was wrecked and some other slight damage done. The accident was caused by the street light at the station blinding the drivers.

have been fired in the vicinity of the junction of "Adam's" road and the pike. Other evidence produced is that the following morning distinct hoof marks of a horse were visible at this point. These indicated that the horse had been trampling about.

JOHN SWEETWOOD'S STATEMENT.

Owing to the fact that John Sweetwood and Mr. Dale were to have had a law suit the day after the latter was foully murdered, in the minds of some people there was some importance attached to the whereabouts of Mr. Sweetwood at the time the murder took place.

Mr. Sweetwood and a fellow laborer appeared at the Reporter office Friday evening to state that he (Sweetwood) had been in the lumber camp from about noon Monday until the following noon. The story was corroborated by Mr. Dubbs, who stated that a half dozen other persons at the camp could furnish the same evidence.

Mr. Sweetwood was tenant on the Dale farm previous to the time Andy Moyer moved there, which was last spring.

This statement is published on the authority of Mr. Sweetwood and Mr. Dubbs, and the writer has no reason to disbelieve it, and it will generally be accepted as true.

WOMAN IMPLICATES MAN.

Saw Him Leave His Home Carrying Something That Looked Like a Gun.

A story is circulating that District Attorney Runkle took the statement of a woman in Centre Hall, Saturday evening, that possibly may connect a resident of Centre Hall with the murder of Josiah C. Dale, on the evening of Monday, November 12th.

That that county officer took the statement of a woman is true, what she said is not so altogether certain, but reports say she related, under oath, that she saw a certain individual leave his home that evening carrying something that might have been a gun. After some time had elapsed, so the story goes on the street, there was considerable commotion at this particular man's house.

[Continued on inside page]

FIRE IN CENTRE HALL.

Harper's Barn Ablaze at 12:15 Sunday Morning—Two Other Stables Burned—North Section of Town in Great Danger.

Centre Hall experienced a brisk fire Sunday morning between 12:15 and two o'clock. The result was the destruction of a small barn on the lot of Mrs. Maggie Harper, and two stables—one on the property of the late ex-Sheriff Spangler and the other on the lot of Jerry Miller, the latter premises now being occupied by George Breon.

The fire originated in the Harper barn, which was a building of considerable dimensions, having a barn floor, manure shed and ample room to house several horses and cows. The barn was well filled with straw, corn-fodder, unthreshed oats, corn, wheat, etc., all the property of Dairyman Will J. Smith, who had leased the stable. The building itself was well constructed, heavy timbers being used in it for a barn of its kind, and being filled with provender and straw made an intense heat.

The Spangler stable, east of the Harper barn, on the opposite side of Hoffer street, was a good sized town stable, which also contained hay, straw, etc. The heat or embers from the Harper barn ignited the Spangler stable at the gable end of the structure, near the roof, and in an instant the stable was a mass of flames.

The empty stable on the Miller premises stood nearby, and in a few minutes it too was being licked up by the flames. The Miller stable was a mere shell, and was soon reduced to ashes.

A few minutes previous to the time the Spangler stable took fire, the hose had been attached to the plug at the Harper residence, but for some reason difficulty was experienced in operating the reel on the hose cart, and before the water supply became available the Spangler stable was a mass of flames.

A portion of the hose was then detached and taken to the plug at C. M. Arney's house, the hose ran through his lot to a convenient point to play upon the Arney stable, which was next to the Miller stable. This timely move checked the progress of the flames.

The one thing that prevented the whole northern section of the town from being consumed by the elements was a gentle shower of rain that had just fallen and continued during the first part of the fire. There was a brisk south wind, carrying embers in great quantities to the roofs of dwellings on both sides of Church street. But for this rain a dozen buildings would have been fired from the Harper barn alone, and what would have occurred from the burning of these can only be guessed.

But for the rain, everything north of the Reporter office would be in ashes today. Nothing short of a miracle could have checked the onward march of the destructive elements.

Thank God for that rain, whether or not it was sent at an opportune time.

The fire was first discovered by Geo. W. Bushman, who had retired only a short time previous. He was awakened by the smell of smoke and a bright light, and was the first to sound the alarm.

Lovers on Church street were disturbed by Mr. Bushman's panicky outcry, and however near Cupid was about to draw his weapon to smite, his targets flew to the street and joined in sounding the alarm of fire and later gave valuable assistance in extinguishing the flames.

Among those early on the scene were C. M. Arney and Will J. Smith, Chas. Stump, Constable Runkle, Elmer Runkle and Fire Marshal Brislin.

After giving the alarm for a square, Mr. Bushman secured the hose cart, and was on the ground early with the fire-fighting apparatus.

The hose cart from the station end of town was escorted to the diamond by Thos. G. Wilson and E. W. Crawford, the former having been notified by telephone.

Peculiar as it may seem, only a small portion of the residents of the town were aware of the fire until the next morning. A square from the fire persons slept soundly through it all.

It was five o'clock when the smoldering embers received the last dash of water. At that time, owing to a rain that again began falling, it was thought safe to retire. Most of those who remained (about a dozen persons) until that time had interests nearby.

After drawing continuously for five hours, there was an abundance of water.

The origin of the fire is unknown. But it is not presumed that it was of incendiary origin.

A dozen of chickens in the Spangler stable was the only loss of that character. None of the stables had live stock in them.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS.

Hay is worth all kinds of money—\$15 to \$17 for prime timothy.

Last week there were some twenty cases of diphtheria in Tyrone.

Charles Arney had the good fortune to kill a fox while hunting one day last week.

J. Clark Carson, of near Bellefonte, has secured work in one of the Berwick shops.

The Watchman is fitting up a private sanatorium on the third floor of the Watchman building.

The corner stone of the new hospital at Lewistown was laid Sunday. The structure is to cost \$65,000.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Shadle have changed their residence from Elkins, W. Va., to Charleston, W. Va.

The post office at Menno, Mifflin county, has been discontinued. That section will be served by a rural free delivery route.

William Rhinesmith is now manager of the Palace livery stables in Bellefonte. He succeeds W. V. Larimer, resigned.

James C. Goodhart, of near Centre Hill, advertises a stock sale for Saturday, March 23. He will sell a fine lot of cows, sheep and hogs.

Charles S. Sulter, city editor of the Lock Haven Express, has received an appointment in the Bureau of Animal Industry, with headquarters at Pittsburgh.

Mejor Hall's majority for judge in the Clinton-Cameron-Elk judicial district was one hundred and sixty-four. He received one hundred and one Lincoln votes.

There are some who will say, "I told you told so, how could it be otherwise?" Let them speak now, see how near the truth they come. This is in reference to the Dale tragedy.

Mrs. Catherine Archey, of Pennsylvania Furnace, fell down the cellar stairs at her home Thursday night of last week, cutting a deep gash in her head. She is seventy-eight years old.

A train west in the morning and east in the evening is to be added to the Sunday schedule now in force on the Bald Eagle railroad. This will make four Sunday trains on that line.

Andrew Zettle, of Coburn, was in Centre Hall Monday morning, and called at the Reporter office. Mr. Zettle is tenant on the farm of Adam Barges, deceased, which is one of the many good farms in that section.

When it comes to husking corn at a high speed, Samuel Gingerich, west of Centre Hall, must be taken into account. Saturday a week he was husking in standing corn in the field of Irvin Burris, on the Potter farm, and in seven and one-half hours husked one hundred and twenty bushels.

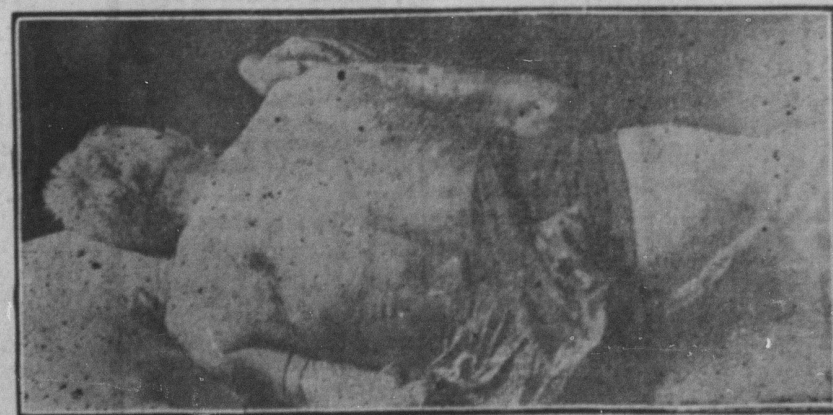
While Rev. J. I. Stonecypher, of Boalsburg, attended a meeting of the Northern Conference at Loganton, Mrs. Stonecypher spent the week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Homan, east of Centre Hall. The Homan family were formerly members of the Boalsburg Lutheran charge of which the reverend gentleman is pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Hosterman, of Philipsburg, were in Centre Hall last week. Mrs. Hosterman and little son remained at the Hosterman home, while Mr. Hosterman attended the county institute. They are much pleased with their surroundings in Philipsburg, and have all kinds of nice things to say about the people, the town and the schools.

A distinctive and unique feature of the Mines and Metallurgy exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition, next year, is to be the concentrating plant operated by the United States Geological Survey. It will consist of various concentrating tables, magnetic separator, crusher and classifier which will permit treating ores so that their mineral contents can be accurately determined.

Two trolley companies want to do business in Lewisburg. One is the Lewisburg, Milton and Watsonville Company, the other a Mifflinburg company. The latter proposes building a line from Mifflinburg to Lewisburg, and agrees to post \$5000 for a faithful performance of the contract, which includes in the proposition to have the cars running a year from next January.

The Ladies' World for December is the first number brought out by Charles Dwyer, who recently resigned the editorship of The Delineator. It is a readable magazine from cover to cover, and in addition to the recreation it affords, the ladies will find in its Fashion, Dressmaking, Needlework and Household departments enough valuable material to pay for the subscription price many times over.



THE FATAL SHOT.

The above picture was taken immediately after the post mortem examination on the body of Josiah C. Dale by Coroner Fisher and Dr. Locke. The wound, as observed, is circular and 1 1/4 inches in diameter.

Evaporated 12,000 Bushels of Apples.

Messrs. Boozer & Miner, proprietors of the Centre Hall and Coburn evaporating plants, consumed about six thousand bushels of apples at each of the plants, or altogether twelve thousand bushels. Roughly estimated, the average price paid was eighteen cents per hundred pounds, making over one thousand dollars paid for the apples evaporated. The apples used at the evaporating plants are a grade not marketable elsewhere, being windfalls and varieties undesirable for shipping. In fact, aside from the labor in picking and transporting, the apples sold to the evaporators were clear gain to the seller, since the same stock could not have been put on the market elsewhere at any price.

Teachers' Institute.

The public school teachers throughout the county are highly pleased with the institute just closed. The instructors were all that could be desired, and the entertainments were of the highest order. Everyone speaks favorably of Mr. Houck's talks, and a resolution expressing gratification over his large vote throughout the state at the recent general election indicates that the teachers had something to do with swelling his majority. On the whole Superintendent Eiters is to be congratulated.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are Vice-Presidents, C. L. Gramley, of Rebersburg, and C. D. Koch, of South Philipsburg; Secretary Gertrude Wisland, of Boalsburg.

To flatter a woman pretend to be jealous of her.

Thanksgiving Day services will be held in the Evangelical church, ten o'clock; sermon by Dr. J. W. Boal.