

The Story of Ed and Lillie (Burcham) Turner

...a detailed history of their marriage

by Tony Burcham

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Introduction

This is written mainly for the benefit of genealogists and so, tries to present all details of subjects which are of conceivable interest to them.

Background information is included in the appendices for many of the people and places connected with the story.

I don't guarantee any entertainment value.

Lillie (Burcham) Turner's first name is variously given as Lillian, Lillie, Lily and Lizzie. She went by the last name Palmer or Farmer (accounts vary), for some of her activities which are introduced later. She will be referred to as *Lillie* or *Lillie Turner* in this text.

In this book, "Burcham" will be treated as the official, correct spelling of Lillie's surname (it's actually her stepfather's surname). Spelling variants encountered during this research include: Bircham, Birchum and Burcham.

I can't prove the identities of some of the people in this story, so for now, I have restricted the coverage to a single set of possibilities. Future editions of this book may include explorations of some people omitted from this one. See the [Resources](#) section if you want to research them on your own.

Except in quoted content, dates and locations are usually given in shortened form (e. g. Apr 2, 1907).

I have corrected some capitalization even in quoted text.

Pairs of numbers like “33.75129, -84.39411” for example—usually preceded by “@”, “near” or “Coords:”—are geographic coordinates.

To avoid confusion, please note that the town of *Frozen* (KY) is also known as *Frozen Creek* and that the town of *Shoulder Blade* (KY) is often spelled *Shoulderblade*.

All Sanborn® maps referred to are from 1911 unless otherwise noted. Notice that their North-South orientations are inconsistent and often at odd angles besides.

Chronology

This is the story of
Lillie F. (Burcham) Turner
and her husband,
Edward "Ed" Turner.

A Little about Lillie

Lillie was from Frozen, Breathitt Co, KY, and once taught school there. ¹ She was said to be very pretty, with long, dark-red hair. ² Her reputation in Breathitt Co, KY "was not the best."

In 1907 she claimed to be 16 years old, ³ though a newspaper said she was "barely 20." ⁴ If she was actually about 20 years old and expecting to pass for 16, she must have had a somewhat immature appearance.

In "the world of sin" she was known as either "Lillie" or "Lillian" Palmer. ⁵ She claimed that "her husband (Ed Turner) was worthless and had led her into a life of shame," ⁶ and news articles about her very often described her accordingly.

¹ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Apr 11, 1907, Page 7

² *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

³ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

⁴ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

⁵ *The Cartersville News*, Cartersville, GA, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

⁶ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

A Little about Ed

Ed was said to be "about 27 years old" in 1907, 5 feet 8 inches tall, and weighing about 150 pounds. He had a "florid" complexion, "quite large", blue eyes, brown hair and a "drooping mouth." In August of 1907 at least, he wore a "rather scanty moustache."

He lived in Shoulder Blade, Breathitt Co, KY before moving to Georgia.⁷ Shoulder Blade is 6.8 miles from Frozen as the crow flies, and 14 by road.

Ed once faced a murder charge in Jackson, Breathitt Co, KY. He was acquitted for lack of evidence.

According to a letter dated Thu, Apr 4, 1907, from S. N. Fugate, Deputy Sheriff of Breathitt Co, KY, he was still under bond at Jackson, KY for "another misdeed," of an unknown type.

Their Married Years

The letter mentioned above also stated that Ed and Lillie eloped to Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN and were married there "about one year ago,"⁸ which would have been around Apr 4, 1906.

Lillie had "a number of lovers before her marriage", including Ed, and also someone similar to Dock Harris—who will be introduced later. When they married, the "disappointed rival spoke of vengeance" and followed them to Jackson, KY, to Cartersville, GA, and then to Marietta, GA, where Ed opened a restaurant. Later, they moved to "Centersville", GA, where Ed opened a restaurant. His rival

⁷ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Feb 28, 1908, Page 1

⁸ *The Sedalia Democrat*, Sedalia, MO, Aug 2, 1907, Page 8

followed them there also, but was driven out by a lawsuit filed by Ed, and he fled to a nearby town.

The article said "Centersville", but based on the context, it probably meant "Cartersville". There are, however, five towns in Georgia named "*Centerville*" (no "s")—there being one each in: Early, Elbert, Gwinnett, Houston and Talbot counties. Centerville, Gwinnett Co, GA, is about 20 miles east of Atlanta (@ 33.80302, -84.04007).

According to a source in Whiteside, Marion Co, TN, Ed was employed at the Etna (also "Aetna") mines until a few months before Mon, Apr 8, 1907. The men at the mines though, had found out that he was an ex-convict and had made it intolerable for him, so he left. Etna Mines, Marion Co, TN is near coords: 35.01257, -85.49608.

They moved to Atlanta, GA, ⁹ "some eight weeks" before Wed, Apr 3, 1907, ¹⁰ "During the big snow in January," they moved to Cartersville, Bartow Co, GA, ¹¹ The two claims of their date of arrival in Cartersville don't agree perfectly: eight weeks before Wed, Apr 3, 1907 is Wed, Feb 6, 1907—which is not in January. Additionally, I've found no record of any "big snow" in the area around that time.

⁹ *Atlanta Constitution*, Aug 14, 1907, Page 4

¹⁰ *Atlanta Georgian and News*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 13

¹¹ *The Cartersville News*, Cartersville, GA, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

Ed Invests in a Restaurant

Ed bought an interest with William F. Maffett in the restaurant in the basement of the *Bradley Building* in Cartersville. It was named *The Turner Restaurant*.¹² The restaurant was "considered a first-class place and everything went on smoothly..." until about two weeks before Apr 3 (about Mar 20, 1907). Ed, being jealous, "watched his wife with the eye of a hawk constantly." His partner, Maffett, would later swear that Ed had threatened several times to cut Lillie's throat.

Lillie is Run out of Cartersville

Soon, due to their conduct, they were both being talked about, especially Lillie, who was put down as having "loose morals."¹³ Lillie's reputation got worse and worse. Some rumors about her were enough to concern the city marshal and prompt an investigation by him. Afterward, the city marshal, having decided the rumors were true and that her behavior was intolerable, escorted Lillie to the [railroad] station and banished her from town. So Lillie left, heading toward Atlanta, GA.¹⁴

Lillie moved back to Atlanta. Ed closed the restaurant immediately¹⁵ and (presumably) moved to Atlanta to be with Lillie. According to another account, Ed went back and forth between Cartersville and Atlanta, for several

¹² *Atlanta Georgian and News*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 13

¹³ *The Cartersville News*, Cartersville, GA, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

¹⁴ *Atlanta Georgian and News*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 13

¹⁵ *Atlanta Georgian and News*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 13

weeks before closing the restaurant. Lillie was either already an outcast in Atlanta, or became so afterward.¹⁶

The Couple Meet J. E. Jones

J. E. Jones, a native of Atlanta, met the couple a “short time before” Apr 3,¹⁷ at Cartersville.¹⁸ On her last day in Atlanta, which was Easter Sunday, Mar 31, 1907, Lillie was with J. E. Jones in the *Georgia Hotel*,¹⁹ where, at about 10:30 PM, they were both arrested for disorderly conduct. Ed bailed them both out of jail at a cost of \$25.75 each—a total of \$51.50. He bailed out Lillie “shortly before midnight”, then at 2:30 AM the next morning (Monday), he returned to the jail and bailed out J. E. Jones. To Jones he said, “Foolishness has cost me \$51.50 tonight.”²⁰

Lillie Writes a Letter

Lillie wrote a letter addressed to her boarding house mistress, Mrs. Fannie Warren (or Warner according to the *Chattanooga Star*), at 31½ Pryor St, Atlanta, Ga., and gave it to J. E. Jones to be mailed on Tuesday morning, but it was never mailed. It was signed either “Lizzie Palmer,” or “Lillie Farmer,” depending on which account you accept. Though written in pencil, it contained “errors” and “bad

¹⁶ *The Cartersville News*, Cartersville, GA, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

¹⁷ *Atlanta Georgian and News*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 13

¹⁸ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

¹⁹ Probably meant Lillie's home: the *Germania Hotel* (31½ S Pryor St)

²⁰ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

spelling.”²¹ Below is the letter as it appeared in *The Tennessean*, with the original spelling and grammatical errors:

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 2, '07
Mrs. Fannie Warren: Dearest Friend
I will write you to let you know where
I am. Well, Mrs. Warren, I am com-
ing back this afternoon.
My little friend come on here. He come on
the next train after I got here. I am go-
ing to leave Ed this evening and come
back down there until all this talk all
gets out, I don't now what anyone
wanted to do that way for. Well, Miss
Warren, when Mamie brings my wash-
ing, you take it for me, and I will
pay you twice as much as you to give
for it. Well, Mrs. Warren, I will close
by saying I will let you know where I stop
in town. I will call you up and
let you know. Good bye,
LIZZIE PALMER.

The address was probably intended to be "31½" S Pryor St—not "3½"—the *Germania Hotel*, as it was known as early as 1902, and as late as 1905, where a Mrs. Annie Warren was listed as proprietor in the 1906 and 1907 Atlanta directories.

²¹ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 5, 1907, Page 9

The Couple goes to Chattanooga

On Mon, Apr 1, 1907, Ed and Lillie took train No. 92 ²² from Atlanta, headed for Chattanooga, leaving at 4:50 PM.

In Atlanta, a stranger to the Turners named Dock Harris, a self-proclaimed detective, "thought their movements seemed suspicious" and so decided to follow the couple on their trip. He later claimed that he had never seen either of the two before. Until his identity was discovered days later (Thu, Apr 4, 1907), he was known as the "mysterious" or "un-known" countryman.

They arrived at Cartersville about 6:30 PM, where Ed got off the train and talked with some people he knew there, telling them that he was going with his wife to their former home in Kentucky, and that she was taking the train with him. Then they continued on, arriving in Chattanooga at 9:40 PM ²³ (the train was scheduled to arrive at 9:25 PM). The ride was 138 miles and would have lasted about 4 hours and 35 minutes, and at an average speed of around 30 mph. ²⁴

J. E. Jones and F. F. Reeves, took the next train—No. 4—which left around 8:50 PM and arrived around 1:08 AM Tuesday morning.

On the train, Lillie and Ed made the acquaintance of Ed Kelly. Upon their arrival in Chattanooga, Lillie, Ed Turner

²² Train numbers, times and distances, are based on schedules from the period, and may be inaccurate.

²³ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

²⁴ The distances in the schedules appear to be the accumulated straight-line distances between stops (from comparison with a modern map).

and Ed Kelly went to the Conner House on Market Street. Rather than remain there, Ed Turner went to the depot to wait for Jones to arrive. Jones arrived shortly after 1 A.M., along with Reeves. The next morning, the four—Lillie, Ed Turner, Jones and Reeves—met “by appointment” to go to the mountain together. Ed Kelly also met with them, but said he had to catch the morning train to Cincinnati, and so, couldn’t go with them.²⁵

The “Mysterious Countryman”

A “tall, slim youth”, said to be tailing Lillie, tagged along behind Lillie and Ed from Marietta, GA, all morning. As mentioned, he was often referred to as the “mysterious countryman”, or the “unknown countryman,” or simply the “countryman,” until later, when he was discovered to be Dock Harris, from Resaca, Gordon Co, GA.

The Appointment

Jones and Reeves had an appointment of an unspecified type with the Turners.²⁶ Considering their occupations doesn’t help either—there were two J. E. Jones’ and one F. F. Reeves in the 1906 and 1907 Atlanta City Directories:

1. Jackson E. Jones of 77 Jones Ave (wife Edna), who had a fruit-related occupation at his home. In 1906, he was listed as Elijah F. J. Jones.
2. James E. Jones of 201 South Ave (wife Mattie E.), who was a carpenter.

²⁵ *The Chattanooga Star*, Chattanooga, TN, Apr 3, 1907, Page 3

²⁶ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

3. Frank F. Reeves of 320 Chestnut St, who was a galvanizer (listed in 1907 only).

If the Mr. Jones and Mr. Reeves of interest to us here are in the above list, neither of their occupations sound like they would involve making appointments with newly-weds who were moving far away and which included 276 mile (round-trip) train rides. Was “appointment” perhaps a term for a friendly social engagement in those days?

Witness Accounts

There were several partial accounts of what happened on the days surrounding Lillie's murder—some of them conflicting with others. They are presented on the following pages.

... According to Jones and Reeves ...

Jones and Reeves first met Lillie at the *Germania Hotel*, a rooming house in Atlanta. Jones claimed it to be disreputable, and that Ed had placed Lillie there, and used her as a "cat's-paw" to enrich himself. Ed didn't live there himself, but came there occasionally to get money from Lillie.

On Easter Sunday, Ed and Lillie went to Marietta, Cobb Co, GA. Jones and Reeves followed them there. They returned that night to *The Georgia Hotel*, where Lillie and Jones were arrested.

Jones further stated, that Lillie had asked him to take her to Chattanooga, to help her get away from Ed. Instead though, both Lillie and Ed came to Chattanooga together, after making an appointment with Jones to follow them.²⁷

As Told by Jones, Reeves and Others...

The four met some time that Tuesday morning. Jones and Reeves spotted Dock Harris (the countryman) following them and tried to "run him off." Harris was not deterred. About 11 AM, all four—with Harris tagging along—went to

²⁷ *The Chattanooga Star*, Chattanooga, TN, Apr 3, 1907, Page 3

St. Elmo, a small town outside Chattanooga, near the foot of Lookout Mountain. Here, they divided into two groups: Ed and Lillie started walking up the side of Lookout Mountain, followed by Harris, while Jones and Reeves went to *Incline Station*, a place where the public could—and still can—take train rides directly up the steep eastern slope of Lookout Mountain.

Lillie, Ed, Jones and Reeves boarded a car bound for Lookout Mountain shortly before 11 A.M. Dock Harris, also got on. To "avoid suspicion" (for what!?), Jones and Reeves sat in a seat apart from Lillie and Ed. The group nevertheless attracted attention. Passengers especially observed Lillie, who was wearing a black silk dress, and a white Easter bonnet trimmed with green and red flowers. They also drew the attention of the motor-man, George Kilgore so much that he was later able to describe all of them in detail. Since Lillie was overheard exclaiming, "I'll die before I go home!", it was thought that Ed had been urging Lillie to go home with him.

While on the car, Jones and Reeves became acquainted with three "youths" known as the Crowe brothers. When the car arrived at the No. 2 Incline, Lillie, Ed, Jones, Reeves and the Crowe brothers all got off. Jones, Reeves and the Crowe brothers went to the office to get tickets for the Incline, not noticing what Lillie and Ed were doing, but when they turned around, they saw them walking away along the "mountain drive-way," with Harris following about 25 yards (75 feet) behind them. They saw the three disappear around a bend in the road, and that was the last time any of the group saw Lillie alive.

Ed was annoyed at being followed by Harris, and so he turned around and threatened him several times to dis-

courage him, but he merely lagged back further behind them, to the extent they couldn't see him any longer.

Servants of houses along the road claimed to have seen the three pass, but claimed that there was one man walking ahead, rather than behind, and that he's the one who fit Ed's description, while the man walking with Lillie fit Harris' description.

The boys waited around the office for about one hour, then Jones saw Ed seemingly trying to hide between some houses. A car came by and Ed ran to catch it. Jones also caught it and then asked Ed where Lillie was. Ed said he thought she had already gone to town. Ed went on to Chattanooga, while Jones got off the car and he and the others started a search for Lillie. They failed to find her and so returned to the city. They didn't find her there either.

Towards evening, Jones and Reeves started back for the mountain, where they met Deputy Sheriff Perkins, and told him about Lillie's disappearance. Perkins took them both into custody.

Sometime after taking the car to the city, perhaps minutes or even days later—as far as one can tell from reports—Ed fled the Chattanooga area and went to the home of his brother-in-law, George Combs in Estill Co, KY,²⁸ supposedly by train.²⁹ Variations of George's surname that I've encountered include: Combs, Combes and McCombs.

²⁸ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Aug 1, 1907, Page 6

²⁹ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

A Telegram Regarding Lillie

The Chattanooga Star received the reply below to a telegram it had sent on Thu, Apr 4, 1907, to Jackson, KY. The reply came from from S. N. Fugate, Deputy Sheriff of Breathitt Co, KY: ³⁰

*Jackson, Ky., April 4, 1907,
Chattanooga Star,
Chattanooga, Tenn.
Ed Turner married Lillie F. Birch-
am about one year ago. She was pret-
ty and about sixteen years old. Her
reputation was not the best.
S. N. Fugate, Deputy Sheriff*

³⁰ *The Chattanooga Star*, Chattanooga, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

A Story from a Witness

On the night of Thu, Apr 4, 1907, a story was told at the sheriff's office by Mrs. J. W. Gentry, a woman who lives at St. Elmo, but has a farm at Gowen Springs. The story went basically as follows:

Tuesday, she and a lady friend walked to the farm to look after some cattle. They returned in the afternoon at about 4:30 o'clock, walking back to St. Elmo along the county pike.

They had not walked more than about fifty yards from the intersection of the pike with the railroad track, when they passed a man walking south. The man fit the description of Ed Turner completely.

Even though the two ladies had not yet heard about Lillie's murder, the man's actions nevertheless attracted their attention. As he passed them, he turned his head away, but afterwards they saw him looking back.

He wore a light suit of clothes, and his hands and the sleeves of his coat were bloody.

"That man must have been in a fight," Mrs. Gentry remarked. *"His hands are all bloody, but he does not seem to be hurt himself."* They watched him until he disappeared from their sight. He did not go as far as the intersection of the roads, but cut across some fields to the railroad tracks, where they lost sight of him.

According to Dock Harris ...

On or after Mon, Apr 8, 1907, he reluctantly gave the following account to a reporter:

- He had not followed them for "two weeks"—He first saw them the day before the murder—when he "ran acrost them" in Marietta.
- Two weeks before, on a Wednesday, he went from "the tunnel," in Chattanooga, where he was working, to Ellijay, Gilmer Co, GA, to visit a sister.
- The "next Monday", he took the train to Marietta, and that's when he saw Ed and Lillie. That's also where he met them and "the two fellows" (Jones & Reeves) that were with them.
- They acted suspiciously, so he followed them to Atlanta, and later to Chattanooga.
- "We came here Monday night". He stayed in a hotel near the depot. The next morning, he went to the Union Depot Restaurant for a meal, and met them again. They were still "acting queer", so he kept following them.
- He said that he had never claimed to be a deputy sheriff, but witnesses insisted that he did—that he had even offered to arrest Ed and Lillie—if he'd had the help of another man.
- When they went to the mountain, he got off with them at the Incline, but didn't follow them up the road. He started up the road about an hour later to find a man that used to live on the mountain named Sower. He couldn't find him, so he went

back down to Alton Park to get a job in a spoke works. After that, he went back to the tunnel.

- He had returned by the same road he had taken up the mountain, and that he even went as far as Alton Park. But according to Jones, Reeves and the Crowe brothers, they did not see him return.
- At the tunnel he talked to the men there, "kidding them" about following them up the mountain, and so on.
- He had stayed in Chattanooga for a day after the murder, then, being frightened by implications against him in the newspapers, he fled the city.
- He was only a "country boy" and shouldn't have come to the city.
- He would search the whole country for Ed, if he was furnished: the means; a "good man" and a "good disguise."
- He claimed he had had only a little money—from the sale of some cotton. Witnesses however, said they saw him show a large roll of bills on the day of the murder.

... and According to Ed Turner

Second, according to Ed's account, given later to Lee Co. KY Sheriff D. C. Bailey:

Ed "had reason to suspect his wife of infidelity." He "watched her go up Lookout Mountain with two strange men" and he found his wife "in the embrace of one of them." He decided then to kill all three of them and afterward, himself.

He “slashed right and left with a knife,” wounding both of the men and killing his wife. Afterward, he was so exhausted, he hadn’t the courage to take his own life.

He then fled and hid in a cave in Estill Co. KY,³¹ near the home of his brother-in-law, George Combs. He soon left the cave, fearing it was too bad for his health. He went on to his brother-in-law’s house and hid “between the roof and ceiling.”³²

The Undisputed Parts of the Story

What no one seems to dispute, is that Ed and Lillie had turned southward off the main path, onto the abandoned “broad gauge” railroad³³ —the *C. & L. M. R. R.*—and walked about 150 yards along the tracks.³⁴ It was here that Lillie was killed by a knife slash reaching across her neck, “from ear to ear.”³⁵

³¹ There’s 15 miles between the Breathitt Co and Estill Co borders

³² *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Cincinnati, OH, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

³³ It wasn’t technically “broad gauge”

³⁴ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

³⁵ *The Cartersville News*, Cartersville, GA, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

Lillie's Body is Found

Between “about 3 o'clock” and “shortly after 4 o'clock” the same afternoon that Lillie was killed, her body was found “beneath a thick clump of bushes in a secluded spot” by a “9-year-old boy”³⁶ who was hunting for flowers there.³⁷

Another account said she was found “shortly after four,” “stretched prone across the middle of the [rail] road”.³⁸

All accounts seem to agree that she was lying on her stomach, with her arms “akimbo” and her hands turned upwards, and she, herself, facing upwards. That position of her head—facing upwards—was certainly only possible with severe wounds to her throat.

Other accounts just say “school children” found her, and might have meant children who were of school age, or that perhaps they were out on a school field trip. The closest school to the location, was *St. Elmo Elementary School*,³⁹ about 0.6 miles from the murder scene as the crow flies and about 0.7 miles by road and path. Walking 0.7 miles for example, takes 14 minutes at 3 mph and 8.4 at 5 mph.

Pieces of a bottle which had contained “mobile gin” were found at the scene.⁴⁰ In the article, the term “mobile gin” was in lower case and also in double-quotes, exactly as

³⁶ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

³⁷ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

³⁸ *The Chattanooga Star*, Chattanooga, TN, Apr 3, 1907, Page 3

³⁹ 4625 St. Elmo Ave, Chattanooga, TN, Coords: 35.00140, -85.32911, ... a small brick building completed at the end of 1906.

⁴⁰ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 5, 1907, Page 9

shown here. The only other occurrence of the term that I've been able to find, is in a 1927 reference to a brand or classification of gin which was presumably made or processed around Mobile, AL.⁴¹

Based on the position of her clothing, investigators concluded that she had been "maltreated" before her death.⁴²

Another account says "there were other evidences of a crime greater than that of murder." I guess that "greater than" means "in addition to." This suggests that she was also raped, although I've found no more direct mention of it.

The local residents were very angry over the murder, and Ed fled the area for fear of being attacked by a mob, as he explained months later.⁴³

Jones & Reeves in Custody

Shortly after Lillie's body was found, Deputy Marlon Perkins found Jones and Reeves, and they both recognized her. The two were held in custody pending the verdict of the coroner's jury.⁴⁴ They both claimed that they had nothing to do with the murder and that they had actually been trying to keep Lillie safe from Ed.⁴⁵

Jones said that he didn't know Ed and Lillie were married until after he'd spent an afternoon on the river with the

⁴¹ *The Palm Beach Post*, West Palm Beach, FL, Feb 20, 1927, Page 22 (See "Mobile gin" in the glossary)

⁴² *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

⁴³ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

⁴⁴ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

⁴⁵ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 5, 1907, Page 9

couple ⁴⁶ I assume he was referring to the afternoon Lillie was killed, and that they had been on the Tennessee River, since it flows through Chattanooga.

A Letter from Lillie's Mother

A letter from Lillie's mother to "Mr. Joseph F. Shipp," was received on the morning of Fri, Apr 12, 1907. It was sent from "Frozen Creek, KY," and was dated Tue, Apr 9, 1907, and signed "Sue Birchum." Its contents follows:

Frozen Creek, Ky., April 9, 1907.

Mr. Joseph F. Shipp:

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 5th was received today and I was so proud to hear from you. I haven't got the language to express my heart-felt thanks and obligations to you for the kindness you have showed me in the help in sending my dear daughter Lillie back home to me for burial and I will kindly ask you to thank all the other dear people that was so kind to help you. I am a poor widow woman almost alone in the world. Lillie was my baby girl and I thought so much of my dear daughter. Little did I think when I last saw her that I would ever see her come back to me with her throat cut. I thought so much of darling Lillie. I hope that the time will soon come in the near

⁴⁶ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

*future when you dear sheriff, will get
that scoundrel beast, Ed Turner, and
give him a speedy trial and that you will
spring the trap door to break his neck.
My heart is almost broken with trouble.
Nearly everybody said my daughter
Lillie was so smart and pretty. I want
to thank you again for your kindness
and I hope you will let me hear at once
when you get the murderer and I will
do everything in my power to help you
in every way I can to get him. Please
write me again and soon, for I am anxious
to hear everything I can in regard to the
capture and conviction of Ed Turner.
I beg to be your friend. Very truly
yours. SUE BIRCHUM*

Lillie's Funeral

On the afternoon of Wed, Apr 3, 1907, Sheriff Shipp received a letter from "Mrs. Lou Bircham," asking for Lillie's body and effects to be "forwarded" to her home.

As of Thu, Apr 4, 1907, L. J. Sharp & Co.⁴⁷—who had charge of her body—had not yet heard what they were supposed to do with it, but did have it prepared for burial, and ready to ship to her mother as soon as instructions were received.

⁴⁷ L. J. Sharp & Co is now the site of the *Volunteer Building*,
832 Georgia Ave, Chattanooga, TN, Near: 35.04603,
-85.30790

Her mother couldn't afford the \$60 transportation cost, so Chattanoogaans collected enough donations not only to transport her to Frozen Creek, but to also buy a "pretty casket" for her. C. L. Loop, of the Southern Express Company, contributed one half of the express charges.

On the night of Fri, Apr 5, 1907, Lillie's body was shipped out of Chattanooga by L. J. Sharp & Co. On Wed, Apr 10, 1907, it passed through Lexington, Fayette Co, KY, then later through Vancleve, Breathitt Co, Ky, on the way to her former home town of Frozen Creek. She was buried the following day. Funeral services for her were held at the home of her mother, Mrs. Lou Burcham.⁴⁸

J. W. Gentry	\$1.00
J. W. Stonecipher	1.00
R. L. Stevenson	1.00
H. J. Kendell	.50
A. E. DeRatt	.50
C. E. Quintell	.50
C. F. Brown	.50
Mrs. J. H. Springfield	.25
Total	\$5.25

*The first round of donations*⁴⁹

⁴⁸ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Apr 11, 1907, Page 7

⁴⁹ *The Chattanooga Star*, Apr 5, 1907, Page 1

Dock Harris Arrested

Dock Harris' was said to be "of Resaca, GA". His home was later given as Blue Springs, GA. An article claimed that Resacca, is "only 38 miles from Cartersville," but it is but 29.2 miles directly. Even by railroad or highway, it should not be 38 miles, so perhaps the number "28" was intended.

He spoke with a "peculiar rural accent"

On the afternoon of Mon, Apr 8, 1907, he was arrested in Chattanooga, and held in the county jail for questioning. The next morning, his father and a brother visited him in jail. Jailer J. A. Gillespie was ordered to be present during the visit to listen to their conversations.

While still in jail, Dock Harris told a Chattanooga Star reporter that he wanted to eliminate all suspicions of himself and was willing to track down Ed, "if they'd let him."

He was afraid to tell the reporter about anything he witnessed, in case he might inadvertently tell it slightly differently and get himself into trouble. He finally gave in, and made the statements listed in the section *"According to Dock Harris ..."*

On Thu, 11 Apr 1907, he was released, after promising to keep Sheriff Shipp aware of his location. He went to his home at Blue Springs, GA, accompanied by his father and brother. There are two locations named Blue Springs, GA:

1. Blue Springs, Screven Co, GA, @32.63312, -81.42171
2. Blue Springs, Brooks Co, GA, @30.78973, -83.45670

A Letter from Ed's Brother

On Sat, Apr 13, 1907, news of a letter from Ed's brother was published. The letter was received by "Chief John T. Moseley", from Shoulderblade, Ky, dated Tue, Apr 9, 1907, and signed "George Turner". This brother of Ed's wasn't known to the local authorities before. Postmaster W. Scott Raulston received a similar letter. The letter follows:

Shoulderblade, Ky., April 9, 1907
Dear Sir – I have heard my brother Ed
Turner has killed his wife. Will you
please write and tell me if you know
anything about it? Answer the letter
and tell me if he has ever been arrested
or not, and if you know anything about
him. Yours respectfully,
GEORGE TURNER.

Address Shoulderblade, Ky., Breathitt
county.

Ed Captured

Sometime before Wed, Jul 31, 1907, Dudley Edwards was released without bail from the Hamilton County Jail, for the express purpose of tracking down Ed Turner, since the sheriff knew that he was from the same area as Ed.⁵⁰ The "chase" led Dudley through West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and the mountains of "his native county" (Breathitt Co, KY ?), and finally found him in Breathitt Co. The article suggests that Dudley was the one who brought Ed back to Chattanooga, and conflicts with other accounts regarding that detail. He might well have accompanied the officers during his capture and on the way back to Chattanooga, though.⁵¹

Sometime on or before Wed, Jul 31, 1907, Ed was found in the mountains of Lee Co, KY by Dudley D. Edwards, "a paroled prisoner from the county jail, who had served a term in the Frankfort penitentiary" with him.⁵² Dudley Edwards might have learned something helpful about Ed while serving time with him.

Ed had been hiding "between the ceiling and the roof" of his brother-in-law, George Comb's house.⁵³ "About 8:00 in the morning, on Wed, Jul 31, 1907, Lee Co, KY Deputy Sheriff D. C. Bailey and Deputy H. D. Rogers went inside the house and stood on a "goods box" so they could poke their

⁵⁰ Dudley had been in jail awaiting trial for the murder of Sam Brooks, a fellow Cincinnati Southern Railroad employee.

⁵¹ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Oct 4, 1907, Page 2

⁵² *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Feb 28, 1908, Page 1

⁵³ *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Cincinnati, OH, Sat, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

heads into the hole that led to the loft. Out of caution though, he first pushed his hat up through the hole, holding it on the ends of his fingers. When there was no response to the hat, he jumped up so his head and the upper part of his chest were inside the loft and "threw down" his revolver almost right in Ed's face. Ed reached down as if to get a gun, when Deputy Rogers "threw" a Winchester rifle "down on" Ed, and Bailey ordered Ed to "throw up his hands." Thus, Ed was arrested. He was then taken to Beattyville, Lee Co, KY, and placed in jail there. A \$900 reward had been offered for his apprehension.⁵⁴

Ed Held in Palace Hotel

On the night of Sat, Aug 3, 1907, Ed was taken to Lexington, Fayette Co, KY by Sheriff James Potter Sizemore, of Lee County, and turned over to Sheriff Joseph Franklin Shipp, of Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN. Sheriff Shipp paid Sheriff Sizemore \$250 as a reward—presumably his proper share of the \$900 offered. In Lexington, Ed was kept handcuffed in a room at the *Palace Hotel* (132 S Limestone St)^{55 56}, by Sheriff Shipp. That night, he wrote to his sister Mrs. George Combs, telling her to "sell their oxen on the farm" and hurry to Chattanooga with \$300 to hire a lawyer to defend him.⁵⁷ While in custody at the hotel, Ed admitted to killing his wife, according to Sheriff Shipp.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Aug 1, 1907, Page 3

⁵⁵ 1909 Lexington City Directory, pub. R. L. Polk & Co., Page 687

⁵⁶ At Limestone St & Water St, near 38.05067, -84.50265

⁵⁷ *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Cincinnati, OH, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

⁵⁸ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

Ed, accompanied by both Sheriff Shipp & Sheriff Sizemore, left Lexington for Chattanooga the next day “on the early morning train”—around 200 miles as the crow flies. Their train was delayed several hours, and so they arrived in Chattanooga at 10:50 AM, on Mon, Aug 5, 1907. Ed was in the Hamilton County jail by about 11 AM that morning. His cell was on the 2nd floor.

That same morning—on Mon, Aug 5, 1907—a reporter came to Ed’s cell, and though Ed greeted him, he was “inclined to be somewhat non-committal.” The interview went as follows:

- Reporter:** *How did they capture you?*
- Ed:** *I was given away – betrayed by a friend. Sid Cole, a man who lives on the place where my brother-in-law, George Combes, lives, gave me away to the officers.*
- Reporter:** *You did not cut your wife's throat, did you?*
- Ed:** *I did not, but I think I know who did.*
- Reporter:** *You have been quoted as having admitted that you cut your wife's throat?*
- Ed:** *I may have, but that is not so.*
- Reporter:** *Why did you run away after she was killed?*
- Ed:** *I did not run away: I just took a notion to go back home.*
- Reporter:** *Did you not leave the city on the same afternoon as the crime?*
- Ed:** *I don't remember when I left the city.*
- Reporter:** *How long had you been back at your Kentucky home?*
- Ed:** *It was known by outsiders that I was back there two months ago.*
- Reporter:** *Did you know that a Chattanooga detective was on your trail?*
- Ed:** *I knew nothing about it.*
- Reporter:** *Were you ever in Georgia?*
- Ed:** *Yes: I have been in Cartersville in business and I was at Atlanta before coming to Chattanooga.*

A “Stormy Dispute”

On Tue, Aug 13, 1907, J. E. Jones was in Chattanooga to testify in Ed's preliminary hearing, but he arrived too late. He did go to the jail though, and met with Ed there. Ed claimed that he “did not know Jones.” The two argued between themselves about the murder. The published portion of the exchange went like this:

Jones: *“What made you kill Lillie?”*

Ed: *“You killed her yourself!”*

Jones: *“How can you say I killed her when you say you don't know me?” ... “You know you killed her!”*

Ed: *“You wouldn't say that if you were in here!”*

Jones also claimed the knife that Ed had (the whittling knife he mentioned, I assume) did not “tally with” the one that was found near Lillie's body, and that it—the murder weapon—was larger.⁵⁹

Ed Charged with Murder

On Tue, Aug 13, 1907: After hearing the evidence against Ed “this morning,” Justice Bork didn't hesitate to charge him with first-degree murder and bind him without bail.

At the hearing, Ed sat between his attorneys: Cummings & Chamlee and E. L. Whitaker. He showed a lot of interest in the testimony, although his ‘eyes batted nervously’ at times. At times he smiled in a “most indifferent manner” at some “more or less humorous expressions.”

⁵⁹ *Atlanta Constitution*, Aug 14, 1907, Page 4

The defense offered no proof at the preliminary hearing, though rebuttals were attempted during cross-examination, by Attorney Cummings.

Ed's business partner, W. F. Maffett swore that Ed had threatened to "cut his wife's throat" several times.

"George W. Drennon", a ticket agent at the foot of the Incline, "tended to show" that neither Jones nor Reeves were guilty, nor had any connection to it. He also said that Jones and Reeves got off the Alton Park car "about noon", and hung around there until about 8:30 PM, at which time, they took a car headed for the city.

Ed Receives Property Deed

On Tue, Aug 27, 1907, Ed received the deed for a farm from his brother George Turner, to be sold to finance his legal defense. The farm was said by the article to be on the Kentucky River, in Breathitt Co, Ky, although it must have meant either the Middle Fork Kentucky River or the North Fork Kentucky River. The Middle Fork seems more likely, since it flows near towns where his adoptive relatives were said to have lived: Crockettville, Canoe and Shoulder Blade.⁶⁰

Ed Indicted

On the morning of Tue, Sep 10, 1907, Ed Turner was indicted for murder by the grand jury at Chattanooga.⁶¹

⁶⁰ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Aug 28, 1907, Page 8

⁶¹ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Sep 11, 1907, Page 5

The Trial Begins

On Sat, Oct 5, 1907, Ed's trial began. The previous day, and an hour of this day, were consumed by jury selection.

Only two witnesses were called this day, and they told of depravity in Ed's treatment of Lillie that had "never been equalled" in this county's court room.

The leading defense Attorney was a brother of the Attorney General, and a "noted criminal lawyer."⁶²

Dudley Edwards Attacks Jailer

Sometime during the day on Sun, Oct 6, 1907, Dudley Edwards—once again an inmate of the Hamilton County jail—"went violently insane", and attacked the "day jailer", attempting to get his pistol, with the stated intention of "killing the jailer and himself." It required two men to overpower him and force him into a cell.⁶³

⁶² *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Oct 6, 1907, Page 2

⁶³ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Oct 8, 1907, Page 1

Ed Confesses

Ed confessed to the murder of Lillie in open court, on Mon, Oct 7, 1907, claiming that Lillie had been "untrue to him and defied him when he upbraided her for her infidelity." He also "told the story of his life from the time he was ten years old."

When recounting the details of the murder, he said "I had the knife in my hand, with which I had been whittling, and I just struck her and walked away after she fell."

Ed's counsel made a "strong fight" to save his life on "the plea of temporary insanity." The article adds that He "has a bad record as a feudist in the bloodiest section of Kentucky, and has boasted of his crimes."⁶⁴

Ed Convicted of Murder

On Tue, Oct 8, 1907, the jury returned a verdict of "murder in the first degree" for EdTurner. "Eminent counsel" were engaged on both sides. "Prominent alienists" were introduced to show he was a "victim of temporary insanity" at the time. The jury only took "a few moments" to get the verdict "on the first ballot."

Ed didn't "wink an eye" when the verdict was read. He returned to the jail without saying a word.

A "motion for a new trial" was to be heard the following Saturday.^{65 66}

⁶⁴ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Oct 8, 1907, Page 1

⁶⁵ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Oct 9, 1907, Page 14

⁶⁶ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Oct 9, 1907, Page 9

Ed Sentenced to Hang

On Fri, Oct 25, 1907, Ed was sentenced to hang on Tue, Dec 17, 1907, after a motion for a new trial was denied by Judge McReynolds. An appeal to the Supreme Court was planned.⁶⁷

Date Set for Death Sentence

On Sat, Nov 30, 1907, the Supreme Court affirmed Ed's death sentence, and "set the date for his execution as Jan 20" (Jan 20, 1908 was a Monday).⁶⁸

Ed is Granted Respite

On Mon, Jan 20, 1908, Ed was granted respite by Governor Patterson, until Thu, Feb 27, 1908.⁶⁹

Case is Discussed with Governor

On, Sat, Feb 15, 1908, Representative W. H. Cummings—Ed's attorney—went to Nashville, and spent several days discussing Ed's case with Governor Patterson. He also presented "numerous affidavits, letters and other documents" from citizens of Kentucky, tending to show that

⁶⁷ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Oct 26, 1907, Page 2

⁶⁸ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Dec 1, 1907, Page 21

⁶⁹ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Jan 21, 1908, Page 1

Ed was "irresponsible, and therefore not guilty of murder in the first degree." ⁷⁰ ⁷¹

Breathitt-Countians Plead for Ed

By Tue, Feb 18, 1908, seventy-five citizens of Breathitt Co, KY had sent letters and petitions to Governor Patterson of Tennessee, pleading for a commutation of Ed Turner's death sentence. The petitioners explained that Ed was "brought up in a godless community and that he never had an opportunity to know the right from the wrong," that both of his parents "died on the same night, when he was very young" and that "he had lived about as best he could." They claimed the "wickedness of his wife unbalanced his mind" and that "he killed her not because he hated her, but because he loved her." ⁷²

Ed's Last Day

By Thu, Feb 27, 1908, it was understood that Ed had been "converted." I assume this means he became a Christian.

He was "probably the most noted prisoner to be hung in Tennessee in several years."

Scores of letters and telegrams had been received by Governor Patterson from Ed's "old friends and acquaintances, in Breathitt County." ⁷³

⁷⁰ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Feb 16, 1908, Page 11

⁷¹ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Feb 26, 1908, Page 3

⁷² *The Paducah Evening Sun*, Paducah, KY, Feb 18, 1908, Page 1

⁷³ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Feb 27, 1908, Page 8

Ed's Last Letter

Ed wrote the following letter to his brother George Turner, who was living at Shoulder Blade, KY, dated Wed, Feb 26, 1908:⁷⁴

*Chattanooga, Tenn.,
February 26, 1908.*

*George Turner,
Shoulder Blade, Ky.*

*Dear Brother:—As I leave you
as a brother, and as there are only
two of us it almost breaks my
heart to think that I will leave
you all alone in this old world,
and for me to die the death that I
will have to die. Oh! my God!
my God! Think about it well,
brother.*

*This is the last letter I will ever
write to you in my life, and it is
a horrible death for me to be murdered
here, and I know that I did
not murder my wife. But it is
only a few moments of punishment;
then I will be at rest. I
am going home to die no more,
brother. I pray to God that you
will raise your children up in some
Christian form and send them to*

⁷⁴ *Breathitt County News*, Jackson, KY, Mar 6, 1908, Page 1

*school. Try to make good men
and women out of them.*

*I hope you will all live a Chris-
tian life and meet me in heaven
when all of you die. Brother,
don't weep after me, and I do pray
to God that he will be with you,
one, and all, until we meet again.
This leaves me as well as common.
I hope you are all enjoying the
best of health.*

*I will send you the mortgage of
Preston Spencer's and you can
give it to him. I can't think of
any more tonight, and it is bed-
time. You can keep this letter to
remember me by, if you want to.
You can read this letter any time
and think of me. I will send you
my watch and you can keep it as
long as you live; also some of my
pictures and you can send one of
them to my sister and keep the
rest.*

*I will close for the last time in
life. So good-bye to you all.
Good wishes to you all. I am as
ever, your brother,*

Ed Turner.

Ed Hanged

At 4:53 PM on Thu, Feb 27, 1908, Ed Turner was hanged in the county jail in Chattanooga, TN. He was cut down eleven minutes later.

Ed “preserved a remarkable composure from the time he was notified that the Governor had refused to interfere, until the trap was sprung.” A few minutes before he was led to the scaffold he stated that he intended to die like a “Kentuckian.”⁷⁵

His only “last words” were “*Good bye*”, which he spoke to Dr. J. A. Baylor, pastor of Centenary Methodist Church.⁷⁶ He walked to the scaffold with a firm tread, and in an equally firm tone told Sheriff Shipp, who sprung the trap, that he had nothing to say.⁷⁷

Ed's Funeral

That very night, after his hanging, Ed's body was taken to Shoulder Blade, KY—his former home—by his uncle, E. C. Jones.

During the rest of that week, “quite a number of pieces of rope”—claimed to have been cut from the rope that Turner was hanged with—were distributed throughout Breathitt County. Ed's uncle, E. C. Jones, who had accompanied Ed's body from Chattanooga, visited the *Breathitt County News* office Mon, Mar 2, requesting a statement be made that the rope used in the execution was left in

⁷⁵ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Feb 28, 1908, Page 1

⁷⁶ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Feb 28, 1908, Page 1

⁷⁷ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Feb 28, 1908, Page 1

Chattanooga, and that the pieces distributed in Breathitt County were not cut from the rope with which Turner was hanged.⁷⁸

Ed Turner was buried in the *Cotton Patch [Cemetery]*.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ *Breathitt County News*, Jackson, KY, Mar 6, 1908, Page 1

⁷⁹ [Descendants of Joel Stamper and Nancy Cannady](#)

Comments

Ed's Legal Case

There were multiple stories being told or promoted by Ed Turner regarding Lillie's death:

1. He didn't kill Lillie at all.
2. He was whittling, lost his temper at some point and lashed out on the spur of the moment.
3. That he killed her out of frustration over her infidelity.
4. That he discovered Lillie romantically involved with another man.
5. J. E. Jones killed her (said to Jones purely for the sake of argument most likely).

Not one of these versions is perfectly consistent with any of the others when each scenario is carefully considered.

The claim by Jones that the knife at the crime scene was larger than the one he used for whittling, implies premeditation—that Ed had brought along a knife larger than his usual one for the very purpose of killing Lillie (and perhaps also Jones and Reeves). This claim contradicts one of Ed's stories, which suggests he “just happened” to have the knife in his hand because he was whittling at the moment he lost his temper upon seeing Lillie with the “stranger.”

Lillie's Last Letter

The phrase "My little friend come on here", according to one newspaper, "doubtless refers to the Jones youth..."¹

There are a few odd things about that letter. For one thing, her spelling and grammar were below what one would expect of a school teacher. Was that simply the best education she could obtain in the Frozen Creek area? Ed came from the same area of Kentucky as Lillie, and his last letter had good spelling and grammar throughout. Maybe Ed went to college in Kentucky or while living in Atlanta. But then maybe she really *was* only 16 and hadn't had time to learn any better.

Another thing is how she began three of her sentences with "Well, Mrs. Warren,...." Does anyone else write letters that way? Most people avoid excess words when writing letters.

And there's the fact that J. E. Jones never mailed the letter. Was that such a harder task back then than now? Of course he might have forgotten...

All of these oddities together makes one wonder a little as to whether the letter was written by Lillie or by someone else—perhaps Jones or Reeves—to avoid suspicion for the murder.

¹ *The Chattanooga Star*, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

Ed's Last Letter

In his last letter, Ed said that he did not kill Lillie and even viewed his own hanging as a murder. This completely contradicts other accounts claiming that he had confessed:

1. Sheriff Shipp claimed that he confessed while in the *Palace Hotel* in Lexington, KY.²
2. A newspaper article claimed he “related to Sheriff D. C. Bailey, of Lee County, the details of his horrible crime.”³
3. During a “stormy dispute” between Ed and Jones, in the Chattanooga jail, Ed did not admit to killing Lillie and—apparently for argument’s sake—even accused Jones of the crime.⁴
4. A newspaper reporting on Ed being “held without bond,” claimed that he “confessed that he murdered his wife.”⁵
5. Ed was claimed to have confessed to the murder in court during his trial in Chattanooga.⁶
6. A newspaper report on the verdict in his trial, also claimed that he confessed to the murder “on the stand.”⁷

² *The Courier-Journal*, Jackson, KY, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

³ *The Citizen*, Berea, KY, Aug 8, 1907, Page 7

⁴ *Atlanta Constitution*, Aug 14, 1907

⁵ *The Mt Sterling Advocate*, Mount Sterling, KY, Aug 14, 1907, Page 6

⁶ *The Courier-Journal*, Jackson, KY, Oct 8, 1907, Page 1

⁷ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Oct 9, 1907, Page 14

7. A newspaper, reporting on his hanging, claimed that “In his trials, Turner made a confession.”⁸

He also mentioned a watch and some pictures that he was sending to his brother. Those are hopefully still in someone's possession and perhaps some day will be viewable by the public.

The Appointment

What kind of an appointment could the Turners have had with Jones and Reeves? If I've correctly identified them, then J. E. Jones was a carpenter, and F. F. Reeves was either a galvanizer or a street car conductor at the time. Did they collaborate on some secondary occupation?

If “appointment” meant a social engagement in those days, it would make more sense.

⁸ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Feb 28, 1908

People

The people in this chapter are in roughly the same order as they appeared in the chronology

Edward / Ned "Ed" Turner

Ed was said to be "about 27 years old" in 1907, 5 ft 8 inches tall and 150 pounds. He had a "florid" complexion, "quite large", blue eyes, brown hair and a "drooping mouth." In Aug 1907 at least, he wore a "rather scanty moustache."

None of the information about Ed and his genealogy agree in any obvious way with that publicized in newspapers regarding Lillie's murder.

One can conclude that his mother's maiden name was Jones, since he had an uncle named E. C. Jones.

Based on his claim that "both of his parents died on the same night when he was very young", one can conclude that both of his parents were dead by the end of February 1908.¹

Based on the content of his last letter, one can conclude that only two of his siblings were living at the end of February 1908:

1. His brother George, of Shoulder Blade, Breathitt Co, KY
2. An unnamed sister married to George Combs and living in the mountains of Estill Co, KY

¹ *The Paducah Evening Sun*, Paducah, KY, Feb 18, 1908, Page 1

It seems likely enough that after his parents died, Ed and his siblings would have been adopted or “taken in” by another Turner family—most likely a related one.

The (unofficial) information I’ve found has given two different pairs of parents and only one set of children.

In one pair of parents are a father: William “Greasy Bill” Turner—son of James “Spanish Jim” Turner and Mary “Polly” (Caudill) Turner—born 1839 in Taylor Co, KY, and who died between 1890 and 1900 in Breathitt Co, KY

And a mother: Catherine (Stamper) Turner, born 1845 in Breathitt Co, KY. They were married on Nov 29, 1859 in Breathitt Co, KY.

In the other pair of parents are a father: William Thornberry Turner—son of John “Rooster” Turner and Jane “Jenny” (Becknell) Turner—born about 1846 in Breathitt Co, KY—and a mother: Rachel (Fraley) Turner, born in 1855 in Kentucky. They were married on Nov 26, 1874. He was 19 years old and she was 15.²

The children listed for both pairs of parents are similar to the following (Ed and George are shown in bold):

1. **George Turner, born about 1860**
2. **Ed / Ned Turner, born about 1862**
3. Ellis “Adie” Turner, born in 1864 in Breathitt Co, KY
4. Lewis Turner, born in Feb 1867 in Breathitt Co, KY
5. Lydia Turner, born in 1871 in Breathitt Co, KY
6. Mary Turner, born in 1874 in Breathitt Co, KY
7. Sarah “Sally” Turner, born Jun 6, 1875 in Breathitt Co, KY
8. Jane “Jennie” Turner, born on Jun 6, 1875 in Breathitt Co, KY. She married Samuel Fugate.
9. Haney Turner, born about 1878 in Breathitt Co, KY

² 1880 Breathitt Co, KY census #14, Crockettville, #282-289

10. Sigel Stamper Turner b: 1880 in Breathitt Co, KY

The information on the children listed for both pairs of parents agree too well as to names and dates of birth to be regarded as mere coincidence. It's conceivable though, that one or more genealogists were in error, leaving what may be a mixture of fact and fiction. It's probably a good starting point for research in any case.

According to one genealogy website, Ed Turner was born about 1862,³ which would have made him about 45 in 1907. A newspaper said he was "about 30" years old in Aug 1907.⁴

The records of Tennessee executions give his age as 27 on Thu, Feb 27, 1908. That would make him about 26 in 1907, and his year of birth 1880 or 1881.

He lived at Shoulder Blade, KY, before moving to Atlanta, GA.

In Jan 1907, he bought an interest with William F. Maffett in the restaurant in the basement of the *Bradley Building* in Cartersville, Bartow Co, GA.⁵

The Tennessee executions records show an Ed Turner (entry No. 192 in the list) age 27, white male, restaurant operator, executed by hanging for the crime of murder, on Thu, Feb 27 1908 in Hamilton Co, TN.^{6 7}

³ [Descendants of Joel Stamper and Nancy Cannady](#)

⁴ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

⁵ *The Cartersville News*, Cartersville, GA, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

⁶ [Tennessee Executions](#) from the "Way Back Machine"

⁷ Find-A-Grave ID# 169238218

Lillian (Burcham) Turner

Also known as Lily, Lillie, Lillian and Lizzie. She signed her name as "Lizzie" in the last letter she wrote to Fannie Warren.⁸ She went by "Lillie Palmer" in her unspecified, disreputable activities. It is said that she sometimes signed herself using the surname "Burcham". Her middle initial is "F" according to a telegram from Deputy Sheriff S. N. Fugate of Jackson, KY.⁹

Her father was Luke Farmer, who died while she was still very young, from the effects, it is said, of being shot. The family lived at Jackson, KY for a while, and then her mother married a Mr. Bircham, of Frozen Creek, KY. After this marriage, they moved in with her new stepfather,

Newspapers have given her maiden name both as Farmer and as Palmer.

In Apr 1907, she was claiming to be 16 years old,¹⁰ although a newspaper article said she was "barely 20 years of age".¹¹ She was once referred to as Ed's "child wife."¹²

Before moving to Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA, she lived in Frozen, Breathitt Co, KY, working as a school teacher.¹³

One article described her as a "soiled dove" and "one of the demi-monde of Atlanta."¹⁴

⁸ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 5, 1907, Page 9

⁹ *The Chattanooga Star*, Apr 4, 1907, Page 1

¹⁰ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Apr 3, 1907, Page 2

¹¹ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

¹² *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Oct 8, 1907, Page 1

¹³ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Apr 11, 1907, Page 7

¹⁴ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 4, 1907, Page 3

Her mother's first name was either Lou or Sue, and her last name was Burcham during 1907 and 1908.

I've found nothing else regarding her relatives.

J. E. Jones

J. E. Jones, was 26 around the day of the murder, and so was born about 1881.

There are two possible matches for him in the *Atlanta City Directory*, but this book will focus on the James E. Jones who had a wife named Mattie in 1907.

In the 1898 edition, he appears as single:

James E Jones

350 Terry St

Occupation: carpenter

In the 1903 edition, he is shown married:

James E. & Mattie Jones

South Ave near Grant St

Occupation: carpenter

In the 1905 edition:

James E. & Mattie Jones

142 South Ave

Occupation: carpenter

In the 1906 thru 1908 editions:

James E. & Mattie Jones

201 South Ave (now Grant Park Place SE) ¹⁵

Occupation: carpenter

¹⁵ Sanborn map# 527, Near: 33.73253, -84.37563

This was most likely the same house as 142 South Ave after a renumbering of addresses in the area.

In the 1909 edition:

James E. & Mattie Jones

317 Ormond St ¹⁶

Occupation: carpenter

Miss Annie Jones, a stenographer—perhaps his daughter—also lived there.

It doesn't appear in the Sanborn maps, but map# 522 covers the north side of Ormond St, and you can use it to find its probable location.

There was no house at 317 Ormond listed in the 1908 directory. The existing addresses in the vicinity were: 316 and 320.

The house at 317 must have been built soon before James & Mattie moved in.

He doesn't appear in the 1910, 1912, 1913, 1918 or 1922 editions.

There was a Mrs. Augusta Jones, widow of John Jones, who seemed to loosely follow James (or vice versa) over a number of years. In 1906, she lived at 290 Georgia Ave and worked in some connection with ice-cream at 342 Terry—a store very near 350 Terry St where James lived in 1898. In 1907, she lived at 216 South Ave, which was across the street and four houses to the East from where James lived in 1903 though 1908.

In 1910, she lived at 59 Irwin St with a Joseph J. and Clara Hennessee.

¹⁶ Near: 33.73145, -84.37912

F. F. Reeves

I've only found one possible match for F. F. Reeves: Franklin F. Reeves.

Franklin Reeves was born in Georgia on Apr 7, 1878 to John Russell Perleman Reeves and Francis M. (Pass) Reeves. He was the eighth of eleven children:

1. Carrie
2. Josia Ed
3. Augustus Barnes
4. Pearl Estelle
5. Sarah Ann "Sallie"
6. Willis Booth
7. Luther Pass
- 8. Franklin F**
9. Ralph
10. Arthur Amos
11. Minnie Lee

When the 1900 US census of Spalding Co, GA was taken, he was living with his sister Sallie (Sarah Ann) Miller and her husband Walter B. Miller.

He appeared several times in the editions of the *Atlanta City Directory* which I could access:

In the 1907 edition:

Frank F Reeves

320 Chestnut St (now James P. Brawley Dr N. W.)

Occupation: Galvanizer

This address isn't covered by the 1911 Sanborn maps but the available ones suggest it is near: 33.75855, -84.41292

In the 1908 edition:

Franklin F Reeves

400 Magnolia St

Occupation: Street car conductor

In the 1909 edition:

Frank F Reeves

69 Lovejoy St

Occupation: Street car conductor

In the 1910 through 1912 editions:

Franklin F Reid

65 Hayden St

Occupation: Clerk at *Capitol City Laundry*

The 1910 US census shows him boarding at a house on Hayden Street owned by Walter B Miller and working as a wagon driver in the laundry industry.

The *Capitol City Laundry* operated at 128 Whitehall. It went from around 32 employees down to 15 between 1910 and 1912. In 1913, there were around 54 employees, 42.6% (23) of which were colored, compared to 3.1% to 6.7% from 1910 through 1912. This trend suggests that the company was trying to reduce labor costs by reducing wages and hiring more workers. This would likely have driven away the relatively spoiled white employees and left openings for the more desperate African Americans. Perhaps that was a factor in Frank's choice of his new career for 1913.

In the 1913 edition:

Frank F Reeves

65 Hayden St

Occupation: Salesman for *Jones & Phillips*¹⁷

Jones & Phillips made and sold jewelry, including watches, at 251 Marietta St. It was a walk of 0.31 miles from home for Frank (*Centennial Olympic Park* wasn't there then).¹⁸ Calvin Asbury Phillips was the manager. I couldn't find out who the Mr. Jones was. Employees in 1913 included:

1. Walter L Manning, collector, who lived at 20 Spencer St
2. Nicholas McHan, collector, who boarded at 65 Hayden St (same as Frank Reeves)
3. Wade D McMiehn, salesman, who lived at 92 Newport St
4. Lee Morgan, collector, who lived at 195 Woodward Ave
5. Calvin A Phillips, manager, who lived at 500 Spring St
6. **Frank F Reeves, salesman, who lived at 65 Hayden St**
7. Frederick L Tippen, watch maker, who lived at 16 Tifton St

Frank died Sep 25, 1915. He was buried in the *Haralson United Methodist Church Cemetery* in Haralson, Coweta Co, GA¹⁹

¹⁷ [Centennial Olympic Park on Wikipedia](#)

¹⁸ Sanborn map# 20, Coords: 33.76039, -84.39480

¹⁹ Find-A-Grave ID# 12320115, Coords: 33.22449, -84.57391

In the 1918 edition:

Frank, of course, was not listed. The only former employees of *Jones & Phillips* listed were Calvin Phillips, an agent for *Morgan Investment Co*, living at 326 S Ashby St and Walter Manning, employed somewhere as a collector.

Frank could have changed occupations from galvanizer to street car conductor any time between the fall of 1906 and the fall of 1907 and still showed the employment history found in the *Atlanta City Directory*.

A Side-Note:

At 11 AM on Oct 6, 1917, *Jones & Phillips* was required by the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia to have its assets sold in a bankrupt sale. The assets to be sold included store and office fixtures, two iron safes, jewelry stock and "accounts due said bankrupt."²⁰

By Aug 21, 1917, the building at 251 Marietta St housed the *Wright Auto Shop*.

²⁰ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Oct 3, 1917, Page 12

Fannie Warren

Fannie Warren was said to have been Lillie's "boarding house mistress" in a newspaper article.²¹ There were several Warrens listed in the *Atlanta City Directory* as operating boarding houses or lodging houses. There was another home at 61 N Forsyth St which wasn't listed as a boarding house in the available directory editions, but nevertheless, some rooms there were advertised in the classified ads. In a want ad in 1906, the name given to contact was "Mrs. Warren".

ELEGANT rooms, nicely furnished, conveniences, close in. Call and see them. Mrs. Warren, 61 N. Forsyth, Atlanta, phone 4949.²²

In the 1907 edition of the directory, Mr. Thomas J. and Fannie R. Warren were listed as residents there:

Thomas J & Fannie R. Warren

61 N Forsyth St²³

Occupation: fish & game at 176 Decatur²⁴

The other occupants of the house listed in 1907 included:

1. Carl A Fisch, employed at *Fisch Bros*
2. Herman W Fisch, employed at *Fisch Bros*
3. Noah W Halley, a U S Pension Examiner
4. Mrs. Ella Lofton, widow of Daniel K Lofton
5. Marion Shockley, a cashier at 27 Ivy

²¹ *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 5, 1907, Page 9

²² *The Atlanta Constitution*, Nov 11, 1906, Page 4

²³ Sanborn map# 11, Coords: 33.75646, -84.38926

²⁴ Sanborn map# 452, Coords: 33.75101, -84.38461

6. Miss Josephine Womble, a stenographer at *Browder Manget Co* ("Manget" is a surname, not a misspelling of "magnet")

No Ed or Lillie Turner there.

In the 1908 edition of the directory, there was just Mrs. Fannie Warren listed at 61 N Forsyth, and no mention of her husband anywhere in town.

In the 1909 edition of the directory, they were back together, but at a new address:

Thomas J & Fannie R Warren

111 S Pryor St ²⁵

Occupation: Bookkeeper at 157 E Hunter for *J B Morgan Coal Co.* ²⁶

The address was also listed under "boarding houses" with T. J. Warren as the owner or operator.

From Find-A-Grave:

Frances "Fanny" Isabella Stowers ²⁷ was born on Dec 23, 1857 to Elizabeth Jane (McCollum) Stowers (1828 – 1890) and Robert Roebuck Stowers.

George Thomas Warren ²⁸ was born on Feb. 29, 1860 in Conyers, Rockdale Co, GA. He was the son of Martin Lumpkin Warren (1833-1892) and Edditha Lassley Hardin (1833 - 1906).

²⁵ Sanborn map# 465, Coords: 33.74934, -84.39277

²⁶ Sanborn map# 468, Coords: 33.74852, -84.38597

²⁷ Find-A-Grave ID# 109548844

²⁸ Find-A-Grave ID# 109548759

On Dec 23, 1880, George Warren and Fanny Stowers were married in Rockdale, Georgia. Their children were:

1. Virgil P. Warren (1881 - 1957) ²⁹
2. Cleo Warren Turner (1889 - 1966) ³⁰
3. Lovic Cyril Warren (1895 - 1959) ³¹

Fanny died on Dec 2, 1931, and was buried in Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA.

George died on Sep 22, 1938 in Atlanta, DeKalb Co, GA and was buried in Westview Cemetery, Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA.

²⁹ Find-A-Grave ID# 14991136

³⁰ Find-A-Grave ID# 109548960

³¹ Find-A-Grave ID# 109549189

Mamie

Lillie's last letter implied that a woman named Mamie was handling laundry for people boarding at Fannie Warren's boarding house at the time of the murder. One promising, but not perfect match, is Mamie Beaty, who lived at several addresses, all within a small area of Atlanta for many years surrounding the period of interest. Her last name appears with several different spellings.

In the 1907 edition of the directory, Elias and Laura Beaty, the parents of Mamie Beaty, were living at 180 Randolph St.³² Elias worked as a carpenter.

In the 1908 edition of the directory, there was a Miss Mamie Beaty, living at 180 Randolph St, employed as a clerk at *Capital City Laundry* at 130 Whitehall (now Peachtree St SW).³³

In the 1909 edition of the directory, Mamie has no address listed with her name, but her parents are living at 185 Randolph St. She was employed as a laundress at *Capital City Laundry*.

In the 1910 Census, Mamie G. Beaty was 26 years old and living at:
185 Randolph St³⁴
Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA

³² Sanborn map# 180, Coords: 33.76084, -84.36775

³³ Sanborn map# 465, Coords: 33.75021, -84.39351

³⁴ Sanborn map# 189, Coords: 33.76105, -84.36756

She worked as a “bundle wrapper” in the laundry industry. Her father was Elias H. Beaty, 52 and her mother was Laura A. Beaty, 44. She was the elder sister of four brothers:

1. **Mamie G. Beaty, 26**
2. Frederick Beaty, 21
3. Sammie Beaty, 19
4. Frankie C Beaty, 17
5. Walter B. Beaty, 7

In the 1910 and 1912 editions of the directory, Mamie is listed under the surname *Beatie*, living at 185 Randolph St, and employed as a marker at *Capitol City Laundry*.

In the 1913 edition of the directory, Mamie is listed under the surname *Beattie*, living at 85 Johnson Ave ³⁵ and employed as a forelady at *Capital City Laundry*.

In the 1918 edition of the directory, Mamie is listed under the surname *Beatty*, living at 288 Highland Ave and employed as a clerk at *Capital City Laundry*. There was also a soldier named William Callaway Lowry living at that address.

In the 1920 Census, Mamie Beaty was 38 ³⁶, still single, a forelady in the laundry industry, and living with her parents on Highland Ave in Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA.

³⁵ Sanborn map# 180, Coords: 33.76032, -84.36817

³⁶ This doesn't agree with her reported age of 26 in the 1910 Census.

In the 1922 edition of the directory, Mamie is listed under the surname *Beattie*, still living at 288 Highland Ave ³⁷ and employed as a forelady at *Capital City Laundry*.

In 1927, the obituary of her father, Elias Harrison Beaty ³⁸ was published:

Beaty—The friends of Mr. and Mrs. Elias Harrison Beaty, of 886 Amsterdam Avenue, NE: Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cain, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Beaty, Mr. Fred Beaty, Mr. Walter Beaty, are invited to attend the funeral of Mr. Elias H. Beaty this (Sunday) afternoon at 3 o'clock from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Lowry, 1170 *[sic]* North Highland Avenue, NE, Rev. C. B. Williams officiating. Former fellow employees at Oakland cemetery will act as pallbearers: Messrs. W. A. McClain, D. P. Cheney, A. L. Bosshardt, D. M. Dickson, J. P. Stain, M. M. Walters. Interment at West View. Sam R. Greenberg & Co., funeral directors. 95 Forrest Avenue, NE. ³⁹

³⁷ Sanborn map# 191, Coords: 33.76140, -84.36493

³⁸ Find-A-Grave ID# 83943484

³⁹ Unknown newspaper

It mentions his daughter and son-in-law—Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lowry—living at 1170 (should be 1071 ⁴⁰) Highland Ave. If he only had one daughter, then this has to be Mamie. Now, remember the soldier named William Callaway Lowry living with them in 1918?... All this suggests that Mamie married that same William Lowry. The major contradiction I've found is in 1922 where William C. Lowry, a meat cutter for T. F. Moore, was married to a woman named Francis and living at 1071 Highland Ave, while in the same edition, there's also Mamie Beatty, a forelady at "C C Laundry", single and living at 288 Highland Ave. ⁴¹ This might be explained by the couple marrying near the time the directory data was being compiled, and the information being largely an update of the previous year instead of a fresh collection.

Then there's the different first name—"Francis" instead of Mamie or something that begins with "G", her middle initial. Maybe she had more than one middle name or preferred a nickname?

Could Mamie have had an unmentioned sister?... In 1910, Elias Beatty had only been married for 22 years, while Mamie was already 26 years old. ⁴² This means that Mamie's real mother had either died or divorced Elias by then, and that Laura Beatty was her stepmother. This opens up the possibility that Mamie had other siblings that had stayed with her real mother or married, for example.

The obituary also mentions a Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cain, but it doesn't suggest that Mrs. Cain is his daughter or

⁴⁰ 1922 Atlanta City Directory

⁴¹ 1922 Atlanta City Directory

⁴² 1910 US Census

even related. In 1922, there were two Walter L Cains living in Atlanta:⁴³

1. Walter L & Agnes Cain, a secretary for M C King Co, at 100 Highland View
2. Walter L Cain, salesman for "C C" Laundry, at 194 South Ave⁴⁴ and still single.

As early as 1910, one Walter L Cain was a driver for Capital City Laundry and living at 45 Ira St—very near the Capital City Laundry stables at 44 Ira St.⁴⁵ He would certainly have had many opportunities to meet Mamie over the twelve years they worked at the same place.

This is all presented here to let you draw your own conclusions about Mamie's marriage.

Although there's nothing presented here that proves Mamie was working in the laundry industry at all in Apr 1907, it is obvious she made a long career of working at *Capital City Laundry* from 1908 through 1922.

The total distance she moved during that time was less than 0.4 miles, and that's by road, not direct. For comparison, the distance by road between *Capital City Laundry* and the nearest of her homes was close to two miles.

Although it might not mean anything, Frank Reeves did work at the same laundry company and possibly at the same time.

⁴³ 1922 Atlanta City Directory

⁴⁴ Sanborn map# 527, 4th house east of Grant on the north side

⁴⁵ 1910 Atlanta City Directory, near 33.74144, -84.3998

William F. Maffett

William Maffett was the man Ed Turner shared a financial interest with in the *Turner Restaurant*. He married Laura B. Smith on May 18, 1884 in Bartow Co, GA.⁴⁶ He lost his wife and his 12-year-old son William C. Maffett in 1902. That left him alone to raise his 6-year-old son, Charles. The fact that both his wife and son died in the same year, suggests a common cause for both, such as an accident or a contagious disease.

William was born in 1859 and died in 1919. He was buried in *Oak Hill Cemetery*, Cartersville, Bartow Co, GA.⁴⁷

His wife Laura B. (Smith) Maffett was born in 1865, died in 1902 and was buried near her husband. The inscription on her gravestone says "Wife of William F. Maffett".⁴⁸ William was about 48 in Apr 1907.

⁴⁶ [Bartow Co, GA, Marriages Book](#)

⁴⁷ Find-A-Grave ID# 36277948

⁴⁸ Find-A-Grave ID# 36277946

Dudley D. Edwards

Dudley Edwards was the man who trailed Ed Turner to his brother George's home in Lee Co, KY.

Some time after finding Ed Turner, he was himself arrested in Chattanooga, TN for murder. On Mon, Oct 7, 1907, while in prison during his trial, he tried to grab the day-jailer's pistol, vowing to kill the jailer and himself.

At his trial, he claimed he had probably killed 14 men.⁴⁹

He was once charged with murdering a negro named—depending on the source—William Brooke, Sam Brooks or Tom Brooks.⁵⁰ There are at least two different times claimed for the murder:

1. An article in Oct 1907 claimed it was “last December”, which would mean Dec 1906.⁵¹
2. Another article published in March 1908, claimed it was “eighteen months ago”, which would have been in September of 1906.⁵²

He was arrested for the murder of W. B. Davis, who was a superintendent of the *Oliver Railroad* in a railroad camp in Alton Park, a suburb of Chattanooga. Although some newspapers claim that the murder took place at night on Sat, Mar 21, 1908 the descriptions are more consistent with the date of Fri, Mar 20, 1908 as claimed by others. The *Oliver Railroad* was owned by J. W. Oliver.

⁴⁹ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Oct 8, 1907, Page 1

⁵⁰ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Oct 4, 1907, Page 1

⁵¹ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Oct 4, 1907, Page 1

⁵² *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Mar 24, 1908, Page 6

Dock Harris

Initially referred to as the “mysterious countryman”, the “unknown countryman”, or simply the “countryman”—he was eventually discovered to be a man from Resaca, Gordon Co, Ga (@ 34.57875, -84.94624)—named Dock Harris.

He had played a self-appointed detective and followed Lillie and Ed Turner from Atlanta to Chattanooga and St. Elmo. He even followed them along the abandoned railroad.

After Lillie’s murder, he was wanted as a witness, not a suspect.

In the afternoon on Tue, Apr 2, 1907 he met a resident of St. Elmo, who later in the evening served on the coroner’s jury, and had told him all he knew of the affair. People were upset with the juror for not telling them sooner.

For by the time he told about the meeting, Harris, being “frightened by implications against him in the newspapers,” fled Chattanooga the previous morning (Wed, Apr 3, 1907), going to, in chronological order:

1. Gadsden, Etowah Co, AL (@ 34.01196, -86.00221)
2. Estelle, Walker, Co, GA (@ 34.74662, -85.34117)
3. Rome, Floyd Co, GA (@ 34.25801, -85.17579)
4. “back and forth through various towns”
5. Gadsden, AL (again)
6. ...and back to Chattanooga

Harris was found in the afternoon of Mon, 8 Apr 1907, and arrested.

D. C. Bailey

D. C. Bailey was the Sheriff of Lee Co, KY who arrested Ed Turner.

H. G. Rogers

A law officer from Lee Co, KY who accompanied Sheriff D. C. Bailey and Deputy Sheriff James Sizemore when he arrested Ed Turner.

James Potter Sizemore

James Potter Sizemore was the Sheriff ⁵³ or a Deputy Sheriff ⁵⁴ of Lee Co, KY (the accounts differ) in 1907 when he arrested Ed Turner at the home of his brother-in-law, George Combs in Estill Co. Either George lived so close to the Lee Co border that the sheriffs didn't realize they had left Lee Co or they simply didn't mind operating outside of their assigned territories in those days.

James was born in Clay County, KY, on Dec 30, 1873, to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Ruben Sizemore (1842 - 1912). He moved to Proctor, Lee Co, KY—just across the Kentucky River from Beattyville, Lee Co, KY—in 1879.

He married Miss Louvenia “Vania” Jennings (1875 – 1955), of Owsley Co, KY, on Aug 7, 1890, when he was a mere 16 years old and she about 15. They had six children by April of 1905. Their children included:

1. Marcus F Sizemore (1896 – 1898)
2. Perkins Sizemore (1903 – 1931)

He was Town Marshal of Beattyville, Lee Co, KY for two years.

In 1903, he was elected Lee County Sheriff. He was a Mason, an Odd Fellow, a Red man, a K. of P. and a Junior.

James died in Jun of 1966 in Middletown, Butler Co, OH and was buried at the *Woodside Cemetery*, Middletown, Butler Co, OH in Section 8, Lot 158_A 5. ^{55 56}

⁵³ *The Courier-Journal*, Louisville, KY, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

⁵⁴ *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Aug 3, 1907, Page 2

⁵⁵ *Beattyville News*, Apr 14, 1905 & [Lee Co, KY at USGenNet](#)

⁵⁶ Find-A-Grave ID# 124275129

Joseph Franklin Shipp

Was Sheriff of Hamilton Co, TN during the period of interest. He retrieved Ed from Sheriff Sizemore of Lee Co, KY in Lexington, Fayette Co, KY, where he kept him overnight in the Palace Hotel, then brought him by train to Chattanooga the next morning.

He was born on Feb 3, 1845, in Jasper Co, TN. On April 12, 1861, At age 16, he ran away from home and joined the Confederate Army. His father found him and brought him back home. Later, he left with his father's consent, and rejoined the Army of Virginia. He was severely wounded during his service, but survived to eventually become a captain and remained so until the end of his service.

He went home to Georgia after the war, and became successful in business.

He married Lillian "Lilly" Eckels ⁵⁷ on Aug 12, 1866, and afterward moved to Chattanooga, TN. Their children were:

1. Clarence E. Shipp (1865 - 1942)
2. Julian Lee Shipp (1870 - 1952)
3. Joseph F. Shipp (1876 - 1952)
4. Frank Sterling Shipp (1884 - 1934)

He then involved himself in manufacturing, and by 1893, he was one of the wealthiest Hamilton County citizens.

He served as a Coal Oil Inspector and a tax assessor, until he was elected Sheriff in 1904, serving two terms which lasted until 1908.

In 1909, he was convicted by the Supreme Court for criminal contempt in connection with the famous lynching of

⁵⁷ Lillian "Lilly" E. Echols/Eckels/Eckles (1850 – 1928)

Ed Johnson. In November, he was sentenced to ninety days in the United States Jail in Washington, D. C.

On Sep 18, 1925, he passed away at his home on Lookout Place following a brief illness. He was buried dressed in his Confederate uniform in Forest Hills Cemetery, Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN.⁵⁸

To learn more, go to the [Hamilton Co, TN](#) Sheriff's website.

For another account of his life, see John Wilson's July 21, 1996, article in the "Chattanooga Free Press."

⁵⁸ Find-A-Grave ID# 41992575

Robert & Sudie (Stinson) Moore

Sudie was referred to as “Sadie” in the Atlanta Directories, but other sources imply that her name was actually “Sudie”.

Robert Daniel & Sudie Pearl (Stinson) Moore were both live-in proprietors of the *Germania Hotel*. Sudie was the proprietor in 1907 and Robert, in 1908.

Robert Daniel Moore was born on Feb 22, 1879, in Marietta, Cobb Co, GA, to Thomas Moore and Lou Mayfield. He died on Feb 15, 1958, in Chandler, Maricopa Co, AZ.⁵⁹

Sudie Pearl (Stinson) Moore was born on Aug 30, 1891, in Louisiana, to William Abner Stinson and Julia Watson. She died on Jul 21, 1961, in Phoenix, Maricopa Co, AZ.⁶⁰

For a time, Robert was a general contractor in Fort Worth, TX.

They moved to Chandler, AZ in 1951. For some or all of their time there, they lived at 301 W Tulsa St.

Robert and Sudie were the parents of Gwendolyn “Gwen” Jordan, the wife of famous rodeo star John Jordan. Gwen was the timer and John a rider, until a work-related injury limited John to mere announcing. John also appeared in Western movies. For a time, they lived on a farm on N McQueen Rd, in Chandler.

⁵⁹ Robert Moore Find a Grave memorial# 187538749

⁶⁰ Sudie Moore Find a Grave memorial# 187539389

Places

The places in this chapter are in roughly the same order as they appeared in the chronology

The Bradley Building

Current address:

The Bradley Building

5 South Public Square

Cartersville, Bartow Co, GA

30120

Coords: 34.16583, -84.79646

The Bradley Building was built in 1885. It is a brick building, having two stories plus a basement, for business operations. In 1909 its address was 210 Public Square.¹ It is located on the southeast corner of Cherokee St—then Market St—and Public Square.

It has housed various businesses over the years, including cafes, general stores, a saloon and a *Belk-Gallant Department Store*. More recently, it has been the home of several law firms and *Darrah Photo*.

Around 1900, the *Imperial Saloon* occupied the basement where the *Turner Cafe* was operated in 1907. Patrons entered from the Cherokee Ave (then Market St) side.

When trying to get a street view from the corner in Google Maps, I instead got a view from 100 feet or so south of it on South Public Square, where Google showed

¹ Sanborn map# 4, year 1909, Coords: 34.16583, -84.79646

there to be no Street-View at all south of the Cherokee Ave intersection. Just so you know... You *can* get several Street-Views of the Bradley Building and the depot.

The Sanborn map has North and South reversed, plus I think it may have the order of the buildings reversed.

In a Street-View of the building (in 2016) at the southwest corner of Public Square and Cherokee Ave, a sign on the doorway said "*Bradley Building*".

Aetna Mines

From Wikipedia:

"In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, coal and iron ore mining industries dominated the county's economy. Mines operated in Whitwell and Inman, and smelters operated in South Pittsburg."

[USGS Map](#)

Aetna or "Etna" Mines: @ 35.0125762, -85.4960734

Etna (Whiteside), Marion Co, TN: @ 34.98727, -85.48782

Whitwell/ Whitewell: @ 35.19672, -85.52001

Inman: @ 35.10849, -85.52682

Frozen Creek, KY

Frozen Creek, Breathitt Co, KY ² is also known as just *Frozen*. Lillie lived near this town before eloping to Chattanooga with Ed Turner. Frozen Creek is an unincorporated community. It was likely named Frozen Creek for a section of the local creek of the same name that early settlers often found treacherous in the winter. A post office was established there in 1850, but closed in 1983. ³

Shoulder Blade, KY

Shoulder Blade, Breathitt Co, KY, ⁴ also spelled Shoulderblade (one word). Ed Turner lived here before eloping to Chattanooga with Lillie.

Shoulder Blade is an unincorporated community. It is reportedly named after Shoulder Blade Creek which is a tributary of the Middle Fork of the Kentucky River. The creek, in turn, was named for a bone of very large animal once discovered on its banks. It is also referred to as Juan—named after the Battle of San Juan Hill. ⁵

² Coords: 37.58919, -83.42263

³ [Frozen Creek, KY on Wikipedia](#)

⁴ Coords: 37.49561, -83.46901

⁵ [Shoulderblade, KY on Wikipedia](#)

The Germania Hotel, Atlanta, GA

A rooming house in Atlanta where Lillie stayed, and which J. E. Jones stigmatized as disreputable. It's address was: 31½ S Pryor St, Atlanta, GA. Some of its history follows below:

- In 1899: The first floor was occupied by Charles H. Swift, an agent. The upper floor was vacant.
- In 1902: Listed as the Germania Hotel, and operated by Rosa Schmid, widow of George Schmid. In 1899, George was a pattern maker, boarding at 388 E. Hunter.
- In 1903: Listed under boarding houses as the Germania Hotel, and operated by Mrs. R. Schmid. Mr. Charles H. Swift (wife Willie) was still an undertaker on the first floor and lived at 122 E. Fair.
- In 1904: Listed under boarding houses, without the name, and operated by William F. Lehmann (wife Mary V.). William was also an observer for the Weather Bureau. The first floor was occupied by the Emerson Drug Co.
- In 1905: Listed under boarding houses as the Germania Hotel, and operated by Mary V. Lehmann (wife of William F.). William was still an observer for the Weather Bureau. The first floor was still occupied by the Emerson Drug Co.
- In 1906: Operated with no name, by Annie L. Warren, providing rooms, though not listed in a business section category. The first floor was still occupied by the Emerson Drug Co.

- In 1907: Listed without a name under lodging houses, and operated by Annie L. Warren, widow of Leon Warren. Note: In 1907, there was a Leon C. Warren, a salesman, employed at the Fulton Market Co, 27 E. Alabama, and living at 124 S Pryor. I've found nothing more to suggest a connection between him and Annie.
- In 1908: Listed under lodging houses, without a name, and operated by Robert D. Moore (wife Sadie), The first floor was vacant. Other sources indicate Robert's wife's name is actually "Sudie."
- In 1909: Listed under lodging houses, without a name, and operated by James F. Lynch, He was also a distributor for Anheuser-Busch, with partner John Hauck, employed at McCord Place & Ga R. R. (Georgia Railroad). Their phone numbers were Bell M 4208, & Atl 2627. Thomas A. Lynch, possibly related, also lived there and worked at a saloon at 33 N. Forsyth. In 1910 James was listed with the same job, with a wife named Veronica, and living at 78 E. Linden Ave.
- In 1910: J. H. Achey & Bro, (J. H. & J. M. Achey) operated a pool hall on the first floor. I found nothing about the second floor.
- In 1913: J. H. Achey & Bro. Shared the first floor with Behor Habib's fruit store.
- In 1918: Atlanta Barber College was on the first floor, while a grocery store named L. W. Rogers Co. occupied the second floor.
- In 1922: John G. Hamm (wife Lueile) was a plumber on the first floor and living at 212 Park Ave.

The Georgia Hotel, Atlanta, GA

The name “*Georgia Hotel*” for the hotel where Lillie and J. E. Jones were arrested, was very likely an error. The building was never associated with that name in the directory, until 1913—years after the events of interest. Prior to this, it had had three other names:

1. Union Hotel
2. Parish Hotel
3. Henderson Hotel

—all very different from *Georgia Hotel*.

The actual location was likely the “Germania Hotel,” at 31½ S Pryor St.

This hotel is nevertheless covered here for those who accept the literal text, and because the research had already been done before any contradictory evidence was found.

The best evidence for there being a *Georgia Hotel* before 1907, is the following classified ad:

HOTEL OPPORTUNITY — For sale or
lease of 22-room Georgia hotel
now doing heavy transient business.
Absolutely no competition. Address
B. T. G. Constitution.⁶

This might merely refer to a hotel that's in Georgia rather than one named “*Georgia Hotel*”. It was quite common in those times though, for the parts of names indicating a type of business—such as “hotel” in this case—to be left uncapitalized.

⁶ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Jan 9, 1905, Page 9

An article named *The Georgia Hotel Fire* refers to a fire that occurred at 1:00 AM on Sun, Jun 26, 1921. The hotel is described as being at 24 W Mitchell St.⁷

Sanborn map# 311 shows hotel rooms on the top (2nd) floors of buildings at addresses 20, 22, 24 & 26 as having hotel rooms. In the map, these buildings appear to either be connected or adjacent, so that they could comprise a single hotel.

There was no *Georgia Hotel* listed in the available *Atlanta City Directory* editions except in 1913, 1914 and 1918—all three at 22½ W Mitchell St.⁸

The directory shows that there have been a number of different names for the hotel structure over the years:

- 1898: (no name, just a resident: Mrs. Mary E. Hendrix)
- 1903: *Kemp & Co* (money lenders)
- 1905 - 08: *Union Hotel*
- 1909: *Parish Hotel*
- 1910 - 12: *Henderson Hotel*
- 1913: *Hotel George/Georgia* (both names appear)
- 1914: *Hotel Georgia*
- 1918: *Georgia Hotel*
- 1922: (none that I could find)

The periodical *Hardware and Housefurnishing Goods* listed the *Georgia Hotel* at 22½ W Mitchell St in 1920.⁹

⁷ *Atlanta, Ga Fire*, Turner Pub Co., Aug 17, 2001, Section 8

⁸ Sanborn map# 311, Coords: 33.75151, -84.39432

⁹ [Hardware and Housefurnishing Goods, Vol 7](#)

Broad St has since been extended and it now crosses W Mitchell St. Most of the structures which contained the rooms have been replaced with parking lots. There is now only one building left out of the group—at the corner of Mitchell St and Broad St.

At some point, the address “22½ W Mitchell St” was changed to “186 Mitchell St S.W.”

Since 1946, the building has housed *Atlanta Barber & Beauty Supply* (ABBS).¹⁰

Only the 2nd floor of the structure was used as a hotel, the ground floor has housed many different businesses over the years, a barber-related business was usually among them at all times.

¹⁰ [Atlanta Barber & Beauty Supply](#)

The Atlanta Police Barracks

This is where Lillie and J. E. Jones were taken after being arrested for disorderly conduct at the *Georgia Hotel* (they actually were more likely at *The Germania Hotel*, at 31½ S Pryor St) at 10:30 PM on Easter Sunday, Mar 31, 1907.

In the 1907 *Atlanta City Directory*, the address for the "Police Headquarters" was: 171 - 179 Decatur St.^{11 12} In the year 2000, the *Atlanta Police Station* was listed at 175 Decatur St SE.

¹¹ Sanborn map #470, Coords: 33.75087, -84.38483

¹² [Atlanta Police Headquarters photos](#)

Lookout Mountain

Lookout Mountain ¹³ is on the southwest edge of Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN. In 1907, its peak could be reached by a ride on *The Incline*—a railroad that went directly up its steep, eastern slope. It climbs with a slope of up to 72.7%. ¹⁴

¹³ Coords: 35.00272, -85.34600

¹⁴ [*The Incline and Lookout Mtn. Hist.*](#)

Broad-Gauge Railroad

The abandoned, broad gauge railroad mentioned in this story, was the *Chattanooga & Lookout Mountain Railroad* (C. & L. M. R. R.). It was completed 1889, by the *Chattanooga & Lookout Mountain Railway Co.*, and took a more gradual climb along the side of the mountain, running below where the Lookout Mountain Scenic Hwy now lies (it was built in the late 1920s). It was out-competed by *The Incline* and closed down in Apr 1900.¹⁵

The railroad was used by electric streetcars of the *Chattanooga Railway & Light Company* from 1913 to 1920. It has since been converted into the *Lookout Mountain Guild-Hardy Trail*, also known as the *Jo Conn Guild Trail*—a scenic path for hiking and biking. The trail is owned and maintained by the *Lookout Mountain Conservancy*.¹⁶

The intersection of *The Incline* railroad and the abandoned “broad gauge” railroad—now *Guild Trail*—and is at: 35.00843735, -85.333324. Lillie’s body was found “about 150 yards south” of this intersection, according to newspaper accounts, which is near 35.0074, -85.33247—the coordinates of a point on the trail which is a straight-line distance of 150 yards from the intersection. The original measurement or estimate was possibly of the distance *along* the trail, which curves only slightly between these points. Luckily, *Google Street View*[™] is available along this trail.¹⁷

¹⁵ [*St. Elmo, Yesterday and Today*](#)

¹⁶ Guild-Hardy Trail, from RailGa.com. Georgia’s Railroad History & Heritage. © Steve Storey

¹⁷ [Murder scene area on Google Street View](#)

Incline Station

The *Incline Station* ¹⁸ is in the St. Elmo Historic District (St. Elmo for short)—a neighborhood of Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN. See: Lookout Mountain

¹⁸ Coords: 35.01046, -85.32870

L. J. Sharp & Co.

L. J. Sharp and Company was in charge of Lillie's body. They kept it about three days while awaiting instructions as to its disposition, that is: whether to bury her in Forest Hills Cemetery or to ship her to her mother in Frozen, Breathitt Co, KY. The disposition was to be determined by how much money could be raised in donations for her benefit. Local burial would cost \$30, while shipping her to her mother would cost \$60.

Finally though, on the night of Fri, Apr 5, 1907, her body was shipped to her mother, in a "pretty casket" at that.¹⁹

L. J. Sharp and Company existed where the *Volunteer Building* in Chattanooga is today. It advertised itself as both a livery and feed stable as well as undertakers.²⁰

Volunteer Building
832 Georgia Ave
Chattanooga, TN
37402

¹⁹ *The Chattanooga Star*, Apr 6, 1907, Page 2

²⁰ <https://www.chattanooga.com/.../New-Year-s-In-Chattanooga-1903>

Hamilton Co Jail and Courthouse

The original location of the Hamilton County Jail ²¹ is now occupied by:

Hamilton County Operations

625 Walnut St

Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN

37402

This was the same jail where the famous lynching of Ed Johnson occurred on Mon, Mar 19, 1906 after the mob battered their way through door after door, reached his cell at about 11:20 PM, then took him six blocks to the Walnut St bridge where they both hanged him and shot him. Sheriff Shipp—the same one that retrieved Ed Turner from Kentucky—was charged with contempt of the Supreme Court for his failure to protect Johnson. On Mon, Nov 15, 1909, Shipp was sentenced to 90 days in the U. S. Jail in Washington D. C.

The Hamilton County Courthouse was at: W 6th St & Georgia Ave ²² In 1878, the county purchased the block at 7th and Georgia Ave for construction of the courthouse. It was designed by A.C. Bruce and built by Patten and McInturf Contractors for a total of \$100,325.

The courthouse was a two-story, brick structure with stone trim and mansard roofed towers. One of the towers had four 10-foot-diameter clocks.

²¹ Near: 35.04849, -85.30722

²² Near: 35.049444, -85.3069444

\$50,000 was invested in remodeling and expanding it in 1891. The building burned to the ground after being struck by lightning on the evening of May 7, 1910.²³

For two postcards with pictures of the original building after its 1891 additions, visit: [Courthouse History](#).

²³ [Hamilton County, TN government](#)

Centenary Methodist Church

The *Centenary Methodist Church* was the church where Dr. J. A. Baylor was pastor. Baylor was Ed Turner's spiritual guide during his final days.

The church still exists at the Southwest corner of McCallie Ave & Lindsay St. The modern address is:

First Centenary United Methodist Church

419 McCallie Ave

Chattanooga, TN

37404

Phone: 423-756-2021

Coords: 35.04758, -85.30502

Palace Hotel

The *Palace Hotel* (or *Ritz Hotel*) was at:
132 S Limestone St ²⁴
Lexington, Fayette Co, KY. ²⁵
(at Limestone St & Water St)

This is where Ed Turner was kept over night on Fri, Aug 2, 1907 by Hamilton Co Sheriff J. F. Shipp while awaiting his ride back to Chattanooga “on the early morning train.”

²⁴ 1909 Lexington City Directory, pub. R. L. Polk & Co., Page 687

²⁵ Sanborn Map# 10 (Dec 1890), Coords: 38.05067, -84.50265

Cotton Patch [Cemetery]

According to a Stamper genealogy web site, Ed Turner's body "was taken back to Shoulder Blade, Kentucky and buried in the *Cotton Patch*." ²⁶

The best clue I could find about this, was the existence of a Cotton Patch Rd, which turns off eastward from Canoe Rd / SR-3237 about two miles directly south of Shoulder Blade. ²⁷ It is about 0.8 miles long, ends in a wooded area and connects with no other main roads.

²⁶ [Stamper genealogy website](#)

²⁷ Coords: 37.46144, -83.45792

Newspaper Articles

There are 67 newspaper articles here—selected for the details they contribute to understanding the story of Ed and Lillie Turner. There are many though, which mainly focus on Dudley Edwards, a boyhood friend of Ed Turner and also the man who tracked him down to his brother-in-law's house.

I left many of the factual errors I found in the articles intact, but added a corrective note after each article which contained any. Some errors have corrections inserted in square brackets.

I have been very careful to transcribe these accurately, but I can't guarantee they're perfect. If there's anything that you need to be absolutely certain about, you should read the original article.

Luckily, LibreOffice has a predefined color—Orange 4—for the background which matches the color of old newspapers very well... a really great effect.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Wed, Apr 3, 1907
Page# 3

Mystery In Murder On Mountain Side

Young Woman With Throat Cut Found

Ghastly Discovery Made By Children

**Woman had Quarreled with Man
Supposed to Be Her Husband.
Atlanta Boys and an Unknown
Countryman Mixed Up in Case.**

Children romping along the old "broad-gauge," about a hundred yards from the No. 2 Lookout Mountain Incline, made a most gruesome discovery shortly after four-o'clock yesterday af-

ternoon. Stretched prone across the middle of the road lay the body of a dead woman. She lay face upwards, her head thrown back, displaying a gaping gash in her throat that reached from ear to ear. Her arms were akimbo, and the palms of her bloody hands were turned upwards, as though someone had held her to prevent the convulsions of death. Her clothes were disordered, and there were other evidences of a crime greater than that of murder. The woman was later identified as being Mrs. Lillie Turner, whose maiden name was Farmer, of Cartersville, Ga.

Two Georgia boys are being held in connection with the murder. They are J. E. Jones and Frank F. Reeves, of Atlanta. Neither of them, however, is charged with the murder of the woman. That is attributed to the woman's husband, Ed Turner, who has disappeared.

A career of sin, and the strange fascination which a beautiful woman can wield over men immediately precedes the gruesome tragedy. Lillie Turner was beautiful. She was barely twenty years old, vivacious, it is said, and withal winsome.

Quarrel Attracts Attention.

According to the testimony of Jones and Reeves before the coroner's jury at the inquest held last night, the two boys first met the woman at a rooming house in Atlanta known as the Germania Hotel. Jones stigmatized the house as disreputable, and claimed that the woman had been placed there by her husband, who used her as a "cat's-paw" to enrich himself. Turner did not live at the house, but came there occasionally to get money from his wife. Not until last Sunday, asserted the boys, did they know that the two were man and wife.

Sunday, Turner and the young woman went to Marietta, whither Jones and Reeves followed them. They returned Sunday night when, according to advices received by the Star, Jones and the woman were arrested at a hotel. Jones declared that the woman asked him to take her to Chattanooga, since she wished to get away from her husband. However, Monday Turner and his wife came on to Chattanooga, after making an appointment with Jones to follow, arriving at the Union Depot shortly after 9 o'clock at night. On the

train, they had met a man named Ed Kelly, with whom they struck up an acquaintanceship. The three proceeded to the Conner House on Market Street.

Turner did not remain there, returning to the depot to await the arrival of Jones. The latter came shortly after 1 o'clock yesterday morning, accompanied by Reeves.

Yesterday morning the four met by appointment to take a trip to the mountain. Kelly was along too, but he declared that he had to take the morning train to Cincinnati; and therefore could not go with them.

Mysterious "Countryman."

At this juncture another figure came upon the scene. This was a tall slim youth, whom none seemed to know, to whom Jones referred in his testimony as "the countryman." He had followed the Turner woman from Atlanta, and dogged their footsteps the entire morning.

Turner and his wife, Jones and Reeves got on a Lookout Mountain car shortly before 11 o'clock. The "Countryman" also got on. The youths took a seat

apart from the couple to avoid suspicion. However, the group attracted some attention. Passengers on the car especially observed the young woman, who wore a black silk dress, and a white Easter bonnet, trimmed with green and red flowers. The attention of George Kilgore, the motorman, was called to them and he observed all so closely that he was later able to give a detailed description of every member of the party. Turner was evidently urging his wife to go home with him, for she was overheard to remark – *"I'll die before I go home!"*

On the car, Jones and Reeves made the acquaintance of three youths known as the Crowe brothers. At the No. 2 Incline the six youths, Turner and his wife got off.

The youths proceeded to the ticket office to purchase tickets, further testified Jones, and did not notice the actions of the married couple. On turning, however, they were seen walking away along the mountain drive-way. At an interval of about 25 yards "the countryman" was seen following them. The three disappeared around a bend in the road. That was the last any of the group saw of the woman alive. Nothing more

was seen of "the countryman." Servants of houses along the road relate having seen the three pass. However, they claim that one of the men was ahead of the couple instead of behind. The man in front answered to the description of Turner. The man with Lillie Turner answers to the description of "the countryman."

Last Seen of Turner.

The boys waited around the ticket office for about an hour. Then Jones saw Turner again. He appeared to be trying to hide between some houses. A car came along at this time, and Turner made a dash for it. Jones followed, both catching the car. "*Where's Lillie?*" asked Jones. "*Why I thought she already went to town!*" replied Turner. Jones got off the car, and returned to the others, who started a search for the girl. Failing to find her, they returned to the city. A search here failed to locate her. Towards evening Jones and Reeves started back for the mountain. On the car they met Deputy Sheriff Perkins, to

whom they told what they knew. He took both in custody.

Although the Sheriff's office has been most active in sifting through the crime, Turner and "the countryman," both of whom are badly wanted, are still at large. Sheriff Shipp is taking personal charge of the case.

Changes:

1. "You Woman With" to "Young Woman With"
2. "the" to "he" in "called to them and the".
3. "Cartersville, Ky" to "Cartersville, Ga" (there *is* a Cartersville in Garrard County, KY though).
4. "Mysteriously" to "Mysterious".

The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, GA
Apr 3, 1907
Page 2

ATLANTA GIRL MURDERED ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

**Police Authorities are Looking
For her Husband who was
Last Seen with Her.**

**LILLIE PALMER DIED
IN OLD RAILROAD CUT ON
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN**

**Atlanta Boys were the Chief
Witnesses before the Coroner's
Jury—Victim of the Killing
was Arrested in Atlanta
on Last Sunday Night.**

Chattanooga Tenn. April 2. – (Special.) This afternoon about 3 o'clock the lifeless body of Lillie Palmer, a handsome, [??] year-old girl of Atlanta, was found in an abandoned railroad cut, of the side of Lookout Mountain with her throat torn ear to ear.

Authorities are looking for Ed Turner who came here from Atlanta with the woman and who was last seen with her. Sentiment was high near the scene of the killing and had Turner been found in that section, a necktie party would have been the result.

The evidence adduced before the coroner's jury came largely from F. E. Reeves and J. E. Jones, both Atlanta men who came here on the same train with the couple. They stated that Turner and the Palmer woman had been married and that later she had gone into her house in Atlanta. They reached the city last night at 9:40.

Tuesday, the four went to the foot of the mountain. Turner and the Palmer woman starting to walk up the mountain and the boys returning to the city.

Turner was later seen to take a car to the city. He was alone. All efforts to locate him have been futile, and he is

supposed to have left Chattanooga on a rail train. The only cause that has been assigned for the murder is jealousy.

[The boys?] stated that Turner [Palmer or Lillie] did not want to go back to Atlanta and that she had determined to return with Jones and Reeves.

Atlanta End to Story

Lillie Palmer, the young woman who was murdered at Lookout Mountain was only slightly known in Atlanta.

She was here but a short time ago with her husband who is supposed to be traveling under the alias of Turner. Last Sunday night, Lillie Palmer and J. E. Jones were arrested in the Georgia hotel by the police and brought to the police barracks where a charge of disorderly conduct was hurled [hurled] against them. Collateral was deposited by the husband, who did [not?] give his name, for both his wife and Jones, and they did not appear before Judge Broyles to answer the charge against them, forfeiting their collateral. That was the last heard of them in Atlanta.

Last Sunday night about 10:30 o'clock, the patrol wagon brought Jones and

Lillie Palmer to the police barracks the wagon officer stating that they were to be held on the charge of disorderly conduct. The young woman, beautiful, both as to [form] and feature, her pretty head surmounted with a wealth of dark red hair, stated that she had been arrested in company with her companion Jones, 26 years old, at the Georgia Hotel: that her husband was worthless and had led her into a life of shame, and that she was desirous of returning to her mother in Kentucky but would not remain here or go to Cartersville, which place [they] had been ordered to leave. She was stylishly attired, and gave her age as 16 years.

Shortly before midnight the husband appeared at police barracks and deposited \$25.75 for the appearance of his wife. He did not give his name, or make any explanations, save that when he again appeared at the barracks at 2:30 o'clock in the morning, depositing \$25.75 cash collateral for Jones. He remarked to Jones: *"Foolishness has cost me \$51.50 tonight."*

Jones, who is a native of Atlanta, [and] met the couple at Cartersville, stated to one of the officers at the barracks that he did not know the Palmed [Palmer]

girl was married until after their arrest: that he had spent an afternoon at the river with Palmer [Turner] and his wife, and that neither of them had mentioned the fact that they were married.

Atlanta Georgian and News
Apr 3, 1907
Page 13

ATLANTA GIRL IS MURDERED

**Body Found in R. R.
Cut With Head Al-
most Severed.**

Special to The Georgian.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 3. — With her throat cut from ear to ear, the lifeless body of Lillie Palmer, of Atlanta, a handsome young woman 18 years of age, was found at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon in an abandoned railroad cut on the side of Lookout Mountain.

The authorities are looking for Ed Turner, who came here from Atlanta with the woman and who was last seen with her.

The evidence adduced before the coroner's jury yesterday evening came largely from F. F. Reeves and J. E. Jones, both Atlanta boys, who came here on the same train with the couple.

The party reached this city Monday night at 9:40. Yesterday the four went to the foot of the mountain. Turner and the Palmer woman starting to walk up the mountain and the boys returning to the city.

Excitement was high in the neighborhood of the killing all yesterday evening.

ARRESTED IN ATLANTA IN COMPANY WITH JONES.

Lillie Palmer was arrested last Sunday night in Atlanta in company with J. E. Jones. The couple was found in the Georgia Hotel and a charge of disorderly conduct was registered against them. A forfeit was put up by a man who claimed to be Lillie Palmer's husband for both the woman and Jones, and the pair failed to appear for trial the next day.

The young woman, who was of unusual beauty, said the her husband was worthless and had abused her, and that she desired to return to her home in Kentucky. She said she was 16 years of age. Jones, who lives in Atlanta, claimed to have met the woman a short

time before and that he had not known she was married.

**TURNER KEPT RESTAURANT
WHILE IN CARTERSVILLE.**

Special to The Georgian.

Cartersville, Ga., April 3 – Ed Turner and his wife came to Cartersville some eight weeks ago and opened and conducted the Turner Restaurant here. The restaurant was considered a first-class place and everything went on smoothly till about two weeks ago, when rumors were set afloat which led the city marshal to make an investigation.

Following this, the marshal accompanied Mrs. Turner to the station and she left, going toward Atlanta. After Mrs. Turner left, Turner closed out the restaurant, but was seen about here till Sunday.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Thu, Apr 4, 1907
Page# 1

Which is Murderer?

Mountain Mystery Grows Deeper

Several Could Have Killed Lillie Turner

Woman's Husband Cannot Be Found

Reward of \$150 Now Offered for Him By Governor – Country- man Seems to Have Been "Tin Badge Detective."

As time passes by and new develop-
ments are brought to light by the county

authorities who are at work upon the murder of Mrs. Lillie Turner, the mystery surrounding the crime deepens and its atrocity becomes magnified to a deed of the utmost degeneracy.

Ed Turner, the husband of the woman, who is accused of the murder, is at large, and there is no clue as to his whereabouts. A description of him has been wired to every locality where it is believed he would possibly go, and steps are being taken to offer a large reward for his apprehension.

Yesterday afternoon Sheriff J. F. Shipp wired the Governor for authority to offer a reward of at least \$150 for information leading to Turner's arrest. Last night he received a telegram from the Governor authorizing the \$150 reward. The offer will be posted immediately, and circulars sent to every police station and sheriff's department in the country. The official paper has been issued by the Governor, and is expected by the sheriff this afternoon.

Suspect Being Held.

Advices have been received here of the arrest in Cleveland, Tenn., yesterday, of a man answering Turner's description. A

charge of trespassing is lodged against him to warrant holding him: but it is understood that he is being held to await identification.

The mysterious "countryman," who figured so prominently in shadowing Turner and his wife, has been identified, and is now being sought more eagerly than ever by the county authorities—not, however, for any complicity in the murder, but as a witness. He is Dock Harris, of Resaca, Ga. His connection with the case is somewhat strange and peculiar, and has a tinge of the romantic in it.

Tuesday afternoon after the body of Lillie Turner was found, Harris met a resident of St. Elmo, who later in the evening served on the coroner's jury, and told him all he knew of the affair. There is considerable strong feeling against this jurymen because he did not breathe a word of this meeting until last night, when it was too late to hold Harris. The latter left the city yesterday morning for parts unknown. It is said he took alarm that he might become implicated in the murder—as a witness, if nothing worse—and promptly "skipped out."

A Country Detective.

Harris's connection with the case, as told by himself, and from what can be learned of him is due to a mania Harris has of playing detective. He is said to be a typical country detective – of the kind who pays several dollars for a "star," the insignia of his office. He himself claimed to have been a deputy sheriff.

At any rate, Harris followed Turner and his unfortunate wife from Atlanta where he first saw them. He is quoted as having said that their movements appeared suspicious, and this was evidently the incentive that prompted him to dog their footsteps.

He is perhaps the only witness to the murder itself. He did not fail to keep the couple plainly in view, attracting some attention from his own eagerness. When Tuesday morning he met J. E. Jones and Frank F. Reeves, the two Atlanta boys who followed Lillie Turner here, they endeavored to shake him, by running him off. As narrated in yesterday's Star, however, he got on the same car with the quartette and got off at No. 2 Look-out Mountain Incline. There he followed Turner and his wife as they started up the road where the murder was to be

committed. His actions had by this time attracted the attention of the couple, and several times Turner turned and drove him back with threats. He kept on doggedly, however, with such care though, that the couple no longer saw him. He is quoted as having said that if he had another man with him he would have arrested them. What he saw of the murder, however, cannot be said.

Something About Woman.

Lillie Turner's maiden name was Farmer, though she sometimes signed herself Burcham. The Farmer family of Kentucky is composed of many members who are distributed throughout Breathitt county — the county of feuds. Mrs. Turner's father was a Luke Farmer, who died while the girl was still very young from the effects, it is said, of being shot. The family lived for a while at Jackson and then Mrs. Farmer married again, the groom being named Bircham, of Frozen Creek, Ky., a hamlet near Jackson.

Sheriff Shipp yesterday afternoon received a telegram from Mrs. Lou Bircham, the girl's mother, to forward the body and the girl's effects to her home.

The Turner family of Breathitt county, Ky., is also one of the noted families of that section. The members are distributed throughout the mountain district, and are said to be bold and unscrupulous as to a means to an end. A feud between this family and another has but recently contributed a chapter to Breathitt county's bloody history.

Star Hears From Kentucky.

In reply to a telegram of inquiry, the Star is in receipt of the following:

*Jackson, Ky., April 4, 1907,
Chattanooga Star;
Chattanooga, Tenn.*

Ed Turner married Lillie F. Bircham about one year ago. She was pretty and about sixteen years old. Her reputation was not the best.

S. N. Fugate, Deputy Sheriff

Ed Turner, it is said, once before faced a murder charge, this time at Jackson. There was not sufficient evidence against him and he was acquitted. He is now under bond for another misdeed at

Jackson, the nature of which is not known.

The authorities here fear that Turner has taken to the Breathitt county mountains, in which event, it is said, it would be next to useless to endeavor catching him.

A little light is thrown on the murder by a letter found last night among Lillie Turner's effects. It corroborates some of the theories already formed. The letter was evidently the last ever written by the unfortunate woman, and was never mailed. It is dated at Chattanooga, April 3, and is addressed to Mrs. Fannie Warner, 3½ Pryor street, Atlanta, Ga. It appears to have been written on the morning immediately previous to taking her fatal trip to Lookout Mountain.

The substance of the letter follows:

Dearest Friend: I will write to let you know where I am. Well, Mrs. Warner, I am coming back this afternoon. My little friend has come here. He came on the next train after I got here. I am going to leave Ed this evening and come back to Atlanta. I will not come back down there until this talk all gets out. I don't see what anyone wanted to do that way

for.

*Well Mrs. Warner, I will close
by saying I will let you know when I
stop in town. Goodbye.*

Lillie Farmer

"My little friend" doubtless refers to the Jones youth who, with Reeves, is still being held in custody by the county authorities. "Ed," of course, refers to her husband.

Sheriff Shipp Working Hard.

Sheriff Shipp is bending all energies to the task of tracing Turner and bringing him to justice. From the facts established as to his manner of selling his wife into a life of shame and then forcing the money from her, he is considered a scoundrel of the deepest die. Public feeling in the city is strongly wrought up against him and the citizens are encouraging the authorities to bring him to justice.

L. J. Sharp & Co., who have charge of the body of Lillie Turner, have not yet received any word from the girl's relatives as to what disposition should be made of it. The body has been prepared for burial, however, and will be shipped

to the mother as soon as an order is received.

Some Startling Rumors.

There are many rumors current regarding the murder, most of which are highly sensational. The most sensational of all bears upon Dock Harris, "the mysterious countryman." It was told this morning to a Star reporter by a criminal officer who has been working up evidence in the case. If Dock Harris can be identified with a young fellow who left Jackson, Ky., about the same time as did Turner and his wife, there is a strong array of circumstantial evidence against him as being himself either the perpetrator of or accessory to the crime.

Lillie Turner, or Bircham, had a number of lovers before her marriage, among them being Turner and a youth whose description tallies very much with that of Harris. When Turner married the girl, it is said that the disappointed rival spoke of vengeance and followed the couple to Jackson, from there to Cartersville, Ga., and then to Marietta, Ga., where Turner opened a restaurant. Later, Turner and his wife moved to Centerville, Ga., where he

was again in the restaurant business. The rival followed them there, but was driven out by a lawsuit started by Turner. He fled to a nearby town. What his name is and what town he went to cannot be learned at this time. Resaca, Ga., Harris's home, is but thirty-eight miles from Cartersville.

Did Turner or "the mysterious country-man" kill Lillie Turner?

Resaca, Gordon Co, GA: @34.57875, -84.94624

Changes:

1. Centersville or Cartersville ?
2. "When Wednesday" to "When Tuesday"
3. "an" to "any"
4. "Bucham" to "Burcham"
5. "deepest dye" to "deepest die"

The Tennessean
Nashville, TN
Thu, Apr 4, 1907
Page 3

HUSBAND SLAYS HIS PRETTY WIFE

**Shocking Crime Committed on
Lookout Mountain.**

**THROAT CUT FROM
EAR TO EAR**

**Lillie Turner, a Soiled Dove from At-
lanta, Done to Death in a Horrible
Manner by Man she had Wedded.**

Reason for Crime not Known

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 3. — (Special.) — On the side of Lookout Mountain, Lillie Turner, or Palmer of Atlanta, paid the penalty of her life late yesterday as the result of one of the most horrible murders that has been known in this section for many years.

Ed Turner, said to have been the husband of the woman who, before her death was one of the demi-monde of Atlanta, is supposed to have been her slayer, and the authorities are now searching for him.

Pretty, and barely 20 years of age, the beauty of her features was rendered foul by the great gash in her throat, almost from ear to ear, where the knife had torn its way through the flesh. Children hunting for flowers found the mutilated remains. The girl had probably been dead three hours at the time.

A desolate spot had been selected for the commission of the crime, it being an old cut in the old broad gauge railroad about 150 yards south of the incline. Secluded, hidden from all the rest of the world, no more lonely a spot could have been selected.

The county jail was notified at once and Sheriff Shipp with Deputy Frawley began the investigation. At first there was absolutely no trace by which the victim could be identified, but shortly afterward Deputy Marlon Perkins succeeded in finding two young men J. E. Jones and F. F. Reeves, who recognized her as Lillie Turner, of Atlanta. According to the story told by them,

she had come to Chattanooga the night before from Atlanta in company with her husband, Ed Turner. Her coming to this city had been by appointment with them, they being from Atlanta.

The girl and her husband reached the city Monday night and Jones and Reeves came on the next train.

Yesterday morning, according to her appointment with Jones and Reeves, she and her husband met them, and about 11 o'clock the quartet went out to St. Elmo. Then, according to Jones' story, the party divided. Turner and his wife walking up the old mountain road, while he and Reeves went to the Incline station.

This was the last seen of either the man or the woman, until the body of Lillie Turner was found in the cut by the school children.

The whole affair is a mysterious one, residents of St. Elmo stating that she had been seen in company with two men while going up the side of the mountain, though up to a late hour last night no trace could be found of the second man.

Mrs. Turner had gone to Atlanta some time ago from her home in Jackson, Ky., and later married Turner. From

information gathered, he was insanely jealous of her, and when she announced her intention of coming to this city to keep the appointment with Jones and Reeves, he had accompanied her. Upon arriving here, it is the theory of the officers that after the two young men had arrived, his jealousy secured the upper hand and he proposed the trip to the mountain with the intention of taking her life.

Both Jones and Reeves were taken into custody by the Sheriff, and will be held until the Coroner's jury renders a verdict.

From the position in which the clothing of the victim was found, the conclusion was reached by those investigating that she had been maltreated before her death, and this phase of the case will be investigated by physicians.

Ed Turner, the husband of the young woman, is a member of the Turner feudist gang, in Breathitt County, Ky. It is said that he has been tried two or three times for murder. No trace of him has been found.

The Cartersville News
Cartersville, Georgia
Apr 4, 1907
Page 1
(Transcribed by: Laurel Baty)

From Ear To Ear Woman's Throat Cut

Man In Restaurant Business Here Supposed to Be Murderer of His Wife on Lookout Mountain.

During the big snow in January a couple said to be man and wife came to Cartersville and the man bought an interest with Mr. W. F. Maffett in the restaurant in the basement of the Bradley building. It was not long before the conduct of the couple was the subject of remark, the woman especially being put down as of loose morals. At last, remarks becoming frequent, the authorities thought best to take a hand and they were notified to get out of town, or at least the woman was. She went to Atlanta, while the husband remained here for

several weeks, running back and forth to Atlanta. Monday afternoon the man got off the train bound for Chattanooga and had a few words with people he knew, telling them that he was going with his wife to their former home in Kentucky, and she was to take the train with him. They are said to have come originally from Breathitt county, in that state. The man gave his name as Ed Turner.

The man showed an insanely jealous nature while in Cartersville and watched his wife with the eye of a hawk constantly. It seems that a dreadful tragedy soon followed their passing through here.

It is believed the man cut the woman's throat and left her in the woods where the deed was done and where she was found afterward by some school children.

The Chattanooga Times tells the story of the crime, so far as known, in its yesterday's issue, as follows:

" With her throat cut from ear to ear, the body of Lillie Turner was found yesterday afternoon on the side of Lookout Mountain.

In the world of sin the victim was known as Lillie Palmer. She was an outcast in Atlanta, and came to Chattanooga Monday, accompanied by a man named Ed Turner, who claimed to be her husband.

The two, with a party of young men, started for the mountain yesterday. Turner and the woman left their companions at St. Elmo.

Shortly after, the body of the young woman was found by children. The murder was committed in the cut of the old broad gauge road about half a mile from the foot of the incline."

"The wages of sin is death." On the side of old Lookout the penalty for the violation of a moral law as ancient as the rock-ribbed sides of the grim mountain, Lillie Turner, or Palmer, of Atlanta, paid the penalty of her life as the result of one of the most horrible murders that has been known in this section for many years.

[A long description of the last day of Lillie Palmer Turner follows.]

Note: The "long description" was omitted from the [original transcript](#), so it's not available.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Fri, Apr 5, 1907
Page# 1

RAISE MONEY TO BURY GIRL PROPER WAY

May Save Lillie Turner from Paupers' Field

NO LIGHT YET THROWN ON MURDER MYSTERY

Ed Turner Remains at Liberty and Harris, the Countryman, Has Not Been Arrested – Case Seems Too Deep for Officers

Much of the pathetic is mingled in the latest developments that have arisen from the murder of Lillie Turner, the nineteen-year-old Kentucky girl, whose body was found in the "broad-gauge" cut on Lookout Mountain Tuesday. The woman's husband, Ed Turner, is still at

large. Poverty from the first wrapped its rags about the unfortunate girl and to escape from these, it appears now more evident than ever, she submitted with a better grace than might otherwise have been, to her brutal husband selling her into slavery. Now that the artificiality of the life she led has fled, she has again been left in the rags of poverty. A pauper's grave is gaping wide to receive her mutilated form.

Lillie Turner's people are poor. Her mother, Mrs. Sue Bircham, is in the dregs of poverty, living off the kindness of her neighbors at Frozen Creek, Breathitt county, Ky. So poor is she, that she could not afford to pay for a small telegram which she sent to L. J. Sharp & Co. relative to the disposition of the body. Such was the context of a message received by this firm from the nearest telegraph station to Frozen Creek.

Citizen Raising Money.

Sharp & Co. are still holding the body, and it is yet possible that it will be saved from the pauper's grave. Chattanooga does not lack for generous-hearted citizens, and public interest has been so aroused in the case of the

unfortunate girl and public sympathy so stirred up, that yesterday, various persons started collections to pay the funeral expenses. Among these are J. W. Stonecipher and Tax Assessor Emil Wassman. The former, previous to his leaving the city this morning turned over his first effort to Sharp & Co. It consisted of the following contributions:

J. W. Gentry	\$1.00
J. W. Stonecipher	1.00
R. L. Stevenson	1.00
H. J. Kendell50
A. E. DeRatt50
C. E. Quintell50
C. F. Brown50
Mrs. J. H. Springfield25

Total \$5.25

This is but the first list of returns. There are several other men at work making collections, and the needed sum, it is believed, will soon be raised.

It will cost a little over \$30 to bury Lillie Turner in Forest Hills Cemetery. It will cost about twice that much about \$60 – to ship her body to her mother for interment. What disposition will be made cannot as yet be stated until full

returns are made from the collections. The undertaking firm is doing its share. The Star will be pleased to turn over any donations that may be made for this purpose to the proper authorities.

No Light on Mystery.

As yet, there is no clue as to the whereabouts of Ed Turner or Dock Harris, the "mysterious countryman," who is wanted as a witness. Suspects have been seen and arrested in various parts of the country who answer to the descriptions of both, but most of these have been turned loose upon identification.

The latest report came last night in a telegram to the county authorities from Charleston, S. C. A stranger fully answering Turner's description was seen there, it was stated, but the authorities failed to place him under arrest. He endeavored to pass himself off as a German, and purchased a ticket for Baltimore. The Baltimore authorities have been communicated with and requested to watch for the man.

The latest phase of the mysterious murder is leading the authorities to seriously puzzle over the query: Did Turner, on leaving the scene of the crime, return to the city on a street car, or did he loiter

about the mountain, trying to hide from the public gaze? Or did he go to the city, and then return to the mountain.

Story Told By Mrs. Gentry.

Mrs. J. W. Gentry is responsible for all the theories advanced along this line. Last night, for the first time since the crime, she related to the county authorities an experience she met with on the day of the murder.

Mrs. Gentry lives at St. Elmo, but has a farm at Gowen Springs. Tuesday she and a lady friend walked to the farm to look after some cattle. They returned in the afternoon at about 4:30 o'clock, walking back to St. Elmo along the county pike. They had not walked more than about fifty yards from the intersection of the pike with the railroad track, when they passed a man walking south.

This man fully filled the description of Turner. The two ladies had not yet heard of the atrocious crime on the mountain, but nevertheless the man's actions attracted their attention. As he passed them he turned his head away, but afterwards they saw him looking back. He wore a light suit of clothes, and his

hands and the sleeves of his coat were bloody.

"That man must have been in a fight," remarked Mrs. Gentry. *"His hands are all bloody but he does not seem to be hurt himself."* They watched him until he disappeared from their sight. He did not go as far as the intersection of the roads, but cut across some fields to the railroad tracks, where they lost sight of him.

Nothing was said of the matter until yesterday, however, when Mrs. Gentry gave the information to the sheriff's office.

Changed: "when Mr. Gentry" to "when Mrs. Gentry"

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Fri, Apr 5, 1907
Page# 2

Reported That Harris Has Been Arrested

It was reported on the streets this afternoon that Harris, the "mysterious countryman," wanted as a witness in the Turner murder case had been arrested in Atlanta. Neither the county nor city officers had heard of such an arrest.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Fri, Apr 5, 1907
Page 9

GIN AND JEALOUSY CAUSED MURDER

**Killing Of Lillie Turner By Al-
leged Husband.**

**SHE INTENDED TO
LEAVE HIM**

**Failing In His Efforts To Induce
Her To Return With Him To Kentucky,
It Is Believed He Cut
Her Throat To Prevent Her Going
Back To Atlanta.**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 4. ———
(Special.) The broken fragments of a
bottle which contained "mobile gin" found
on the scene of the murder of Lillie Turner,
alias Palmer, who was discovered with her
throat cut, 150 yards south of the incline

on the side of Lookout Mountain Tuesday afternoon, convey in unmistakable terms one of the causes at least of the awful crime.

Fired with jealousy and the contents of these bottles, it is now a foregone conclusion on the part of the Sheriff's force and all who know anything of the details of the affair that, failing in his purpose to persuade Lillie Turner to return to Breathitt County, Ky., and thus get her away from her other Atlanta friends, Ed Turner, the much wanted man, decided in a moment of anger and insane jealousy to take the life of his alleged wife and send her to her home, not alive, but cold in death.

This theory is borne out by the facts as they have come from the lips of J. E. Jones and F. F. Reeves, the two Atlanta friends of the woman, who declare that they had nothing in the world to do with the murder, and that they were doing their utmost to protect the girl and assist her in getting away from Ed Turner and to return to her home in Atlanta.

The theory that the woman did not want to return to Breathitt County, Ky, with her alleged husband is borne out by the fact that she said so in the last letter she ever wrote. This letter is addressed to Mrs.

Fannie Warren of Atlanta, her boarding house mistress, telling her that she was going to leave Ed Turner and come back home. The letter is written on regular letter paper with a lead pencil and in a plain hand, but is full of errors and in bad spelling. The letter follows:

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 2, '07

Mrs. Fannie Warren: Dearest Friend

I will write you to let you know where I am. Well, Mrs. Warren, I am coming back this afternoon.

My little friend come on here. He come on the next train after I got here. I am going to leave Ed this evening and come back down there until all this talk all gets out, I don't now what anyone wanted to do that way for. Well, Miss Warren, when Mamie brings my washing, you take it for me, and I will pay you twice as much as you to give for it. Well, Mrs. Warren, I will close by saying I will let you know where I stop in town. I will call you up and let you know. Good bye,

LIZZIE PALMER.

This letter was handed to Jones to be mailed on the morning of the fatal day, but it was never mailed, and was given to the

Sheriff for whatever light it might shed on the case. Sheriff Shipp received a telegram from Gov. Patterson this morning, in which he offered the reward of \$150, as requested by the Sheriff.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Sat, Apr 6, 1907
Page# 2

Murdered Girl's Body Shipped To Kentucky

The body of Mrs. Lillie Turner was shipped last night by L. J. Sharp & Co. to the girl's mother, Mrs. Sue Bircham, at Frozen Creek, Ky., via Vancleve, Ky. People responded generously to the appeal given publicity in yesterday's Star for funds with which to bury the girl, either here, or ship her remains to her mother: so generously, indeed, that it was made possible last night to place her in a pretty casket and send her to her last resting place among the wild mountains of Breathitt county. C. L. Loop of the Southern Express Company was one of the generous donors, contributing one-half the express charges.

There, for the present, the story of one of the bloodiest crimes that ever sullied the annals of the city rests.

The degenerate to whom the crime is attributed is at large. The only witness

who saw the crime committed is at large. There is no clue as to the whereabouts of either Ed Turner, the murderer, or Dock Harris, "the mysterious countryman," the desired witness.

The police department is as hard at work upon the case as is the sheriff's office. There are three rewards now outstanding for the capture of Ed Turner — Gov. Patterson's reward of \$150, Sheriff Shipp's reward of \$50 and a reward offered by the police department of \$50. It is believed that the state's reward will be increased at an early date.

Changed: "Van Cleves" to "Vancleve"
(Vancleve is in Breathitt Co, KY @
37.62724, -83.41417)

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Mon, Apr 8, 1907
Page# 2

No Light Yet On Mystery About Murder

What Has Become of That Unknown Countryman?

**Bloody Breathitt May
Have Part In Tragedy**

**Suggested That Victim May Have
Had Lover Who Sought Re-
venge – Interesting Story Comes
from Mines at Whiteside.**

The mountainside mystery is no nearer solution now than it was the day that the body of Lillie Turner was found on the old Broadgauge right of way with her throat cut. No systematic search has yet

been made of the gorges and recesses of the mountainside to ascertain whether or not the finding of another body would discover that it was a double tragedy.

Lillie Turner was a beautiful girl and came from a county where there is more disturbance than in any other part of the United States. That she may have had a lover prior to her marriage with Turner who was sufficiently interested and involved with her to make him seek a ghastly revenge is one of the possibilities.

As to That Countryman.

The fact that Harris, the alleged countryman, has so completely disappeared indicates that he is not the novice which he has been painted. If he was a green countryman with an ambition to become a detective he would doubtless have fallen into the hands of the authorities before this time. If, on the other hand, he is a denizen of Bloody Breathitt, with a grudge against one or both of the Turners, he is at home in the mountains and will probably never be apprehended. A great many people believe that this man not only murdered Lillie Turner, but also murdered Ed Turner and

concealed the body, and that he was probably frightened away before he had an opportunity to dispose of the body of the girl.

Another theory which has a few believers is that the entire party constitute the gang of safeblowers that have been operating in this vicinity for some time past, and that a quarrel between Turner and his wife and a threat on her part to betray them into the hands of the authorities resulted in her murder and Turner's escape.

A story comes from Whiteside to the effect that until a few months ago Turner was employed at the Etna mines: that a man exactly answering his description worked there for some time; that it became known that he was an ex-convict from Kentucky and it was finally made so unpleasant for him that he left. The man in question, who is thought to have been Turner, left the Etna mines about two months ago.

The \$250 reward offered for the apprehension of the alleged murderer has set the officers of the law throughout this section on the trail, but up to the present time no developments have been unearthed that look in the least promising.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Tue, Apr 9, 1907
Page# 2

DOCK HARRIS SECLUDED AT COUNTY JAIL

Sheriff Handles Prisoner With Unusual Care

"Mysterious Countryman" May Solve Mystery

Dock Harris is confined in the county jail awaiting a thorough investigation as to his connection with the atrocious murder of Mrs. Lillie Turner on the side of Lookout Mountain in the early part of last week.

Harris, it will be remembered, is the mysterious countryman who was seen to follow Ed Turner and his wife along the mountain road that led to the scene of the crime. He suddenly disappeared, however, and until he was found in the

city yesterday afternoon and arrested, his whereabouts were unknown. It is believed that he must have been hiding in the city the entire time during which the search was made for him.

Valuable information, it is believed, will be obtained from him as to the tragedy, since he is thought to have been the only witness. Sheriff Shipp has been examining him closely, but is observing the closest secrecy with reference to what Harris may have divulged.

This morning, the father and a brother of Harris paid him a visit at the jail. So closely is he confined that Jailer J. A. Gillespie was instructed to be present at the conversation, so that nothing Harris said escaped the proper authorities.

A rumor that Turner had been captured in Alabama is said to be entirely without foundation.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Wed, Apr 10, 1907
Page# 2

DOCK HARRIS IS QUEER BOY

**Tells Strange Story About
Turner Murder Case**

**INSISTS HE WAS JUST
ACTING AS DETECTIVE**

**Coroners Jury Holds That Wo-
man was Killed By Her Husband,
Ed Turner, for Whom Officers
Have Searched in Vain.**

The coroner's jury in the case of [the] Lillie Turner murder last night heard the last and what was considered most important witness – Dock Harris, "the mysterious countryman." The report of the jury was that Lillie Turner had come to her death at the hands of Ed Turner. It was he who wielded the knife that almost severed her beautiful head from

her body, according to the gentlemen who made the investigation.

Harris' testimony was very interesting and corroborated the story published in The Star the day following the murder. He claims to have been a detective, and, after following the Turners here from Atlanta, continued following them to Lookout Mountain, and up the mountain road that led to the broad gauge cut, where the girl was murdered.

Turner, however, noticed him following and drove him back. Here, he claims, his connection with the Turners ended.

He remained in the city for a day following the tragedy, and then, taking alarm at reports printed of him in the newspapers, he fled, going to Gadsden, Ala., from there to Estelle, Ga., then to Rome, then back and forth through various towns, returning at last to Gadsden, from whence he came back to Chattanooga. During all the while he was keeping "under cover," fearing that he would be arrested.

Coroner's Opinion of Story.

Coroner James Gillespie has but little confidence in the stability of Harris' mind. He believes that Harris is considerably weak-minded on the subject

of being a detective, and it was this that led him to follow the Turner couple for nearly two weeks.

The county authorities, however, are not so thoroughly convinced that this is the extent of Harris' connection with the case, and are still keeping him confined at the jail. It is believed by them that he knew much more about the murder than he has already [told] — indeed, that he was a witness to it.

From the testimony of J. E. Jones and Frank F. Reeves, the two Atlanta boys who followed the Turners here, at the first hearing before the coroner's jury, Harris did not return over the same road which he had started. If he did, they did not see him, nor did the three Crowe bros., who were with Jones and Reeves. Yet Harris claimed that he had returned over the same road, and gone further to Alton Park. Turner was seen by these men on his return. He got on a car going towards the city at about 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. At 4:30 the same afternoon Mrs. J. W. Gentry, of St. Elmo, met a man on the county road who would answer a general description of either Harris or Turner, his hands were blood-stained and blood covered his

coat sleeves. He was walking south towards the railroad intersection.

Was this man Harris or Turner?

Plenty of Inconsistencies.

There were a number of inconsistencies in Harris' testimonies before the coroner's jury that seem suspicious to the county authorities. One is in the matter of the sum of money he had. Witnesses vow that he showed a large roll of bills on the day of the murder.

He claims he had but a small amount, derived from the sale of some cotton. Another inconsistency is his statement that he never claimed to be a deputy sheriff. Witnesses insist that he did — indeed, that he had offered to arrest Ed and Lillie Turner if he had but the aid of another man.

The sheriff's office is still working hard on the case.

Changed: "done" to "told" in "than he has already done"

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Wed, Apr 10, 1907
Page# 2

**"MYSTERIOUS
COUNTRYMAN"
OF TURNER CASE GIVES
FIRST STATEMENT TO STAR**

Dock Harris, "the mysterious countryman." who has figured so prominently in the reports of the Lookout Mountain tragedy, in which Ed Turner cut the throat of his wife, is anxious to be vindicated from all iota of suspicion as to complicity in the murder. He emphasized his desire in an interview at the county jail this morning with a Star reporter.

"I will search the country for Ed Turner," he said, "if they will let me, so I can be freed from all suspicions."

When approached by the newspaperman, Harris was at first very reluctant to speak. *"I might tell the story a little different than I did before the coroner's jury," he said, "'cause I can't remember all just exactly like what I said it, and*

might get myself into trouble." Finally, however, he was induced to speak, and in his peculiar rural accent, he narrated:

"I don't know anything at all about them people what I afterwards heerd was named Turner. I don't know anything about the killing. The papers has misrepresented me from the start. I haven't followed either Turner or his wife for two weeks, as a paper said. I never seed them till the day before the murder, when I ran acrost them in Marietta.

"Two weeks ago, on a Wednesday I went from the tunnel here, where I was working to Ellijay, Georgia, to visit a sister. On the next Monday I got on the train and got off at Marietta. There's where [I] met the man and woman and the two fellows that was with them. I ain't no sheriff and no detective, but they acted suspicious like, and I followed them to Atlanta, and then to here. We came here Monday night. I stayed that night in a hotel near the depot. The next morning I went to the Union depot restaurant to get something to eat and I met them again. They was still acting queer, and I kept following them.

"When we went to the mountain. I got off with them at the incline, But I

did not follow them up the road. I started up the road about an hour later to look for a man who used to live on the mountain named Sower. I don't know if he lives there now, but he used to.

I couldn't find him, so I went back to Alton Park to look for a job in a spoke works. After that I went back to the tunnel.

"I talked too much to the tunnel boys and said a lot of rot I hadn't ought to have said about following a man and a woman up the mountain. I was only kidding them though. I didn't know a thing about the killing.

"I'm only a country boy and hadn't ought to have gone to the city. They're trying to drag me into this crime, and I am as innocent of it as you are. I only wish they would capture Turner. I would go myself and search the whole country for him if they would furnish me the means and a good man to go with me and a good disguise. I would need a good disguise, because Turner would know me—that is my face—and would kill me like he did his wife."

Harris was very nervous and fidgety as he spoke, and hesitated at intervals as though trying to deliberate. He appeared,

from his conversation, to be as he declared himself, a simple country boy.

There is a striking similarity between him and the description extant of Ed Turner. He is about 5 feet and 8 inches high. He has a florid complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and drooping mouth.

He emphatically denies knowing more of the crime than stated above.

Changed: "Ellinjay" to "Ellijay" (a town in Gilmer Co, GA at coords: 34.68175, -84.45132)

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Thu, Apr 11, 1907
Page 7

Lexington Notes.

The body of Lily Turner, a former school teacher of Breathitt county, who was found dead a few days ago on Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, was brought through Lexington yesterday en route to Frozen Creek, where it was buried. Funeral services were held at the home of Mrs. Lou Burcham, mother of the girl.

Miss Turner's throat had been cut from ear to ear, and the mystery of her death is still puzzling the police of Chattanooga.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Thu, Apr 11, 1907
Page# 2

Mysterious Countryman Is Given His Liberty

Dock Harris was liberated this morning. Harris, it will be remembered, is "the mysterious countryman," who has figured so prominently in connection with the mountainside murder, in which Lillie Turner met death at the hands of her husband, Ed Turner.

Sheriff Shipp has become as thoroughly convinced that Harris was not implicated that he released him this morning upon Harris' faithful promise that he would keep him informed constantly as to his whereabouts.

Accompanied by his father and brother he then went to his home at Blue Springs, Ga.

Changed: "faithmul" to "faithful"

There is a Blue Springs in Screven Co, GA (@ 32.63312, -81.42171) and in Brooks Co, GA (@ 30.78973, -83.45670)

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Fri, Apr 12, 1907
Page# 1

WILL OFFER MORE MONEY FOR TURNER

Sheriff Wants to Increase Reward to \$300

Sheriff Shipp wired the governor at Nashville this morning for authority to raise the reward of \$250, which is now offered for the arrest and conviction of Ed Turner to \$300.

It is thought that this authority will be given without hesitation, and the reward now outstanding will be raised at once.

Nothing new regarding Turner's whereabouts is known, but the sheriff is confident that his arrest will finally be made.

The following letter from Mrs. Burcham, the murdered girl's mother, was received this morning:

Letter From Girl's Mother.

Frozen Creek, Ky., April 9, 1907.

Mr. Joseph F. Shipp:

Dear Sir, Your favor of the 5th was received today and I was so proud to hear from you. I haven't got the language to express my heart-felt thanks and obligations to you for the kindness you have showed me in the help in sending my dear daughter Lillie back home to me for burial and I will kindly ask you to thank all the other dear people that was so kind to help you. I am a poor widow woman almost alone in the world. Lillie was my baby girl and I thought so much of my dear daughter. Little did I think when I last saw her that I would ever see her come back to me with her throat cut. I thought so much of darling Lillie. I hope that the time will soon come in the near future when you dear sheriff, will get that scoundrel beast, Ed Turner, and give him a speedy trial and that you will spring the trap door to break his neck.

My heart is almost broken with trouble. Nearly everybody said my daughter Lillie was so smart and pretty. I want to thank you again for your kindness and I hope you will let me hear at once

when you get the murderer and I will do everything in my power to help you in every way I can to get him. Please write me again and soon, for I am anxious to hear everything I can in regard to the capture and conviction of Ed Turner.

*I beg to be your friend. Very truly
yours.*

SUE BIRCHUM

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Sat, Apr 13, 1907
Page# 2

TWO SLEUTHS ON SICK LIST

Firm of Smith and Wells Out of Business

**FIRST TIME IN YEARS
BOTH HAVE BEEN OFF DUTY**

**Chief Moseley Gets Letter from
Man Who Claims to Be Brother
of Ed Turner – Beggars Get Or-
ders to Leave Town.**

Detectives W. H. Smith and Frank Wells are both confined to their homes by illness.

This simple announcement is enough to make old-timers, both on and off the police force, stop and think. It is the first time such an announcement was ever made and this is the first time in a

score of years that both of these officers have been off duty at the same time.

The firm name of Smith and Wells is as well known in criminal circles as that of Miller Bros. is among the ladies. Their many friends hope to see the popular pair back on duty soon.

Letter From Turner's Brother.

Chief John T. Moseley is in receipt of an interesting letter in connection with the recent murder of Mrs. Lillie Turner, on the side of the mountain, by her husband, Ed Turner. The letter purports to be from a brother of Ed Turner, one who has not been known to the local authorities before.

The letter is as follows:

Shoulderblade, Ky., April 9, 1907

Dear Sir – I have heard my brother Ed Turner has killed his wife. Will you please write and tell me if you know anything about it? Answer the letter and tell me if he has ever been arrested or not, and if you know anything about him. Yours respectfully,

GEORGE TURNER.

Address Shoulderblade, Ky., Breathitt county.

Postmaster W. Scott Raulston is in receipt of a similar missive. Chief Moseley has arrived at his own conclusions.

Some Important Arrests.

Among the arrests of importance made last night and today are the following:

S. B. Dyer was arrested by Patrolman Will Whitlock on charges of malicious mischief and carrying a dirk knife.

Patrolman N. Carlton arrested Jed Troville upon a charge of larceny. The man is accused of stealing harness.

Albert Curry, a negro, was arrested on a similar charge by Patrolman J. T. Fry.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Tue, Apr 16, 1907
Page# 6

How Ed Turner Wasn't Caught Sunday Night

Ed Turner, the much wanted mountain murderer, has been captured at last.

Place – Corner of Market street and Montgomery avenue.

Time – Sunday night.

Dramatic Personae:

Police Officer W. E. Wann

Another Police Officer Unknown

The Murderer Revealed later

Scene I.

Lights off.

Setting – Street scene.

Storm on – imitate cold wind from north.

Enter from R – Murderer, attired in long coat, collar up, and slouch hat pulled down over eyes as though to avoid wind or detection, scurries into alcove of Hamilton Savings Bank doorway. Peering out in the

direction of the Rossville car line, crouching close to the shadows, the murderer softly whistles. "Oh, how can I leave thee tonight love?"

From out of the sheltering shadows of the dismal gloom, with a rapid stride and stealthy tread, emerges a police officer.

"Ah Ha Ha, I have you at last villain."
(Raps on sidewalk with night stick).

Don't try to escape –

Don't draw –

You are my prisoner –

Up with your hands!

Enter another officer at a trot, holding his pistol pocket with one hand and his club with the other:

"Hi Ho, What have we here?"

First officer – Ed Turner, the murderer.

Second officer – *Well, he does have a suspicious look – yes, that just fits the description, an just get an eye on that mouth. He's your man.*

First officer – *Yes, there can be no doubt, Say, Turner, what made you cut her throat?*

Did you use a razor or just a butcher knife?

Was you afraid she'd give you away, or was it just plain jealousy?

Have you seen Harris?

Murderer – Stammers. Teeth chatters.

Second officer – *Say, cough up, sport, and tell us all about it while we are waiting for the wagon.*

Murderer – *S – s – say, I ain't no m – murderer. I just been to see a g – girl.*

First officer – *Oh, come on off! So?*

Chattanooga girls don't let 'em stay till midnight – come, give us the story.

Clang – clang – clang!

Galloping horses!

Well, here's the wagon. Better see if he's armed. (Searches prisoner).

In with you!

Murderer – *H – Hold o – on – say, I can prove an alibi. I didn't murder anything 'cept what Banquo murdered, and that ain't no offense nowadays.*

First officer – *Into the wagon and dry your gab. Talkin' to us won't do you any good, and I warn you that whatever you say may be used against you in court.*

Clang – clang!

Scene II.

Interior setting.

Dish at R – Iron bars at rear of stage.

Enter Officer and Prisoner.

Night Sergeant Jim Hackett.

Hello, Mr. Officer, where did you get Tom Thumb?

Mr. Officer – Tom nothing: it's Turner, the murderer: and say sergeant, do you know where I can buy a good house and a lot for \$300? Here, Turner, hold up your head and take off that hat, so the sergeant can identify you by the official description.

Sergeant Hackett:

"Murderer Turner!" (Laughs loud and long). Well, I may never. Say, Jimmy, what you been doing out so late?

To Officer – Say, don't you know who that is? That's not Turner, and you won't buy any sugartree molasses with the Turner reward tonight.

That's Jimmy Landis, of The Star office, and next to John Temple Graves, one of the littlest journalists in the south. Say, officers, you ought not to run Jimmy in: he's known all over the Ninth ward, Orchard Knob and Bushtown.

(Curtain).

Changed: "Part I." to "Scene I."

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Wed, Apr 17, 1907
Page# 3

SHERIFF IN NASHVILLE

Capt. Shipp Keeping Up Search for Ed Turner.

Sheriff Frank Shipp of Chattanooga, Hamilton county, is in the city and was, a visitor at the office of Sheriff Johns this morning, says the Nashville Banner. Sheriff Shipp brought with him circulars offering a reward of \$200 for the arrest of Ed Turner, delivered in any jail in the United States. The fugitive is wanted at Chattanooga for wife murder, he being charged with having cut his wife's throat on Lookout Mountain on Tuesday, April 2, 1907. Turner is described as being about 27 years old, 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing about 150 pounds. The circular gives a minute description of the man. The state offers \$150 of the amount, and Sheriff Shipp puts up the other \$50, making the \$200.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Wed, Apr 17, 1907
Page# (unknown)

ONLY READ HEADLINES

And Failure to Read Them Right Causes Baseless Rumor

That many newspaper readers merely glance at headlines and pass on was amply demonstrated yesterday. The Star printed what was intended for a humorous story with a headline telling how murderer Ed Turner wasn't captured. The article created a sensation. Not because of its high character as a humorous production but because a lot of readers saw the article, took in all of the headline except the *n't* and concluded that the real capture had occurred.

From such a beginning the story soon spread that Turner had been taken and police headquarters and the county jail were required to respond to numerous queries as to how the murderer was captured.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Wed, Apr 17, 1907
Page# 8

ANOTHER TURNER RUMOR

County Jail Besieged With Inquiries About Reported Capture

A report was in circulation yesterday afternoon that Ed Turner had been captured and lodged in the county jail.

The telephone in the Sheriff's office was kept busy all during the afternoon by anxious inquirers who asked: *"Is it true that you have captured Ed Turner?"*

When informed that his capture had not as yet been effected, the inquirer displayed much disappointment.

How the report got started is not known, as no arrests of any kind were made by the sheriff's men yesterday.

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Tennessee
Thu, Apr 25, 1907
Page# 1

ONE ED TURNER IN JAIL

Officers Refused, However, to Pay Any Reward for Him.

Many people will be surprised to learn that Ed Turner is at the present time working out a fine which was assessed against him in one of the local justices' courts, after his plea of "guilty" to the charge of vagrancy proffered against him.

Turner has never committed murder and there is no reward out for his arrest, for Ed Turner is a black man and no crime more serious than that of robbing hen roosts or purloining watermelons has ever been proffered against him.

A visitor in the county jail yesterday noted the name of Turner on the register and inquired if Ed Turner was arrested *"why don't they take in those bills offering a reward for his capture?"*

The visitor who was evidently "green," was told that the bills were for the purpose of having the public be on the lookout for Turner who, as soon as his sentence is worked out, will be at liberty, and that the first one who catches him after his liberation will receive the reward offered.

Changed: "preferred" to "proffered"

The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
Thu, Aug 1, 1907
Page 6

ARRESTED FOR WIFE'S MURDER

Breathitt County Man Arrested at Lexington, Ky.

Lexington, Ky., July 31. Edward Turner of Breathitt County, wanted in Chattanooga, Tenn., for the murder of his wife Lillie Turner on Lookout Mountain, Tenn., last April, was arrested this afternoon in Estill County at the home of his brother-in-law, George Combs. He was taken to Beattyville, Lee County, and placed in jail. Turner confessed that he killed his wife and says he will fight requisition.

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Thu, Aug 1, 1907
Page 3

Ed Turner Captured.

Beattyville, Ky., July 31. (Special) Ed Turner, charged with the murder of Lillie Burcham, April 4 last, on Lookout Mountain, was arrested here to-day by D. C. Bailey and H. D. Rogers. There is a \$900 reward for his apprehension.

The Sedalia Democrat
Sedalia, Missouri
Fri, Aug 2, 1907
Page 8

THROAT OF HIS WIFE

Alleged to Have Been Cut By the Man Captured in Kentucky.

Lexington, Ky — Aug. 2. Ed Turner, of Breathitt county, accused of murdering his wife on Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga last April, was arrested yesterday at the home of his brother-in-law, George Combs, in Estill county, and has been placed in jail at Beattyville.

A reward of \$150, offered by the governor of Tennessee and a larger reward offered by the citizens of Chattanooga, will be paid for the capture of Turner.

Turner is said to have admitted to D. C. Bailey and H. G. Rogers, who placed him in jail at Beattyville, that he was wanted for the murder of his wife, whose maiden name was Lillie Burcham, of Breathitt county.

The killing occurred shortly after Turner had eloped with the girl to Chattanooga, where they were married. Turner took his wife up Lookout Mountain one Sunday afternoon last April, and she was found the next day *[sic]* with her throat cut from ear to ear.

Note: This article says she was found “the next day”, while others say she was found on the same day, at 3:00 PM.

Breathitt County News
Jackson, Kentucky
Fri, Aug 2, 1907
Page 3

Ed Turner Arrested

Ed Turner, who is accused of killing his wife on Lookout Mountain, near Chattanooga, Tenn. last April was arrested Wednesday in Estill county at the home of his brother-in-law and taken to Beattyville and placed in jail. He admits that he is the man wanted and that he killed his wife who was Lillie Burcham who formerly lived at Frozen, this county.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Fri, Aug 2, 1907
Page 2

MURDER WILL OUT: ED TURNER CAUGHT

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Aug 1.—The old adage that "murder will out" has been certified in the case of Ed Turner, the notorious Breathitt county, Ky. feudist, who was captured yesterday evening near Fillmore, Lee county, Ky. Turner is the man who is charged with the murder of his girl wife, Mrs. Lillian Turner, nee Burcham, on the side of Lookout Mountain on April 2. He is being held at Beattyville, the county seat of Lee county, Ky., pending the preliminary arrangements concerning the reward of \$250 which was offered by Sheriff J. F. Shipp, citizens of this county and the governor of Tennessee.

Turner is charged with a most dastardly crime. He came to this city with [his] girl wife who was only about 17 years of age. He and the girl were followed by two young men from Atlanta, where Turner

and his wife lived some months. All four went to Lookout Mountain where the two young men and Turner and his wife became separated.

About 4 o'clock on the afternoon of April 2, the body of the unfortunate girl was found near a rocky ledge south of the Incline, with her throat cut from ear to ear. Turner was seen running from the scene of the crime afterward.

Changed: "Filmore" to "Fillmore" (a town in Lee Co, KY @ 37.60243, -83.55060)

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Sat, Aug 3, 1907
Page 2

TO FACE TRIAL.

**Ed Turner will Answer for
Murder of his Wife**

**ADMITS KILLING, BUT CLAIMS
JUSTIFICATION FOR DEED**

**FLED BECAUSE HE HEARD A
MOB WAS AFTER HIM.**

CAPTOR GETS \$250 REWARD.

Lexington, Ky., Aug. 2. (Special) ———

Ed Turner, who is charged with murdering his wife, Lillian Turner, by cutting her throat from ear to ear on Lookout Mountain last April and was recently arrested in Lee County, Ky., was brought here to-night by Sheriff Sizemore, of Lee county, and turned over to Sheriff J. F. Shipp, of Chattanooga, Tenn., in whose jurisdiction the alleged murder was committed. The meeting of the two Sheriffs

was held here by agreement, Sheriff Shipp turning over to Sheriff Sizemore \$250 offered as reward for Turner's capture, and Sizemore delivered the prisoner to the Tennessee Sheriff.

Turner was not placed in jail here to-night, but was kept in a room at the Palace Hotel, securely handcuffed and under the eye of Sheriff Shipp, who will leave with his prisoner on the early morning train for Chattanooga.

Turner is about thirty years old, was neatly dressed and is rather prepossessing in appearance. When questioned about the murder to-night he said: *"I have never*

denied killing my wife, but I don't want to talk about it now.

What I want is a square deal after I get back to Chattanooga, and I believe I will get it. When I left there I heard there was a mob after me. I knew I had done right and was justified in what I did, but I didn't want a mob to get me, as I knew I would be all right when I had a fair trial. I am sure when I get Justice I will be acquitted and will then come back and live in Lee county."

Turner refused to go into further details of his crime to-night, but Sheriff Sizemore said that Turner told him that he had

followed the woman up on Lookout Mountain, finding her there with another man, had become so frenzied with rage that he ran to the couple and, seizing his wife by the hair, drew her head back and cut her throat from ear to ear.

Turner is a native of Breathitt county, of feud fame, but stated to-night that he had never been connected with a feud and had never been in trouble before he killed his wife.

The Cincinnati Enquirer
Cincinnati, Ohio
Sat, Aug 3, 1907
Page 2

Stalked

His Wife and Paramour

**Up the Mountain Side and Slew
Her Where She Lay**

**Tennessee Murderer, Captured in Ken-
tucky, Declares He Acted Under
the "Unwritten Law"**

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

Lexington, Ky., August 3—As calmly as if narrating a story he had read in a book, Edward Turner, self-confessed murderer of his beautiful wife, Lillie Burham [Burcham] Turner, a Breathitt County school teacher, related to-day to Sheriff D. C. Bailey, of Lee County, the details of his horrible crime on Lookout Mountain, Tenn, May 2, [April 2] when he cut her throat from ear to ear and left her dying. Declaring that he committed the crime "according to the unwritten law,"

Turner expressed no fear to return to Chattanooga, Tenn. and stand trial.

Turner was brought here to-night by Sheriff Bailey and Deputy Sheriff J. P. Sizemore of Lee County, and they were met by Sheriff J. F. Shipp of Chattanooga.

There is a reward of \$900 for the capture of Turner, and the Lee County Sheriffs gave up their man when they were assured they would receive the money.

To Sheriff Bailey, the prisoner said that he had reason to suspect his wife of infidelity. He said he watched her go up Lookout Mountain with two strange men. Turner says he found his wife in the embrace of one of the men. He then made up his mind that he would kill all three of them and then end his own life. He related that he slashed right and left with a knife, wounding both men and killing his wife. After the murder he was so exhausted, he said, that he did not have the courage to take his own life.

Realizing the enormity of his crime, Turner fled from Chattanooga, seeking refuge in Estill County, near the home of his brother-in-law, George Combs. He hid in a cave, but fearing his health would be undermined in his underground retreat, he secreted himself between the roof and ceiling of his brother-in-law's house. There he was captured by Sheriff Bailey.

Turner wrote to-night to his sister Mrs. George Combs, to sell their oxen on the farm and hasten to Chattanooga with \$300 with which to employ a lawyer to defend him.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Sat, Aug 3, 1907 - Page 2

SHERIFF WILL GET WIFE MURDERER

**Ed Turner Will Return to
Tennessee Without Requi-
sition Papers.**

CAUGHT IN KENTUCKY

**Story of the Crime for
Which He Will Be
Tried.**

Special to the Tennessean:

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 2. — Sheriff J. F. Shipp, who has been visiting his father in Georgia, left here today for Lexington, Ky., where he will meet Sheriff Sizemore, of Lee county, Ky., and Ed Turner, the alleged wife murderer, who has been captured near Fillmore, Ky.,

where he was living with his brother-in-law, George McCombs.

Turner agreed to come to Tennessee without requisition papers, as was indicated in a telegram received by Sheriff Shipp before leaving for Lexington, Ky. A controversy arose over the reward of \$250 which was offered for the arrest of Turner, but after this was cleared away Sheriff Sizemore agreed to give up the prisoner to Sheriff Shipp and Turner agreed to come to Tennessee without requisition papers.

Turner had been going under the assumed name of John Spence. A letter he wrote to his brother-in-law brought him to grief. D. D. Edwards, a former Cincinnati Southern switchman of this city secured this letter and mailed it to Sheriff Shipp. The date of Turner's coming to McCombs' being known it was an easy matter to have officers on the lookout and when Turner came upon the scene he was easily taken in.

Back in the mountains of Kentucky, in Breathitt county, Lillie Burcham was a schoolmistress, the daughter of an aged mother, respected, and to all appearances, contented and happy. She was 16 years old, strong and hearty as a result of her climatic environments, with an

abundance of red hair, with perfect form and winsome face — in all, a typical mountain lass. But within her strong bosom, within her body hardened by the rough life to which she had been accustomed, was a tender heart that shrunk from the feudal habits and war-like propensities of her neighbors and she longed to leave. In this condition, with these desires for a better, more congenial life, she was easily persuaded by Turner to leave her home and friends for what he promised would be a better life in a more delightful town.

They went to Atlanta, and letters sent by the girl to her aged mother back in her Kentucky home carried messages of woe and tales of shameful degradation forced upon her by the man she trusted. He had forced her to sell herself. The life she had led at Frozen Creek, Ky., was blissful compared to her existence in Georgia.

They were arrested several times in Atlanta, and finally came to Chattanooga April 1, where, it is said, they were married. The next day they went on a visit to Lookout Mountain, accompanied by two men by the name of Reeves and Jones, friends of Turner. Arriving at the mountain, they separated from Reeves

and Jones and started walking up the pathway toward Mountain Junction. A short while afterward Turner appeared in St. Elmo alone and when asked by Reeves and Jones what had become of his wife, he replied she had gone up town a long time ago. He boarded a car, came uptown, afterward left the city, and was never heard from again until yesterday.

A few hours later a 9-year-old boy, searching for flowers on the mountain-side, beneath a thick clump of bushes in a secluded spot, found the body of Lillie Turner. Deep, cruel gashes in the girl's throat bore ghastly evidence against her husband, whom the world has since looked upon as her murderer.

Jones and Reeves were arrested on suspicion but were released when it was known that they could not be connected with the crime. Before gaining his liberty, however, Jones gave a full description of a knife which Turner always had in his possession.

Changes:

1. "Filmore" to "Fillmore"
2. "contended" to "contented"
3. "Fork" to "Creek"
4. "in line" to "in all"

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Tue, Aug 6, 1907
Page 12

ED TURNER SAYS: "I NEVER KILLED HER"

**Alleged Desperado Wife-
Murderer Gives Out
Interview.**

BUT KNOWS WHO DID

**Story of Turner's Capture
as Told By Sheriff
Sizemore.**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Aug. 5. — *"I never killed Lillian Turner, but I know who did do it."*

Such was a statement made this morning by Ed Turner, the noted Breathitt county alleged wife murderer who was safely landed in the county jail this morning at about 11 o'clock by Sheriff Shipp and Sheriff Sizemore, of Lee

county, Ky., who brought the prisoner from Beattyville to Lexington, where Sheriff Shipp met the party last night.

The train bearing the two sheriffs and their prisoner arrived in the city this morning at 10:50 o'clock, after being delayed several hours. As stated, Turner denies any connection with the killing, notwithstanding the fact that he has been quoted as having admitted the crime.

In his cell on the second floor of the county jail, he greeted the reporter, but was inclined to be somewhat non-committal.

"How did they capture you?" the reporter asked.

"I was given away—betrayed by a friend," he said. *"Sid Cole, a man who lives on the place where my brother-in-law, George Combes, lives, gave me away to the officers."*

"You did not cut your wife's throat, did you?" he was asked.

"I did not, but I think I know who did."

"You have been quoted as having admitted that you cut your wife's throat?"

"I may have, but that is not so."

"Why did you run away after she was killed?"

"I did not run away: I just took a notion to go back home."

"Did you not leave the city on the same afternoon as the crime?"

"I don't remember when I left the city."

"How long had you been back at your Kentucky home?"

"It was known by outsiders that I was back there two months ago."

"Did you know that a Chattanooga detective was on your trail?"

"I knew nothing about it."

"Were you ever in Georgia?"

"Yes: I have been in Cartersville in business and I was at Atlanta before coming to Chattanooga."

For the first time the story of Turner's capture was revealed to a reporter by Sheriff Jas. P. Sizemore, of Lee county, Ky.

Simply for the small reward of \$250 I never would have tackled Turner, for I consider him to be a dangerous man, although he never gave the officers of our

section any trouble that I know about," said Sheriff Sizemore this morning at the county jail.

"But," he continued, "It was for D. C. Bailey, the deputy sheriff, to do the work. Accompanied by Deputy H. G. Rogers, Bailey went to the house of ?????????? knowing that Turner was ?????????? the attic of that house. ??? about 8 o'clock in the morning. ?????????? secured a goods box and ????? so that they could poke their ????????? into the hole in the loft ?????ner went in and out at will. ????????? however, was very cautious ????? the contents of that hole. He [then] pushed his hat through the hole, holding it on the ends of his fingers. No reply came from above and then jumping up with his head and upper part of his chest in the hole, he threw his revolver down almost right in the face of Turner. Turner reached down as if he were going to get a gun when Rogers threw a Winchester rifle down on Turner and Bailey commanded him to throw up his hands.

Missing text is replaced with question marks.

The Citizen
Berea, Kentucky
Thu, Aug 8, 1907
Page 7

“UNWRITTEN LAW”

Tennessee Murderer Declares He Acted Under

Lexington, Ky. — As calmly as if narrating what he had read in a book, Edward Turner, self-confessed murderer of his beautiful wife, Lillie Burcham Turner, a Breathitt County school teacher, related to Sheriff D. C. Bailey, of Lee County, the details of his horrible crime on Lookout Mountain, Tenn., April 2, when he cut her throat from ear to ear and left her dying, declaring that he committed the crime "according to the unwritten law." Turner expressed no fear to return to Chattanooga, Tenn., and stand trial.

Changed: "May 2" to "April 2"

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Tue, Aug 13, 1907
Page 2

ED TURNER IS BOUND OVER WITHOUT BAIL

**Hearing at Chattanooga De-
veloped Strong Evi-
dence.**

Special to The Tennessean:

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug 12. — The ghastly details of the tragedy which occurred on the side of Lookout Mountain on the afternoon of April 2, in which the body of pretty Lillian Turner, the wife of Ed Turner, the Breathitt county alleged wife murderer, was found cold in death with an ugly knife wound in the neck, were related before Justice Bork this morning at the courthouse.

The chain of circumstantial evidence against Turner was so strong that Justice Bork did not hesitate to bind over the prisoner without bail on the charge of murder in the first degree.

Turner sat beside his attorneys, Cummings & Chamlee and E. L. Whitaker, and manifested a great deal of interest in the details as they were related by the witnesses in the case. At times his eyes, which are large, batted nervously, and at times he smiled at expressions more or less humorous in a most indifferent manner. During the whole proceeding Turner twisted his rather scanty dark mustache with his left hand. The defense offered no proof at the preliminary hearing, and no attempt was made at rebuttal except by the cross examination, which was conducted by Attorney Cummings.

The fact that Turner had threatened the life of his girl-wife was brought out by the testimony of W. F. Maffett, of Cartersville, Ga., a partner of Turner in the restaurant business in Cartersville up to within a very short time before the murder. Mr. Maffett swore that Turner had threatened to cut his wife's throat several times.

The testimony of George W. Drennon, ticket agent at the foot of the Incline, tended to show that J. E. Jones and F. F. Reeves, the Atlanta boys who came here the day following the arrival of Turner and his wife, were not guilty of the

crime and had no connection with it. Mr. Drennon said that these boys got off the Alton Park car about noon and hung around there until about 3:30 o'clock, when they got on a car bound for the city.

Changed: "W. F. Moffett" to "W. F. Maffett"

The Mt Sterling Advocate
Mount Sterling, Kentucky
Wed, Aug 14, 1907
Page 6

Turner Held without Bond

Edward Turner, of Breathitt County, who confessed that he murdered his wife, Lillie Turner, on Lookout Mountain on April 2, has been held at Chattanooga without bond. Turner's trial came up in the criminal court there Saturday and he was refused bond.

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
Wed, Aug 14, 1907
Page 4

Stormy Dispute had in Jail.

Turner Alleged Wife Murderer and Jones, of Atlanta, Dispute.

Chattanooga, Tenn., August 13— (Special)—A rather passionate conference was held in the Chattanooga jail here between Ed Turner, formerly of Atlanta, who is held for the murder of his wife, Lillie Turner, on Lookout Mountain, and J. E. Jones, of Atlanta, who came here to testify in the preliminary hearing, but arrived too late. Turner made the claim that did not know Jones.

"What made you kill Lillie?", asked Jones.

"You killed her yourself." retorted Turner as quick as thought.

"How can you say I killed her when you say you don't know me?" asked

Jones, and then added, *“You know you killed her.”*

“You wouldn’t say that if you were in here,” answered Turner.

Jones says the knife which Turner had does not tally with the one that was recently found on the spot where the body of Lillian Turner was found. He says it was a larger knife. Jones came here to testify in the preliminary hearing, but arrived too late.

Breathitt County News
Jackson, Kentucky
Fri, Aug 16, 1907
Page 3

Turner Bound Over

Ed Turner of Breathitt county was bound over to the Criminal Court without bond at Chattanooga, Tenn on the charge of murdering his wife Mrs. Lillian Turner, formerly of Frozen by cutting her throat on Lookout Mountain several months ago.

The evidence was circumstantial, showing that Turner was seen with his wife a short time before her mutilated body was found near the scene of the crime.

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Wed, Aug 28, 1907
Page 8

**Brother Sells Farm
To Defend Turner.**

Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug 27. — Ed Turner, the Breathitt county, Ky., feudist, in jail here charged with murdering his wife Lillian, on the side of Lookout Mountain, in April, has received the deed for a farm from his brother, George Turner, to be sold and used in his defense. The farm is on the Kentucky River, in Breathitt County, Ky.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Wed, Sep 11, 1907
Page 5

INDICTED FOR MURDER

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Sept. 10.—Ed Turner, the Breathitt county, Ky. feudist, who, it is alleged, murdered his wife, Lillian Turner, on the side of Lookout Mountain in April, was indicted by the grand jury this morning for murder.

The Mt Sterling Advocate
Mount Sterling, Kentucky
Wed, Sep 18, 1907
Page 5

Ed Turner Indicted

Ed Turner the Breathitt county, Ky., feudist who, it is alleged, murdered his wife Lillian Turner on the side of Lookout Mountain in April was indicted by the grand jury for murder at Chattanooga, Tenn.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Fri, Oct 4, 1907
Page 2

HAD SHOT AND KILLED ABOUT FOURTEEN MEN

**Self-Confessed Murderer
Admits Being a Chronic
Killer.**

READS LIKE FICTION

**Does the Story of Chatta-
nooga's Famous Pris-
oner.**

Special to the Tennessean:
CHATTANOOGA, Oct 3. ——— Without changing expression and speaking in the same even voice in which he had been answering all questions put to him, D. D. Edwards, on trial for the murder of Sam Brooks here a year ago today, admitted on the witness stand that he had shot, and as

far as he knew, killed at least fourteen men during his life.

Edwards is the most famous prisoner ever held in the Hamilton county jail. In December, 1906, he shot and killed a fellow employee of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad here. He was tried shortly afterwards and the jury disagreed. About a month after that trial Ed Turner, a native of Breathitt county, Ky., killed his wife upon the side of Lookout Mountain in this city and escaped, making his home in Kentucky. The sheriff of this county wanting some one to capture Turner and knowing Edwards to be a native of the same county, released him from custody without bail and put him on the track of the wife murderer.

After a chase through West Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and the mountains of his native county, Edwards ran [Turner] to cover in Breathitt county, and succeeded in arresting and bringing him back to Chattanooga. Edwards immediately gave himself up again, but was released without bail by the sheriff upon promise to show up when his trial was reached by the courts.

Edwards obtained a position in Birmingham, Ala., where he said he stayed until notified of his case coming up here.

Then he came to Chattanooga. His case was called today, and the state was almost unable to prove he had killed Brooks until Edwards took the stand in his own behalf. Under cross examination by Attorney-General Whitaker he admitted having killed other men and having served a five-year term in the Kentucky penitentiary for killing the superintendent of the Black Raven Coal Company of Chicago, after that party had shot him three times. When pressed as to how many men he had shot he replied about fourteen, and when he came off the witness stand laughingly said it might be twenty-five as far as he remembered.

He could give no names or dates, however, as to where he had killed them other than in the riots accompanying the A. R. U. strike in Chicago several years ago and in the feuds in Breathitt county, Ky. His case went to the jury tonight, and it is still out.

Changed:

1. "Taylor" to "Turner"
2. "Whittaker" to "Whitaker"

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Sun, Oct 6, 1907
Page 2

TURNER MURDER TRIAL ON AT CHATTANOOGA

Large Array of Talent Pre- dicts Hard Legal Battle.

Special to The Tennessean:
CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Oct. 5. —

The trial of Ed Turner for the murder of his wife on the side of Lookout Mountain, was commenced today in earnest in a criminal court. All day yesterday the opposing attorneys fought over a jury and for an hour this morning this fight continued until the necessary twelve men were secured. But two witnesses were examined today, but they told a story of depravity in Turner's treatment of his wife that has never been equaled in the court room of this county. The case will be one of the hardest fought trials here for a number of years. The leading attorney

for the defense is a brother of the attorney general, and is a noted criminal lawyer.

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Tue, Oct 8, 1907
Page 1

EDWARDS, INSANE, ATTACKS JAILER

**LAST WEEK SAID HE HAD
KILLED FOURTEEN MEN.**

**ED TURNER CONFESSES
MURDER OF HIS WIFE.**

A Most Revolting Recital.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 7. — D. D. Edwards, who admitted during his trial for murder last week that he probably had killed fourteen men, and who trailed Ed Turner, the wife murderer, to his hiding place in Kentucky, went violently insane yesterday at the county jail. He suddenly pounced upon the day jailer and made a desperate attempt to secure his pistol, with the avowed intention of killing the jailer and himself. It required two men to overpower the maniac and force him into a cell.

ED TURNER CONFESSES.**Tells In Open Court Revolting Story
of Wife's Murder.**

Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 7. — Ed Turner, on trial in the Criminal Court for the murder of his child wife, Lillie Turner, to-day confessed his guilt, and said that he committed the crime because his wife was untrue to him and defied him when he upbraided her for her infidelity. Turner told the story of his life from the time he was ten years old and a more revolting recital could hardly be imagined. He is a product of Breathitt county, Kentucky. In telling of the actual murder of his wife, he said:

"I had the knife in my hand, with which I had been whittling and I just struck her and walked away after she fell."

Turner's counsel are making a strong fight to save the prisoner's life on the plea of temporary insanity. Turner has a bad record as a feudist in the bloodiest section of Kentucky, and has boasted of his crimes.

The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
Wed, Oct 9, 1907
Page 14

ED TURNER WAS FOUND GUILTY

**Verdict of Murder
Was Returned
by the Jury.**

TURNER MADE CONFESSION

**Ed Turner, of Breathitt County,
Ky., was Charged with the Mur-
der of his Wife on the
Side of Lookout
Mountain**

Chattanooga, Tenn. October 8. — The jury in the case of Ed Turner of Breathitt county, Kentucky, charged with the murder of his wife on the side of Lookout Mountain by cutting her throat. in April last brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree after being out only a few minutes today.

On the stand yesterday, Turner confessed to the murder. He showed no interest in the verdict.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Wed, Oct 9, 1907
Page 9

WIFE SLAYER GUILTY FIRST DEGREE MURDER

**Jury Finds Verdict Against
Ed Turner, Chattanooga
Murderer.**

Special to the Tennessean:
Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 8. —————

"Murder in the first degree," was the verdict returned today by the jury in the trial of Ed Turner for the murder of his child wife on the side of Lookout Mountain April 2, last.

The trial was the most sensational heard in this county since the famous case of Julia Morrison for murdering her manager ten or twelve years ago. Eminent counsel were engaged on both sides and prominent alienists were introduced in an effort to show that he was a victim of insanity at the time of the tragedy.

However, it was of no avail, for the jury was out but a few moments getting the verdict on the first ballot. The prisoner did not wink an eye when the verdict was read, and returned to the jail without the utterance of a word. Motion for a new trial will be heard Saturday.

The Interior Journal
Stanford, Kentucky
Fri, Oct 11, 1907
Page 1

(one about Ed Turner and one
about Dudley Edwards)

News Notes

The jury at Chattanooga in the case of Ed Turner charged with killing his wife brought in a verdict of murder in the first degree.

* * * * *

Edwards, who admitted during his trial for murder at Chattanooga that he probably had killed 14 men and who trailed Ed Turner, the wife murderer to his hiding place in Kentucky, went violently insane at the county jail. He suddenly pounced upon the day jailer and made a desperate attempt to secure his pistol, with the avowed intention of killing the jailer and himself.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Sat, Oct 26, 1907
Page 2

ED TURNER WAS SENTENCED TO HANG

Special to The Tennessean:

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Oct. 25. — (Special.) — Ed Turner, who killed his wife, Lillie Turner, on the side of Look-out Mountain, in the early spring, was today sentenced to hang Dec. 17 after a motion for a new trial was denied by Judge McReynolds. An appeal to the Supreme Court will be taken.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Sun, Dec 1, 1907
Page 21

DEATH SENTENCE FOR ED TURNER

**AFFIRMED BY SUPREME COURT
AT KNOXVILLE – FULTON
MUST SERVE.**

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 30. — (Special.) The Supreme Court, at its session today, affirmed the death sentence of Ed Turner, the Chattanooga wife murderer, who originally hails from Breathitt County, Kentucky, and set the date for his execution as Jan. 20.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Tue, Jan 21, 1908
Page 8 and Page 3

Reprieve for Ed Turner.

Gov. Patterson yesterday granted a reprieve of thirty days to Ed Turner, the Chattanooga wife murderer, who was under sentence of death to be hanged the 27th of this month. Unless further action in the case is taken by the chief executive, Turner will go to the gallows on Thursday, February 27.

The governor also remitted a work-house sentence on S. P. Marlow and Martha Rodgers, of Putnam county, convicted of lewdness. Marlow was fined \$50 and sentenced to seven months, and the woman was fined \$25 and sentenced to three months. The action of the governor was recommended by the mayor of Cookeville, the trial judge, county officials and citizens. The costs in the cases, it was stated, amounted to \$1,000, and the governor thought that this, with the other fines, would be sufficient punishment.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Sun, Feb 16, 1908
Page 11

LAST EFFORT MADE

REPRESENTATIVE W. H. CUMMINGS CALLS ON GOVERNOR IN TURNER CASE.

A last effort, was made Saturday to save the life of Ed Turner, alleged murderer of his wife, who is sentenced to be hanged Feb. 27. Representative W. H. Cummings, of Chattanooga came to the city and conferred with Gov. Patterson in regard to the matter. Numerous affidavits, letters and other documents were presented from citizens of Kentucky, tending to show that Turner was irresponsible, and therefore not guilty of murder in the first degree. Turner was sentenced to hang Jan. 27, but was respited thirty days by Gov. Patterson in order to give his friends time to present evidence showing why

his sentence should be commuted to life imprisonment.

The Governor has not as yet announced his decision.

The Paducah Evening Sun
Paducah, Kentucky
Tue, Feb 18, 1908
Page 1

Godless Rearing in Breathitt Co. Plea for Mercy

Lexington, Ky., Feb 18. — On the plea that he had been reared in a godless community seventy-five citizens of Breathitt County, Ky., have sent letters and petitions to Gov. Patterson of Tennessee pleading for a commutation of the death sentence of Ed Turner, formerly of Breathitt County who has been sentenced to hang on February 17 for the murder of his wife last April. The plea of the petitioners is that Turner was brought up in a godless community and that he never had an opportunity to know the right from the wrong. They point out that his parents died on the same night, when he was very young and that he had lived about as best he could. They claim the wickedness of

his wife unbalanced his mind and that he killed her not because he hated her, but because he loved her.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Wed, Feb 26, 1908
Page 3

The Ed Turner Case.

It seems now that the governor will not take any further action in the case of Ed Turner, the Chattanooga wife murderer, who is under sentence of death for tomorrow. Judge Will Cummings of Chattanooga, attorney for Turner, spent several days last week in Nashville trying to get the governor to grant a commutation, but he did not receive much, if any, encouragement. When seen before he left Nashville for his home Attorney Cummings stated in answer to a question that he did not intend to ask for another reprieve; that he wanted his man to either get a commutation or nothing, that there was no use putting off his execution from week to week.

Gov. Patterson returns to the capitol today, but it is doubtful if he takes any further action in Turner's case, and the probabilities are that the wife murderer will swing tomorrow.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Thu, Feb 27, 1908
Page 8

TWO MURDERERS WILL HANG TODAY

**JNO. CARMACK AND ED
TURNER**

**SUPREME COURT WILL SOON
COMPLETE CALL.**

**Many Cases Are Heard by High
Court and End of Docket Will Be
Reached Next Week—Charter
Record—Other Capitol Notes.**

Gov. Patterson, so far as is known here, has refused to stay the sentence of the law, and John Carmack, of Knoxville, and Ed Turner, the notorious wife-murderer of Chattanooga, will expiate their crimes on the gallows today. Each of these men has been reprieved several times by Gov. Patterson, and by a coincidence not accountable for in the executive office, these

two violators of the law will pay the highest penalty the same day. Little has been heard of any effort in Carmack's behalf since the Governor granted the last respite at the earnest solicitation of prominent ministers in Knoxville, who asked that the time be extended so that Carmack could prepare for eternity. However, two reprieves were granted to this man, both for the same reason, and it is understood that the Governor has definitely decided that no interference with the sentence of the law will be made.

For about two or three weeks prominent Chattanooga attorneys, have been in conference with the Governor urging him to commute the sentence of Ed Turner. He has reprieved him twice. Dispatches from Chattanooga are to the effect that Turner has given up all hope and has been making preparations to meet his fate. It is understood that he has been converted. Turner is probably the most noted prisoner hung in Tennessee for several years. The crime which he committed was an atrocious one, and little trouble was encountered in making out a clear case of murder in the first degree. A determined effort, however, was made to save his life, and scores of letters and telegrams were received by Gov. Patterson from Turner's

old friends and acquaintances in Breathitt County, Kentucky. He was convicted of killing his child-wife on Lookout Mountain, and his escape to Breathitt County and the subsequent extradition are fresh in the minds of Tennesseans.

...

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Fri, Feb 28, 1908
Page 1

NOT A TREMOR AS HE FACES DEATH

WIFE MURDERER ED TURNER

**EXPIATES CRIME ON SCAFFOLD AT
CHATTANOOGA.**

Sheriff Allows Condemned Man the Advantage of Time – John Carmack
Hanged at Knoxville for Killing Henry
Ittner, Another Negro – His Confession.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb 27. (Special.) – At exactly 4:35 o'clock this afternoon Sheriff Shipp sprung the trap that let the body of Ed Turner drop to its death and sent the soul of Lillie Turner's murderer into eternity. Seven minutes and two seconds later, a committee of physicians noted the last pulse beat, and Ed Turner was dead. He had paid the penalty of his dark deed of April 2, 1907, when he cut the throat of his Kentucky

wife and left her body lying upon the side of Lookout Mountain to be found by strangers.

"Good bye," was Ed Turner's last word. He said it to Dr. J. A. Baylor, pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, who had just uttered a prayer for the repose of the condemned man's soul.

The sentence of death, first imposed by Judge McReynolds, following the verdict of guilty pronounced by a jury of twelve and later affirmed by the Supreme Court, has been executed and, so far as Tennessee provides, the murderer of Lillie Turner, wayward child of the Kentucky mountains, has been avenged.

A young theological student started *"Rock of Ages,"* the ministers and Turner joined in the singing, the latter all the time keeping time with a pat of the foot. Dr. Baylor prayed for the repose of the man's soul and committed him to the mercy of God. With a call for silence on the part of the crowd present, Capt. Shipp directed completion of the preparations. With bowed head he stood in silence while the two Deputies adjusted the black cap. The sea-grass rope that has done duty in other cases of capital punishment was placed about his neck. The knot had already been tied.

Turner had approached the scaffold with all these grim preparations in full view. If he quailed in spirit or failed in nerve there was nothing in his demeanor to indicate it. And as he stood thus upon the trap, a touch of his legs showed that he was standing there without a tremor.

"May God have mercy on your soul," spoke Capt. Shipp, as he grasped the lever. The trap fell at 4:53. He was cut down eleven minutes later. His body was sent to his Breathitt County home in Kentucky tonight.

(By Associated Press.)

CHATTANOOGA. Tenn., Feb. 27. Ed Turner, the Kentucky, feudist, was hanged in the county jail here at 4:50 o'clock this afternoon. His neck was broken by the fall and he was pronounced dead in eleven minutes.

He went to the scaffold without a tremor.

Turner killed his wife, Lillian Turner, on the side of Lookout Mountain on the afternoon of April 2 1907. He cut her throat from ear to ear with a pocket knife, on his trial Turner made a confession. Turner is the second white man ever hanged in Hamilton County.

Counsel for Turner received a telephone message this morning stating that Gov. Patterson refused to interfere in any way with the execution. Sheriff Shipp gave Turner the advantage of time, the sentence of the Supreme Court ordering that execution take place between 10 a. m. and 5 p. m.

The Courier-Journal
Louisville, Kentucky
Fri, Feb 28, 1908
Page 1

ED TURNER HANGED AT CHATTANOOGA

**For Murder of his Wife on
Lookout Mountain.**

**“Walked to the Scaffold
without a Tremor.”**

“To be Buried in Kentucky.”

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb 27. (Special.)—Ed Turner, of Breathitt county, Ky., was hanged at 4:53 o'clock this afternoon at the county jail for the murder of his young wife, Lillian Turner.

The deed for which he paid the extreme penalty occurred on the side of Lookout Mountain, in April, 1907. The hanging was witnessed by a small crowd of officials, newspaper men and physicians. His body was taken to-

night to Shoulder Blade, his former home, for burial by an uncle, E. C. Jones.

Turner preserved a remarkable composure from the time he was notified that the Governor had refused to interfere until the trap was sprung. He walked to the scaffold with a firm tread, and in an equally firm tone told Sheriff Shipp, who sprung the trap, that he had nothing to say.

A few minutes before he was led to the scaffold he stated that he intended to die like a "Kentuckian."

He wrote a pathetic farewell to his brother at Shoulder Blade.

The crime for which he paid the penalty was one of the most brutal in the criminal annals of Tennessee. While on his way back to Kentucky after a bridal tour, he stopped in the city for a few days. While walking along the side of the mountain with his wife on the morning of April 2, he cut her throat, leaving her body to be found by strangers. He was captured in the mountains of Lee county by a paroled prisoner from the county jail, who had served a term in the Frankfort penitentiary with Turner.

In his petition for clemency recently sent to the Governor, Turner recited among other things that he had been reared in a Godless country: that his mother and father had died when he was very young; that he had been thrown among the most lawless people of the Kentucky mountains; that he had never had an opportunity to attend church or Sunday-school, and that he had little advantages of education.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Fri, Feb 28, 1908
Page 1

NOT A TREMOR AS HE FACES DEATH

WIFE MURDERER ED TURNER

**EXPIATES CRIME ON
SCAFFOLD AT
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"May God have mercy on your soul," spoke Capt. Shipp as he grasped the lever. The trap fell at 4:53. He was cut down eleven minutes later. The body was sent to his Breathitt county home in Kentucky tonight.

Breathitt County News
Mar 6, 1908
Page# 1

ED TURNER HANGED.

PAYS PENALTY WITH LIFE FOR MURDER OF WIFE.

Ed Turner, formerly, of this county, was hanged at 4:53 o'clock last Thursday afternoon in the jail at Chattanooga, Tenn, for the murder of his wife, Lillian. The deed for which he paid the extreme penalty occurred on the side of Lookout Mountain in April, 1907. Turner preserved a remarkable composure from the time he was notified that the Governor had refused to interfere until the trap was sprung. He walked to the scaffold with a firm tread, and in an equally firm tone told the Sheriff who sprung the trap that he had nothing to say.

A few minutes before he was led to the scaffold he stated he intended to die like a "Kentuckian."

Turner's body, which was in charge of E. C. Jones, was brought to his

old home at Shoulder Blade last Friday, where the burial took place Saturday.

Quite a number of pieces of rope, which were claimed to have been cut from the rope that Turner was hanged with, were distributed throughout Breathitt county last week. E. C. Jones, who accompanied the body from Chattanooga, visited *The News* office Monday and requested us to state that the rope used in the execution was left in Chattanooga, and that the pieces distributed in this county were not cut from the rope with which Turner was hanged.

The following is a copy of Turner's last letter written to his brother at Shoulder Blade:

*Chattanooga, Tenn.,
February 26, 1908.*

*George Turner,
Shoulder Blade, Ky.*

*Dear Brother: – As I leave you
as a brother, and as there are only
two of us it almost breaks my
heart to think that I will leave
you all alone in this old world,
and for me to die the death that I*

will have to die. Oh! my God! my God! Think about it well, brother.

This is the last letter I will ever write to you in my life, and it is a horrible death for me to be murdered here, and I know that I did not murder my wife. But it is only a few moments of punishment; then I will be at rest. I am going home to die no more, brother. I pray to God that you will raise your children up in some Christian form and send them to school. Try to make good men and women out of them.

I hope you will all live a Christian life and meet me in heaven when all of you die. Brother, don't weep after me, and I do pray to God that he will be with you, one, and all, until we meet again. This leaves me as well as common. I hope you are all enjoying the best of health.

I will send you the mortgage of Preston Spencer's and you can give it to him. I can't think of any more tonight, and it is bedtime. You can keep this letter to remember me by, if you want to.

You can read this letter any time and think of me. I will send you my watch and you can keep it as long as you live; also some of my pictures and you can send one of them to my sister and keep the rest.

*I will close for the last time in life. So good-bye to you all. Good wishes to you all. I am as ever, your brother,
Ed Turner.*

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Mon, Mar 23, 1908
Page 1

KENTUCKY DESPERADO CAPTURED IN GEORGIA

**Long List of Killed and
Wounded Credited to
His Record.**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March 22. — After one of the most exciting chases ever known in this section, D. D. Edwards, the Kentucky desperado who Friday night shot and instantly killed J. W. Davis as the latter stood with his wife and baby, was tonight captured at Trenton, Ga., a small station twenty-five miles from here. Edwards had attempted to disguise himself and was sitting in the waiting room of the depot waiting for a train to Birmingham. He did not offer resistance when the officers approached him, but laughed and said he

was not the man wanted. Later, he attempted to escape, but was prevented.

Bloodhounds were on the trail of the murderer a few hours after the deed was committed, but because of heavy rain Saturday night it was impossible to track him for more than twenty miles. Edwards was surrounded at Durham Mines, Ga., this afternoon, but after exchanging several shots with his would-be captors, made his escape.

He went from there to Trenton, Ga., timing his arrival only ten minutes before the fast train was due. The train was thirty minutes late, and in that time his disguise was discovered.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Mon, Mar 23, 1908
Page 2

WITH FIFTEEN NOTCHES ON HIS GUN

SLAYER OF MANY MEN TAKEN

**D. D. EDWARDS SHOWS
OFFICERS FIGHT AT TRENTON.**

**Unload Gun Wrested From Him,
However and Long Chase After
Desperate Man Is Ended. – Jailed at
Chattanooga.**

Had Boasted of His Deeds.

CHATTANOOGA, March 22.– (Special.)–
Game to the very end, D. D. Edwards, the
admitted murderer of fifteen men, was this
afternoon captured at Trenton after an
exciting chase lasting since he shot and

killed J. W. Davis, a railroad construction superintendent here Friday night.

Bloodhounds had been on his trail until a short time before his capture, but were thrown off the scent by a heavy rain.

When the officers walked in on him he denied his identity, but later threw a gun in their faces. The officers knocked the gun down and later found all the shells were exploded, he having had a running fight with officers at Durham Mines. He was brought to Chattanooga tonight.

It was stated today Edwards threatened to kill three men Friday, one of whom was his victim. After Davis was shot, Edwards escaped to the mountains in North Georgia and the officers have been very close on his trail ever since. At Durham mines he attempted to get a little sleep Sunday morning and the officers overtook him.

Several shots were exchanged without effect, and he managed to get away. His arrival at Trenton was timed just ten minutes in advance of the scheduled arrival of a fast train. The train was thirty minutes late, and Edwards was taken in the meantime. A reward of \$550 has been offered for his capture.

When arrested here four months ago for the killing of a negro, Edwards furnished lots of copy for the newspapers by his ap-

parently insane antics at the jail. Several times it was necessary to put a stream of water on him to quiet him down.

On the witness stand he admitted to killing fifteen men, and said he shot several men during riots at Chicago several years ago, but said that, as he never made it a practice to go back to see if men he had shot were dead, he did not know how many he killed. He exhibited a revolver with fifteen notches cut in the handle.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Tue, May 26, 1908
Page 7

WANTS NO LAWYERS

**WILL MEET THOSE
DEFENDING HIM
IN WARMER PLACE, SAYS
EDWARDS.**

CHATTANOOGA. Tenn., May 25. — (Special.)— A sensation was created in the local Criminal Court today when Dave Edwards, confessed murderer of sixteen men and on whose revolver were fifteen notches which he said indicated the number of men he had killed previous to murdering J. W. Davis, Superintendent for W. J. Oliver, on March 22, was placed on trial for the Davis affair. To Judge S. J. McReynolds the prisoner said he wanted to be hung, as he desires to go to hell and prepare a warm reception for the lawyers who have been appointed to represent him. He said he was not insane, but that "busthead" whisky had caused him to

commit the murder. There were no lawyers in Hamilton County capable of defending him, the erratic Kentucky desperado said, and he declares he will not have one, saying that he is capable of making his own defense.

"I will sway the jury, Judge," said Edwards, "and if they hang me I will go to hell ahead of them and make it interesting for each when they arrive."

Edwards told the Judge he had something interesting to say to him, but before he could do so the Judge ordered him to jail. His trial will come up Thursday.

The American/Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Mon, Jul 13, 1908
Page 1

GOES ON A RAMPAGE

DAVE EDWARDS MAKES A ROUGH HOUSE OF HAMILTON COUNTY JAIL.

CHATTANOOGA. July 12. — Dave Edwards, convicted of murder and who is considered the most desperate prisoner ever in the Hamilton County jail, went on a rampage today, and attacked a fellow prisoner, J. C. Duncan, also convicted of murder. A fierce fight ensued, in which Edwards was badly beaten. When the officers tried to place Edwards in the dungeon he barricaded himself in his cell and ammonia was used, but to no avail, as Edwards had covered himself with a mattress. Finally a stream of water from a three-inch hose was turned on the prisoner and he was nearly drowned. He cried "*enough*" and the door of the cell was opened. Edwards came out and made a rush for Chief Deputy Frawley, striking

him with a billy which he had made of the straps and buckles from his cot. He missed the deputy and struck a negro prisoner in the face. He was finally floored by a blow on the head with a pair of handcuffs and overpowered.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Mon, Nov 2, 1908
Page 1

WANTS TO SPRING THE DEATH TRAP

AT EXECUTION OF EDWARDS

**WIDOW OF HIS VICTIM PREFERS
UNUSUAL REQUEST.**

**Mrs. J. W. Davis, of Chattanooga, Says
Nothing Would Afford Her Greater
Pleasure – Relatives of Murdered Man
to Attend From Nine States.**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Nov. 1. ———
Special.) — Mrs. J. W. Davis, wife of the
railroad contractor who was killed here
last March in a most brutal manner by
Dave D. Edwards, has asked permission
to spring the death trap when her hus-
band's murderer is executed here Dec. 10.
She says there is nothing that would give
her more pleasure than to pull back the
lever and watch Edwards swing out into
eternity.

Relatives of Davis will be here from nine different states to witness the execution.

Edwards was sentenced Saturday by the Supreme Court, and nothing can prevent his death except action from Gov. Patterson, which is not expected.

Edwards recently confessed to killing sixteen men previous to the Davis murder.

Taken to Chattanooga.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Nov. 1. (Special.) David D. Edwards, the Chattanooga murderer, who on Saturday was sentenced by the Supreme Court to be executed on December 10, will not bother the local jail officials any longer. He was removed today to the Hamilton County jail.

Edwards has given jail officials a great deal of trouble during his confinement here, his chief role being to play crazy stunts. Only last week a former University of Tennessee football player was used to good advantage in quelling his turbulent spirit. He secured a hammer-lock on the prisoner, and from that time on he was willing to be good.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Mon, Dec 7, 1908
Page 10

DAVE EDWARDS TO HANG NEXT THURSDAY

Unless a decided change occurs in the reports now emanating from the executive office at the Capitol, Dave Edwards, the convicted murderer of Chattanooga, will be hanged next Thursday. While no formal application for commutation or the exercise of executive clemency in any manner has been filed by Edwards, many letters have been received from Chattanooga requesting the Governor to consider the case. Practically all of these letters complain that Edwards is insane, and was in such a condition at the time the murder was committed.

Edwards was recently sentenced to hang by the Supreme Court, sitting at Knoxville, which heard the case upon appeal from the Criminal Court of Hamilton County. He was convicted of murdering J. W. Davis, and the crime was particularly cold-blooded. At the time of the murder he was in the employ of the W. J. Oliver Construction Company. He was discharged for

drunkenness, and a few nights later went to the home of Mr. Davis, called him to the door and shot him down.

His conduct has been exceedingly peculiar, but he is considered a dangerous man. When arrested after he had escaped to Georgia he demanded that he be hanged at once, and the morning that Justice W. K. McAlister, of the Supreme Court, sentenced him to hang, all dramatic court records paled into insignificance when Edwards arose and thanked His Honor, declaring he was sorry it had not been done sooner.

This is the only capital case now before the Governor. Whether criminal records are diminishing is a question that arises when it is considered that this time last year no less than ten capital cases were before Gov. Patterson for action. Nearly all of these cases were from East Tennessee. The record will be further diminished this year for the reason that the Supreme Court docket for Middle Tennessee contains only one capital case, that being in the case of a negro sentenced to hang in Wilson County, Gov. Patterson will probably allow the law to take its course in the Edwards case unless some strong pressure is brought to bear.

Changed: "J. H. Davis" to "J. W. Davis"

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Mon, Dec 21, 1908
Pages 1 & 5

PROTEST AGAINST CLEMENCY IN THE CASE OF EDWARDS

**Chattanooga Citizens Ad-
dress Strong Petition
to Gov. Patterson.**

Claiming that justice cannot be done unless the death penalty is inflicted upon the convicted and condemned murderer of one of their neighbors, fifty or more representative citizens of Alton Park, a suburb of Chattanooga, have prepared and forwarded to Governor Patterson a petition asking that Dave Edwards, the murderer of J. W. Davis be executed on the expiration of his reprieve, January 28.

Edwards was convicted by the lower court and sentenced to hang. This finding and sentence were upheld by the supreme court. Only a few days ago, he was granted a reprieve by Governor Pat-

terson, fixing the expiration of his respite at January 28. The governor stated, in granting the respite, that grave doubts were entertained as to the sanity of the convicted murderer, and it was claimed that additional proof has come to light. The petition forwarded to Governor Patterson was drafted last week and according to report, had no difficulty in obtaining signers. It is in the form of a "remonstrance against the further delay of justice." If it is not considered favorably by the Governor, it is reported that a committee will be here from Chattanooga to further urge that the decree of the courts be carried into effect.

Citizens Outraged.

Not for a long time has there been any such determined effort on the part of citizens to see that the governor should not interfere with a sentence passed upon a murderer. It is thought that a mass meeting may be held soon by neighbors of the murdered man, according to reports from Chattanooga and that protest against "delay of justice" may be voiced in that unmistakable way.

The citizens living in the vicinity of Davis' home, where he was shot at his own threshold are reported to be outrag-

ed at the respite granted Edwards by the governor, and it is said that a pardon or commutation would result in remonstrance as strong as they could make it.

Pleads Insanity.

Edwards is pleading insanity. This is one of the grounds on which the governor granted the respite. The firm of Yarnell and Seymour of Chattanooga, is representing Edwards and Mr. Seymour was recently in Nashville to plead for a further delay of the exe-

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

* * * * *

PROTEST AGAINST CLEMENCY IN THE CASE OF EDWARDS

(Continued from First Page)

cution. The governor will probably appoint a commission to inquire into this claim of Edwards' insanity.

It is reported that Governor Patterson will appoint as this commission, Dr. Campbell of Lyons View Insane Asylum, Knoxville; Dr. St. John, the prison

physician at Brushy Mountain; and Dr. J. W. MacQuillan of Chattanooga.

Among the signers of the petition against the further delay of justice are the following prominent citizens of Alton Park: D. M. Doty, J. A. Beane, T. B. Yarnell, George Williard, and Dr. W. C. Walker. They do not put any faith in the insanity plea of Edwards, and claim that Edwards even boasted that he could fool the courts and others with his plea of "bughouse." It is declared by the citizens of Alton Park that if the sentence of death is not passed upon Edwards, the courthouses might just as well be torn down, and criminal laws repealed, and the entire system of courts abolished.

Could "Fool a Jury."

One of the signers of the petition, Mr. Williard, is reported to have made the following Statement:

"The good people in this community only want to see justice done in this case. They believe that Edwards is guilty of taking the life of Davis, and think that, in as much as two courts have said that he should pay the death penalty, no further delay should be countenanced."

I knew Mr. Davis twenty-one years ago. He always bore an excellent reputation in this vicinity, and the good people out here seem to be unanimous in the belief that the mandates of the courts should be carried out. None of us put any faith in the insanity plea which has been set up for the dangerous character. On the afternoon Ed Turner was hanged, at least twenty of us heard Edwards say that if Turner had any sense he would be alive that very moment. Continuing, Edwards said he could always fool a jury or any court in the land on an insanity plea, and that he did not see why Turner did not have sense enough to do so. If Edwards does not pay the death penalty in this terrible crime, we had just as well tear down our courthouses, repeal our criminal laws and abolish our court system. In saying this, I believe that I voice the sentiments of the best people of Alton Park."

Will Patterson Refuse?

It is expected that Governor Patterson's final decision will be made within the next few days, and according to report, he will refuse to have anything further to say in the matter of Edwards' sen-

tence. His pardon of Judge Fulton recently, in the face of protest from East Tennessee, where Fulton shot and killed young Sam Parker, is thought to have been of so recent occurrence that the governor will hardly fly in the face of popular disapproval again.

The governor's pardon of Fulton, who had been sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary, and had been there less than one year, has called forth the strongest criticism from East Tennessee, where it is said the almost overwhelming sentiment of the people was that "ten years" was far too light a sentence for the crime. Reasons assigned for the pardon of Fulton were that he was "of a nervous temperament," and whether or not Parker made the statement reported from him about Fulton's wife, Fulton thought he said it. This pardon is of such recent occurrence that it is believed here by many of those who know the governor that he will not "further delay justice" in the case of Edwards.

Changed: "J. J. Davis" to "J. W. Davis"

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Thu, Jan 28, 1909
Page 5

EDWARDS' EXECUTION IS SET FOR TODAY

Cursing and abusing everyone who comes within hearing, say reports from Chattanooga, Dave Edwards, the condemned murderer, awaits execution on the gallows today at noon, in the Hamilton County jail. He says his only regret is that he can not die sooner.

With a laugh he told a reporter the other day that he and the world at large would both be better off when his carcass should be put under ground.

Edwards made a profession of Christianity a few months ago, but if he ever had any religion it is gone now. He raves and curses at the most trivial matter. Recently, when told by the Sheriff that he could not receive gifts of fruit, etc., from relatives, he almost exhausted himself in calling down imprecations upon the officer's head.

According to a report in the Chattanooga Times, a reporter called on Edwards the other day, and after receiving his curses, was told that he was engaged in writing his life history; that his mother already had several hundred pages of it, and could sell it after he was gone or dispose of it in any way she pleased. He was sure, he said, he didn't care what she did with it.

Two painters in the Hamilton County jail have made the gallows black, and the somber death watch is being kept. As death draws near Edwards grows more and more irritable. He continues to wear the hoodoo charm his mother obtained from a fortune-teller, but will not say whether or not he believes in its efficacy.

His mother and others who have heretofore made strong efforts to have him pardoned by the Governor, have now apparently given it up. No delegation has been sent to Nashville recently, and it is believed here that even the strongest petitions would not now have enough weight with the Governor, as the sentence of the murderer has been once respited for the purpose of inquiring more closely into the evidence and the state of Edwards' mind.

There seems little evidence now that the murderer is insane, and it is unlikely that any further respite will be granted.

Dave Edwards was convicted of killing a prominent citizen of East Chattanooga some months ago, and at the time the previous request was made for leniency, there were strong protests by representative citizens of that vicinity against Executive interference.

Gov. Patterson was asked Wednesday night if he had taken action in the case and replied that he had not.

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Fri, Jan 29, 1909
Pages 1 & 2

DAVE EDWARDS IS HANGED AT CHATTANOOGA

**Murderer of J. W. Davis Met
Death At County Jail With-
out Tremor.**

MAKES ONLY A BRIEF TALK

**Exhorts Hearers to Leave
Whisky and Bad Com-
pany Alone.**

FROM FEUD DISTRICT

**Made the Boast That He Was
a Killer of Men – His
Pistol Notched.**

Special to the Tennessean:
CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Jan. 28 ——
Dave D. Edwards, the murderer of J.

W. Davis met death at the county jail today without a tremor or show of fear. The trap was sprung at 4:02 p. m.

All day long he received callers at his cell in the jail, and taxed each visitor twenty-five cents. Yesterday and today he collected over \$200 in this manner, and this was turned over to his mother.

While standing on the scaffold, Edwards made a seven-minutes talk in which he told a minister that he did not need prayers, and exhorted all his hearers to leave whisky and bad company alone. He said he expected to meet his victim within a few minutes.

The condemned man showed remarkable nerve to the very end.

Edwards came to this city about two years ago, fresh from the feudal district of Breathitt county, Ky. His previous career and family history were unknown here, and he was employed by the Queen & Crescent Railway as watchman in the local yards of that company. Thus his checkered career in these parts began. At first, Edwards attended to the duties of the position in such a satisfactory manner that he gained the confidence of his superiors. Soon, however, his criminal proclivities began to exert themselves, and he became known to

the police force and was a frequent prisoner in the dock at police court.

The [most] serious trouble in which Edwards became involved was the killing of Sam Brooks, a negro. One night Edwards found the negro in the railroad yards and attempted to arrest him. There were no witnesses to the affair, but Edwards claimed that the negro resisted and he shot him to death in self-defense. He was arrested and placed on trial. The jury could not reach an agreement, and Edwards was released on bail. It was while Edwards was out on bond awaiting trial for the killing of the Brooks negro that Ed Turner, a boyhood friend of Edwards, murdered Lillian, his pretty wife, on the side of Lookout Mountain, by slashing her throat with a knife. Turner made his escape before the officers were aware that a murder had been committed. Then it was discovered and the identity of the woman established. Circumstantial evidence was strong against Turner and an investigation developed the fact that he had gone north from this city into the vastness of his native mountains in Breathitt county, Ky. Edwards visited the sheriff's office and proposed to do detective work in capturing his old friend. He was

sent into the Kentucky mountains and shortly afterwards Turner was returned to Chattanooga, and subsequently tried and hanged.

After Turner had been convicted and while he was awaiting trial, Edwards returned to this city and told the most sensational stories of how he followed Ed Turner into the dangerous mountain regions, and, after locating him, informed the Kentucky officers of his whereabouts. He told harrowing tales of how he had camped on the trail of Turner day after day and night after night; how he underwent severe hardships, and narrowly escaped death at the hands of Turner's friends and relatives many times. He claimed all the credit for the capture of Turner, and told in detail of the net he spread around the wife-murderer.

The stories told by Edwards were at first given full credence here and he was the hero of the hour. Sentiment, which had been against him on account of the murder of the negro, began to change and it is not believed he would have been convicted on this charge.

This had its effect on the imaginative brain of the man. He strutted about the streets and whenever possible, drew

attention to himself and his connection with the capture of Turner. He became so quarrelsome that his associates of other days began to draw away from him.

However, Edwards got into no further trouble for a time. He secured a position with the W. J. Oliver construction gang engaged on the Lookout tunnel job, and thus came into contact with J. W. Davis, one of the foremen, who was a man well liked by all his associates. Edwards was given a position as work train conductor, under supervision of Davis. On the afternoon of March 21, Edwards, who had been absent from his work throughout the day, appeared at the railroad camp slightly intoxicated. He approached the train on which he had been pilot and became involved in a quarrel with a member of the crew. Davis, the foreman, came along and told Edwards to go on off and let the men alone. This seemingly angered Edwards and turning to Davis, he said: *"I've killed men for less than that."* He later left the camp and

(Continued Second Page)

* * * * *

**DAVE EDWARDS
IS HANGED AT
CHATTANOOGA**

(Continued from First Page)

nothing more was heard of him until he knocked at the door of the cottage occupied by Davis, his wife and infant daughter. It was well toward midnight when a knock was heard at Davis' door, and arising from his bed, demanded to know who was at the door. At the same time he opened the door a few inches and looked out and demanded: "*Shall I come around to take my train in the morning?*" Davis replied, "*Yes,*" and started to close the door. Edwards quickly sprang forward and placed his foot in the doorway, so as to keep the door from being closed. Hastily drawing his pistol he fired. When Davis saw the weapon he instinctively raised his hand and the first bullet struck him in the right hand. Davis retreated a few steps and Edwards followed. Getting closer to his victim, Edwards placed the pistol almost directly against Davis' stomach

and fired. As the dying man fell to the floor he emptied another leaden missile into his body. He then stepped outside the door and disappeared, almost before the terror-stricken wife and child, who had witnessed the terrible affair, had time to make an outcry. The wounded man lived but a few minutes.

On the wooded side of Lookout Mountain Edwards soon found refuge. As it developed afterward, he lingered for a short time in the neighborhood of the Davis home, which was situated immediately at the foot of the mountain. Within a few hours after the alarm had been given, the sheriff of the county, with a large force of deputies and bloodhounds was on the trail of the murderer, for whose capture rewards aggregating \$500 were offered by the sheriff of the county, the governor of the state and the dead man's employer. Two days later Edwards was captured at Trenton, Ga., at the south end of Lookout Mountain. Requisition papers were secured and he was soon landed in the Hamilton county jail.

The stormy nature of the man temporarily subsided after the murder of Davis. But a few weeks after his incarceration in the jail he began to manifest

a very disagreeable disposition toward his fellow prisoners, whom he seemed to delight in worrying or tantalizing in any manner possible. He had a number of fights with prisoners and finally had to be confined in a dungeon until he quieted down.

The man's trial opened on May 28, and after hearing all the evidence submitted, the jury did not require much time to find Edwards guilty in the first degree and he was sentenced to be hanged. On the day he was sentenced to be hanged he submitted to the trial judge the following statement, pleading that he be given the limit of the law:

*"To the Hon. Judge McReynolds:
In praying for sentence to be passed
upon me this 3rd day of June, 1908,
and to be executed here on the gallows
in Hamilton county at the jail thirty
days hence, being Monday, July 6,
1908."*

*"I submit to your honor the following
reasons:"*

*"1. That such is my heart's desire,
that I had a fair and impartial
trial, so far, I believe, as your honor
could provide."*

"3. That there was sufficient evi-

dence to convict me as charged.”

“4. That twelve honest and honorable citizens of Hamilton county found me guilty of unlawfully, deliberately, premeditatedly, maliciously and with malice of my own forethought kill and murder J. W. Davis.”

“5. That nothing less than the degree of punishment as above would satisfy the poor widowed wife of J. W. Davis or the God-fearing Christian community where the crime was committed.”

“6. That it would be a warning to my fellow drunkards to take heed and be careful what they allow the poison drink to lead them to.”

“7. And last, but not least, my own conscience tells me that I am not worthy to live and must die; that my life and ways and thoughts are a detriment to some who would be good and useful men and women; that the groans of those whom I have wronged gnaw at my heart and mind with such tremendous force that life to me is a burden, and I long to close my eyes on the havoc I have created.”

“And now, your honor, I wish to say that I wish to absolve this court from all error, if, indeed, any was made, and

declare myself to be the architect of my own misfortune."

"Good will and best wishes."

"D. D. Edwards Prisoner."

Previous to his trial and after he was sentenced Edwards has proved to be one of the most eccentric prisoners ever confined in the Hamilton county jail. He is at one moment docile and perfectly tractable. The next moment he is as ferocious as a tiger. His actions have puzzled the jailers at all times. He is possessed of a strong desire for notoriety and makes many contributions to the local newspapers, some of which are very original. Whenever a newspaper man is known to be in the vicinity of the jail Edwards does everything possible to attract attention to himself. He will talk with a reporter for hours, detailing hair-raising incidents and making blood-curdling boasts of the men he has killed. Indeed, it is while describing to a crowd of listeners the number of men he has shot down that he is happiest. He states that he has shot seventeen in his lifetime, and is proud of his record.

The man was a soldier during the Spanish war, serving in a Kentucky regi-

ment, and, so far as can be ascertained, acquitted himself honorably.

Since the death watch has been placed over Edwards he has become very sullen and is greatly displeased by the close watch kept on his actions.

Dave Edwards boasted that he was a killer of men. Seventeen notches he said, were on his pistol, and each notch represented the death of a fellow man. He would never, however, tell who the seventeen were, and as far as the local authorities know, he killed but two. In a vague way he spoke of the riots around St. Louis and Chicago in the last nineties, but full credence was never given to what he said about killing men there. He said often that he had shot several men but never went back to see whether they were dead or not.

Changes:

1. "were no witness" to "were no witnesses"
2. "fastness" to "vastness"
3. In "[most] serious trouble" ("most" was barely readable)

The Tennessean
Nashville, Tennessee
Sun, Jan 31, 1909
Page 5

MOTHER WANTS BODY OF DAVE EDWARDS

Special to The Tennessean:

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Jan. 30. —

Mrs. Edwards, mother of Dave Edwards, who was hanged in the jail here Thursday afternoon, created a sensation when she came to the jail Friday morning at 9 o'clock and asked Sheriff Conner for the body of her dead son.

During the last two days of Edwards' life he collected over \$200 by charging every one who came to see him 25 cents. This money was turned over to his mother and with a portion of it she wanted to see that her son had a decent burial, and she was anxious to have a look at his body.

Sheriff Conner told her that he had repeatedly asked her for instructions concerning the disposition of the body, but that as she did not tell him what she wanted, he had turned it over to the

coroner. Mrs. Edwards then went to the coroner, and she claims she was unable to get any satisfaction from him as to its disposition.

It was rumored in the city that the remains were turned over to a local medical school. The officers are now investigating the matter and a sensation is promised if Mrs. Edwards is insistent upon recovery of the body.

Glossary

**Most of these definitions
are from Wiktionary**

alienist (from Wikipedia)

An archaic term for a psychiatrist or psychologist.

bridal tour (from Wikipedia)

In Western culture, the custom of a newlywed couple going on a holiday together originated in early 19th century Great Britain. Upper-class couples would take a "bridal tour", sometimes accompanied by friends or family, to visit relatives who had not been able to attend the wedding. The practice soon spread to the European continent and was known as *voyage à la façon anglaise* (English-style voyage) in France from the 1820s on.

cat's-paw/cats-paw

A person who is used by another, typically to carry out an unpleasant or dangerous task.

demi-monde

1. A class of women kept by wealthy protectors
2. Female prostitutes as a group
3. A group having little respect or reputation. From the French: *demi* (half) + *monde* (world)

drooping mouth

Refers to a mouth with turned-down corners

housemistress

female housemaster (a teacher who is in charge of a house at a boarding school)

imprecation

an offensive word ¹

mobile gin

There were fragments of a broken bottle which had contained "*mobile gin*" found at the scene of Lillie's murder. ²

The only reference I have found to this beverage was the line: "The scheme is possibly a better advertisement for the potency of Mobile gin than anything else," ³ from a newspaper article about a golfing fanatic named Doe Grahame—or Leo D. Grahame, according to one source—who attempted to drive a golf ball across the country from his home town of Mobile, Mobile Co, AL to the Pacific coast (near Los Angeles, Hollywood or San Francisco). ...So it must have been gin which was either produced in Mobile, AL or processed there in some way.

The only other interpretation I can imagine, is a reference to the gin's mobility or transportability, which might make more sense to a drinker than to myself.

prepossessing

1. Tending to invite favor
2. Attracting confidence, favor, esteem, or love
3. Attractive

¹ [Cambridge Dictionary](#)

² *The Tennessean*, Nashville, TN, Apr 5, 1907, Page 9

³ *The Palm Beach Post*, West Palm Beach, FL, Feb 20, 1927, Page 22

reprieve

1. The cancellation or postponement of a punishment.
2. A document authorizing such an action.
3. Relief from pain etc., especially temporary.

respite

1. A brief interval of rest or relief.
2. (law) A reprieve, especially from a sentence of death.
3. (law) The delay of appearance at court granted to a jury beyond the proper term.

Sanborn® Map

A map drawn to assist in risk assessment for fire insurance estimations.

soiled dove

a prostitute ⁴

surmounted

placed on top of

⁴ *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, pub 1913 by C. & G. Merriam Co.

Resources

First, a general hint for troublesome websites:

If a page doesn't load completely or correctly—especially if a needed feature isn't present and usable—copy the tab (by Ctrl+Dragging the tab to an empty position on the tab bar) and let the copied tab load until it catches up with—or almost with—the original, then close the original tab. Sometimes this must be done several times before it's successful and sometimes you're better off closing the copy and recopying the original. If you're using *Internet Explorer*, either press Ctrl+K or right-click the tab and click "Duplicate".

Atlanta City Directory

These are available at: <https://archive.org/>

They have an online viewer so you won't have to download the (excessively large) pdf or epub files.

Most editions are downloadable in several file formats, including txt (OCR'ed ¹), pdf and epub. The txt file sizes range from around 1 to 8 MB. Files in the other formats can be more than 100 MB. OCR'ed text requires some skill to make sense of at times, but it can be very useful.

Below are links to the editions used in this research project. Most of them were issued in January of the years they were printed for.

¹ OCR: Optical Character Recognition

[The 1898 edition](#)

[The 1903 edition](#)

[The 1905 edition](#)

[The 1906 edition](#)

[The 1907 edition](#) contains a letter of recommendation dated Thu, Nov 8, 1906.

A want ad for information gatherers was dated Sun, Sep 2, 1906, which ran approximately:

MEN WANTED -- 40 young, sober, native
Atlanta men to gather the information
for the 1907 city directory: must be able
to write with a pen very eligibly [*sic*]² and
give good Atlanta reference: hours 7:30
to 5, salary \$1.50 to \$3 per day. Work
can be had every day in the year and a
possible salary of \$50 a week by the right
man. Apply by letter to "Atlanta City
Directory."³

The expected "delivery" date of the 1907 directory of Mon, Dec 17, 1906 was announced on Sat, Dec 8, 1906.⁴

This gives a period from about September until mid-December 1906 that the information was gathered.

[The 1908 edition](#) contains a recommendation dated Tue, Sep 10, 1907.

[The 1909 edition](#) was issued Fri, Dec 10, 1909. It mentions past event dates from Sun, Nov 15, 1908 through Sat, Dec 25, 1909. This appears to disagree with the stated issue date of Fri, Dec 10, 1909.

² Certainly they meant *legibly* instead of *eligibly*

³ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Sep 2, 1906, Page 3

⁴ *The Atlanta Constitution*, Dec 8, 1906, Page 1

[The 1910 edition](#)

[The 1912 edition](#)

[The 1913 edition](#)

[The 1918 edition](#)

[The 1922 edition](#)

Books

[*Atlanta, GA Fire*](#)

Turner Publishing Company

Aug 17, 2001

Section 8, Pg# 89 (from Google Books)

See article: The Georgia Hotel Fire

[*Hardware and Housefurnishing Goods, Volume 7*](#)

Pg 78

I believe this book contains multiple issues of a periodical, so "page number 78" might not be anywhere near the 78th page of the volume. The page of interest is for the month of April, 1920.

Cemetery Records

[Find-A-Grave search page](#)

Maps

[Bing Maps](#)

[Google Maps](#)

[Open Street Map](#)

[1911 Sanborn® Fire Insurance Maps for Georgia](#)

(...these are divided into four volumes)

[Fulton Co. GA parcel search](#)

[Bird's Eye View of Atlanta \(map\)](#)

[Sanborn® Fire Insurance Maps for Frankfort, KY](#)

Genealogy

[Ancestry.com](#)

[My Heritage.com](#)

[World Connect Project](#)

[Ed Turner's Ancestry](#)

Newspaper Websites

[Ancestry.com](#)

[My Heritage.com](#)

[Georgia Digital Library](#)

[Kentucky Digital Library](#)

[Newspapers.com](#)

[Newspaper Archive.com](#)

[Google Newspapers](#) (I didn't find anything useful for this project in these, but here's the link anyway)

Referenced Newspapers

(arranged by state, then by city)

Florida

The Palm Beach Post

West Palm Beach, Palm Beach Co, FL

Georgia

The Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA

Atlanta Georgian and News

Atlanta, Fulton Co, GA

The Cartersville News

Cartersville, Bartow Co, GA

Kentucky

The Citizen

Berea, Madison Co, KY

Breathitt County News

Jackson, Breathitt Co, KY

The Courier-Journal

Louisville, Jefferson Co, KY

The Mt Sterling Advocate

Mount Sterling, Montgomery Co, KY

The Paducah Evening Sun
Paducah, McCracken Co, KY

Missouri

The Sedalia Democrat
Sedalia, Pettis Co, MO

Ohio

The Cincinnati Enquirer
Cincinnati, Hamilton Co, OH

Tennessee

The Chattanooga Star
Chattanooga, Hamilton Co, TN

The Tennessean
Nashville, Davidson Co, TN

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