

MRS. FRANK HENDERSON MURDERED.

Found Dead Tuesday Morning on Porch of Home---Frank Henderson and Mrs. Gertrude Sams Lodged in Jail. 8/27/20 (NR)

Mrs. Frank Henderson who lives one and one fourth miles from Stackhouse, N. C., on the Walnut hill was found dead Tuesday morning by one Mr. Wattenburger who is employed at the mines. When discovered she was lying on the porch at her own home. The alarm was given and the news spread rapidly. Upon investigation it was found that some three hundred feet from her home on the edge of the road that there was evidence that the murder had been committed at that point, as there was signs of a desperate struggle and the body disclosed the fact that there was trash in her hair and other evidences that the crime had not been committed where the body was found. There was also found in the road where the crime was supposed to have been committed hair pins and other small articles which would further tend to show that she had been called away to that point, the crime committed and carried back to her home after she was found to have been dead.

Deputy Sheriff Caton was immediately dispatched to the scene where he guarded the body, tracks and signs and awaited the arrival of the blood hounds of Mr. Lively, of Asheville. Upon their arrival Deputy Sheriff Caton together with Matthew Ramsey and Harrison Treadway and Mr. Lively proceeded to follow the trail of the dogs track some five miles to the place known as the Hickory Flats and there they stopped at the home of Gertrude Sams and notwithstanding there were other parties there they paid no attention to any one except Mrs. Sams. She was immediately arrested by the officers and brought to Marshall on train 102 Tuesday night and lodged in jail.

While the hounds was on the track Dr. J. N. Moore, coroner, ordered a jury summoned and he, together with Sheriff Baley was proceeding with the inquest. The jury was composed of J. A. Snelson, H. K. Norton, Joe Phipps, Amos Stackhouse, Garrison Sams and B. W. Gahagan, after being duly empaneled by Dr. Moore and after gathering all the evidence obtainable they rendered their verdict that the deceased came to her death by having been choked to death.

The oldest of the five children who remained in the house alone during the remainder of the night stated that their mother heard some one on the porch she thought in the latter part of the night and that her mother went out of the house to investigate. The child heard some struggling or other kind of noise but later went to sleep and never seen her mother any more until next morning. The oldest of the five children was only ten years old.

Frank Henderson the husband of the deceased woman came to Marshall on train No. 27 Tuesday night and was arrested and placed in jail by Chief Police W. I. Tweed, as suspicion pointed to his being connected with the death of his wife.

It is stated that Henderson left his wife some few months ago and had just returned from California, Texas and other points West and that he was seen at or near his wife's home on the evening before the tragedy. However Mr. Henderson states that he can show by good witnesses that he was in Spartanburg, S. C., for a week prior to the time of the crime on Monday night, but the friends of the deceased claim that it would have been easy for him to have committed the crime and then have gone to Spartanburg and then return Tuesday night. That they are positive that he was seen near the scene Monday night just before the tragedy.

We do not vouch for the correctness of this story but it is the best information that we can gather from the stories which are afloat.