

Crawfordsville Journal

THURSDAY, AUG. 4, 1859

OUR CHICAGO AGENTS—Messrs. ROGERS & LANGDON, of Chicago, are authorized agents for this city. They are authorized to receive advertisements and subscriptions, and to remit the same.

IT is all special notices—of any laudable business, or whether written by the editor, from solicitation, or by those wishing such notices inserted, are charged ten cents per line.

Notice to Advertisers.

Hereafter all legal advertising will be charged as transient advertising—one dollar a square, (of ten lines,) for the first insertion; and twenty-five cents for every subsequent insertion. C. H. BOWEN, ap 20, 1859. JERE KEDNEY.

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.

We are pained this morning at being compelled to chronicle the sudden and unexpected death of two of our citizens—NATHANIEL HAMILTON and JAMES BIRCHFIELD. Mr. Birchfield had been engaged in digging or cleansing and putting in a new wall in the well upon the premises of Mr. Hamilton, for some three or four days, which was more or less troubled with what is called damp; and from which, previous to yesterday at 3 P. M., they had received no serious injury. At this time, immediately after the first rain, they went out to work, Hamilton at the windlass and Birchfield descended the well. He had gone down probably 25 feet, when he was heard to moan, then fall. Upon Mr. Hamilton hearing or seeing the fall, he became terribly excited or agitated, and in opposition to every entreaty from wife and children, caught the rope attached to the windlass in his hands and thus descended, with a determination to rescue his friend. His feet were heard to strike the bucket, which was probably at half the depth of the well, then the cry to his sons at the windlass, to "save him," or "draw;" then tottering, he fell some twenty-four feet to the bottom, a lifeless corpse. Thus hurriedly, unexpectedly, without a moments warning, were the souls of these two men launched into endless eternity. Hundreds of our citizens upon hearing of the accident, immediately repaired to the spot, and after diligently laboring, and devising for three hours, for extinguishing, or driving out the poison, succeeded in rescuing their lifeless bodies from their awful situation.

THE OWEN TRIAL.

The trial of Jonathan S. Owen for the murder of his wife, closed on Saturday last, at 11 o'clock, P. M. The jury was out only about three hours, and returned with a verdict of acquittal; and the prisoner set at liberty. The testimony is concluded in to-day's issue. On the first count the jury stood, seven for conviction; and five for acquittal. We have been favored with a lengthy review of this trial, containing many facts, to the point, which will probably find place in our columns next week.

JUDGE LYNCH.

There was a formidable demonstration against Owen at Crawfordsville, on Sunday morning. A large crowd assembled at the house where he was staying, with the avowed intention of taking him out and hanging him to the first tree. Messrs. Vorhees and McDonald addressed the excited multitude and finally succeeded in dispersing them.—*Lafayette Courier.*

—You are laboring under a most wonderful mistake, Mr. Courier. The speeches made by these gentlemen, to disperse a mob in Crawfordsville, had they been reported for your columns, would not have occupied half the space your notice did. No, no, its all stuff. Owen was upon our streets on Sunday forenoon, and we understand, when he got ready to return to the house where he had been staying, that a few boys of our town—who are in favor of every man having justice—accompanied him—that's all. You were right, however, in saying that the lawyers had administered on Owen's estate. All they need now, to clean the thing up, is a foreclosure of mortgage. They always arrange matters so they can save themselves, if they lose their innocent clients.

THE RAIN.—We were blessed with a heavy rain on yesterday afternoon and last night. The first rain we have had sufficiently heavy to reach the roots of vegetation for two months; and which we trust will in a great measure revive the drooping, fainting crops of our country. The corn, in many fields, we understand, is too far gone to ever be redeemed; or made to yield more than a half crop.

CRAWFORDSVILLE SEMINARY.—The special attention of the reader is directed to the advertisement of this Seminary, to be found in another column of to-day's paper.

WAVELAND ACADEMY.—Read the advertisement of this popular male and female Academy. This is one of the oldest and most prominent institutions in our country; and is located in a section of country unsurpassed in the State for health and morality.

FARM FOR SALE.—A valuable farm is offered for sale through the columns of the Journal this week by James Heaton, Esq., Real Estate Agent. Read advertisement.

Central Committee.

The Republican Central Committee are requested to meet in Crawfordsville, on Saturday, the 13th inst. All the members of said Committee are requested to be present, as business of importance is to be transacted. E. H. PRAY, Chairman.

MONTGOMERY CIRCUIT COURT.

TRIAL OF JONATHAN S. OWEN FOR MURDER.

[Continued from first page.]

their sister do it, and she would drive them from home; this is my opinion, I saw it.

Q—Where was her husband when those things took place?

A—He was at home on the farm.

Q—What did he say and do when she acted so?

A—I never heard him open his mouth. I give it as my opinion that he took it rather than have any difficulty with his wife.

Q—What led you to ask Mrs. Owen if she was afraid her head would kill her?

A—Because it looked badly.

Q—How long was this after she was hurt, and where was she at the time?

A—Four or five weeks afterwards, and she was here at the time.

Q—Was she ever confined to her bed with the wound on her head?

A—She was confined for two or three days at first.

Q—Did her husband bring a physician to wait on her?

A—Yes, sir, the next day after she was hurt; her husband came here and got Dr. English to go and treat her.

Q—Do you know what time in the night she died?

A—I do not.

Q—What relation are you to Mrs. Huffman that you say was about the house of Jonathan S. Owen?

A—I am a sister of hers.

Re-examined by defendant's counsel.

Q—What was Mrs. Huffman's occupation?

A—She was a seamstress; she did all of Owen's sewing; was there two months and a half, off and on; and she and her husband was parted; he was a drunkard and drove her from home last December one year ago. She sewed for several of the neighbors.

Q—What account did Mrs. Owen (deceased) give of how she got the hurt on her head?

(Question objected to.)

A—She said that she went out with her husband to cut wood, that her attention was called to her child, and as she turned to address it she received a lick on the head, that the axe either slipped from her husband's hands or flew off the handle; she never intimated to me that the lick was made on purpose; said she did not know anything until after she was taken in the house.

MATHUDA S. OWEN, mark.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 20th day of July, 1859.

ALFRED ROSE, J. P.

The certificate of the justice is hereby waived. The deposition was taken by counsel written by M. D. White, Esq., and to be read in evidence. All information to the captain is waived. S. C. WILLSON, Attorney for Plaintiff.

M. D. WHITE, Attorney for Plaintiff.

BENJAMIN CLARK called.—I reside in the south east part of Montgomery county—have lived there about seven years—I am acquainted with the general reputation of Wm. Harris for morals and veracity; it is bad—I know defendant—have known him seven years—he has always appeared to me to treat his wife kindly.

Cross-Examined.—All my knowledge of his treatment of his wife is from occasional visits—then I thought he was kinder than my man I ever saw, or unusually kind—he is kind to his neighbors.

ELIZABETH CLARK called.—I am 26 years old, live in Boone county, I have known defendant, Wm. Harris, for 15 years; I know his general reputation for morals and veracity; it is bad. I never saw defendant mistreat his wife; have been at his house often.

Cross-Examined.—Defendant's wife was not living when I lived on his farm last winter.

WILLIAM YOUNG called.—Live in Clark township, Montgomery county—live within 3 miles of where Wm. Harris lives; have lived there four or five years—have known him four or five years—am acquainted with his general moral character; it is bad. I am acquainted with his general reputation for truth and veracity; it is bad. I know defendant, have worked for him and boarded at his house while at work for him; his treatment of his wife was good as far as could be seen; I can't say how long I boarded at defendant's at a time; remember of staying there a week at two different times; I know Wm. Harris before he went to Iowa and after he came back.

Cross-Examined.—There was no fault between defendant and his wife while I was there; was some little difficulty between Mrs. Owen and Jonathan one of defendant's sons; it was five or six years ago that I lived at defendant's at those two weeks; I did not see Malinda Hagard at defendant's while I lived there; I do not know when she lived there. The difficulty was that she started out to work one morning, she told Jonathan to go and get her; he would go when he got ready; she began on him with a broom and they had a little combat; I do not know whether he struck her or not. John has this.

WILLIAM CARRAS called.—I know defendant, know Wm. Harris, have known him about 20 years, lived near me when he has been in the county, he is not married; his general moral character is bad; his reputation for truth and veracity is pretty bad.

Cross-Examined.—It is generally believed that he will marry a little.

JOSEPH CLARK called.—Reside in Clark township, Montgomery county, lived there nine years—know Wm. Harris, am acquainted with his general moral character; it is bad—the people do not give him a very good name for truth and veracity.

Cross-Examined.—I have no knowledge of his treatment of his wife except what I got from occasional visits or meeting him and his wife in company.

JOSEPH CLARK called.—I reside in Clark township, Montgomery county—lived there three years—lived of 1854—I practice medicine occasionally—have known Wm. Harris since infancy, except when in Missouri or Iowa—his general moral character is bad—his reputation for truth and veracity is bad.

MARY McIVER called.—I am 50 years old, live in Clark township, Montgomery county, lived there 24 years—I know Wm. Harris—am acquainted with his general moral character; it is tolerable bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is bad.

Cross-Examined.—I have known defendant for near 24 years, have been at his house frequently, I know only from public days, log rollings, house raising, &c. I never saw any mistreatment of his wife by defendant—I have seen him and his wife out at a visit.

Cross-Examined.—All my knowledge of his treatment of his wife was obtained by seeing them together on public days and visiting among the neighbors.

JOSEPH CLARK called.—Live in Clark township, Montgomery county—lived there twenty-five years—know Wm. Harris, he has lived there most of the time—his moral character is not very good—the neighbors think he is pretty full of wind or rather windy. I know defendant, live within three quarters of a mile, have frequently been there on public occasions—he has visited at my house—I never saw any mistreatment of his wife.

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Cross-Examined.—In one case at Wesley Chapel, I saw defendant paying more attention to Jno. Huffman than I thought became him. He waited on her when I did not think him in any way called upon to do so. I have seen him live on the death of defendant's wife—I don't know how long—I think they went from church towards Jesse Clark's—I think he was on horseback.

JACOB PACE called.—Reside in Clark township, Montgomery county, Indiana—live two miles from defendant's—have known Wm. Harris from boyhood—his general moral character is not very good—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good. Have known defendant 3 or 4 years—never saw him mistreat his wife—he has been at our house and I and my wife have been at his house.

JACOB PACE called.—Live in Montgomery county—know Wm. Harris, his moral character is bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good.

JOHN WATSON called.—Reside in Montgomery county, Clark township, lived there 12 years—know Wm. Harris, his general moral character is bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good.

JOHN WATSON called.—Reside in Montgomery county, Clark township, lived there almost all my life—known Wm. Harris from his childhood—his general moral character is bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good.

JOHN WATSON called.—Reside in Montgomery county, Clark township, lived there 10 or 12 years—known Wm. Harris most of the time—his general reputation for morals, truth and veracity is bad as far as there had of it.

HARRISON YOUNG called.—Live in Clark township, Montgomery county—lived there one and a half years—lived previous to that in Hendricks county about five miles from where Wm. Harris now lives—his general moral character is bad—his general reputation for morals, truth and veracity is pretty bad.

HARVEY HARRISON called.—I reside in Walnut township, Montgomery county, five or six miles from defendant's—his general moral character is bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good.

JOHN WATSON called.—Reside in Montgomery county, Clark township, lived there 37 years, have known defendant 20 odd years, I have been at his house, we have neighbors together; know Wm. Harris, his moral character is bad—his general reputation for truth and veracity is not good.

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