

Raiford Curry

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SHOT IN A BARROOM--Jelow, a Roustabout, Kills a Cripple at Brunswick--The Dead Man Gave No Offense--An Exciting Pursuit in a Boat and the Murderer Captured--Says He Was Shooting at Another Man.

Brunswick, Ga., October 25 (Special)--William Jelow shot and killed Raiford Curry at 6:30 o'clock tonight in William McClure's barroom, known as "The Office," located in the rear of the vacant building at the corner of George and Bay streets. The murder was cold blooded and cowardly. Jelow's mind was frenzied by drink and the refusal of a barkeeper to give him more.

The murderer was a roustabout. Curry was a peaceful cripple who of late has tried to lead a quiet life, moving about the streets on crutches, while the stump of one limb from above the knee dangled, a reminder of an accident when at work once on a pile driver.

Jelow, the murderer, staggered into the bar and called for a drink. Frank Scott, the bartender, refused to hand it out, saying:

"Billy, you've had enough."

"You say I am drunk, take that," exclaimed Jelow as he jerked out a pistol and pulled the trigger.

The bullet sped harmlessly into the wall, Curry, who was standing quietly by drew away.

"Take this," yelled Jelow as he backed out of the door and fired the second time. This ball struck Curry who began falling.

"And this," and another ball struck Curry, who fell to the floor. Jelow backed further away and Scott ran out facing him, clearing Curry's prostrate form at one bound. Again the pistol was raised. A passerby, Horace Robinson, rushed to the murderer's side and grasped his arm. The scene was intensely dramatic. Robinson swung to Jelow and begged him not to shoot again. A crowd quickly assembled. With an oath the murderer broke from Robinson and fled.

Curry had died almost instantly. He was hit twice in the breast by the bullets. Rev. Father Hennessy came by but he was too late to be of assistance.

The saloon was closed and a crowd started in search of Jelow. Sheriff Berrie, on horseback, rode at breakneck speed through the streets and woods posting the guards. This proved unnecessary, for across the bow of his schooner, Matt Henry Heywood observed a man pulling hard against the tide. Heywood jumped into a boat and gave chase. He called to Jelow to stop.

The pursued dropped his oars and said:

"I give up. Don't shoot." Turning his boat around Jelow rowed silently to the shore. His captor followed with a drawn pistol.

On the wharf Lee Curry stood swearing vengeance against his brother's murderer. In the nick of time help arrived and Curry was led off and Jelow carried to jail. Jelow made a statement in his cell. He denied any intention to kill Curry and said he shot at Scott in self-defense. Jelow has a son who bears a good reputation.

The barroom where the killing occurred was the scene of another murder recently.

Mayor Lamb will hold an inquest tomorrow. The coroner is gone and Justice Coker is sick. To the horror of the epidemic three murders have been added.

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DENOUNCING THE JURY--Citizens Indignant at a Verdict of "Accidental Murder"

Brunswick, Ga., October 26 (Special)--The coroner's jury today in the murder of Curry rendered a verdict of "accidental murder." The jury as a whole was composed of representative citizens. The verdict was the best the officer could get under the circumstances. This verdict subjected the jurors to bitter denunciation on the streets today. Justice Coker who got out of a sick bed to hold the inquest state that he told the jury, when they handed in the verdict, that it was nonsensical, foolish and unknown to law. He advised them to let the lawyers say whether it was accidental or not.

Sheriff Berrie expressed surprise at the verdict. Assistant Chief of Police Robert Levison, who was instrumental in capturing the murderer, said the jury acted strangely. Chief Beach could see no sense in the verdict. The murder was cold blooded and some of the witnesses before the jury are accused of having lied straight out. Ben Hansen, the chief witness, whose name was given as Olsen last night, has been sent to jail by Justice Coker on account of his testimony. Judge Coker, and the citizens generally, denounce the jury's verdict in unmistakable terms.

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