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POLLARD MURDER. INNOCENT PEOPLE CONVICTED.

Marable and His Testimony.

CAN THE HUSBAND EXPLAIN?

Solution of the Problem.

Where is the Money?

COUNSEL AT WORK—THE FIGHT FOR A NEW TRIAL.

Counsel for Mary Abernathy, Pokey and Mary Barnes are now at work preparing their appeal, which will be presented to Judge Coleman of Cumberland County.

The evidence now being secured is of the most sensational character, and demonstrates beyond a shadow of a doubt that these colored women not only did not have a fair trial, but did not have any trial at all.

The facts now being gathered are so overwhelming in the woman's favor that all doubt as to the success of the effort to save them has disappeared. The fact that Mr. James P. Hazlewood, and Mr. Criss Edwards, jurors in the Pokey Barnes case made efforts to negate their verdict and declared that they had been unduly influenced into rendering a verdict of guilty settles the case so far as the courts are concerned, and without anything else would ensure a new trial.

This is equally as true in the case of Mary Abernathy. Juror Jones admitted that after all evidence was in and the case submitted to the jury, that this body of men were brought back, another witness sent for, and the case

re-opened is such a plain and flagrant violation of the law that a reversal is certain in that case. These facts are supplemented by many others of a similar nature and make it almost absolutely certain that a new trial can and will be secured.

The innocence of the women is becoming all the more apparent as the circumstances surrounding the case are examined. The citizens committee which brought an alleged history of the case to the Governor misrepresented the facts and made statements which can be and have been proven untrue.

It must be conceded that the women were convicted upon Solomon Marable's testimony, which was proven at the time to be false, and which Solomon has since admitted to be untrue.

But the Richmond, Va. Times correspondent who visited the spot tells the whole story, and we might add that his version of it has been accepted as true, reluctantly so, even by the women's enemies.

"In order to determine the hour of the murder, the spot must be established, and that is whether or not Mrs. Pollard was killed at the point at which her body was found. As nothing has been said at any time to show that she was killed at any other place, it may be taken for granted that she was killed where found. But, as this fact can easily be proven, I will state the reasons why it must be true. Here they are:—When Mrs. Pollard's body was found her head was lying in a little hollow, perhaps an inch below the surrounding surface. This hollow, which is the spot in the diagram occupied by the head of the body, was drenched with blood, while at no other point was there more than a small splash of two. Therefore, that Mrs. Pollard was killed where her body was found.

"An important question. It may be asked, 'How does this prove the time of Mrs. Pollard's death?' In answer to this I say:—If you will take the diagram and the photograph of the Pollard house and surroundings, you will see that the place where the body was found is a little to the right of the main gate as you come up the road to the house, and about ninety feet from the gate. The body, which lay about twelve or thirteen feet from the house, was with its feet to the house was about fifteen feet from the large tree shown in the sketch, and extended beyond both sides of the tree, the head being east of the tree and the feet to the west of it.

Between the gate and the body there is no obstruction whatever, not even

weeds or grass. If you will look at the cut you will find that a person entering that gate not only could have seen but that it is improbable he could have failed to see her. Of the correctness of his cut there can be no doubt for it is a reproduction not of a sketch made by hand, but of a photograph made while the camera was setting in the road shown on the diagram just between the gate posts. Now, if Mrs. Pollard had been killed before 6 o'clock her body at 6 o'clock would have occupied just the position shown in the cut. Well, here is what occurred at six o'clock:

A STRANGE OCCURRENCE. At that hour Mr. Pollard, who was at work in the field, up in front of the house, heard the wagon of Mr. Clements, who had told him that he was coming to his house that evening to buy some corn. Unhitching his horse he went on ahead of Mr. Clements, opened the gate, and went on through the front yard gate, to the front porch. Not seeing his wife he called to her to come through the gate, and turning twice, but receiving no answer, he hurriedly washed his hands and went on to the corn house, which is situated in the extreme upper part of the house-yard as shown in the diagram. By the time that he got to the corn-house, Mr. Clements, who had been in the wagon with his wife, a boy of some twelve or fourteen years old, had driven his horse through the gate, and turning his horse to the left, had driven on to the corn-house, where he was joined by Mr. Pollard.

Mr. Clements and his son then went into the corn-house, while Mr. Pollard stood in the door which fronts upon the yard, attending to the measurement of the corn.

BOTH AT THE HOUSE. After the wagon had been loaded, Mr. Pollard and Mr. Clements returned to the house, while the boy drove the wagon to the gate, and with his team standing there, began to smooth down the corn. Upon returning to the house, Mr. Pollard went into the big room, and after procuring the necessary material, rejoined Mr. Clements on the porch, and there prepared the bond for the corn. During all of this time they were there in the porch with a light, intelligent youth, who was on the wagon there at the gate smoothing down the corn. From that gate to the body was about ninety feet, and yet neither Mr. Pollard, Mr. Clements, or his son saw the body, or had the slightest idea that it was

There. Take the cut that accompany this article, and yourself if it is reasonable that three persons entering that yard at different times, one of them on foot, stopping to open the gate and two others riding in a farm wagon could have failed to see that body, and you are compelled to answer 'No.'

It is a self-evident proposition that this body, the body of a full grown woman, lying upon a light, low grass, and extending on both sides of that massive tree, which it held out into bold relief, could not have escaped detection by three persons, one on foot, and two others riding in a farm wagon, and you are compelled to answer 'No.'

Now this statement of Gracie Knight's, it would seem, is a very important piece of evidence, for if it is true, it demonstrates beyond doubt the fact that Mrs. Pollard was not at her house at the time the murder was committed, and that it was not she who was killed where her body was found.

Whether or not this statement is true, is a question which I do not attempt to decide, but one thing is certain and that is, if this child, an ignorant little colored girl, twelve years old, had been lying, it is hardly probable that she could have successfully withstood the rigid cross-examination of the jury, and that she would have been thoroughly familiar with facts.

But at all events if it was the intention of this committee to report all the facts in this case, it should have reported the testimony of Gracie Knight, which more than anything else, tended to demonstrate the truth of the defense set up by Pokey Barnes.

And while I am discussing the case of Pokey Barnes, I desire to call attention to one fact in this case which has never yet been mentioned, but which seems to be of the highest importance and that is this:—

Solomon Marable testified in every instance in which he connected Pokey Barnes and Mary Abernathy with this case, and that Mrs. Pollard came out and Mary Abernathy grabbed her, that Pokey Barnes hit her three times with a hickory stick I watched the accounts of the testimony carefully, and I felt that this fact, if it was true, would find upon that subject in the endeavor to ascertain what had become of that stick.

Like the money and the clothing, and the Blackstone Institute bond, it has vanished into thin air, and has not been seen or mentioned from that time until this.

And the question that I want to ask is this: 'What became of that stick?' The axe, the weapon with which those deadly wounds were made, and which told too plainly of the murderous deed which had been

committed, was lying there close beside its victim, while the stick was gone. Certainly Mary Abernathy or Pokey Barnes did not take it away, for if they had Marable, who lies with a circumstantial detail which would do credit to a Poe, says nothing about it, and so we must conclude that they left it there. But when the neighbors came in and began to search around, they found the axe, but not the stick. If a stick, such as Marable had described, had been used, and it had been found there at the scene of the crime, how powerfully this would have corroborated Marable's story of the killing. But it was not found, and so we put it down as another question yet to be answered, 'what became of the hickory stick?'

And here is a very curious matter to be mentioned in this report, for it certainly cannot be a matter in any way affecting the trial, and was evidently inserted more as a dig at Pokey than as throwing any light upon the facts of the case. It is as follows:—

"The committee, some time ago, gave to the jury, but that one of our number has heard this statement on two separate occasions from Ellen's own lips, and as an explanation of why she did not tell all on the witness stand, she stated that she was afraid of Pokey; that Pokey had already beaten her, and that she was afraid to tell the truth; that she was possible for the murder to have been committed except by Ellen Gayle."

Any one reading this statement would suppose that Ellen Gayle and Ben Knight were the only witnesses who testified for Pokey Barnes. Well, not only is this untrue, but the testimony of the most important witness in the case, Gracie Knight, has been omitted (I will not say suppressed) in the 'Statement of Facts.'

I refer to the testimony of Gracie Knight, who is not even mentioned in the statement. It is as follows:—

"Gracie Knight a twelve year old colored girl was put on the stand for the defense and testified that Pokey Barnes beat her three times with a hickory stick, and that she was afraid to tell the truth; that she was possible for the murder to have been committed except by Ellen Gayle."

It is hardly possible that the committee can expect us to accept as true the statement that Ellen Gayle was afraid of Pokey Barnes, for Pokey Barnes was at that time herself under strong military guard and being tried for her life, with every indication pointing to her conviction. That she could, under such surroundings, as this, have inspired terror in the breast of any one is a thought absurd to entertain even for an instant."

Now if the murder took place after 6 o'clock, when none of the women charged with the crime could have been there, Mr. Pollard himself was there, and must have been present when his wife was murdered.

This view of the case has been generally accepted by all who have visited the scene of the tragedy. In fact the circumstantial evidence against Mr. Pollard is stronger than that against women.

GRAND RALLY. The Ladies Lawn Party a Success—Will Save the Innocent.

The Earnest Working Club No. 1, has done a grand work for the poor innocent women, two of whom are sentenced to die Sept. 29, 1895 and the other now in the penitentiary. A lawn party was given for the benefit of this cause and \$17.02 were realized.

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REV. W. R. GULLINS, PASTOR THIRD STREET A. M. E. CHURCH.

The Subject of this Sketch was born in the State of Georgia on the 9th of June, 1864, making him just 31 years old.

He was educated for a lawyer but he was so great in the south that he abandoned that idea and entered the ministry in the year 1884.

He received his first appointment from the hands of the lamented Bishop James A. Shorter in Nov. 1884 and ever since has been actively engaged in the pastoral work.

It is now studying Medicine with the views of practicing when too old for active work in the ministry. He was one of the leading preachers of his class in his native State. When the valuable church in Danville, in this state was about to be sold, Bishop W. J. Gaines knew the man that could save it.

He transferred Rev. Gullins from Georgia and stationed him at Danville, Va. In 18 months he raised \$4000.00, and paid every dollar due on the property. Last year he was stationed at Roanoke, Va. Where with 110 members he raised \$2000. He is classed among the best financiers of his church.

As a pastor, he is hard to follow, for he is a hustler.

As a preacher, he is a decided success. He is unquestionably one of the most polished, pulpit orators in the southland. His delivery is fine, language pleasing and imagery sublime.

As a singer, he has few equals.

His musical voice adds much to the interest of his sermon.

He is never more at home than in a debate. He is always cool, calm and self-possessed. He never allows his antagonist to get him rattled, hence his success.

He was appointed to the pastorate of 3rd Street A. M. E. Church by Bishop Gaines last April and since that time has met with wonderful success.

THE MEN ORGANIZE. To Help the Innocent—A Grand Rally at the First Baptist Church—Rev. Graham Calls the Meeting to Order.

Rev. Lewis Elliott President—Ready for Work.

A meeting of the citizens was held Friday, August 16th at the First Baptist Church at 8 P. M.

Rev. W. F. Graham stated that it was called for the purpose of organizing the men to aid in raising funds for the defense of the innocent women in the Lunenburg case. Rev. Graham was elected temporary chairman and Dr. R. E. Jones temporary secretary.

Various plans were discussed.

It was moved that the temporary organization be made permanent. Rev. Graham declined to serve and Dr. J. D. Jones was elected president and R. E. Jones, M. D., secretary, John Mitchell, Jr., treasurer.

It was decided that each member should use his influence in securing money from societies, lodges and other organizations for the Lunenburg people.

An executive committee to devise means and submit plans for raising money was elected. The following are the members: Rev. Evans Payne, Rev. James H. Holmes, A. Washington, Dr. R. E. Jones, J. B. Griffin.

The discussion was participated in by Rev. Z. D. Lewis, Mr. Thomson, J. E. Byrd, Esq., J. H. Crutcher, Esq., Deacons Banks, James, Wilder, A. Washington, Revs. W. S. Christians, J. H. Holmes, Messrs. W. S. Selden and E. J. Crane.

The organization was, upon motion of Rev. Graham named the 'Richmond Relief Club.' After taking subscriptions and money, the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the president.

After an eloquent sermon at the Ebenezer Baptist Church last Sunday morning, Rev. R. Wells made a sympathetic appeal for the Lunenburg women, who are under sentence of death. A collection of \$14.19 was raised. Rev. Wells had given \$5 making a total of \$19.19 Church clerk, W. P. Epps was instructed to receive further contributions, and when the amount is turned over it will embrace even a larger sum.

Editor Mitchell was present, and after the collection made a statement of the case. The Ebenezer Baptist Sunday School on Sunday morning voted \$5 to the case. This is the first step. Richmond Sunday School to take this step.

MINGLETON—Andrew, beloved son of Horace and Julia Mingleton, died Thursday, August 14th, age 9 years and 4 months. He died at the residence of his parents, 943 W. Leigh street. "Asleep in Jesus."

PERSONALS & BRIEFS.

—Mr. Thomas Winn of Baltimore, Md., called on us.

—Miss Fannie B. Alexander of Baltimore is in the city.

—Misses P. M. Barksdale and Julia A. Coles of Danville, Va., called on us.

—Miss Page of Norfolk is in the city, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ruffin.

—Mr. O. A. Perkins is visiting friends and relatives in Louisa Co., Va.

—Rev. W. R. Brown of Huntington, W. Va., called on us.

—Rev. James H. Holmes and wife, left the city Monday for Hampton, Va.

—Rev. H. G. Lamberson and Mr. H. Thomas of Milwood, Va., are in the city.

—Mrs. Nellie M. Beck of Baltimore is in the city. She will remain two weeks.

—Rev. E. L. Gaines of Brooklyn, N. Y., was in the city. He is taking a vacation.

—Mrs. Mary Lane of this city has left for New Jersey to visit relatives and friends.

—Mr. Jacob Standard, formerly of Richmond, but now of New York called on us this week.

—Rev. W. M. Moss, B. D. and wife of Danville, Va., were in the city this week and called on us.

—Miss Betty Anderson, left the city Wednesday morning for Hampton, Va. to spend two or three weeks.

—Mrs. S. S. Richardson has returned from the hands of the lamented Colemanville Mineral Springs.

—Misses Rosa Dandridge and Irene Collins are spending a few weeks with the Misses Ellis of Goodland.

—Carrier R. Bruce Evans has left the city to spend his vacation along the line of the C. & O. Railway.

—Miss Mary E. Hewlett has left the city for Dinwiddie Co., and after a short stay will leave for Hampton, Va.

—Mrs. T. M. Colson of Petersburg, Va., Mrs. Loula Williams and Miss D. N