

## HORRIBLE MURDER.

### Mrs. George Maddex Found at Barn With Throat Cut From Ear to Ear.

George Maddex, his wife and three children, aged 14, 9 and 7 years, resided in a tenant-house on "Ravenswood," the farm of Capt. C. E. Leonard & Son, near Bell Air, some 12 miles south of Boonville. Last Thursday morning Mr. Maddex went to the field to work and the children to school, leaving Mrs. Maddex all alone, but light hearted and happy with no thought of the future fate so soon to be visited upon her.

After this nothing is known of what transpired about the premises until the noon hour when Mr. Maddex returned home to dinner.

We here copy from the Bunceton Eagle, whose reporter was on the ground, the following account of what was seen:

"When Mr. Maddex entered the house he did not see his wife and on looking around saw that no preparations had been made for dinner; on the stove was the pan of dishwater used in washing the dishes after breakfast. The floor had been swept but the dirt left near a door. The beds in the house remained as they were when the family arose in the morning.

Stepping to the yard Mr. Maddex looked around for his wife. Near the door he saw a little dog, which usually followed his wife about the place. Speaking to the dog he said, "Buster, where is Mec?" (meaning his wife.) The dog moved around a bit, and then started to the yard gate on the north and going on, led the way to a large barn about 200 yards east and a little north of the house.

Mr. Maddex followed and on nearing the barn saw a blood-soaked napkin lying near the double doors on the north side of the barn. One of these doors was about half open. Running to the door Mr. Maddex found the lifeless body of his wife.

Mrs. Maddex's body was lying face down on the dirt floor of the barn. Her head was to the south and her foot rested on the large rock doorsill. Her left arm was under her body and in her tightly clinched right hand was a bunch of hair torn from her head.

The rock doorsill was covered with blood. On the inside of one of the doors was the bloody print of the palm of her hand and on the outside the bloody finger prints, showing where the door had been grasped in the death struggle. On the other door, about 2 1/2 feet from the ground was the bloody imprint of a hand, and blood was spattered over the lower part of the door.

Near a post on the inside of a stall to the right of the door was a pool of blood, it appearing that the dying woman had leaned against the post and then stood at the door, where another pool of blood was found. The greatest quantity of blood was about four feet from the door and where the head rested when the body was found.

Mrs. Maddex's throat had been cut with a very sharp knife or a razor. The instrument of death had been slashed across her throat twice, the cuts being very deep, severing the jugular vein on both sides and the internal and external carotid ar-

teries on the right side. One cut ranged upward to the right jaw bone, the other started three inches below the left ear and extended to within an inch of the right ear, the two cuts forming an elliptical shaped wound on the left side of the throat.

Under the left ear was a wound, evidently made with the point of the knife. The thumb of the left hand was nearly severed and numerous other cuts were on this hand, and a slight cut on the right hand. There was a slight bruise on the left knee and also on the left elbow. The bruises were probably caused by Mrs. Maddex falling to the ground.

When the body was found Mrs. Maddex's dress was just above her knees, but there was no evidence of a struggle or any indication of an attempted assault.

At the barn was found the napkin on which Mrs. Maddex had been working, the spool of thread covered with blood, and in the center of the stall was her thimble. The barrette which she wore in her hair was picked up outside the barn, just in front of the doors.

Coroner Evans empaneled the following jury: Richard Rothgeb, Geo. A. Schlotzhauer, W. M. Chamberlin, Adolph Muntzel, R. S. Roe and Leslie Babbit. Two witnesses, George Maddex, husband of the dead woman, and George McClain were examined.

The jury returned the following verdict: "We, the jury, after examining the dead body and hearing the evidence concerning the same, do find that the deceased came to her death from a knife wound in the neck, inflicted by party unknown to the jury."

When the body was found it was cold and rigid, and it is the belief of Coroner Evans and the jury that Mrs. Maddex met her death some time between 10 and 11 o'clock that morning.

Mrs. Maddex, whose maiden name was Miss America Rennison, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Col. Rennison of Pilot Grove, and 35 years of age on the 8th of last month. On December 26, 1895, she was united in marriage with George Maddex.

America Rennison (Mrs. George Maddex) is the daughter of Joseph Colmar Rennison and Mary Angelina Fleeman. America b: 8 Sep 1875, d: 29 Sep 1910