

REHEARD GIVEN NO CHOICE FOR LIFE.

Shot Down Like a Dog While in the Hands of Officers.

TOLD AT THE INQUEST.

Witnesses Give Evidence That the Killing Was Most Brutal.

CROW AND VAN HORN ACCUSED.

Charged by the Coroner's Jury With Being Implicated in the Murder.

WEAVERVILLE, CAL., Nov. 2.—Coroner Heath has filed with the Clerk of the Superior Court the verdict of the coroner's jury impeached before him, and also the evidence adduced at the inquest into the recent murder of "Jack" Littlefield, "Ves" Palmer's vaquero, in the Mack River country. The testimony tends to show that THE CALL's thrilling accounts of recent happenings in the vicinity of Round Valley were remarkably correct and graphic descriptions of those outrageous occurrences.

When THE CALL made a demand for a transcript of the testimony it was impossible at the moment to find any trace of the document. Apparently it had disappeared from the face of the earth. The persistence of THE CALL's representative, however, has had its effect, and about two weeks after the conclusion of the hearing the transcript was filed.

R. C. Carlin, County Clerk of Trinity County, has supplied the following official record of the proceedings of the coroner's jury:

B. W. VAN HORN.

B. W. Van Horn, after being sworn, says: My name is B. W. Van Horn, aged 27 years, occupation rancher. Question—Where were you born? Answer—In Trinity County, Cal. Q. How long have you lived in this county? A. Eleven years.

Q. Where you acquainted with Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. How long have you known him? A. About ten years.

Q. When did you last see him? A. On the evening of the 27th of last September. Q. What was he doing? A. He was riding along the trail, he had shot his horse.

Q. Why was it you had him in charge? A. I went over to Mr. Vinton's place and Mr. Vinton told me to take care of him. Johnny told me Mr. Vinton wanted to see me. Q. Where were you when Johnny told you this? A. At my home.

Q. Where is your place? A. About six miles northwest of here, on the trail to Mad River. Q. Was there a warrant sworn out for the arrest of Littlefield? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where did you go from Mr. Vinton's house? A. I went toward the place where Mr. Vinton was then I took down the ridge to the Weaverville corral. Q. What did you do there? A. We struck the trail and went on down to the Mad River.

Q. Where did you go from there? A. I went on down the trail toward Round Valley. Q. What did you do there? A. I found that Jack had gone that way with the cattle.

Q. Where did you find Jack? A. I found him on the trail about three miles from the river. Q. How did you get to him? A. I followed him to where he was with the cattle. I asked him to go with me, as I did not care to go alone, there was a bad feeling between Jack and me.

Q. Where you both armed? A. Yes, sir. Q. What kind of arms had you? A. I had a six-shooter and Mr. Crow had a Winchester. Q. What caliber was the Winchester which Mr. Crow had? A. I think it was a 40-65 and mine was a 45 Cal.

Q. What time of the day was it when you arrested Littlefield? A. As near as I can tell it was about half past 4 o'clock P. M. Q. Where did you start after you arrested him? A. Started back on the trail toward Weaver.

Q. Who all were present when you made the arrest? A. Myself, Johnny Crow, Jack Littlefield, and myself. Q. How far did you intend to go that night with Littlefield? A. I intended to go to my place.

Q. How far is your place from where you arrested Jack? A. It must be seventeen or eighteen miles. Q. After you started for Weaver did you meet any one? A. Yes, sir. Mr. Box, Hiram Willburn and I think Aaron Willburn, Rose Ross and Annie Ross.

Q. Where did you meet them? A. About half a mile where I crossed the river and the place where I arrested Jack. Q. Was Jack armed when you arrested him? A. Yes, sir.

Q. What did he do with his arms? A. He gave them to me. Q. What did you do with them? A. I tied it on my saddle. I was in a pistol.

Q. What did you do with the pistol when you met the mob? A. Yes, sir. Q. Have you the pistol yet? A. No, sir. Q. What did you do with it? A. I gave it to the Justice of the Peace at the inquest.

Q. Did you pass any one on the trail while you had Jack in charge? A. No, sir. Q. Those above named were the only ones you saw? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How far is it from the place where you arrested Jack to the place where he was shot? A. I should judge it was about seven or eight miles. Q. How far is it from the place where you met Mr. Box and the others to the place where Jack was shot? A. It must be six miles or six and a half miles.

Q. Did you stop on the trail while you had Jack in charge? A. We stopped at the river to get a drink. Q. How long did you stop at the river? A. About five to fifteen minutes.

Q. How long were you coming up the mountain? A. I think it took two hours, and maybe a little longer. Q. How long were you coming down to the place where Jack was shot? A. Perhaps fifteen or twenty minutes.

Q. Did you see any of the men before they told you to stop? A. No, sir. Q. What did they tell you to do when they first spoke? A. The first word was, "Hold on there, we will take charge of that man."

Q. Was that all they said? A. That was all that was said before the first shot was fired. Q. What did you do after they told you they would take charge of that man? A. I stopped and looked around.

Q. How long did you stop? A. It could not have been but a few seconds. Q. What did you do then? A. I started on down the trail.

Q. How came you to start down the trail? A. The command was to go on. Q. What were the words they used? A. The first words were, "You fellows go on there!" I heard the command three or four different times.

Q. How far was Crow behind you when the shooting took place? A. About twenty or thirty feet behind Jack, and about forty feet behind me. Q. Where did you go after Littlefield was shot? A. I came down the trail direct to this place.

Q. Did Crow come with you? A. Yes, sir. Q. Did he stay with you all night? A. Yes, sir. Q. At what house did you stay? A. At my house.

Q. How long were you going from the place where Jack was shot to your place? A. I should judge an hour and a half or an hour and three-quarters. Q. How many times did you see any one while you were going home from where Jack was shot? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who? A. I saw two parties—Walter Clark, the other one they called George. Q. What time of day was it you saw them? A. Near 8 o'clock, or a little after 8.

Q. Where were you the night Jack was shot?

A. I was camped a little below the Red Mountain House. Q. How came you to know that Jack had been shot? A. I heard some of the boys talking about it.

Q. Who was talking about it? A. Walter Clark and George Block. Q. Did you hear any shots on the night Jack was shot? A. No, sir.

Q. What did Walter and George say about it? A. They said that Baylis Van Horn and Johnny Crow had raised a mob and were shooting at Jack. I saw them pass that night.

Q. What time of the day was it? A. Between 6 and 7 P. M. Q. Did they speak to you? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know at what time of the day the shooting took place? A. No, sir. Q. Did you see Van Horn and Crow at any time during the shooting? A. No, sir; I don't think I did.

Q. Were you in camp at the time the shooting took place? A. I was at Red Mountain Creek fishing. Q. What kind of a rope was it? A. I think it was a grass rope, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter.

Q. How long had he been hanging before the inquest was held? A. I could not say. Q. Did you examine the wound? A. I did. Q. Where was he shot—in what part of the body? A. One shot entered about three inches below the breast and went almost straight through the body, and the other shot went in on the same side of the body but at the back.

Q. How far was the rope hanging from the limb of a tree about two miles from here? A. I am coming out of the town of Round Valley and saw the body hanging by the side of the trail. Q. What did you do when you saw the body? A. I looked to see who it was and saw it was Littlefield.

Q. Did you notify any one? A. I came on here and told the boys; also his friends in Round Valley. Q. Did you look for signs? A. No, sir; not then. But when I went back I looked for signs.

Q. Did you find any sign? A. No, sir; we found none. Q. Where you alone when you found the body? A. Yes, sir. Q. Did you meet any one while on the road? A. I came up with Palmer's men the night before I found the body.

Q. What time did you leave the camp? A. About 6 o'clock. Q. How long did it take you to reach the body? A. About two hours. Q. About how far? A. About six or seven miles.

Q. Do you think he was dead when he was hanged? A. Yes, sir; that is my opinion. Q. Was he powder-burned? A. I did not notice.

H. D. WILLBURN. H. D. Willburn being sworn, says: My name is H. D. Willburn Jr. I am 28 years of age; occupation, farmer. Q. Where you reside? A. At Willow Creek, Trinity County, Cal.

Q. How long have you resided there? A. About three years. Q. Where were you born? A. In Hetten Valley, Trinity County, Cal. Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you last see him? A. On the 28th of last month. Q. Where was he? A. About half a mile from Red River. Q. Where was he with him? A. Baylis Van Horn and John Crow.

Q. Where were they going? A. They did not say. Q. Did you see Jack after that? A. I saw him at a distance going up the mountain. Q. What time of the day was it? A. When I saw him it was about 10 o'clock P. M.

Q. Who was with you when they passed? A. I was alone, but Box, Rose, Ross, Annie Crabtree and H. Willburn were a short distance behind. Q. How far is it from where you met Jack, Van Horn and Crow to where Jack was shot? A. About four and a half miles.

W. S. CLARK. W. S. Clark being sworn, says: My name is Walter S. Clark, aged 35 years; occupation, stock-raiser. Q. Where do you reside? A. Twelve miles west of Round Valley. Q. How long have you resided in California? A. Thirty-five years.

Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. How long have you known him? A. Four or five years. Q. When did you last see him? A. On the 28th of last month. Q. Where was he? A. Hanging to a tree by the side of the road.

Q. Was he shot, also? A. Yes, sir. Q. Do you know about what time of the day he was shot? A. About 10 or 12 minutes after sundown. Q. Did you hear the report of the guns? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many shots were there fired? A. Three shots. Q. Where were you when you heard the shots? A. At the Red Mountain House. Q. What time did the shooting take place? A. About 10 or 12 minutes after sundown.

Q. Were you alone when the shooting took place? A. No, sir. Q. Who was with you? A. George Block and my wife. Q. How far apart were the shots, or what length of time between them? A. About 10 seconds from first to last.

Q. Did you see any one soon after the shots were fired? A. Yes, sir. Q. Who were they? A. Baylis Van Horn and Johnny Crow. Q. Where did you see them? A. In the Red Mountain field.

Q. What time of the day was it? A. Just about dark. I could tell who they were about 200 yards away from the place. Q. Did you speak to them? A. Yes, sir. Q. What did they say? A. When they came they wanted to know if I had any fresh horses, as they had arrested Jack Littlefield, but a mob had taken him away from them and shot him.

Q. Did they seem to be in a hurry? A. No, sir. Q. Did they say how many men there were in the mob? A. Crow said there were about twenty men and about twenty shots were fired. Baylis Van Horn said there were about twelve men and about twelve shots were fired. I asked them if we hadn't better get away and see, but Crow said there was no use, as he was dead. The next morning I went there and was looking for the mob, but they (Baylis and Crow) told us not to make too many tracks.

JAMES WILLBURN. James Willburn, after being sworn, says: My name is James Willburn Jr., aged 34 years; occupation farmer. Q. Where do you reside? A. Long Ridge, Trinity County, Cal. Q. How long have you resided there? A. Two years.

Q. Where were you born? A. At Hetten, Trinity County, Cal. Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. When did you last see him? A. On the 27th of last month.

Q. Where was he? A. He was on the lower end of Long Ridge near the mouth of Hollis Creek. Q. What was he doing? A. We were letting the cattle feed. We had been there about twenty minutes when Van Horn and Crow came, and they rode up to Jack and got down from their horses and took a gun back there. I guess I'll have to arrest you and take you to Weaver. And Jack says, "I guess I'll have to go. Then Crow says, 'Hold up your hands!' Van Horn says, 'Hold up your hands!' Then Jack says, 'I'm no had man here, take me away from here, and get me to San Bernardino. Jack says to me, 'You stay with the cattle until the other boys come up.'"

Q. What time of the day did they arrest Jack? A. About half-past 3 P. M. Q. What is the distance from where Jack was arrested to the place where he was shot? A. About six miles.

GEORGE BLOCK. George Block, after being sworn, says: My name is George Block; age, 25 years; occupation, common laborer. Q. Where do you reside? A. About seven miles west of Round Valley. Q. How long have you resided there? A. About a year.

Q. Where were you born? A. At Blocksburg, Cal. Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. Where did you see him last? A. The last time I saw him was on the 28th of last month; saw his body hanging to the limb of a tree.

Q. Who was with you when you saw him? A. Walter Clark and his wife, Claude Clark and Mr. Cummins. Q. Where were you when Jack was killed? A. I was camped a little below the Red Mountain House.

Q. Did you hear any shooting on that evening? A. I heard three shots. Q. From what direction did the sound come? A. I think the sound came from the forks of the trail.

Q. Were the sounds close together? A. I judge from the first to the last shot it was about two seconds; the last two were close together. Q. How long was it after the shots were fired when you saw the body? A. About 20 minutes from the time the shooting took place until they came along.

Q. Did they speak to you? A. They spoke to Walter and I both. Q. What did they say? They asked Walter and I if we had any fresh horses. Walter Clark asked them where they wanted to go, and they said they wanted to go to Weaver, that they had arrested Jack Littlefield, and that a mob had taken him away from them and shot him. Walter wanted to know where it was that they had shot him. He said it was at the forks of the trail. He asked them if they knew who the men were, and they said they did not know. Walter asked them if they would not be best for them to go back and see

CLAUDE CLARK. Claude Clark being sworn, says: My name is Claude E. Clark; age, 17 years; occupation laborer. Q. Where do you reside? A. About twelve miles from Covelo. Q. How long have you resided there? A. About five weeks. Q. Where do you live? A. Texas. Q. Were you acquainted with Jack Littlefield? A. No, sir.

Q. Where were you the night Jack was shot?

A. I was camped a little below the Red Mountain House. Q. How came you to know that Jack had been shot? A. I heard some of the boys talking about it.

Q. Who was talking about it? A. Walter Clark and George Block. Q. Did you hear any shots on the night Jack was shot? A. No, sir.

Q. What did Walter and George say about it? A. They said that Baylis Van Horn and Johnny Crow had raised a mob and were shooting at Jack. I saw them pass that night.

Q. What time of the day was it? A. Between 6 and 7 P. M. Q. Did they speak to you? A. No, sir.

Q. Do you know at what time of the day the shooting took place? A. No, sir. Q. Did you see Van Horn and Crow at any time during the shooting? A. No, sir; I don't think I did.

Q. Were you in camp at the time the shooting took place? A. I was at Red Mountain Creek fishing. Q. What kind of a rope was it? A. I think it was a grass rope, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter.

Q. How long had he been hanging before the inquest was held? A. I could not say. Q. Did you examine the wound? A. I did. Q. Where was he shot—in what part of the body? A. One shot entered about three inches below the breast and went almost straight through the body, and the other shot went in on the same side of the body but at the back.

Q. How far was the rope hanging from the limb of a tree about two miles from here? A. I am coming out of the town of Round Valley and saw the body hanging by the side of the trail. Q. What did you do when you saw the body? A. I looked to see who it was and saw it was Littlefield.

Q. Did you notify any one? A. I came on here and told the boys; also his friends in Round Valley. Q. Did you look for signs? A. No, sir; not then. But when I went back I looked for signs.

Q. Did you find any sign? A. No, sir; we found none. Q. Where you alone when you found the body? A. Yes, sir. Q. Did you meet any one while on the road? A. I came up with Palmer's men the night before I found the body.

Q. What time did you leave the camp? A. About 6 o'clock. Q. How long did it take you to reach the body? A. About two hours. Q. About how far? A. About six or seven miles.

Q. Do you think he was dead when he was hanged? A. Yes, sir; that is my opinion. Q. Was he powder-burned? A. I did not notice.

H. D. WILLBURN. H. D. Willburn being sworn, says: My name is H. D. Willburn Jr. I am 28 years of age; occupation, farmer. Q. Where you reside? A. At Willow Creek, Trinity County, Cal.

Q. How long have you resided there? A. About three years. Q. Where were you born? A. In Hetten Valley, Trinity County, Cal. Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir.

Q. When did you last see him? A. On the 28th of last month. Q. Where was he? A. About half a mile from Red River. Q. Where was he with him? A. Baylis Van Horn and John Crow.

Q. Where were they going? A. They did not say. Q. Did you see Jack after that? A. I saw him at a distance going up the mountain. Q. What time of the day was it? A. When I saw him it was about 10 o'clock P. M.

Q. Who was with you when they passed? A. I was alone, but Box, Rose, Ross, Annie Crabtree and H. Willburn were a short distance behind. Q. How far is it from where you met Jack, Van Horn and Crow to where Jack was shot? A. About four and a half miles.

W. S. CLARK. W. S. Clark being sworn, says: My name is Walter S. Clark, aged 35 years; occupation, stock-raiser. Q. Where do you reside? A. Twelve miles west of Round Valley. Q. How long have you resided in California? A. Thirty-five years.

Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. How long have you known him? A. Four or five years. Q. When did you last see him? A. On the 28th of last month. Q. Where was he? A. Hanging to a tree by the side of the road.

Q. Was he shot, also? A. Yes, sir. Q. Do you know about what time of the day he was shot? A. About 10 or 12 minutes after sundown. Q. Did you hear the report of the guns? A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many shots were there fired? A. Three shots. Q. Where were you when you heard the shots? A. At the Red Mountain House. Q. What time did the shooting take place? A. About 10 or 12 minutes after sundown.

Q. Were you alone when the shooting took place? A. No, sir. Q. Who was with you? A. George Block and my wife. Q. How far apart were the shots, or what length of time between them? A. About 10 seconds from first to last.

Q. Did you see any one soon after the shots were fired? A. Yes, sir. Q. Who were they? A. Baylis Van Horn and Johnny Crow. Q. Where did you see them? A. In the Red Mountain field.

Q. What time of the day was it? A. Just about dark. I could tell who they were about 200 yards away from the place. Q. Did you speak to them? A. Yes, sir. Q. What did they say? A. When they came they wanted to know if I had any fresh horses, as they had arrested Jack Littlefield, but a mob had taken him away from them and shot him.

Q. Did they seem to be in a hurry? A. No, sir. Q. Did they say how many men there were in the mob? A. Crow said there were about twenty men and about twenty shots were fired. Baylis Van Horn said there were about twelve men and about twelve shots were fired. I asked them if we hadn't better get away and see, but Crow said there was no use, as he was dead. The next morning I went there and was looking for the mob, but they (Baylis and Crow) told us not to make too many tracks.

JAMES WILLBURN. James Willburn, after being sworn, says: My name is James Willburn Jr., aged 34 years; occupation farmer. Q. Where do you reside? A. Long Ridge, Trinity County, Cal. Q. How long have you resided there? A. Two years.

Q. Where were you born? A. At Hetten, Trinity County, Cal. Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. When did you last see him? A. On the 27th of last month.

Q. Where was he? A. He was on the lower end of Long Ridge near the mouth of Hollis Creek. Q. What was he doing? A. We were letting the cattle feed. We had been there about twenty minutes when Van Horn and Crow came, and they rode up to Jack and got down from their horses and took a gun back there. I guess I'll have to arrest you and take you to Weaver. And Jack says, "I guess I'll have to go. Then Crow says, 'Hold up your hands!' Van Horn says, 'Hold up your hands!' Then Jack says, 'I'm no had man here, take me away from here, and get me to San Bernardino. Jack says to me, 'You stay with the cattle until the other boys come up.'"

Q. What time of the day did they arrest Jack? A. About half-past 3 P. M. Q. What is the distance from where Jack was arrested to the place where he was shot? A. About six miles.

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Q. Where were you born? A. At Blocksburg, Cal. Q. Did you know Jack Littlefield? A. Yes, sir. Q. Where did you see him last? A. The last time I saw him was on the 28th of last month; saw his body hanging to the limb of a tree.

Q. Who was with you when you saw him? A. Walter Clark and his wife, Claude Clark and Mr. Cummins. Q. Where were you when Jack was killed? A. I was camped a little below the Red Mountain House.

Q. Did you hear any shooting on that evening? A. I heard three shots. Q. From what direction did the sound come? A. I think the sound came from the forks of the trail.

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A. I was camped a little below the Red Mountain House. Q. How came you to know that Jack had been shot? A. I heard some of the boys talking about it.

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Q. Did you find any sign? A. No, sir; we found none. Q. Where you alone when you found the body? A. Yes, sir. Q. Did you meet any one while on the road? A. I came up with Palmer's men the night before I found the body.

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