

TRIPLE MURDER!

BURGLARY and ARSON.

Trial of Gotleib Bohner and Albert Von Bodenborg.

For the Murder of

John Peightal, Sarah Peightal, and Scott Garner,

IN PENN TWP., HUNTINGDON CO., NOV. 17th, 1869.

Vердикт: "Murder in the First Degree."

Gotleib Bohner and Albert Von Bodenborg were arraigned for trial on Friday morning the 14th inst. They plead not guilty. The following are the names of the jurymen empanelled: Nathan Greenhouse, John Miller, Silas Gibbons, David Henderson, James Clegg, W. H. Smith, Jacob M. Scott, J. D. Apelby, Davis, given Edward Couch, Ralph Crotzley, Wm. Lincoln. The prisoners were brought into Court at quarter of eleven on Monday morning last. Mr. Speer, asked for other assistance to Mr. S. T. Brown, as he was unable on account of his health to act as counsel for defendant K. A. McCall, Esq., who thereupon appointed. The Attorneys for prosecution were Dist. Attorney M. S. Lytle, and P. M. Lytle and R. Bruce Petrie.

The case was opened by P. M. Lytle, attorney for Commonwealth, who stated that before the trial began the hearing of testimony, proceeded.

Acknowledgment.—Peter Peightal was called and sworn, who had made the drafts, one of the farm and house, and the other of the interior of the house, showing the position of the dead bodies, where discovered.

Peter Peightal.—I live in Penn town, about two miles from John Peightal's. On the evening of the 17th of November I was at Pleasant Grove Station; I left the station between 8 and 9 o'clock, and went up the railroad in company with Henry Hoover; we parted about 60 rods from the station; he going up the railroad, and I going through the fields about 30 rods from Peightal's house. I smelt some smoke like smoke; I saw a blue inside of the window, ran to the house, bursted the door open, discovered three fires in the room, and ran back after Mr. Hoover; met him about 40 rods from the house, and went on together; Hoover had two buckets, and I got water from the creek, and put it on the dead bodies; I smashed in the window and extenuated the fire on the beds; Peter got the fire extinguished; Dan'l Peightal arrived, also Henry Peightal, Wm. Walp, Addison Lee, Napoleon Hoover, and Andrew F. Grove. Mr. Lee I went to see Pleasant Grove, and that's all I have that night.

I went back the next morning with Grove and Hoover; there was snow on the ground which fell on the 16th; we looked for tracks and found them; we traced them in the meadow between the house and railroad; I took the horses' shoes from the jail, given me by Lee, and the tracks were tramped.

Cross-examined.—Called Hoover before I overtook him; I called before I went into the house, but got an answer; saw the bodies were burned; gave Isaac Peightal boots that were ruined.

Peter Peightal.—Peter Peightal and I started home from Pleasant Grove Station together; until we got within 80 or 90 rods of Peightal's crossing; Peter left me, and I went up the railroad; heard somebody calling me, understood him to say "Hoover"; I went to see him; he was in John Peightal's house, not Peter in the orchard; he said, "Whit in' the world does this mean; John Peightal's house is afire"; I asked him if he saw anything of the old folks; he said he didn't know where they were; he had been at back window where they usually slept, and had not seen them; he got no answer; I went up the railroad, and half past, but got no answer there; we came on then, and the first I saw covered fire was when I got on the fence; 15 rods from the house; I went into the kitchen part until we saw no danger of them burning up; discovered fire in the bedroom, and the door was shut; Peter got a rail and we knocked it in; had part of fire out when Henry Peightal came to assist us; we got fire out; Dan'l Peightal was the next one who came; I told him to fetch a lantern with a light, while he did; when he came back we had fire lit; Addison Lee, Napoleon Hoover, and Andrew Grove, came there about; the same time; Grove brought a sheaf of oats which was lit; we went into the house at the kitchen end by the light of the lantern and sheet of oats, we saw old Mrs. Peightal lying about 3 feet from the bed; she was dead; I saw the table was broken; I was in the room where the bureau was; I found the axe standing behind the bureau; found a gold dollar on the floor in front of bureau, which was broken open.

E. E. Lock.—Live in Huntingdon; am a car inspector; was at station on the morning of the 18th; Mr. Ward met me; I inspected the 3:32 train, and saw two men get on the train platform and rush through the car in a hurry; I told Mr. Ward two men got on that train, and I saw him to the platform. All three of them was broken off; the door was closed suddenly out, and the lock on the lower drawer broken off; found hatchet in front of bureau with handle broken off, and the axe also; the chest has been broken open about 12 o'clock; saw these men; they were carrying pocket book, of Allen's; and a pistol; I took cartridges away from the gun; I was about 4 feet from Mr. Peightal; (cartridge corresponds with some afterwards taken from prisoners.)

Cross-examined.—I keep accounts of my goods each day; pistol cost \$2.00 each.

Washington Morris.—Was at home next door; Henry Peightal, son of Peter Peightal, was the first body I saw; he was lying about 3 feet from the table; all were dead; James Strong and Wm. States and two others carried bodies to another room and laid them out.

Andrew F. Grove.—I heard of murder about 9 o'clock; I went to house, and there found Peter Peightal, Benjamin Hoover, and Andrew F. Grove. Peter Peightal arrived about the same time I did; I asked about the condition of things in the house; think they told me the bodies were lying dead in the kitchen; I then said, "Gentlemen, this is a murder, and I know who did it"; Lee and Peter Peightal, and each got a seat of oak, which we lit; the setting of the family, and then entered the kitchen; the first body I saw was Mrs. Peightal's lying about 3 feet in front of floor, with the clothing burnt from her lower extremities and something resembling a pillow-case wrapped around her head; I took it off her and said, "What boy could see the form of the old gentle man very distinct, the boy's not quite so distinct; the table was set the plate where the old gentlemen sat had a po-

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tato on about half past, the boy I think had a potato mashed and had his coffee poured out in the saucer; Mrs. Peightal had a cup full of coffee, not having commenced eating; I saw two men on morning of the 17th about 7 o'clock; they stopped in our store; I told them I was closed; McDonald's saw the same parties between 11 and 12 o'clock passing my place towards Peightal's house; saw them next in prison; these are certainly the men I saw.

Cross-examined.—Couldn't tell where they were when they saw them first; when they entered the store I was not in the store; when they left the store about 7 o'clock I was about 30 feet from them; it was daylight; when they came back the same day they were walking on the railroad, and I was at the end of the store; they didn't stop many people do travel up and down the road; I described the men to Mr. Lee as he wished to telegraph.

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