

A Girl Found Dead.

MURDERED AND LEFT EXPOSED IN AN OPEN FIELD FOR WEEKS.

A Prey to Buzzards--The Body Decomposed and Then Dried Into a Mummy by the Sun's Heat.

Daily Item, Nov. 25.

One of the most horrible tragedies with a sequel of crime and cruelty, rarely equalled, came to light on Saturday afternoon, and since that time Coroner Commander has been at work unearthing the mystery. As yet he has not learned all the particulars, but enough has been ferreted out to satisfy him that a bloody crime was committed, and the evidence points so strongly to Bracy Dargan as the guilty party that he was arrested yesterday and placed in jail for safe keeping until the whole matter could be thoroughly investigated.

Saturday afternoon Larrington Glover, colored, who was at work repairing an old house near the Stateburg road just beyond the point where the Providence road diverges from it, in crossing an old field between the house and road discovered the dead body of a girl lying in the open field near a clump of dog fennel. The body had been exposed to the elements for so many days that the flesh had become shrunken and blistered by the sun until it had more the appearance of an Egyptian mummy than anything else. The buzzards had torn a portion of the clothing from the body and eaten the stomach and flesh portions of the thighs. It was evident that the person had been dead for several weeks and that, lying as it did, exposed to the sun and rain for such a length of time, had passed through the first stage of decomposition, and under the intense heat of the sun had begun to dry up and mummify.

The body was a horrible object to contemplate, and the discovery of it, so unexpectedly and in such an exposed place, scarcely a hundred yards from a frequently traveled public road, was more than sufficient to unnerve and terrify the person making the gruesome find.

Glover made haste to report the matter and as soon as possible the coroner and sheriff were notified.

Coroner Commander went to the place, which is in sight of Mr. Calvin W. Chandler's house, yesterday morning and had an examination made by Dr. J. A. Mood, who pronounced the body to be that of a girl, not fully grown, after a careful examination.

Further investigation established the fact that the body was that of Bertha Caldwell, a negro girl about 12 or 13 years old, who has been living with Bracy Dargan and his wife for some months. She was the daughter of Enoch Caldwell, a tenant on the place of Mr. R. C. Blanding, in Concord township. Caldwell's wife has been insane for sometime, and he gave the girl Bertha to Bracy Dargan, who is a well-to-do negro, living on his own farm, near the old Burkett place five and a half miles from this city, on the Stateburg road.

Bracy Dargan was arrested by Coroner Commander, but he positively stated that he did not recognize the dead body as that of Bertha Caldwell, and described the clothing that she wore when she ran away from him several weeks ago as wholly different from those found on the body of the dead girl. Coroner Commander, however, went to Bracy Dargan's wife and induced her to describe the clothing worn by Bertha when she was last seen, and this description tallied exactly with the clothing found on the dead body.

It was developed during the investigation that although the girl had been missing from Dargan's place for several weeks he had said nothing about it, and as far as was known, had made no search for her. It is said that he told one person that he had whipped the girl and she had left him, but nothing was said by Dargan to indicate that she disappeared without his knowledge and consent.

When Dargan was asked about the parentage of the girl he told the coroner that she was the daughter of a man named Caldwell who lived "up the country," but whose first name he did not know. He also said when asked why he had not reported the girl's disappearance, that he did tell Lucy McCutchen and Bertha Smith of Mayesville that the girl had disappeared when he was in Mayesville on Tuesday last week ago. Coroner Commander went to Mayesville this morning and found the two women mentioned by Dargan and questioned them concerning the girl. Lucy McCutchen said that she knew Bracy Dargan, but that she had no conversation with him when he was in Mayesville week before last.

Bertha Smith said that she also knew Bracy Dargan, but she was away from home when he was at her house in Mayesville week before last and did not see him nor talk with him. Neither had she heard anything of the disappearance of Bertha Caldwell.

The investigation is still in progress at Mr. Calvin W. Chandler's store, where more than a hundred negroes were collected this morning when the writer went out to obtain the facts concerning the horrible affair. There were a number of witnesses to be examined, and as there was a considerable amount of contradictory evidence it is deemed best not to go into the details of the tragedy until the entire case has been developed. From what could be learned, however, the evidence points strongly to the conclusion that Bracy Dargan is either guilty of the murder of Bertha Caldwell, or knows much more about her death than he has yet told. His whole manner and the evasive and contradictory statements made, all lead to a presumption of his guilt; but until all of the threads of evidence that surround him net-like, have been gathered up and drawn in, with him in the meshes, it is not safe to definitely conclude that he deliberately murdered the girl committed to his care and protection by her father.

The investigation will probably not be concluded to-day and a verdict can hardly be reached by the jury of inquest until to-morrow.

Daily Item, Nov. 26.

The inquest over the body of Bertha Caldwell, which was mentioned in yesterday's paper, was continued throughout the afternoon, but could not be concluded, as the attendance of all the witnesses could not be secured. The inquest was adjourned until Monday morning, when it is expected that considerable new information bearing upon the death of the girl will be forthcoming.

The base of Ayer's Hair Vigor is a refined and delicate fluid, which does not soil or become rancid by exposure to the air, and which is as perfect a substitute for the oil supplied by nature in youth and health, as modern chemistry can produce.

Sacklen's Arnica Salve.

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped Hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Dr. J. F. W. De Lorna.

Public Sales.

There are no sales advertised by the Sheriff for December.

In addition to the sales advertised in this paper, the following sales are advertised elsewhere by the Master, to be made on Saturday in December:

The American Freehold Land Mortgage Co., vs. Samuel M. Pringle and Victor R. Pringle--Seven hundred and thirty acres, situated in Concord township.

C. Wulburn & Co., vs. Sheppard Nash--Four hundred and eighty-seven acres, situated in Lynchburg township.

Arabella P. Moss, vs. Julia Anderson and J. Ryttenberg & Sons--Two hundred and ninety acres, situated in Stateburg township.

Thomas B. Johnston, vs. Rufus C. Westberry and Marion Moise--Forty-two acres in one tract and twenty-three in another, situated in Swimming Pines township.

E. W. A. Baitman, vs. J. J. McRae, et al--Thirty-nine acres, situated in Providence township.

Jas. M. Seignous, vs. Frederick S. and John F. Reames--One hundred and sixteen acres, three miles from Sumter, on the Plowden Mill road.

Jas. H. Brown, Marr E. Morrissey and Ethel Brown, vs. Kate E. Behre--Five hundred and thirty-three acres, adjoining lands formerly of James Fullwood and others.

The American Freehold Land Mortgage Company of London, vs. Mary Lee Green, Wm. McD. Green, Benj. Barnett, A. A. Stauss et al--One thousand and sixty acres on Lyles River, in Mt. Olio township.

Abraham Elmore, Assignee, vs. H. A. Scarborough--Twenty-five acres, adjoining land of Scarborough and Elmore.

Helen Cain Ramsey, Administratrix of Est. Dr. W. A. Ramsey, dec'd, vs. C. Norman Ramsey et al--Ninety-four acres, in Middleton township, and sixteen acres near old Manchester.

C. Wulburn & Co., vs. J. McD. Law, Margaret A. Law, et al--Fourteen hundred and fifty acres, known as the home place of J. McD. Law.

Neil O'Donnell, vs. Eula B. Moore, Wm. Siskler Moore, et al--Eighty-nine acres, adjoining lands of W. W. Anderson and others.

W. F. B. Haynsworth and B. P. Barron, Exors. of S. C. C. Richardson, vs. D. B. McLaurin, Massy Capers and others--Forty-five acres, adjoining land McLaurin and Louisa Grant; Six hundred acres, adjoining lands of Brownfield, Furman and others, excepting four parcels of 45 acres, 35 acres, 25 acres and 45 acres.

The Board of the Theological Seminary of So. Ca. and Ga., vs. Marsena M. Loring, G. W. Loring, Ella P. McFaddin, R. C. Blanding and others--Six hundred and seven and three-fourths acres adjoining land of estate of L. H. Dinkins, estate of Dr. Pitts and others, also five hundred and thirty-four acres adjoining land of estate of Jno. N. Friserson and others.

Frank & Adler vs. C. F. H. Bultman, Christina G. Bultman and others--Lot and building in city of Sumter on Main street adjoining Planter's warehouse and others.

Esther L. Moise vs. B. R. Ingram and Robert M. Jenkins--One hundred and thirty-eight acres adjoining land of R. M. Jenkins, the Knox place and others.

British and American Mortgage Co. vs. Florida A. Burns, Robert L. Burns, et al--Two tracts of 205 72-100 and 28 22-100 acres in Privateer township.

Geo. W. Brown et al vs. Emily S. McCall, Placidia Reynolds, John S. Richardson et al--Five hundred and twenty-five acres, adjoining lands of Rivers, Geddings and others.

The Appeal Dismissed.

The Mills-Green Case Was Settled Yesterday.

There was much rejoicing in administration circles here yesterday when a telegram was received announcing that the United States Supreme Court had dismissed the appeal in the case of Lawrence P. Mills vs. W. Briggs Green, Supervisor of Registration of Richland County. The case is a familiar one in Columbia, and the dismissal of the appeal is another feather in the cap of Attorney General Barber, who has been conducting the Dispensary and Registration cases with much credit to himself and to the State. The decision, too, is another black eye for Judge Goff, who has figured so much of late in South Carolina affairs.

The general opinion here was that the appeal would be dismissed and the announcement yesterday was not a surprise.

The following in regard to the case was received last night over the Associated Press wires from Washington:

The United States Supreme Court, in an opinion by Justice Gray, to-day dismissed without cost to either party the case of Mills vs. Green, involving the legality of elections to the Constitutional Convention, now almost through its work at Columbia, S. C.

The court said that, as it is impossible to grant relief in view of the fact that the Convention had been in session for some time, it would dismiss the suit. Justice Gary after calling attention to the fact that the election for a Constitutional Convention, which it was sought to enjoin, had already been held said: "The duty of this court is to decide actual controversies by a judgment which can be carried into effect, and not to give opinions upon questions or abstract propositions, or to declare principles or rules of law which cannot affect the matter in issue in the case before it. It necessarily follows that when, pending an appeal from the judgment of a lower court and without any fruit of the defendant, an event occurs which renders it impossible for this court, if it should decide in favor of the plaintiff, to grant him any effectual relief, the court will not proceed to formal judgment, but will dismiss the appeal."

It is reported from Gibson, Glasgow county, Ga., that Balam Hancock was lynched last night by a mob for attempting outrage on Miss Dessie Shelton, a white girl 17 years old.

At Warrenton, Ga., yesterday Florence English and Amanda Cody, colored, were hanged for the murder of Cicero Cody, the husband of Mandy, last May. The woman and her paramour, Florence English, killed Cicero Cody in his own home with a rock and a piece of wood.

Meteorological Record.

The following is a report of observations of the weather taken at Stateburg, by Dr. W. W. Anderson for the past 7 weeks ending November 24, 1895:

Date	Temperature.			Wind.	Rainfall.	Condition.
	Max.	Min.	Mean.			
7	89.	63	76.	sw	Trace	*Cloudy.
8	75.	58.	66.5	w	.34	*Cloudy.
9	62.	48.	55.	NE	.00	Clear.
10	61.	39.	50.	SE	.00	Clear.
11	71.	42.	56.5	SE	.00	Cloudy.
12	71.	54.	62.5	w	.31	*Cloudy.
13	72.	46.	59.	NW	.00	Clear.
14	71.	50.	60.5	sw	.00	Cloudy.
15	73.	57.	65.	s	.00	*Cloudy.
16	77.	57.	67.	sw	.00	Clear.
17	77.	58.	67.5	w	.00	Clear.
18	72.	49.	60.5	E	.00	Clear.
19	78.	48.	63.	sw	.00	Clear.
20	68.	52.	60.	E	.00	Clear.
21	72.	45.	58.5	s	.00	Clear.
22	69.	43.	56.	SE	.02	*Cloudy.
22	79.	48.	63.5	w	.00	Clear.
24	77.	49.	63.	s	.00	Clear.
25	79.	52.	65.5	w	.00	*Cloudy.
26	74.	53.	63.5	w	.00	Clear.
27	79.	59.	69.	s	.00	*Cloudy.
28	78.	62.	70.	sw	.00	*Cloudy.
29	66.	47.	56.5	E	.00	Cloudy.
30	58.	47.	52.5	E	.25	Cloudy.
31	52.	43.	47.5	w	.85	Cloudy.
1	55.	47.	51.	E	.52	Cloudy.
2	52.	47.	49.5	NE	.00	*Cloudy.
3	58.	36.	47.	E	.00	Clear.
4	66.	44.	55.	E	.00	*Cloudy.
5	68.	55.	61.5	E	.01	*Cloudy.
6	73.	58.	65.5	E	.00	Cloudy.
7	70.	64.	67.	E	.10	Cloudy.
8	75.	66.	69.5	s	.03	*Cloudy.
9	77.	65.	71.	s	.00	*Cloudy.
10	75.	52.	63.	NE	.73	Cloudy.
11	52.	41.	46.5	ENE	.06	Cloudy.
12	51.	38.	44.5	NE	.02	*Cloudy.
13	58.	36.	47.	SE	.00	Clear.
14	51.	39.	45.	NE	.00	*Cloudy.
15	62.	42.	52.5	s	.00	*Cloudy.
16	66.	47.	56.5	sw	.00	*Cloudy.
17	66.	49.	57.5	sw	.00	Clear.
18	66.	46.	56.	s	.00	Clear.
19	69.	49.	59.	s	.00	Clear.
20	55.	37.	47.5	w	.00	*Cloudy.
21	63.	31.	42.	sw	.00	Clear.
22	63.	41.	52.	SE	.00	Clear.
23	68.	46.	57.	ESE	.00	Clear.
24	69.	47.	58.	E	.00	Cloudy.

*Partly Cloudy.

Policeman Robert Knox arrested Ed Taylor, in Vevay, Ind., Thursday night and was on his way to the jail, when Taylor drew a revolver and fired, killing Knox instantly. Taylor escaped.

Melville P. Roberts, who was president of the Thirty-First street bank of Chicago, which failed during the panic, was arrested yesterday, charged with perjury in a case wherein Roberts was sued by the Commercial National bank for \$20,000.

A committee of 50 of the Merchants and Manufacturers' association of Baltimore, is hard at work in an effort to take to Atlanta on Maryland day, December 6, the largest crowd that has yet visited the exposition. They expect to bring down 1,500 men.

Heart Disease Kills

Suddenly, but never without warning symptoms, such as Faint, Weak or Hungry Spells, Irregular or Intermittent Pulse, Fluttering or Palpitation of the Heart, Choking Sensations, Shortness of Breath, Swelling of Feet and Ankles, etc.

Dr. Miles' Heart Cure, Cures Heart Disease.



Mr. Geo. L. Smith, of the Geo. L. Smith Mantel Co., Louisville, Ky., writes Feb. 26, 1894: "For about a year I was a terrible sufferer from heart trouble, which got so bad I was obliged to sit up in bed to get my breath. I had to abandon business and could hardly crawl around. My friend, Mr. Julius C. Vocht, one of our leading pharmacists, asked me to try Dr. Miles' Heart Cure. I had used little more than a bottle when the pain ceased and palpitations entirely disappeared. I have not had the slightest trouble since, and today I am attending to business as regularly as ever."

Sold by druggists everywhere. Book on Heart and Nerves sent free. Address Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

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COURT HOUSE SQUARE,

500 Tons Ammoniated Guano.

500 Tons Acid Phosphate.

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GET OUR PRICES.

We keep on hand a full line of heavy groceries.

FEED AND SEED OATS,

DRY SALT MEATS,

LARD, MEAL, GRIST.

FLOUR, SUGAR, RICE,

COFFEE, POTTED

MEATS, &c., &c.

Correspondence solicited.

Nov. 27.

LOOK

NEXT

WEEK

In this Paper

For the

ANNOUNCEMENT

of

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He is opening a lot of choice

goods in all his lines.

TAX NOTICE.

OFFICE COUNTY TREASURER, SUMTER COUNTY

SUMTER, S. C., Oct. 1, 1895.

The Treasurer of Sumter County hereby gives notice that his books will be open at his office in the Court House from the 15th day of October, 1895, to the 31st day of December, 1895, inclusive, for the collection of taxes for the fiscal year 1894-1895, for Sumter County.

The following are the rates per centum of the levy:

For State purposes 4 1/2 mills on every dollar of the value of all taxable property.

For ordinary County purposes, 3 mills.

For Constitutional School Tax, 2 mills.

Making a total of 9 1/2 mills.

Also the following additional levies in the special School Districts enumerated below:

District No. 20--4 mills.

District No. 18--2 mills.

District No. 5--2 mills.

District No. 12--2 mills.

District No. 16--2 mills.

District No. 1--2 mills.

Also one dollar on each poll between the ages of 21 and 50 years

H. L. SCARBOROUGH,

County Treasurer.

Oct. 2.

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stop at the Leading Hotel, where accommodations are to be had for 1,000 guests per day. The only first-class Hotel in the City

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Sept. 18.

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Sept. 18.

PAYING POSITIONS

GUARANTEED IN WRITING. Students' complete course in HALF THE TIME at HALF THE EXPENSE of other colleges. 24 placed last month. Address at once GEORGIA BUS. COLLEGE, Macon Ga.

Nov. 6--o

Estate of Wm. W. Boykin, Dec'd.