

# CAMDEN'S MYSTERY DARKENING.

## THE CORONER'S INQUEST FAILS TO REVEAL ANY NEW POINTS.

The Jury Frankly Give It Up—They Recommend That the Disappearance of Mrs. Walters Be Investigated.

The inquest in the case of the Camden graveyard mystery of last Friday, when a colored man was disinterred in Johnson Cemetery and a rope found tied around his neck was held by Coroner Jefferis yesterday in the court house. During the testimony the mysterious find was almost lost sight of and the possibility of body snatching investigated at length. The testimony showed that it was one of the easiest matters in the world for ghouls to steal bodies from Johnson Cemetery without detection.

The first witness was Morgue Keeper Patrick Powell. He said he removed the body of the man from the cemetery to the Morgue. He witnessed Coroner Jefferis cut the rope from around the neck of the man. It was tied in a noose. The rope was offered in evidence.

County Physician Dr. William H. Izard said he measured the grave from which the body of the supposed murdered man was removed. The exact measurement was eighteen inches from the surface of the ground. He said he considered the case to be a very bad one, and had strong suspicion that the man had met with foul play. In answer to the question of Coroner Jefferis, whether or not the remains of the man had been dissected, he replied that they had not, as he found in his examination that the tissues of the man's skull were all intact.

Nathan Johnson, the young colored superintendent, was put through a vigorous examination, and, as a result, the jury discovered that it was a very easy thing for ghouls to rob that graveyard of its dead. He admitted on the stand that after persons were buried in the cemetery he often went away, leaving the earth to be thrown in the grave by his helper. The whole of his testimony showed that no records were kept of the bodies deposited there, and that things were conducted in a bad manner in general.

Joseph L. Pine, who spends his time between farming and assisting Superintendent Johnson, said that he had dug up thirty-four graves in his effort to locate the body of Mrs. Mary J. Walters, the missing colored woman, whose body is believed to have been stolen from the grave and sold to medical students. He said it was while in the pursuit of Mrs. Walters' body that he unearthed the remains of the supposed murdered man. He then told how he found the man laying face downward, covered with salt hay. He lifted some of the salt hay off of the corpse, and, much to his horror, found that it looked as if murder had been committed. He reported the case to Squire Plum.

Sarah Jane Walters, the daughter of Mrs. Mary Walters, the missing woman, said her mother was buried about one hundred feet from the second gate leading to the graveyard near a pine tree. She was emphatic in declaring that it was her opinion that her mother's body had been stolen. Detective Patrick M. Gallagher reiterated the statement about the rope being around the neck of the man. He said the noose was tied in a hangman's knot.

C. J. Mines, the trustee of the cemetery estate, caused much laughter by saying he was a carpenter and knew more about putting shingles on a roof than he did about conducting a grave yard. "Every burial will be properly recorded hereafter," said the witness. Squire Plum and Undertaker James M. Johnson also gave corroborative testimony. The jury returned this verdict:

"We, the jury, are unable to determine how or in what manner the body found in the Johnson Cemetery in a pine box with a rope around his neck, came to his death or in what manner he was buried there, and we further recommend that Prosecutor Jenkins immediately investigate the flagrant violation of the Burial law in the Johnson Cemetery."

Detectives will be detailed to-day to try to find out what becomes of the body of the missing Mrs. Walters.