

WOMAN'S THROAT SLASHED  
DEATH FROM UNKNOWN AGENCY

Cynthia Norman, a Woman of Alleged Questionable Character and About 34 Years of Age, Fatally Injured at Home on Statesville Road as a Result of a Cut Across Her Throat Which Was Mysteriously Inflicted—No Trace of Blood Found Anywhere About the Premises, and the Woman Could Not Talk and Tell How It Happened— Said by Signs With Her Hands That a Tall Man Did It, But It is Generally Believed That She Did It Herself—Ayres, a White Man Living, Suspected—Arrested Here Yesterday on Suspicion.

Cynthia Norman, a white woman about 34 years of age, was found in a dying condition at her home five miles from the city on the Statesville road as a result of a slash across her throat, extending nearly from ear to ear. She was either the victim of a would-be murderer or attempted death at her own hands. The last theory is the most likely and the most generally accepted.

The woman died this morning at the Presbyterian Hospital shortly after midnight. She was brought to the city about 11:30 o'clock for treatment, but all efforts proved fruitless. Jim Ayres, a young white man, who has been living with the Norman family for a year, was arrested after he had reached the city yesterday on suspicion of having committed the deed to cover illicit relations with the woman which is charged against him, but there is a minimum amount of evidence against him. On the other hand, there is good reason to believe that he left the house before the deed was done. The sole fact militates against him is that he left with the declaration that he was getting away for good.

A COMPLETE MYSTERY. Without a question, the case is the most mysterious with which local officers have had to do in recent years. There is not the slightest clue as to which a waiting investigation into the affair can be conducted. Mrs. Lizzie Norman, mother of the woman, declares that her daughter went out to do the milking yesterday morning about 9 o'clock and came back to the house and said that she had milked all but one cow and had taken them to the pasture; that she was going back to milk "Old Spot." Her mother then went about her duties and in the meantime went to the big road in front of the house and handed Mr. Irving Cochrane a letter. She came back to the house and, thinking that the daughter was staying away a long while, began to look around for her.

SITTING IN THE PATH. When she started toward the barn, which is about 60 yards from the little house, she saw her daughter sitting in the path with her throat slit. She ran to her and asked her who did it, but no answer came. She carried the woman into the house and notified the neighbors. Dr. Birrell Henderson was secured by the ambulance and was at the house in a little while. Another telephone message to the city brought Dr. J. R. Alexander to the scene, and these physicians worked with her for a couple of hours, sewing up her throat. Fortunately the jugular vein was not touched by the instrument of death which was raked across this vital point. The windpipe, however, was cut nearly through and this materially affected the woman's breathing.

NO BLOOD TO BE SEEN. The mystery of the matter centers around the fact that there was not a trace of blood found anywhere around the premises. Where Mrs. Norman said her daughter was sitting when she found her throat cut, there was no drop of blood and no evidence of a scuffle of any kind. Sheriff N. W. Wallace and Deputy Sheriff E. O. Johnston, who were on the scene by noon, began an investigation of the neighbors, and could find no trace of blood within 100 yards of the house anywhere. Neither was there to be found any instrument with which the deed was done. This is the most baffling element which confronts the officers. They have nothing to work on in ascertaining the truth.

WAS IT MURDER? About 3 o'clock in the afternoon the woman recovered from the anaesthetics and became perfectly conscious, but could not speak a word. Several who were sitting by her began asking her questions which she could interpret, but could not answer. Asked whether she had cut her own throat, the woman shook her head very emphatically. Asked whether somebody else did it, she nodded her head with equal emphasis and began scratching with her hands upon the floor as if she would make known the name of the one she had in mind. Mrs. Norman declares that she asked her these questions when she first found her and that she could not talk in a tone which could be well understood.

LOOKS LIKE SUICIDE. There seems to be more evidence that it was suicide than that it was murder, but this is merely suspicion, as no instrument was found upon which the deed was done. It is declared by the neighbors of the family that there had been a general row in progress among them for several days. This fact, added to the further fact that Jim Ayres had told the woman that he was going to leave her in her present plight, makes the general sentiment in the community to be toward the suicide theory. It is said that Mrs. Norman, who is of a wondering mind, has been scolding her daughter for several days because of the manner of her living and that her words had been the beginning of a general row in which she, the daughter and Ayres participated.

WOMAN OF LOOSE CHARACTER. The Norman woman is alleged to be of loose character. She, it is said, does not enjoy the respect of the people of that section because of her past irregularities. Mrs. Norman, the mother, is a respectable woman, although she has suffered the loss of her mind on several occasions, and it is declared by those who are acquainted with her that she has not been herself by any means. She has been twice married, her last husband having deserted her many years ago, leaving her there in the little house with her daughter. About a year ago Jim Ayres took residence there and has been working the farm.

In front of the house. Mrs. Norman verifies this story, and so does Mr. Cochrane. Ayres rode along in front of Mr. Cochrane nearly all the way to the city, passing him just beyond the city limits.

HAD HINTED AT SUICIDE. Ayres makes the rather enlightening statement that the woman had hinted at suicide to him on several occasions and one time requested him to bring her a bottle of laudanum from the city. He says that there had been reports circulated damaging to her character and that this had led her to the idea of killing herself. Ayres did not take any stock in the theory that she had been murdered, but thought there was little doubt of her having attempted death at her own hands. He does not deny that there had been a general row in the family for several days, but is firm in his declaration that it was the younger woman who was on the very best of terms.

GOT BLOODHOUNDS FROM NEARBY CAMP. After searching about for a clue of some kind for several hours, Sheriff Wallace finally decided to go over to Superintendent Lytle's camp and secure bloodhounds. They were brought back to the scene about 4 o'clock and an effort was made to catch a trail, but this was at least seven hours after the deed had been committed and too late for the dog to accomplish anything in the way of locating a scent. It was said that some tracks had been discovered leading from the barn to woods nearby, but this finding was not generally thought to have any specific bearing on the case.

WOMAN WOULD SHIELD AYRES. The statement was ventured by a number of the neighbors of the family that the woman would shield Ayres if he was guilty of the crime, which is not generally believed out there. In account of the relations between them, they do not think that the alleged assailant, whom she tried to describe by signs, was this young man. Mrs. Norman got it into her head that her daughter said it was a negro and described him as a tall man. She seemed to try to say he slipped up behind her and cut her throat while she was coming to the house from the barn.

RAZOR THE INSTRUMENT. The physicians who dressed the woman's wounds came to the conclusion that the instrument used was a razor. They found three cuts, almost in the same place, but distinct enough to show that there had been more than one stroke. The deed was either done with a razor or an exceedingly sharp knife, judging from the nature of the wounds. A careful search was made about the house and there was a trace of blood there, some thinking that whoever committed the crime would throw the instrument into the water to protect themselves. As has been said, there was no intimation to this effect and not a drop of blood found anywhere around the premises.

MAY HAVE BEEN DONE IN HOUSE. Some of the officers who spent the day on the scene hold to the idea that the deed was done in the house and that the woman may know more about it than she pretends. The fact that no drop or trace of blood can be found anywhere about the house, leads them to believe that it might have happened inside the little hut and been wiped up before anybody reached the scene. A careful search was made of the woman's clothes after she had been dressed to ascertain if the blood which must have spattered in quantities from the wound, had all trickled down her waist. It was found that only a minimum quantity had taken this course.

KEPT A LITTLE MONEY WITH HER. Some of the woman's relatives hold to the idea that she was murdered and declare that she always wore in a little bag around her neck all the money which she possessed. One of her relatives declared that, to his certain knowledge, she possessed at least \$20 dollars in gold in two pieces of \$10 each. Mrs. Norman declares that this could not be found after the attempt on her life and that the money was always carried. This is the chief basis of their contention that the woman did not try to kill herself, but rather suffered at the hands of a malicious murderer. Mrs. Norman would not say whether she found her daughter's pocketbook afterward and there were only a few cents in it.

U. C. T. Meeting. A special meeting of the U. C. T.'s will be held next Saturday afternoon in the council chamber. After the regular exercises will come the initiation of candidates from 8 to 9; a supper by the entertainment committee, 9 to 9:30; N. V. Porter, toastmaster. Five-minute talks will be made by Messrs. T. S. Franklin, A. L. Smith, A. H. Washburn, J. G. Shannonhouse, C. A. Williams, W. E. Dorr.

Concerning the Man and the Dog. The Man Who Whipped the Dog called upon The Observer office yesterday afternoon and requested that a denial be entered to three of the statements contained in a contributed report of the dog whipping in yesterday's Observer. These are, first: he did not beat the canine with a stick, but whipped it with a switch; second, that he did not beat it into insensibility; third, that the offense was not, as alleged, in following him off; it ran away three times and on the third offense he gave it a good whipping. "If a man can't whip his own dog without having a long piece in the paper about it," he concluded, "things have come to a pretty pass."

Music at First Presbyterian. The music for the services at the First Presbyterian church to-day has been arranged as follows: MORNING SERVICE. Organ Prelude, "Prayer".....Massenet Anthem, "Te Deum".....Edward Marso Offertory, "Seek Ye the Lord".....Roberts Postlude in F.....Niels Gade. EVENING SERVICE. Organ Prelude, Andante con Moto.....Gulmanti Anthem, "Great is the Lord".....Vince Solo, "In the Night Shall My Song be of Him".....Buck Postlude, March in D.....Gulmanti.

Negro Sent Up on Charge of Shooting. Under \$500 bond for shooting Lewis Morrow, colored, and \$50 bond for carrying a concealed weapon, Harrison North, colored, was yesterday held by the sheriff for his appearance at Superior Court. The shooting occurred in July. Morrow said North without any provocation pulled a pistol and said, "Let me show you how to shoot a pistol," and fired, the bullet taking effect in Morrow's hip. Others testified that the two were handling a pistol and the shooting was accidental.

ELIZABETH COLLEGE NOTES.

Temporary Change in the Chair of Latin—New Teacher in French—Formal Exercises Will Open on the 17th at 10 O'clock A. M.—Rev. W. C. Schaeffer Will Make the Address. On account of the continued illness of Miss Margaret Willis, the regular teacher in Latin, Miss Zelta Corriher, of China Grove, has been engaged to teach until Miss Willis is able to resume work. Miss Corriher graduated with distinction in the regular A. B. course from Elizabeth one year ago, spending four years at the college. Last year she took a full year's post-graduate work in Columbia University, New York City. She is a talented young woman, and well prepared to teach Latin.

The French classes will be taught this season by Miss Annie Dotger, of Charlotte. Miss Dotger is an A. B. graduate from Swarthmore College and has specialized in French and German. She graduated in languages from Elizabeth before coming to Swarthmore. She has had eight years' study in French under very superior teachers. Swarthmore College ranks with the best Eastern universities. Miss Dotger is young and possesses good natural qualities for a successful teacher.

There are seventeen active members of the faculty who give all their time to teaching. The faculty represents thirty-one years of post-graduate work in fourteen American and European universities and conservatories of international repute and one hundred and fifty-seven years of teaching experience, or an average of nine years each. The faculty and boarding students will arrive on the 16th. The formal opening will take place on the morning of the 17th at 10 o'clock. The address will be made by Rev. W. C. Schaeffer, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga. The public is cordially invited to these opening exercises, which will be held in the college auditorium.

Estimates on the Crop. The farmers of this county are very much depressed on account of the damage done the cotton crop by the recent rains. Various estimates are made as to the extent of the injury. Mr. John W. Cross, who has traveled about the county, declares that the crop will be 50 per cent. shorter than that of last year. Mr. John A. Kell, who is a close observer and a careful reader, thinks that the crop in the entire cotton belt will be 25 per cent. off. Mr. J. A. Blakey, of New Providence, is quoted as saying that his crop will be one-third off. Mr. George W. Williamson, of Paw Creek, puts his loss at a third.

Mr. Cannon Buys a Home. Mr. Ernest R. Cannon, of Mount Holly, has purchased from Mrs. E. L. Bussey her handsome residence in Dilworth, the price being \$10,000. The trade was made through Mr. J. E. Murphy. Mr. and Mrs. Cannon will move here the second week in October and he will begin work at the Charlotte Casket Company. Mr. and Mrs. Cannon will add much to the social life of Dilworth.

Picture Show Changes Hands. Mr. John T. Reese, of Greensboro, has bought the Monarch moving picture show at 204 South Tryon and will manage it in the future. A number of features of interest will be inaugurated, not least of these being orchestral music. Mr. Reese is a young man of ability and will no doubt make the business a successful one.

Charges Piled on Braswell. Will Braswell, the young white man who was arrested on the charge of beating a Charlotte lady out of a board bill, and also of assaulting Mamie Baker with a pistol, was bound over to court under three bonds aggregating \$200 yesterday. The other charge was for carrying a concealed weapon.

Death of Mrs. Sallie J. Tannahill. The Observer has received the following telegram from New York: "Mrs. Sallie J. Tannahill, widow of Maj. Robert Tannahill, ex-president of the New York Cotton exchange, and mother of E. D. Tannahill, of Paulson, Linkroom & Co. died Friday at her home in Inglewood, N. J."

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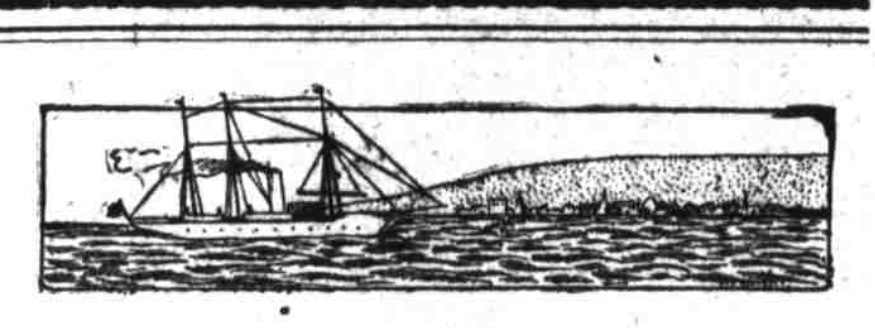
Eleventh Grade Pupils, male and female, wishing to enroll in the Eleventh Grade will report at North Graded School to Mr. H. P. Harding, Principal of Charlotte High School. ALEXANDER GRAHAM, Supt. City Schools. September 10, 1908.

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