# Transcript Extra

TUESDAY OCTOBER 18, 1892.

# THE MURDER

—OF—

## DR. JAMES HEIGHE HILL,
of Millington.

## A REVOLTING CRIME.

### A Detailed History of the Brutal Killing of one of Kent's Most Respected Citizens.

### THE MURDERERS.

**Their Arrest, the Causes Which Led to the Crime; an Enraged Populace Forces the Officers to Seek Safety for Their Prisoners in Flight. A Full Record of the Later Developments.**

Though a detailed statement of the facts in the murder of Dr. J. Heighe Hill, near Millington, on the night of April 23d last, was given in the TRANSCRIPT immediately following the crime, now, on the eve of the trial of the men charged with the deed, we deem it not uninteresting or unwise to recall, in as concise way as possible, the harrowing details as then given, with some additional facts, the result of continued investigation.

For sickening brutality and beastly ferocity, the murder stands almost without a parallel in the history of Kent county, and from whatever standpoint the crime may be considered, no extenuating circumstances can be found to plead in behalf of those who committed the crime. Yet, it is not for us to judge or to designate the guilty parties; it is our purpose to give the particulars as already developed, shorn of all embelishment, and leave judgment with the court, the tribunal which alone has jurisdiction.

Without the slightest reason to suspect that a murder, which in brutal inhumanity stands second not even to the cold-blooded butchery of the Cosden family more than fifty years ago was to break upon the quiet of the community, the distressing and mysterious death of Dr. Hill, a prominent young physician and druggist of Millington, came like a thunder crash from a cloudless sky.

**A Professional Visit.**

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 23, Mr. James Shaw, living on the C. S. Hurlock farm, about two and a half miles from Millington and about one mile from Massey's, sent to Dr. Hill for medicine for a sick child. The medicine was sent, with a message that should the patient not become better, to let him (the doctor) know and he would drive out to see it. As was his custom, immediately after supper, the doctor read for an hour to his wife, who then retired, and her husband left for his store, but went from there to the office of Esquire W. M. Johnson to attend the formation of a Cleveland club, and was elected president of the organization, and about 10.30 o'clock left the meeting to answer a summons to Mr. Shaw's to attend his child. The doctor harnessed his own horse to a dog-cart, and was seen by several to drive out of town alone, but never reached Mr. Shaw's, though he was momentarily expected by the anxious parents of the child.

**A Ghastly Find.**

Dr. Hill frequently remained at his drug store until 12 o'clock, consequently his wife felt no uneasiness at his not arriving at home before that time, but as the hours drew on after one o'clock, she became fearful that something had happened to cause her husband's protracted absence. At 4 o'clock she heard wheels enter the yard at the end of the house, and after waiting sufficiently long for her husband to have stabled his horse, and still no signs of his return, she dressed herself and went down to the yard, where a most ghastly sight awaited her. There stood the horse attached to the dog-cart, while in the cart lay her husband mangled and dying, with his head wedged in between the shaft and an iron brace. As she approached, a groan escaped her husband, which was the only sign of life given. Powerless to meet the fearful emergency alone, and having recently recovered from an almost fatal illness, the faithful wife summoned sufficient strength to arouse her neighbor, Mr. J. P. Ahern, and Justice W. M. Johnson, who lives opposite. The two gentlemen at once set about extricating the unfortunate man from his fatal position and carried him into his home. This was truly a work of love, and required the full strength of both gentlemen. Dr. Hill's forehead rested upon the iron shaft support on the one side of cart, while he lay partly upon his stomach in the bottom of the vehicle with his right foot caught in the iron shaft support on the other side. The right foot protruded through to the wheel which tore off the heel of the shoe, and wore away the flesh from the heel until the bone lay bare. The paint of the spokes of the wheel which struck the foot was worn off, and the bone had worn into the well-seasoned hickory spokes. Some blood was on the seat of the cart and several spots were discovered on the shaft. Drs. Todd, of Millington, Jacobs, of Kennedyville, and Kelley and Latimer, of Galena, were promptly summoned. Dr. Todd was the first to arrive, and reported a cut in the right side of the throat an inch and a half long, and extending to the base of the tongue. There were also several abrasions of the skin and the upper side of the face was fearfully swolen. After having lingered in unconsciousness until 3.30 o'clock P. M., death came to the sufferer's relief.

**Searching for Evidence.**

The town was soon arroused, and H. S. Cook, W. H. Ford, Joseph Poor, J. T. Power, T. J. F. Smith and hundreds of others formed searching parties and made an investigation of the roads, when it was discovered that a scuffle had taken place not far from Millington, and that at Ford's hill, the dog-cart had been drawn up on the bank. The first blood that was discovered was at E. Comegy's place, near Massey's. From this point to Massey's, around back of the storage building of A. F. Huey, the trail continued. Behind this building were two large pools of blood as though the horse had stood for some time in the same spot. One wheel, which was chocked by the foot of the unfortunate man, failed to turn and left a harsh mark on the ground. The hat, cuff, shoe and stocking of Dr. Hill were found on the road. Hundreds of people visited Millington during the day.

**The Coroner's Inquest.**

The Chestertown officials were apprised of the murder on Sunday afternooon, and on Monday morning, Coroner Robert K. Pippin, of Chestertown, summoned the following jury of inquest: Foreman, Charles P. Loper; Henry S. Cook, Enoch J. Moffett, Beniamin P. Morgan, William Comegys, Wm. H. Ford, Fred G. Usilton, Joseph A. Edwards, Wm. F. Russell, Wm. O. Dugan, Charles L. Gill, John C. Moore, Amos R. Kelley, W. F. Collins, B. F. Vansant, John McWhorter. The hearing was held at Justice Johnson's office, and consumed all of Monday and Thursday.

James Hall, colored, first witness, testified to having heard Moses Hugnes, the colored barber, say: "It seems as though as things have been going, it gives people license to do these things." It was supposed that reference was had to the killing of the colored man, Campbell, on Christmas Eve.

Steve Cooper, colored, who lives in a house at Ford's hill, within a hundred yards of the spot where the fatal blow is supposed to have been struck, stated, that he left Millington between eight and nine o'clock, and saw no one on the road. *No one* stopped at his house on Saturday night except Mr. Hendrickson's cook; did not hear any noise on the road, nor did he sell oysters to any one; did not have an oyster treat at his house that night.

Fletcher Williams, colored, who lived with Mr. Charles Rolph, testified to being in town until 10 or 11 o'clock, and left for home with Moses Brown, Perry Bradshaw, Henry Hurtt, Joshua Baynard, Fris Comegys, Charles Emory and Charles Brooks. He saw a crowd of small boys on the bridge near Cooper's, dancing. Brooks went into Cooper's house, but did not stay long. Comegys and Emory also stopped at Cooper's, then went on to Mr. Hendrickson's, where they passed the night. A dearborn followed by three or four carriages, passed him near Cooper's house. Walter Roe went out of town before him on horseback. He found a hat between Rolph's and Hurlock's peach orchard; thought the hat Mr. Coleman's. Brooks found a cuff about one hundred yards up the road from the hat. He and Baynard left the road, when Bradshaw and Hurtt called to them that they had found a boy's shoe.

Joshua Baynard, colored, who lived with Mr. Chas. Rolph, said that he, Williams and others left town between 10 and 11 o'clock. A cart with two men in it, as also three carriages passed them on the road. Williams found the hat and Brooks the cuff. Williams, Bradshaw and Brown stopped on the bridge near Cooper's and made considerable noise dancing. Williams, Brooks, Emory and Comegys all stopped at Cooper's. He went on and was soon overtaken by Williams and Brooks. Walter Roe passed them on horseback near the edge of town. Bradshaw did not call to them about the shoe and was not told of the finding until next morning.

Mose Brown, colored who lived with Mr. Ford, was in the crowd which left town between 10 and 11 o'clock. He was passed by three teams first, then a dog-cart with one man in it. Walter Roe passed them ahead of the cart.

Perry Bradshaw lived with T. B. Merritt, testified to several carriages passing him, and Spear boys in a buggy. He called to Williams that he had found a shoe, and Williams told him to bring it to him.

Walter Roe, colored, aged about 16, worked for Mr. Bert Gilpin on the S. J. Johnson farm. Left town about 10 o'clock on horseback and passed a crowd near town; did not know all of them; passed a milk wagon near Mr. Hendrickson's gate; saw no carriages; a road-cart passed him near Price's corner, and he saw a man lying in the foot of the cart with his arm hanging. Thought the man was drunk; passed the milk wagon near Price's corner; the curtains were down.

John Rees, the 18-year-old white boy who lived with Mr. Shaw and went for Dr. Hill, swore that he went to town about 7 o'clock and left word at the drug store for the doctor to go to Mr. Shaw's to see his sick child, and returned home about 11 o'clock.

Dr. J. K. H. Jacobs, of Kennedyville, and who examined the wounds, said that he was of opinion that death resulted from concussion of the brain caused from a blow received on the head. He found a wound in the throat one-half inch deep and one and a half inches long, but did not consider the wound sufficient to have caused death. Both the cut and the blow *might* have been received by falling in the dog-cart. The blow on the head might have been received from a fall, but the fall must have been from a standing position. The cut might have been made by striking the jaw-bone against some hard substance in falling

Dr. Latimer, of Galena, testified in substance about as had Dr. Jacobs.

Dr. Todd stated that though he had said when he first saw the cut, that it must have been a stab or wound made by some sharp instrument; upon a further examination he coincided with Drs. Jacobs and Latimer.

Mr. Hurlock testified that Manda had said that Comegys told him while in the stable Sunday morning, that Brooks picked up bats and Williams ran out of his coat. Comegys got up about 4 o'clock A. M. and returned about 9 o'clock for his pistol, stating that he wanted to trade it off.

Manda lived with W. J. Hurlock, but denied having spoken of the bricks or of knowing anything of the affair. Upon being recalled to the stand, he said that Comegys did tell him about the bats, and that Brooks picked up bats and Williams did run out of his coat.

Comegys testified to having left Millington about 10 o'clock, and that long about Cooper's house he saw one man with a stone in his hand about the size of a duck egg, and saw Williams draw his coat just as a large wagon drove past, with three mens in it. Did not know why Williams had the bricks. He left a crowd of fellows at Coopers.

Charles Brooks, alias "Buck," was with the crowd when Williams found the hat. He found the cuff and put the button in his pocket, and carried the cuff to his room. He saw the dog-cart, but did not know who was in in.

The inquest closed until Thursday, and Williams, Comegys and Manda were brought to Chestertown to await future developments.

**Thursday's Inquest.**

Though nothing positive had been elicited at the first inquest, the theory of accidental death, which had been entertained by a few, was completely exploded, and it was fully expected that the fearful suspicion of crime would be developed and verified. Harrison W. Vickers, Esq., who had been appointed by the court to assist in the prosecution of the case, State's Attorney Wm. M. Slay being engaged in the trial of cases in the circuit court, conducted the examination of witnesses at the inquest. At the first investigation the murder was located within the compass of a mile, and that some or all of the colored men as shown to have been within that space at the time, must have been more or less actively engaged in the transaction. In the party shown to be on the road and to have left Millington about 10 o'clock, were: Fletcher Williams, Mose Brown, Perry Bradshaw, Henry Hurtt, Joshua Baynard, Fris Comegys, Charles Emory and Charles Brooks.

**The Evidence.**

Howard Simpson, a small colored boy living with Mr. William Cacy, was the first witness to cast a ray of light upon the situation. The boy stated that on Monday morning he took milk to the creamery for Mr. Cacy, and met Henry Hurtt, who looked frightened and nervous. Simpson told him that he looked scared, and asked him what was the matter. Hurtt replied "If you had seen what I have you would be scared too." Suspicion had already pointed to Hurtt, and his remark at the creamery was considered to have a very important significance.

Harrison and Hynson, two men living with Mr. Cockran, near Massey's, were in the milk wagon referred to, and testified that a dog-cart passed them on the public road near Price's lane. In the foot of the cart was a man with his arm hanging down. One of the men thought that the horse was running, the other thought that it was trotting rapidly.

Walter Roe, who testified on Monday, repeated his story, to the effect that a horse attached to a dog-cart passed him going at a rapid gait. He could plainly see a man lying in the foot of the cart, and heard a sound as of something striking the wheel. He thought the man was drunk.

Joshua Baynard, a colored boy about fourteen years of age, was called, and though very much frightened, it was impossible to secure any information of importance from him. No one doubted that he was holding back much that was desirable to be known. He stated that he was with the party which left Millington about ten o'clock, and beyond that his answers were evasive and unsatisfactory. Some excitement was created at this point by the report that Manda, who had been before the jury, but was discharged without having surrendered his secret, had stated to one Bell, an employee of Mr. Jos. Mallalieu, that he had heard Frisby say the night before in the jail, that Comegys helped hold Dr. Hill's horse, while Brooks and Williams did the killing. In view of this, it was thought better to adjourn the jury to meet in Chestertown on Tuesday, believing that in the meantime Manda's statement and other valuable developments might be secured.

Thus it will be seen that the jury was only temporarily adjourned in view of this first important evidence being in a position to be speedily ferrited out.

**Baynard's Confession.**

Baynard, who had shown much weakness before the jury, was held by Officer Kelley ready to be carried back to jail. Millington had been crowded with persons from an early hour in the morning, and interested and excited people continued to arrive throughout the day, and when the news of Manda's statement became known the greatest excitement prevailed. Officer Thomas M. Britton was at once dispatched to the country in search of Manda. Officer Kelley and his prisoner, Baynard, were in the waiting room of Mallalieu's hotel. The boy was badly frightened and gave signs of weakness.

On the afternoon train two gentlemen, Constable C. Sydney Jump and Deputy Sheriff Frank Seward, from Centreville, arrived and took much interest in affairs. A team was standing in waiting to remove Baynard, when Detective Bates was seen to force his way through the crowd, and said to Baynard that the particulars of the murder were known, and he (Baynard) could use his own pleasure in regard to telling what he knew of the matter. This with a number of questions by Officer Kelley, prepared the boy for the disclosure which was so soon to follow. Officer Jump also approached the boy and commenced to question him. The room was crowded and when it became known that Constable Jump was questioning the boy, the crowd became wild with excitement, and surged around the officers and their prisoners. Baynard made a full confession. The crowd became so dense and excited that it was thought best to take the boy to a private room, which was done.

Baynard said as follows: "I left Mr. Rolph's at 7 o'clock on Saturday evening, and stayed in Millington until about half-past ten o'clock, when, joining a crowd living on our road, started for home. In the crowd were Charles Brooks, alias 'Buck,' Fletcher Williams, Perry Bradshaw, Charles Emory, Frisby Comegys, Henry Hurtt and Moses Brown. When near the edge of town Walter Roe passed us riding on horseback. We hallooed to him but he did not answer us. Moses Brown left us at Mr. Ford's gate. The first team that overtaken us was the two Spear boys in a dog-cart. Next came three carriages whose occupants I did not know, but at each of the vehicles we hallooed. The next that came was a dog-cart with one man in it driving a sorrel horse. Some of the fellows said, 'hold up,' but he continued on, whereupon Buck Brooks ran up to the cart and struck the man with a stone, while at the same time Perry Bradshaw ran up and caught the horse. The doctor caught sight of the men running after him, and cried out, 'don't hurt me.' Fletcher Williams, during the movements of the above two men, was running up with an open penknife, and no sooner had the man been struck than Williams arrived and cut his throat. The three men, Bradshaw, Brooks and Williams, then got together and jammed the doctor in the foot of the cart, placing both feet out of the way of the wheel. I did not know who the man was until I caught up to the cart, and then I recognized it as being the doctor. As soon as the deed was accomplished, the Dr. was placed in the cart with his hat on his head; they chirped to the horse and he started off at a good gait. We all continued together until we reached Cooper's house, about fifteen yards off, where Williams and Brooks stopped for a while, but soon came out and caught up with the balance of us. Brooks lives with Mr. Thos. Donahoe. After we three got in bed I heard Brooks and Williams talking over the killing of the doctor and heard them chuckling over what a good job they had made of it. Sunday morning Williams told me not to tell anything about it, but I knew I hadn't anything to do with it, and therefore thought I had better tell what I knew. If the three men who did the deed had any plot about it I do not know it, as I did not hear them say a word of doing anything to anybody."

**The Murdered Man.**

Dr. James Heighe Hill was the son of Mr. Samuel J. Hill, a prominent farmer of near Locust Grove, and was born at the present substantial home of his parents, on May 20, 1862. He was named after Dr. James Heighe, the family physician of his father, and for years one of the most prominent physicians in the county. As a youth he attended the public school at Locust Grove, and afterward entered the drug store of George M. Beasten, continuing his studies in the village school. As a child he was fond of medicine, and spent much of his time in compounding remedies from wild herbs and plants. After completing his studies at the public school, he entered the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, but the drugs not agreeing with him, he entered the University of Philadelphia, from which he graduated in 1885, and returned to Kent, and practiced his profession for one year at Sassafras. He then purchased the drug business of Mr. Evans, at Millington, and had conducted the business in connection with his profession for two and a half years.

In 1889 he married Miss Arrelee Bond, daughter of Mr. Benjamin F. Bond, a successful farmer of Patapsco Neck, Baltimore county, about five miles from Baltimore. Dr. and Mrs. Hill have been married two years and eight months, and a beautiful little girl named Ethel Heighe Hill, which was only six weeks of age at the time of her father's death, was the result of the marriage. The child is remarkably pretty and interesting. Mr. Samuel J. Hill, father of Dr. Hill, came from Odessa, Delaware, in 1857.

**The Funeral Services.**

The funeral services took place on the following Tuesday after the murder, and as a mark of respect, there was a general suspension of business in Millington. The handsome walnut casket was covered by numerous floral offerings, conspicuous among which was a pillow from the heart-broken wife, containing the words "My Husband," and a broken column presented by Algonquin Tribe, No. 80, Improved Order of Red Men, bearing the words, "Our Brother." The services were conducted by Rev. E. E. White, pastor of Millington M. E. Church, of which Dr. Hill was an active member. Rev. R. K. Stevenson, of Smyrna, E. H. Nelson, of Galena, and Addison Weller, of Millington, were also present. The choir of seven voices under the leadership of Mr. Henry Tonkin, of the Millington Academy, sang, "Fade, Fade, Each Earthly Joy." And afterward, the deceased's favorite hymn—

"There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the widness of the sea," etc.

Rev. E. E. White paid a beautiful tribute to the memory of one who had forcibly impressed all by his untimely end, of the truth of the words, "In the midst of life there is death." After the other exercises, the choir closed with the selection, "Meet Again When Life is O'er." The interment was at Shrewsbury cemetery, near Galena. Mrs. George M. Beasten, of Locust Grove, and Miss Maggie Hill, are sisters of Dr. Hill, and Charles S. Hill, Henry F. Hill, both of Kent, and Walter S. Hill, of New York, are brothers.

**Lynchers Reported in Chestertown.**

No little excitement prevailed in Chestertown on Thursday night, owing to vague rumors that a band of masked men would make an effort to secure the prisoners from jail and lynch them. Public feeling had become so intense that this was well-founded. It is reliably stated, that from two hundred to two hundred and fifty lynchers were in town, but owing to the extreme illness of the wife of Sheriff Plummer, no attack was made upon the jail. Mr. Vickers and the detective, fearing trouble, remained in the jail during the greater portion of the night. It is stated that the incensed visitors rendezvoused on the Queen Anne's side of Chester river.

**The Prisoners Removed.**

The horrors and brutal inhumanity of the Hill murder continued to be the subject of conversation on Friday. Nothing startling occurred, however, until about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Shortly before that hour a mysterious activity was noticed on the part of State's Attorney Wm. M. Slay, H. W. Vickers, Esq., and Detectives Nevins and Bates. Carriages had been engaged from C. H. Davis, and before any but the persons engaged knew of it, the four prisoners, Comegys, Brooks, Williams and Bradshaw were hurried out of the back door of the jail into the carriages in waiting, and were driven rapidly to the station, where a special train was in readiness.

The prisoners, in charge of Sheriff Plummer and Detectives Nevins and Bates, were soon on their way to Baltimote. The officers had reasons to believe that an attempt would be made to lynch the men at night, and no other recourse was left than to remove them to a place of safety. The trip to Baltimore was uneventful, except that a large number of persons congregated at Clayton when the party passed through, and one man suggested that the prisoners be "stretched up" there.

**Sunday's Developments.**

The circumstances surrounding the killing of Dr. Hill continued daily to unfold themselves, and link upon link had been added to the chain of condemning proof which bound Brooks, Williams, Bradshaw and Comegys as the murderers, and a number of others as being witnesses of or accessories to the act, and Sunday gave some startling developments of vital importance to the case. Henry Hurtt, one of the boys who held the doctor's horse while he was being pounded with a stone and stabbed, and Wm. Emory, one of the party who attacked the doctor, made a full confession to Mr. Vickers and Detective Bates. On Sunday morning Hurtt called Sheriff Plummer and told him that he would tell all he knew, if the sheriff would guarantee him protection against Brooks and Williams. The sheriff told him that he should be protected, and Hurtt asked that Mr. Vickers be sent for. Mr. Vickers went to the jail, and Hurtt told the whole story, corroborating all that had been told of the details up to that time. When this statement had been made, Emory was brought into the room, and told by the boy that he had confessed. This caused him to break down, and he told Mr. Vickers the whole story as he saw the occurrence. In regard to the movements of Moses Brown, the evidence is conflicting, some witnesses swearing that he was and others that he was not with the party of men and boys along the Millington road on Saturdry night. It has also been clearly proven that both Hurtt and Comegys held Dr. Hill's horse while the physician was being pounded and stabbed to death, and Comegys was offered 25 cents for doing the work.

**Tuesday's Inquest.**

The adjourned coroner's inquest met in the jail on Tuesday, for the purpose of examining several new witnesses and rendering a verdict. The first witness called was Steve Cooper, the man at whose house a number of the men called after the killing. It was expected to be proved by Cooper that Williams stopped at his house and washed the blood from his hands, but nothing of the kind was brought out. Cooper did, however, on Sunday morning ask Charles Emory, after hearing of the murder, "Did you boys attack anyone on Saturday night?" Emory said that some of the boys stopped a man, and that he caught hold of Williams' arm and led him off and told him that was enough.

Henry Hurtt, aged 13 years, testified that he was with the party on the night of the murder, and as they were going from Millington several teams passed them before the dog-cart came along, he then repeated the evidence as given by Baynard. He did not hear Dr. Hill say anything when he was stopped. Brooks and Williams told him and Joshua Baynard that they would whip them if they told anything about it.

Dr. Kelley stated to the jury that he had never had any theory of accident in regard to Dr. Hill's death: Dr. Todd told him that the wound in the neck was a clean cut.

Charles Emory, one of the boys said that Brooks caught the doctor's horse and called to Comegys and Bradshaw to come and hold it, Brooks grabbed up a stone and struck him, and the doctor exclaimed Oh! Williams got his knife out but he did not see him cut the doctor. Did not hear Williams say "come up boys and do something, too," as reported. Witness said that he was told "if we boys said anything about it we would be beat." Mose Brown, who stated in response to questions on Sunday, that he saw the murder and assisted in placing the doctor in the dog-cart, swore that that statement was not true and that he made it because he was frightened.

Joshua Baynard repeated his story of the killing and added to the statement at the inquest that Williams and Brooks had threatened him.

**The Coroner's Verdict.**

STATE OF MARYLAND, KENT CO.

An inquisition commenced and taken at Millington, Kent county, Md., on the 25th day of April, 1892, and continued at said place on the 28th day of April, 1892, and concluded at Chestertown on the 3d day of May, 1892, before me, Robert K. Pippin, one of the coroners of the State of Maryland, for the county aforesaid, upon a view of the body of Dr. J. Heighe Hill, at his home at Millington, there and there lying dead, upon the oath of Chas. P. Loper foreman, Henry S. Cook, E. J. Moffett, Benj. P. Morgan, R. W. Comegys, W. H. Ford, Jas. A. Edwards, Wm. F. Russell, Wm. O. Dugan, C. L. Gill, Jas. C. Moore, Amos B. Kelley, W. F. Collins, B. F. Vansant, John McWhorter and Fred. G. Usilton, good and lawful men of the State and county aforesaid, who being sworn to inquire on the part of the State of Maryland, when, where, who and after what manner the said Dr. J. Heighe Hill came to his death; do say upon their oath, that on the 23d day of April, 1892, at Ford's Hill, a section or spot of ground on the public road, between Millington and Massey's, in said county, one Frisby Comegys, one Charles Brooks, alias Buck Brooks, one Perry Bradshaw, feloniously stopped and held the horse of Dr. J. Heighe Hill, while on his way to visit a sick child, and that the said Charles Brooks, alias Buck Brooks, struck the said Dr. Hill in the head with a stone, and that one Fletcher Williams stabbed the said Dr. Hill with a knife, inflicting mortal wounds, of which said mortal wounds the said Dr. Hill died on the following day, Sunday, April 24th, 1892, and the said Perry Bradshaw, Frisby Comegys, Fletcher Williams and Charles Brooks, alias Buck Brooks, then and there feloneously killed and murdered the said Dr. Hill against the peace and dignity of the State of Maryland.

In witness whereof, as well the aforesaid coroner, as the jurors aforesaid, have to the inquisition put their hands and seals on this 3rd day of May, 1892, in Chestertown, county and State aforesaid.

ROBERT K. PIPPIN, Coroner.

Charles Brooks' who struck the unfortunate man, is a copper-colored negro, weighs about 160 or 170 pounds, is about 5 feet 4 inches in height, and is about 28 years of age. Fletcher Williams, who did the cutting, is a black negro, 5 feet 6 inches tall, weights about 192 pounds and is 27 years old. Perry Bradshaw is 18 years old and weighs about 120 pounds.

The only possible cause to be assigned for the killing, is, that Dr. Hill gave a certificate, stating that Campbell, who was killed on Christmas Eve, might have died from natural causes.

Attorney General John P. Poe is expected over to-day to consult with State's Attorney Slay and Harrison W. Vickers relative to the trial.

Mrs. Hill came over from Baltimore on Saturday, and is staying with her father-in-law, Mr. S. J. Hill.

## CIRCUIT COURT PROCEEDINGS.

### A Pointed and Vigorous Charge to the Grand Jury.

The October term of the circuit court for Kent county, convened yesterday morning, with Judge Joseph A. Wickes on the bench, and the usual court officers. The July term was called, and there being no business, was adjourned *sine die*. The following grand jurors were drawn, with C. J. Scott, foreman:

[redacted]

In his charge to the grand jury, Judge Wickes said: "Since the last grand jury was in session, a most atrocious murder has been committed in this county, which not only shocked the community in which it occurred, but the circumstances were such as to create a feeling of uneasiness and insecurity among the people of this county, and throughout the whole State. On the night of the 23d of last April, Dr. J. H. Hill, who resided in the town of Millington, in this county, was sent for to visit a person who had been taken suddenly ill, and who resided some distance from the town. With prompt obedience to the summons, he started in his carriage on his errand of mercy, but had proceeded only a short distance, when he was attacked by a band of ruffians, who had waylaid him on the public road, and brutally murdered him. I am informed, that eight or nine persons were present when this terrible deed was committed. How many and who participated in committing the act, either by striking the blows which caused the death of Dr. Hill, or who aided or assisted, or in any manner encouraged those who so assailed him, you must determine after a careful and patient examination of the witnesses, who will be before you. To constitute the crime of murder, it is not necessary that the party charged should strike the fatal blow; but all who in any manner, aid or assist, or counsel or encourage, the one who strikes the blow, are equally guilty. There is reason to suppose that a plot to murder Dr. Hill had been entered into by those who assailed him, with others who were not present, when the terrible deed was committed. If such is the fact; if there were others, no matter how many, who entered into a plot or agreement, to take his life, or who advised or counselled those who assailed him, they are guilty of murder, although not present when the fatal blow was struck. I charge you, gentlemen, to probe this matter to the bottom. Calmly and patiently investigate the facts, and bring to light every circumstance connected with that brutal murder. Let no guilty one escape, but let all who participated, directly or indirectly, in that terrible tragedy be punished.

A few weeks after the murder of Dr. Hill, another lawless act, to which I deem it my duty to call your attention, was committed in this county, I refer to the work of disguised men which, on the night of May 17th last, broke into the jail, and took by violence from the custody of the sheriff a prisoner and hanged him, a short distance from the prison. The man who was thus summarily dealt with, was charged with a heinous crime, and had he been tried and convicted, would have deserved to suffer the extreme penalty of the law. But that did not justify a band of lawless men in setting at defiance the law of the land or in depriving their victim of that protection and those rights which the Constitution of the State guarantees to the most humble citizen. The Constitution of the United States provides that no person shall be held to answer for a capital or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment of a grand jury; not be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law. The bill of rights of the State declares that the Constitution of the United States shall be the superior law of the State, and that the judges of this State, and all the people thereof, shall be bound thereby. Our bill of rights also declares that no man ought to be deprived of his life, liberty or property, but by the judgment of his peers and by the law of the land; and that in all criminal prosecutions every man has a right to be informed of the accusation against him; to have a copy of the indictment, in due time to prepare for his defence; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; and to a speedy trial, by an impartial jury, without whose unanimous consent, he ought not to be found guilty. These, gentlemen, are the fundamental principles upon which all free governments must rest, and without which, there cannot be any security for life or liberty.

In defiance of these plain provisions of the constitution, the mob to which I have referred, assumed the right to punish without indictment or trial, a prisoner, who was at the time in the custody of the law and under its protection—such acts cannot be excused or tolerated. To do so would overthrow all law, and institute in its place, absolute anarchy. Lynching is a reproach to any community; it impeaches the adequacy of our institutions for the punishment of crime; it brutalises those who participate in it, and brings shame and disgrace upon our Christian civilization. It is my duty to say to you, that all who participated in committing that act, are guilty of murder, and it is your duty to ascertain, if possible, who are the guilty parties, and to indict them for the crime which they have committed.

Theadore Diehl was presented by the grand jury for assault upon Jewett Howard. Presentments were brought against Henry Mercer and William Hinefeldt for the illegal sale of whiskey, and against Joseph Goff for bigamy.

Commencing with to-day, there will be two sessions, the morning session being from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M., and the evening from 2 to 4 P. M.

## The Transcript's Daily

will commence with the opening of the Hill murder trial, which will probably be the latter part of this or the first of next week.

The grand jury will probably bring in true bills for murder against Fletcher Williams, Charles Brooks, Henry Hurtt, Moses Brown, Steve Cooper, Louis Benson, Frisby Comegys, Perry Bradshaw and Charles Emory, now in Chestertown jail,

©Maryland State Archives msa_sc3326_scm8209-0417