

# The Centre Democrat.

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## Delige Confesses to Rape and Murder!

### Bert Delige Must Atonc For the Horrible Crime of Rape and Murder.

### DETAILS OF THE TRIAL

**DELIGE BEFORE COURT.**

Trial Begun on Thursday Morning at 9.25—Prisoner Makes No Plea.

Thursday morning the court room was filled long before the time for the formal opening, owing to the interest manifest in the murder trial. The preliminary proceeding was the taking of the verdict in the Royer-Kauffman shooting affray at Zion.

At 9.25 Sheriff Hurley and Deputy Fred Reese brought Bert Delige into court and seated him at the side of his attorneys, Col. E. R. Chambers and W. D. Zerby, and after the manacules were removed he began to converse with them. The prisoner did not have that former cool and indifferent look on his face, but was cast down and the outlines of his face showed that it had been subject to the deepest emotions of late. His sister Nora, and another brother, sat directly back of him and were visibly affected as the unfortunate brother made his appearance, and they later moved to his side to console him in this hour of trial.

**Indictment Read to Prisoner.**

Ex-Prothonotary L. A. Schaffer then arose and called on the prisoner to stand up and hear the indictment, by the District Attorney, for the murder of Hulda Baudis; and the true bill found by the Grand Jury, against him, he listened intently and with interest, and at times shuffled about, showing decided uneasiness.

**Makes No Plea.**

When the Prothonotary asked Delige how he plead to this indictment he stood still, made no reply. Then his attorney, Mr. Chambers, stated that, "The prisoner stands mute." When asked how he should be tried, Delige replied, "By my God and my Country," and sat down. In this proceeding he had acted upon the advice of his counsel, who prompted his course.

Standing there in full view there was an excellent opportunity to study the man and his features. He had a high forehead, eyes deep-set, dark and heavy, features that were unusual, and sufficient to attract attention. When he failed to make any reply Judge Orvis directed that a plea of "not guilty" be entered on the record, when Delige sat down.

Through these preliminary formalities there was an impressive silence throughout the court room so that every word spoken was heard with a distinctness that was consistent with the grave importance of the proceedings.

At once the work of empaneling the twelve jurors was begun.

Robert Kline, foreman, Bellefonte—Not opposed to capital punishment; challenged by Commonwealth.

P. E. Womelsdorf, engineer, Philipsburg—Formed an opinion from reading the newspapers; could find an unbiased verdict from the evidence. Challenged by defense.

Roy W. Boyles, clerk, Philipsburg—Formed no opinion; not opposed to capital punishment; read no account of the crime. Challenged by the defense.

D. W. Korman, farmer, Gregg—Formed opinion from county papers; not a fixed opinion. Challenged by defense.

William Gill, merchant, Rush—Opposed to capital punishment. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Jacob Bowes, farmer, Liberty—Have formed an opinion; opposed to capital punishment. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Levi Stump, farmer, Miles—Could render an impartial verdict according to the law and the evidence; not opposed to capital punishment. Challenged by Commonwealth.

M. M. Bower, farmer, Haines—Have formed opinion from the innocence of the defendant; related to counsel for defendant. Challenged by Commonwealth.

W. H. Cronover, carpenter, Philipsburg—Have formed fixed opinion. Challenged by defense.

A. T. Rowan, laborer, Unionville—Have formed an opinion as to the defendant; opinion could be changed by the evidence; no scruples against capital punishment. Challenged by defense.

Green Hunter, farmer, Benner—Have formed an opinion, but it could be removed by evidence; not opposed to capital punishment. Juror accepted and sworn.

Maldin Adams, farmer, Miles—Have formed an opinion, but would be governed by the evidence. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Charles McCoy, blacksmith, Bellefonte—Have opinion, but could render an impartial verdict. Challenged by defense.

Ritter Stout, labor, S. Philipsburg—Have no opinion. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Charles D. Moore, laborer, Harris—Have no prejudice; would try and render an impartial verdict; not opposed to capital punishment. Juror accepted.

W. A. Lyon, butcher, Bellefonte—Have formed opinion. Challenged by defense.

Wm. P. Catherman, farmer Penn—No scruples against capital punishment; would be governed by the evidence. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Samuel Markle, laborer, Spring—Formed opinion; do not think it could be changed. Challenged.

E. G. Mingle, farmer, Haines—Have opinion formed. Challenged by Commonwealth.

B. F. Kreamer, farmer, Benner—Have opinion; would render verdict

according to evidence; no scruples as to capital punishment. Juror accepted.

Frank McKinley, farmer, Boggs—No scruples against capital punishment; have opinion. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Charles Bilger, lumberman, Spring—Have opinion; no scruples against capital punishment. Challenged by defense.

W. T. Boal, farmer, Potter—Could render a verdict according to the evidence; have no opinion. Challenged by Commonwealth.

Gideon Beschel, laborer, Snow Shoe—Could render an impartial verdict; no scruples against capital punishment. Challenged by Commonwealth.

George B. Jackson, merchant, State College—Could render an impartial verdict; know the defendant by sight; opposed to capital punishment. Challenged by Commonwealth.

J. A. Scholl, photographer, Millheim—Could render an impartial verdict; not opposed to capital punishment. Juror accepted.

Christ Cowher, manufacturer, Rush—Have no opinion in this case; did not read the accounts in the county papers; no scruples against capital punishment. Juror accepted.

J. T. Marshall, farmer, Patton—No scruples against capital punishment; not formed an opinion. Challenged by defense.

W. A. Swartz, farmer, Penn—Challenged.

James I. Fleming, laborer, Bellefonte—Challenged.

Clarence Tate, plumber, Spring—Challenged.

Homer Decker, farmer, Spring—Accepted.

D. G. Meek, State College—Challenged.

Clark McClintic, auctioneer, Walker—Challenged.

Robert Fry, painter, Bellefonte—Challenged.

Albert Bergner, laborer, Liberty—Challenged.

A. S. Walker, farmer, Ferguson—Accepted.

William Shawley, farmer, Boggs—Challenged.

D. L. Zerby, clerk, Millheim—Excused.

M. R. Adams, watchman, Philipsburg—Challenged.

Henry Kohlbecker, inn keeper, Boggs—Challenged.

Henry Fox, shoemaker, Bellefonte—Challenged.

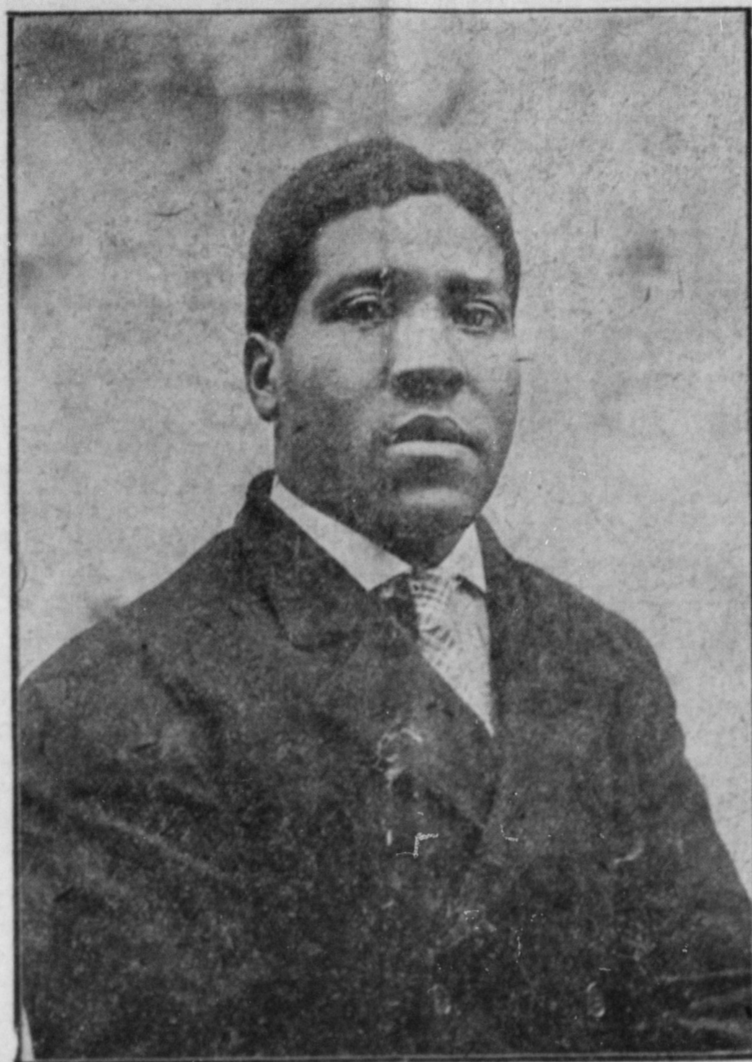
Jacob Batchelor, laborer, Rush—Challenged.

At this point the jury panel was exhausted and the sheriff was directed to summon talsmen.

George W. Scholl, gentleman, College—Challenged.

R. H. Harisock, Huston—Challenged.

Clay Wittmer, farmer, Benner—Challenged.



BERT DELIGE

The negro who confessed to having assaulted Mrs. Baudis and cut her throat with a razor.

### COMMITTED RAPE AND MURDER.

#### Statement of Bert Delige, made Nov., 22nd int he Centre County Jail.

"When I passed Mrs. Baudis at the row, near Curry's gate, I made up my mind that I was going to have connection with Mrs. Baudis if I could make it to the woods before she got there. I did so I went to the woods, then I went down to the edge of the woods and looked across the mud dam, and I saw her coming there. I went back to a tree and I waited until she got a few steps past me; then I walked up behind Mrs. Baudis. Just when I caught up to her she heard me, and turned around. I THREW MY ARMS AROUND HER WAIST AND I PUSHED HER OVER IN THE BUSHES A FEW STEPS OFF THE PATH, AND I LAID HER DOWN. She kept saying, 'WHO IS IT? WHO IS IT?' I did not make any answer, and I pulled her skirt up over her face, and she soon what I was after. She said, 'ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN HAVE WHAT YOU WANT.' She said, 'YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING ELSE, ARE YOU?' My answer was, 'NO; NOT IF YOU KEEP QUIET!' She said, 'DO NOT BREAK MY GLASSES.' I went on and had connection with her. I got up and ran down through the woods. I had left my cady hat at the tree where I was standing, waiting on Mrs. Baudis.

When I run down through the woods, I happened to think about the hat, and went back and got it. Mrs. Baudis got up and went through the cornfield; then I heard her say, 'WAIT TILL TOMORROW MORNING, THEN YOU WILL CATCH IT; YOU THOUGHT I DID NOT KNOW YOU, BUT I DID!' Then that scared me, and I thought for a moment; and I made up my mind if I could catch her before she got home, I DECIDED TO KILL HER OR CUT HER THROAT. I ran as easy as I could, when I almost got up to her, when she was about at the wire fence. She heard me coming and began to scream, and started to run, and crawled through the wire fence, and I crawled through the wire fence. Then Mrs. Baudis hollered, 'HELP! HELP!' By that time I had caught up to her AND PUSHED HER OVER AND CUT HER THROAT. The remainder of my statement was correct of yesterday. I make this my last statement of my own free will and no one else has anything to do with this crime."

BERT DELIGE

"I made the following statement to F. H. Mitchell, Rev. Paul and Fred Rees, of my own free will."

BERT DELIGE



Mrs. John Baudis.

Reproduced from a small tintype, taken when a young woman.

6—Homer Decker, farmer, Spring township.

7—A. S. Walker, farmer, Ferguson township.

8—George W. Rumberger, gentleman, Unionville.

9—William Tressler, gentleman, Bellefonte.

10—Isaac Miller, carpenter, Bellefonte.

11—Jonathan Packer, farmer, Boggs township.

12—David W. Bradford, implement dealer, Centre Hall.

At 3.55 p.m., District Attorney W. G. Runkle opened the case to the jury by stating that one of the most brutal murders was committed in Centre county at Scotia on the 16th day of October, when Mrs. Baudis' throat was cut from ear to ear on that beautiful night. That he had gone there with the coroner in an automobile. That they had found foot prints within one hundred and twenty-five feet, and traced them through the mud dam, wood road, and in a sand bar to near the Delige's house. Mrs. Baudis had been to a neighbor's house and in coming out of the Ghaner house she passed this Delige and his cousin, Aaron Delige, and that the Commonwealth would prove that it was at that time that he made up his mind to follow this woman. That Bert and Aaron had to go the same way; that Mrs. Baudis turned down along the mud dam towards her home. That the defendant followed her, and then went home with his cousin. That the defendant was home but a short time when he left his home and walked up the railroad, and came out at Ghaner's shop, then he went down the road away from home; then turned off the road to a strip of woods north of the mud dam, then by a stake and rider fence where he lay in wait for Mrs. Baudis.

Mrs. Baudis came down, passed the mud dam. When she came down into the woods, he came up back of her and put her down and committed a felonious rape on Mrs. Baudis. She said "Who is it?" She was a delicate woman weighing possibly one hundred pounds. She said "I know you and you will catch it tomorrow." Bert had left his hat there; he went back and got his hat and he made up his mind to murder her. She went through the corn field, where the defendant caught her and cut her throat.

We will show you that there are at least three or four cuts in her throat; I secured the razor with which he cut her throat.

After District Attorney Runkle made his address to the jury, detailing the horrible crime committed by the prisoner—it had a most distressing effect on Delige. He closed his eyes and hung his head in deep and profound meditation and at times it was noticed that his lips were moving as if engaged in prayer. He was detected and broken in spirit, and scarcely once did he open his eyes or apparently take any interest in the proceedings, evidently resigned to his fate.

At the conclusion of the District Attorney's address to the jury, they proceeded to hear witnesses and continued until adjournment at 5:50 o'clock. The witnesses heard were those who told of the crime and the finding of the body and the taking away from home; then turned off the

### Brutal Negro Assaults Woman at Night and Cuts Her Throat.

### HISTORY OF THE CRIME

Mrs. John Baudis was found in a field near her home, at Scotia, Pa., this county, on the evening of October 16th, 1910, with her throat cut from ear to ear. It was dark at the time and there was no eyewitness to the crime.

The woman's scream for help was heard by her children, who were at home, about 100 yards distant, and they found the lifeless body, which later was removed to her humble home.

The murder created a furor in that community. From information that was gathered from various sources, it was learned that Bert Delige had been near the scene of the murder, about the time it was committed. Having figured in other crimes, and been associated with the Baudis family, suspicion generally pointed towards him, and the next day at the direction of District Attorney W. G. Runkle, Bert Delige was placed under arrest by Sheriff Hurley, and since then has been confined in the Centre County Jail.

The District Attorney then threw all his energies into the case, and spent days searching the scene of the murder, and interviewing residents of the community. He successfully traced the murdered, from the scene, across fields, over fences, and particularly identified the tracks across the Old Mud Dam, leading to the Delige home, as having been made by the shoes worn by the prisoner.

He also could account for Bert Delige's whereabouts, as well as other members of that family, every movement on that fatal evening. He secured Delige's clothes and minutely inspected them and had certain suspicious spots examined by a chemist.

On Thursday, November 10th, Delige was given a habeas corpus hearing before Judge Orvis. He was represented at the hearing by Col. E. R. Chambers and W. D. Zerby, Esq., while N. B. Spangler, Esq., assisted the District Attorney.

**Human Blood Found.**

The most sensational and important testimony produced at this hearing was by the chemists who said that he had tested the spots on Delige's clothing, and he believed it was human blood.

Delige's shoes, also, corresponded to the tracks in the Old Mud Dam. This testimony seemed to unnerve the prisoner somewhat. For the first time he displayed an uneasiness.

The Court decided that the testimony was sufficient to hold the prisoner for trial on the charge of murder, at this session of court.

Up to this time Delige was perfectly cool and apparently unconcerned over the charge preferred against him, and talked freely with all persons, always stoutly declaring his innocence.

The next important step in the case was to find the weapon with which the deed was committed. The natural presumption was a razor, and the most painstaking search was made of the surroundings for such a weapon.

It was noticed that Walter Delige, of Scotia, had visited Bert at the jail frequently, and it was believed that he had some knowledge of the murder, as well as the weapon used.

In the meantime Mr. Runkle secured the assistance of a Mr. Mitchell, a detective from the Pinkerton Agency, in Philipsburg, to assist him. After they went over the whole affair Walter Delige was summoned to the Company office at Scotia, and the detective took him in hand for an interview and all persons that Delige knew were excluded from the room, and with N. B. Spangler, as a witness, he began the "sweating" process. By easy stages he got the young man to talk freely and frankly, riveting his eyes on him, every second. As if by a hypnotic spell, he gained the control of the young man's will power.

His flight from the scene was related, and remarkable, to the minutest detail, it tallied with the trail traced out by District Attorney Runkle from his investigation. Delige assumes full responsibility for the murder and declares no one had any connection with it but himself.

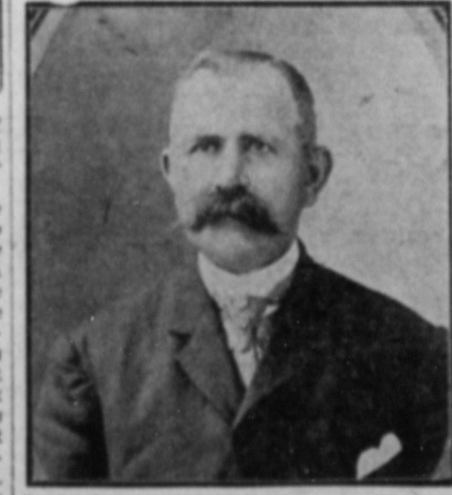
After that he was visited by his pastor, his sister, his attorney, and other parties and to them he made confessions, but in none of them gave the motive for the crime, or cited the fact that he had first committed a felonious assault upon the woman, and then cut her throat from the fear of her revealing the deed.

This confession was kept as an absolute secret by the few who knew of it, for fear that if the details were made known it might make a trial almost impossible in our county; and that there was almost sufficient to incite even a riot in this community, upon the slightest provocation.

The confession made later to his attorney, Col. E. R. Chambers, was generously furnished all the papers as a matter of general information, and not limited to any greedy individual to exploit.

At the very spot where the crime was committed, and on that fact he ordered the man's arrest, knowing that he had the proof against him. At that time when Mr. Runkle said that he knew the man, there was the gravest danger of Delige being attacked, and it was only by the caution of the District Attorney that the people in the vicinity did not resort to violence.

(Continued on fourth page)



Mr. John Baudis.

The husband of the murdered. He committed suicide, at Williamsport last summer.

### FEARS OF LYNCHING.

**Brutal Character of the Crime Caused Sentiment That is Dangerous.**

From the very outset, on the night the murder was committed, there was the greatest danger that a demonstration might be made, at any time, against the prisoner. The night that the District Attorney was at Scotia he had an interview with one witness who saw Bert Delige almost