

CHAPTER XIII.

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WM. SWITZER MURDERED IN 1864.

Mr. William B. Switzer, a merchant of Clarence, then a village, was murdered by a band of robbers from Macon in the fall of 1864. It seems Mr. Switzer was custodian of some money made up by certain of the citizens to hire substitutes in case any of them were drafted. They made their raid one night, just a day too late, as the funds were sent to Shelbyville for safety just the day before. Mr. Switzer was called to the door by four men on horseback, who, when he appeared, demanded his money. Mr. Switzer, who had taken his revolver with him, opened fire and a volley came back in answer, one shot taking effect in his hip, severing his femoral artery, causing death in a few minutes. Mr. Switzer was a respected citizen and while he never took up arms he was known as a Southern sympathizer. The robbers were Macon countians; one never was apprehended, another turned state's evidence, in which John Roland was said to be the one that fired the fatal shot. He was bound over, escaped and forfeited his bond. All were ex-Federal militiamen.

PAT M'CARTY ASSASSINATED.

Pat McCarty, a prominent citizen of Clarence, was the proprietor of a steam mill, which property he had purchased from its founder, Mr. Wilson. Mr. McCarty was a man of many friends and many enemies. He was a jolly, whole-souled man and one who cherished his home. On the night of October 6, 1874, Mr. McCarty was seated near a window in his sitting room, where he had been fondling his child on his knee. He had just put down his little one and taken up a newspaper when an assassin fired through the window a heavy charge of bird shot, which penetrated his body, killing him instantly. A coroner's jury was impaneled by Esquire Scates and a few days' investigation ensued, without important results. No clue was ever obtained as to the identity of the perpetrator. Suspicion ran rife, much of it no doubt unjust, but as the victim of a stealthy coward was he shot down before his loved ones.

THE BUFORD TRAGEDY.

On Monday, October 26, 1885, occurred one of the worst tragedies in the history

of Shelby county. John Buford shot and killed his father, William Buford, and also seriously wounded his brother, William Buford. The tragedy occurred at the Buford home, near Burksville, in Tiger Fork township. The elder Buford lived only a short time after the shooting occurred.

At the preliminary hearing one of the main witnesses gave the following testimony regarding the facts relative to the shooting: "On Sunday evening John and his father had a quarrel about a colt that had been kicked; John said he had fixed up the stable and he would blow daylight through any person who would put a horse in there; said he was going to have his rights. John and his father went to the house; soon after this John started off. His father said, 'Where are you going?' John replied, 'Wait till I see you again. I'll see you before daylight and put daylight through you and those other two d—d pups.'" The next morning witness' attention was attracted by his little sister pulling his coat and saying, "See there." He looked up and saw John in the door of the sitting room with a double-barrelled shotgun, which he aimed at his younger brother, William. Witness started as though to go through the door, passed under the gun and pushed it up. His father just then probably aimed to do the same thing, ran against witness and threw him down against the bed. As he raised up the gun was discharged, taking effect in the top of his father's head and some of the shot striking witness' arm between the elbow and shoulder. The witness did not hear John speak a word while in the house. John left after the shooting and was arrested a week later at the

home of 'Squire E. D. Wood, in Tiger Fork township. John's anxiety to hear from home led to his capture. Monday night, about 10 o'clock, he appeared at the home of 'Squire Wood, about a mile from the Buford farm, and tapped on the window to attract attention, and asked one of the young men on the inside how his folks were getting along at home. 'Squire Wood, who was upstairs in bed, hurried downstairs and around the house, taking with him a shotgun. He raised his gun and told John to throw up his hands, which the latter did reluctantly. One of the 'Squire's sons next appeared and disarmed young Buford, who was then led into the house and guarded until Sheriff Dun arrived and took him in charge.

The preliminary hearing was held in Shelbyville on November 11 of the same year, before 'Squire Melson. R. P. Giles represented the state and James T. Lloyd, the defendant. The defendant was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury. On Friday following he was taken to Palmyra and placed in jail for safekeeping.

The Buford case came up at the April term of the Circuit court, 1886, and was set for trial at a special term to be held commencing August 1st following. The case was then tried, R. P. Giles representing the state and Judge Berry and Lysander Thompson the defendant. The verdict of the jury was that the defendant was guilty of murder in the second degree. The attorneys for the defendant filed a motion for a new trial on the ground that one member of the jury of twelve, before whom the case was tried, was too sick to properly hear the evidence, and that one member of the forty

panel had formed and expressed an opinion. The hearing on this motion was postponed until the October term of court, at which time Judge Brace heard and overruled the motion, and sentenced the defendant to thirty years in the penitentiary. Mr. Buford was taken to the penitentiary, where he stayed until pardoned by Governor Stephens on December 25, 1897. He then returned to the county, but remained here only a short time and is at this date living in the state of Washington.

MURDER OF NICHOLAS BRANDT.

The town of Shelbina was thrown into intense excitement, mingled with indignation and horror, on Wednesday, November 16, 1887, by the report that the body of a man had been found in a well near a log cabin on the Vincent Taylor farm, six miles west of the town. It was believed that the remains were those of Nicholas Brandt, who had been missing and was supposed to have been murdered. Brandt was a hard-working, inoffensive German, and was by trade a hoop-pole shaver. It was known that the deceased had a large amount of money, mostly gold, in his possession. Henry Deiderich was arrested the afternoon of the same day in St. Louis and accused of the murder. Sheriff Sanders went to St. Louis after the accused and returned with him on the following Friday. Two other parties were arrested in connection with the crime—a Mr. Dallhausen, who was placed in jail at Shelbyville, and Albert Anselman, of Lakenan, who was admitted to \$500 bail. The preliminary trial was held before Squire J. D. Jordan in Shelbina, beginning Friday morning, December 9, 1887.

The cases against Dallhausen and Anselman were dismissed by Prosecuting Attorney R. P. Giles and Deiderich was bound over to the grand jury. Mr. Deiderich was brought before the bar of justice in the Circuit court on Monday, April 9, 1888, and pleaded not guilty. He was returned to the jail to await his trial, but with another prisoner by the name of McDonald broke jail that evening and is still at large.

JUDGE JOSEPH HUNOLT ASSASSINATED.

Judge Hunolt was perhaps the largest land owner and one of the wealthiest citizens of the county. He owned over 2,300 acres of land northeast of Hager's Grove and was a large feeder and raiser of stock. Mr. Hunolt was of German parentage, and was one of those honest, industrious and thrifty individuals who lead the community in which they reside,

Politically the Judge was a Democrat. Religiously he was a Catholic and it was largely through his efforts and generosity that the little Catholic church was erected, which still stands upon the prairie road between Hager's Grove and Leonard.

On Friday, June 4, 1886, between the hours of five and six o'clock in the afternoon, Judge Hunolt departed from Leonard on horseback for his home about four miles south of the village. He had been at Clarence the day before and had drawn \$500 from the bank. On his way to the farm he passed George Hardy, whom he met in the road and talked with a short time. He passed from the road into his farm through a gap which he made for that purpose, and after replacing the fence rode on into the timber.

Sam Roberts was working on a fence about eighty rods from where the Judge passed through the inclosure, and heard three shots in rapid succession, followed by a scream as of someone in terrible distress. Andy Hilton, who lived half a mile west, also heard the reports of the firearm, but heard no outcry.

As the Judge did not return to his home that night as was expected, the Hunolt family became alarmed and the next morning one of the sons was sent to Leonard to learn of his father's whereabouts. Here he was informed of the time of his father's departure from Leonard and the route he took. The alarm was given and many persons joined in a search for the Judge. The place where he entered the pasture was located and his horse was traced through the timber to a small ravine. Here the horse was found tied to a tree and the remains of Judge Hunolt lying upon the ground about sixty feet away. Two balls took effect. One entered the left side of the body and passed inward and nearly through the body, the other passed through the palm of one hand and into the arm. The Judge's throat was also cut, the head being nearly severed from the body. A coroner's inquest was held before 'Squire Stewart, of Leonard, and the body removed to the family residence before Prosecuting Attorney Giles and the county coroner reached the scene of the awful tragedy.

Thousands of persons visited the scene of the murder on Sunday and over a thousand attended the funeral, which was held at the Catholic church on Monday. The remains still sleep beneath the blue grass and in the little Catholic ceme-

tery. A beautiful monument marks the resting place of the Judge's remains.

The Hunolt family consisted of, besides the father and mother, two sons, Christopher and Antony, and two daughters, Mrs. Annie Worland and Mrs. Salome Hornback, the former the wife of J. G. Worland, of Hager's Grove, and the latter the widow of the late C. H. Hornback.

After the murder of Judge Hunolt every effort was made to ferret out the mystery. The local peace officers were kept busy and two Pinkerton detectives were employed. On Thursday, June 10, following the murder, the detectives thought they had sufficient evidence to justify an arrest and a warrant was sworn out by Christopher Hunolt, a brother of the murdered man, charging Joseph Glahn with committing the atrocious crime. Thereupon Sheriff Dunn placed the accused under arrest. Mr. Glahn was taken before 'Squire J. D. Melson, of Shelbyville, and on Thursday, June 17, the preliminary hearing was had and the accused was bound over to the grand jury and committed to the Palmyra jail. On Monday, October 18, 1886, the Shelby county grand jury brought in a bill against Joseph Glahn and Christian Glahn, his brother, charging them with the murder of Judge Hunolt. The case against these men was called on the April docket, 1887, and on April 4 of that year the case against Christian Glahn was dismissed by the prosecuting attorney and the case of Joseph N. Glahn was granted a change of venue on the testimony of nine witnesses who stated under oath that the defendant could not get a fair trial in Shelby county

on account of prejudice. Judge Bacon sent the case to Monroe county and the case was docketed for a special term at Paris the following June. The trial commenced in Paris on Monday, June 20. The state had one hundred witnesses on hand and the defense had fifty. The trial lasted five weeks and resulted in a hung jury. The jury was discharged July 23, 1887. The defendant was returned to the Palmyra jail. The case was set for re-trial on November 8th following. At this trial, which lasted until December 8th, the jury found the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree. The defendant's attorneys immediately filed a motion for a new trial. The motion was overruled and the attorneys for the defendant filed a motion in arrest of judgment. The second Monday in February, 1888, was set for hearing the arguments on this motion. On Monday, February 20, 1888, the argument was made and the motion overruled. Judge Bacon then delivered the following sentence: "The sentence of the court is that you, Joseph N. Glahn, on Friday, the sixth day of April, 1888, at the county jail of Monroe county, between the hours of 9 o'clock A. M. and 5 o'clock P. M. of that day, he hanged by the neck until you are dead." A stay of execution was granted and an appeal taken to the Supreme court. Mr. Glahn was then returned to the Palmyra jail and on August 16, 1888, there was a jail delivery at that place. Fourteen prisoners escaped out of twenty-eight confined. Glahn was the only one accused of murder, yet he refused to go.

At the January term of the Supreme court the case for a new trial was argued

and on Wednesday, April 17, Judge Bacon admitted Mr. Glahn to bail, fixing his bond at \$7,000. The bond was promptly made and after nearly three years' confinement the accused man was once more allowed his liberty. At the October term of the Supreme court Judge Black rendered a decision, which was concurred in by all the judges, except Judge Barclay, reversing the lower court, and sending the case back to Monroe county for a new trial. The case was reversed on the ground that Instruction No. 7, asked by the defense, was refused. This instruction read as follows: "That although the jury may believe from the evidence in the case that defendant made threats or declarations of intentions against deceased, Joseph Hunolt, before his death, yet if upon a full review and consideration of all the evidence in the cause they shall conclude there is no evidence connecting defendant with the assault and killing of deceased, Joseph Hunolt, other than such threats or declarations, then they will find defendant not guilty." The long pending case was brought up in the Monroe county Circuit court again on Monday, _____, 1889, and dismissed. This ends one of the darkest chapters in Shelby county's history.

A LEONARD TRAGEDY.

On Sunday, September 1, 1888, a farmer named Andrew Howerton, living in the northwest part of Shelby, near Leonard, shot his wife dead, the ball entering the head back of the left ear. He then shot himself through the head, falling near his wife dead. The couple had married in February in the same year.

Domestic infelicity was assigned as the cause, the couple having separated several times.

SHELBYNA MAYOR DIES SUDDENLY.

On Friday morning of November 10, 1890, the city of Shelbina was shocked to learn they had, during the night, been robbed of their mayor, John D. Jordan. He had been on the street the evening before, apparently as well as ever. About 10 or 11 o'clock his wife noticed something unusual in his breathing and tried to arouse him, but failing in this she summoned a physician. A battery was used and in this manner life was prolonged until 4 o'clock Friday morning. It is thought he took a large dose of laudanum, which caused his death. He had held several city offices and made an efficient mayor. He was a Mason and Odd Fellow.

M. LLOYD CHEUVRONT SHOT.

On Friday evening about 9 o'clock of July 22, 1897, three cracks of a pistol in the eastern part of the city, Walnut street, of Shelbina, announced to the people of that vicinity the murder of a citizen of good character, inoffensive and peaceable, Mr. Cheuvront, by Tol Smock. The ladies of the Christian church were holding an ice cream supper in the city park. Mr. Cheuvront, who was very deaf, left his wife at the park while he went out for a walk. It seems Mrs. Tol Smock, who was fair of face, in company with Miss Nellie Hopper, of Clarence vicinity, who was attending a teachers' institute and boarding with Mrs. Smock, had started home just ahead of Mr. Cheuvront and rushed into her home on the south side, near the east end of Wal-

nut, and told her husband how Mr. Cheuvront had followed them home. Mr. Smock grabbed his pistol, rushed out and encountered Mr. Cheuvront just in front of his home, knocked him down and shot three times, the fatal shot taking effect in his bowels. Mr. Cheuvront lingered till seven the following morning, during which time he told his wife, two sons and friends about him, how it occurred and made plans for his family's future, remaining conscious to the end. Mr. Smock took change of venue and his case was tried in Macon county, December, 1897. J. H. Whitecotton, of Paris, Mo., was leading attorney for the defense and Prosecuting Attorney Cleek had valuable assistance. A good many witnesses were sworn on both sides. The state sought to prove that Mr. Cheuvront was a man of unquestionable Christian and moral character. The jury hung after a hard fight on both sides, four standing solidly and determinedly for conviction. The trial was taken up again at the Macon Circuit court and all the witnesses re-examined, and the defendant found guilty of manslaughter and punishment fixed at six months in jail and a fine of \$100. The Macon Times-Democrat said this among other things concerning the verdict: "The verdict is an outrage upon this community and it is just such mockery as this that disgusts the people with juries and courts and causes them to take the law into their own hands and mete out justice."

SUICIDE AT CLARENCE.

On Sunday morning, December 17, 1899, Mrs. George W. Chinn, wife of Hon. George W. Chinn, representative

from Shelby county to the Missouri legislature at that time, committed suicide by cutting her throat. The deed was committed while Mr. Chinn was at Sunday school and life was almost extinct when he reached home. Indications were that she committed the act standing before a mirror and using a common case knife. Poor health was assigned as the cause.

THE STACY MURDER AND SUICIDE.

Wednesday morning, June 5, 1901, James Stacy killed his wife and their daughter, Alma, and then shot himself.

Mr. Stacy lived a mile west of Clarence and had had charge of the pumping station at that location for many years for the railroad. It was supposed he arose early, as usual, proceeded to his work, started a fire in the boiler and then returned to his home and killed the women while they lay sleeping. The deed was committed with a heavy clock weight and each woman received the death blow over the left temple. His young son was in the house at the time, but was taken out of the bed and deposited on a lounge while asleep. He then went downstairs, got his single-barreled shotgun and started out the back door, but just as he opened the door he met his married daughter and told her what he had done, went back into the house and shot himself.

Those who arrived on the scene of the tragedy say that there was no indication of a struggle. The women were lying as if asleep. It was supposed Mr. Stacy was insane when he committed the rash deed. The funeral and interment took place Thursday afternoon following and the three bodies were interred in one

grave. Over a thousand people were at the cemetery to witness the burial. Mr. Stacy was a Mason in good standing and was buried with Masonic rites.

SUICIDE AT CLARENCE.

On Friday morning, July 21, 1905, at 10 A. M., the city of Clarence was thrown into a stage of excitement when the strange news spread over the city that J. Robert Hord had committed suicide by shooting himself in a chicken house near his home. No one heard the report of the pistol, but his daughter and a neighbor were in chase for a chicken, the daughter following the chicken into the chicken house. As she threw open the door she discovered the body of her father cold in death, with a wound in his right temple. Mr. Hord, a month previous, had traded about \$14,000 worth of property in Clarence for a farm of 160 acres at Farber, Mo., and it was thought he lost heavily on the deal. Before committing the deed he scratched with a nail upon a pine box the following note: "No family trouble. Good-bye to wife and children. My trouble is more than I can bear. These lies have run me crazy. I am innocent, good-bye. Love and kisses. Meet me in heaven. Bury at Andrew chapel, cheap coffin for body. I want my wife, Mary, administer without bond. Brother Oddfellows, I leave them in thy care." Mr. Hord had been depressed after the above deal, but he had just returned from Moberly at 11:56 the night previous, had made plans to go to Moberly and seemed in good spirits. He carried \$5,000 life insurance, was a leader in the Presbyterian church and a prominent Odd Fellow.