

5-11-1887

ACCIDENT OR MURDER?

Dan Kavanaugh, the night watchman at the mill of Mr. J. G. Phillips, Jr., was found yesterday morning lying in the basement, in an unconscious condition, with a pool of blood at his head and another at his feet. He was lying near a door opening into a coal-shed. Near by was a heavy bar of iron, 2½ or 3 inches in diameter and five feet long. Kavanaugh was removed first to his room up stairs and afterwards to the Faraher Hotel, and received medical attention from Drs. R. C. McChord, T. F. Cleaver, El Kelly and A. Rose. It was found that his skull was badly fractured on the right side, back of the ear, with severe bruises in the same region, and also a bruise on the forehead. Dr. McChord trephined the skull, removing a number of pieces of bone, which taken together covered a space three inches long by two wide. A spicula of bone was found embedded in the brain. The patient did not regain consciousness upon the removal of the pressure upon the brain.

Two theories were at once advanced as to the manner in which the injuries were inflicted; one that Kavanaugh when going to close the door, about 9 o'clock Monday night, was struck by a coupling on a pulley near by; the other that some one had knocked him down with the above mentioned bar of iron. In support of the latter theory it is related that there was blood on one end of the bar and gray hairs on the other. It is also known that Kavanaugh had had some enemies who were displeased with the fidelity with which he discharged his duty as watchman.

Mr. Kavanaugh is seventy-four years old and has been employed at the mill for a number of years. He is a widower and has children residing in Iowa. When last heard from he was alive, but with little or no hope of recovery.

Death of Dan Kavanaugh.

Dan Kavanaugh, who was fatally hurt at Mr. Phillips' mill on Monday night of last week, died at 11:55 o'clock Tuesday night. Wednesday morning, Coroner Doody and a jury held an inquest over his remains. Messrs. John Mills, R. W. Walker, A. Lee, Fred Mouser, J. A. Hardesty and W. R. Spalding composed the jury. A number of witnesses were examined, after which the jury rendered the following verdict:

"We of the jury selected to inquire into the cause of the death of Daniel Kavanaugh, being duly sworn and having heard the evidence, do render the following verdict: We find that said Daniel Kavanaugh, while in the discharge of his duties as watchman at Phillips' Mill, in Lebanon, Ky., and while passing under what is known as the spring coupling wheel, was struck on the head by a projection or lug on said wheel, and that said blow caused his death. We further find that said accident occurred near 9 o'clock on said night of May 9.

W. R. SPALDING, one of the Jury."

The funeral took place Thursday morning at St. Augustine's church, and the interment at the Catholic Cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas J. Miller, of Zanesville, Wis., were called here last week by the death of Daniel Kavanaugh, Mrs. Miller's father.