

Maddox Preliminary

Boonville, Mo., Dec. 16. — The first witness to testify today in the hearing of George Maddox, charged with murdering his wife, was Mrs. Stephens, a telephone operator of Bell Air, who was the first person notified of Mrs. Maddox's death.

She said Maddox came horseback as far as the school house, across the road from the telephone exchange, where he tied his horse and rushed in to the telephone office. He was breathless and could not at first tell what was wrong.

Then he began explaining that he wanted the operator to telephone to his wife's parents that his wife had fallen out of the loft and killed her self, and advised her to telephone to the coroner at Boonville, which she did immediately.

Maddox asked her to go to his house, as there was no one at home. Mrs. Stephens, accompanied by Mrs. Workman, a neighbor, went afoot to the Maddox home, a mile away.

On the way the two women met Mr. Muntzel, a farmer, who was going home. He accompanied the two women to the scene. The women went through the house and Muntzel, horseback, rode through the big gate leading to barn, where he hitched his horse, and the three went to the barn, finding just outside the door, a white cloth stained red. Opening the barn door they found the body of Mrs. Maddox lying face downward.

Inside the door was a thimble, needle and thread stained with blood.

George Emerson, a negro employed on the Leonard farm, testified he passed Maddox's house at 10.30 a. m. and Mrs. Maddox was sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch sewing. About 11.52 a. m. he heard a

scream sounding from a woman or a girl in distress, from the direction of the Maddox home.

His daughter asked him what time it was, and this is how he recalled the exact time, as she wanted to get their children's dinner who were at school.

The screaming was thought at the time to be the Maddox children returning from school, but he later learned that the Maddox children were not there at that time.

The hat and shirt which were found by Detective Motz, the garments Maddox is supposed to have worn the day of the murder, were brought into court. The garments contained holes from which the stains had been cut out and sent to the chemist for analysis.

Mrs. Maddox, the defendant's mother, testified that the detective said he did not want the shirt and hat when offered by her at first, but later, after the shirt had been washed, he took it and turned it over to the physician.

If Maddox is not acquitted, he will be bonded over to the Circuit Court which meets Jan. 16.

The preliminary trial will be resumed today and unless released Maddox will be bound over to the January term of Circuit Court.