

Edwards, Jesse: Coroner's Inquisition, Rock-  
bridge County

## Metadata

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Title: Edwards, Jesse: Coroner's Inquisition, Rockbridge County

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Rockbridge County to wit -

An inquest taken at a Court  
 Term under the honor of Wm. C. Lewis  
 & Day Fielding in the said County  
 on the 12 day of June 1865, before  
 Jas. L. Agnew Coroner said County  
 before the view of the body of Jesse  
 Edwards then lying dead: The  
 Jurors sworn to inquire & have  
 how & by what means the said  
 Jesse Edwards came to his death  
 upon their oaths do say - That the  
 said Jesse Edwards was hanged  
 & shot to death by persons on the  
 morning of the 12 day of June 1865  
 by persons to this jury unknown  
 In testimony whereof the said Coroner  
 & Jurors ~~do~~ have set their hands  
 & seals

Jas. L. Agnew	Coroner	Seal
Wm. C. Lewis	Foreman	Seal
Wm. C. Lewis		Seal
H. B. Lyle		Seal
R. H. Figgatt		Seal
J. A. Bowyer		Seal
Wm. B. Besserman		Seal
Wm. M. Rickett		Seal
Wm. B. Besserman		Seal
H. B. Besserman		Seal
George. S. Hoop		Seal
Wm. A. Lachey		Seal
H. A. Lachey		Seal

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Rockbridge County to wit -  
An inquisition taken at a Chestnut  
tree near the houses of William A McClung  
and Davy Fielding in said county  
on the 12 day of June 1869 before  
Jas. L. [Agner?] coroner of said county  
upon the view of the body of Jesse  
Edwards there lying dead. The  
jurors sworn to inquire where  
how and by what means the said  
Jesse Edwards came to his death  
upon their oath do say- that the  
said Jesse Edwards was hanged  
& shot to death on the  
morning of the 12 day of June 1869  
by parties to this jury unknown  
In testimony whereof the said coroner  
and jurors hereto set their hands  
& seals

Jas L [Agree?] Coroner (Seal)  
Wm. A McClung Foreman (Seal)  
Wm. Shaw (Seal)  
H. R Lyle (Seal)  
R H Figgat (Seal)  
J D H Bowyer (Seal)  
Wm. Bosserman (Seal)  
R. M. Rickett (Seal)  
W H [Forman?] (Seal)  
H B Bosserman (Seal)  
George Sh. [Fox?] (Seal)  
Wm. H. Lackey (Seal)  
H. A. Lackey (Seal)

An inquest held near the house  
of Jany Fiddley near Lyles Mill in  
the county of Rockbridge before Jas  
L. Ayer coronor of said county, upon  
the view of the body of Jefe Edward  
Thur being dead.

That L. Perry being first duly  
sworn testified as follows  
Jefe Edward was committed  
to the jail in my keeping  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June 1848, charged  
with the murder of Susan  
Margaret Hite on the 12<sup>th</sup> of  
June about 10 o'clock in the  
morning, was washed up & sent  
to the door & passed from men  
standing without - who said  
they had brought me a person  
charged with stealing a horse  
from Goshen - at night so late  
they could not get a magistrate  
they wanted to have him con-  
fined till morning, when  
they would have the matter  
investigated - not suspicious  
if anything wrong & asked them  
inside the door till I would  
light a candle - then said the  
supposed person that it would  
have to be seen whether I did search  
him thoroughly - I took from above  
his waist the pocket of a parcel

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An inquest held near the house  
of Davy Fielding near Lyles Mill in  
the county of Rockbridge before Jas.  
L. [Agner?] coroner of said county, upon  
the view of the body of Jesse Edwards  
their lying dead.

Thos L. Perry being first duly  
sworn testified as follows  
Jesse Edwards was committed  
to the Jail in my keeping  
on the 8th day of June 1869, charged  
with the murder of Susan  
Margaret Hite- on the 12th of  
June about 1 o'clock in the  
morning I was waked up and went  
to the door and found four men  
standing without- who said  
they had brought me a prisoner  
charged with stealing a horse  
from Goshen- & it was so late that  
they could not get a magistrate  
and they wanted to have him confined  
till the morning, when  
they would have the matter  
investigated. Not suspecting  
anything wrong I asked them  
inside the door till I could  
light a candle. I then told the  
supposed prisoner that he would  
have to be searched and did search  
him thoroughly. I took from around  
his waist the holster of a pistol

asked him when his pistol was, he  
said he had thrown it away between  
this & another - later in the forenoon  
a knife - cap box - & a glass of food  
was then got the keys of the front  
door & went back to the prison  
just off the lower after we got  
them they closed the center door  
threw me around & held me then  
would subject - which was  
not to put a prisoner in jail  
but to take a prisoner from jail,  
the one there had communicated  
the accident outwards upon  
the post on South River - that  
I should not make a noise  
they would not hurt me - if  
arrested they would 'not' make  
the door shake in any way - two  
of them held me ~~some~~ since  
then took the keys from me  
opened the cell door & took  
out Jap. Edward - at this time  
there was a considerable rush  
of disguised persons from the  
front door into the passage - kept  
long about 20 or 30 - I heard  
persons talking outside - a party  
must be had drawn pistols in  
their hands - begged of them not  
to open the door as I had three  
other persons, when Jap. Edward was

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and asked him where his pistol was, he said he had thrown it away between this and Goshen. I also took from him a knife - cap-box - & a gourd of powder. Went then and got the keys of the Jail door and went back to the prison part of the house. After we got there they closed the centre door and turned me around told me their errand and object which which was not to put a prisoner in Jail but to take a prisoner from Jail, the one that had committed the dreadful outrage upon the girl on South River. That I should not make a noise & they would not hurt me. If I resisted they would break down the door and take him anyhow. Two of them held me one of them took the keys from me and opened the cell door and took out Jesse Edwards. At this time there was a considerable rush of disguised persons from the front door into the passage. I suppose about 20 or 30. I heard persons talking outside. A goodly number had drawn pistols in there hands. I begged of them not to open the door as I had three other prisoners where Jesse Edwards was



equally guilty of the offence. They  
were charged with - as John E. Deward  
says - they must not let them es-  
cape - The officers thought they would  
not let them escape - Then a few  
more in - others came up to him  
in the jail - then two of them  
called John E. Deward by name  
they had been through him all  
of the prison - the doors were  
locked - took him to the front  
door & put off with him - Then  
of them held me at the door  
for some time after the mob  
had left the front of the house  
& upon some ten or fifteen minutes  
I could not move nor a single  
person in the crowd - many  
of them were naked - Two men  
with me in the crowd before -  
They blew out the candle &  
left - I described myself & reported  
the circumstances to the Magistrate  
The Council members of the town  
they advised me to go to bed  
John E. Deward

equally guilty of the offenses they  
were charged with as Jesse Edwards  
was and they must not let them escape.  
they assured me they would  
not let them escape. Three or four  
went in others came up behind  
with pistols. one or two of them  
called Jesse Edwards by name.  
They tied him and brought him out  
of the prison- & the door was  
locked. Took him to the front  
door & went off with him. Three  
of them held me at the door  
for some time after the mob  
had left the front of the house  
I suppose some ten or fifteen minutes  
I did not recognize a single  
person in the crowd. Many  
of them were masked. Two stayed  
with me till the crowd dispersed  
& then blew out the candle and  
left. I dressed myself and reported  
the circumstances to a magistrate  
and several members of the [bar?]  
& they advised me to go to bed.  
Thos L. Perry

Jim Walker from Inuvik being only  
known to him as follows

Davy told me this morning that  
although some body had camped  
at his place up as far as the  
cave that turns into the old  
clump however he was back as  
far as that line (about where  
the body hung) & saw somebody  
hanging up by the limb of that  
chestnut tree - & was hanging  
with a rope around his neck  
with in hand two broken  
guns but told Davy  
Tuk H. Dauder Jim Walker  
Musk

Elyah Fielding being only  
known to him as follows -

Apha from came back - & spoke  
up & saw a man hanging  
from the chestnut tree -  
Heard hollow talking & whist-  
ling at this place last night -  
Saw no person - & did not  
recognize any body's voice  
Tuk H. Dauder Elyah Fielding  
Musk

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Jim Walker freedman being duly  
sworn testified as follows  
Davy told me this morning that  
he thought somebody had camped  
up here-- [& I came?] up as far as the  
lane that turns into Mr McClungs  
house-- & came back as  
far as that tree (close to where the  
body hung) & saw somebody  
hanging up by the limb of that  
chestnut tree- he was hanging  
with a rope around his neck  
with his hands tied behind him  
I went back and told Davy--  
Teste H G Davidson Jim (his X mark) Walker

Elijah Fielding being duly  
sworn testified as follows--  
After Jim came back, & looked  
up and saw a man hanging  
from the chestnut tree--  
I heard hollering talking and shouting  
at this place last night--  
I saw no person & did not  
recognize anybodys voice  
Teste H G Davidson Elijah (his X mark) Fielding

Sally Fuldery being found duly  
sworn, testified as follows  
I heard a noise at this place last  
night this morning about day  
light - heard some person say  
go right up to him - then I heard  
four shots - I thought some body  
had camped here - I did not  
know any body in the crowd  
did not recognize any voice  
John H. Dauden      Dan D. Fuldery  
mark

Henry B. Rossmore stated that  
being duly sworn testified as follows  
A man called at my house about  
4 o'clock this morning & asked me  
for a rope & promised to return  
it - shortly after I heard four  
shots - then ~~he~~ about half mile  
from this spot - The rope was not  
returned - I did not see the face  
of the man that asked for the rope  
& did not recognize his voice  
H. B. Rossmore

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Davy Fielding being first duly  
sworn testifies as follows  
I heard a noise at this place [struck: last night]  
this morning about day  
light - heard some person say  
go right up to him - then I heard  
four shots - I thought some body  
had camped here - I did not  
know any body in the crowd  
did not recognize any voice  
Teste H G Davidson David (his X mark) Fielding

Henry B. Bosorman [struck: states that]  
being duly sworn testified as follows  
A man called at my house about  
4 o'clock this morning & asked me  
for a rope & promised to return  
it - shortly after I heard four  
shots - I live [struck: 3/4] about half mile  
from this spot - The rope was not  
returned -I did not see the face  
of the man that asked for the rope  
and did not recognize his voice  
H B Bossoman

Dr N. D. Dandrea, being duly sworn  
deposes as follows,

I made a post mortem examina-  
tion upon the body of Jesse Edward  
Hounded born hanging by the neck  
from the limb of a tree - showing  
the usual signs of death by strangu-  
lation - I found also four fatal  
shots in the front of the chest  
one entering above the right nipple  
one about the left - near the median  
line of the chest & one about the center  
with two - all these balls penetrated  
the lungs - none the heart - one  
lodged in the diaphragm - the other  
lodged in the lungs - He prob-  
ably died from strangulation - as  
there was very little internal hem-  
orrhage - no external hemorrhage  
& I identify the body, as that of Jesse Edward  
Hounded

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Dr H G Davidson, being duly sworn  
testifies as follows  
I made a post mortem examination  
upon the body of Jesse Edwards  
I found him hanging by the neck  
from the limb of a tree - showing  
the usual signs of death by strangulation--  
I found also four pistol  
shots in the front of the chest  
one entering about the right nipple  
one about the left - near the median  
line of the chest & one about the [struck and illegible]  
sixth rib - all these balls penetrated  
the lungs - none the heart - one  
lodged in the diaphragm- the others  
lodged in the lungs-- He probably  
died from strangulation - as  
there was very little internal hemorrhage  
-no external hemorrhage  
I identify the body, as that of Jesse Edwards  
H G Davidson



Rockledge County writ:

To The Chief or any Constable of said County  
 You are required to summon twelve  
 Jurors of the County of Rockledge  
 to attend before me, a Coroner of  
 said County at the dwelling house of  
 David Starnie near Upper Mill in said  
 County at the hour of 10 o'clock P. M. To  
 enquire upon the view of the body of  
 J. J. Edwards then lying dead, where  
 how & by what means he came to  
 his death. Even under any laws  
~~to~~ this 12 day of June 1864

Jas. L. Hyatt Coroner R.C.

- ~~Rockledge~~  
 J. M. Shaw 2  
 H. K. Egan 3  
 J. W. Egan 4  
 R. H. Faggaboy 5  
 J. W. Egan 6  
 J. A. W. Egan 7  
 W. Broman 8  
 A. J. Rickett 9  
 W. Broman 10  
 H. Broman 11  
 G. H. Fox 12  
 R. H. Egan 13  
 H. A. Searcy 14

Rockbridge County to wit:  
 To the sheriff or any Constable of said county  
 You are required to summon twelve  
 Jurors of the county of Rockbridge  
 to attend before me, a Coroner of  
 said County at the dwelling house of  
 Davy [Sterritt?] near Lyles Mill in said  
 county at the hour of 1 o'clock P.M to  
 enquire upon the view of the body of  
 Jesse Edwards there lying dead, when  
 how & by what means he came to  
 his death - Given under my hand  
 [struck: & seal] this 12 day of June 1869  
 Jas L. Agner Coroner R.C. [Rockbridge County]  
 [name struck and illegible]  
 Wm [Shaw?] 2  
 H R Lyle 3  
 [name struck and illegible]  
 R H Figget Jr 5  
 J D H [Boyer?] 6  
 N A McClung 7  
 W Boseman 8  
 R M Ricket 9  
 W Forman 10  
 Henry Boseman 11  
 Geo H Fox 12  
 W H Lackey 13  
 H A Lackey 14

Engaged upon the  
body of  
John Edwards et  
al  
returning to the office  
June 18<sup>th</sup> 1869

Executed by summoning the following persons  
Wm M. Cling former Wm Shaw A. C. Syle  
R. W. Figgish S. D. Boyer Henry Bosiman  
R. M. Pickett W. W. Forman A. Bosiman  
Geo. H. Fox W. H. Larkney H. A. Larkney  
also the following witnesses  
Thos. S. Piny  
Ami Walker  
Olyah Fildung  
David Fildung  
+ Dr. H. G. Davidson

As A. Syle  
Special Constable

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Inquest upon the  
Body of  
Jesse Edwards Col.  
Returned to the office  
June 12th 1869

Executed by summoning the following jurors.  
N A McClung foreman Wm Shaw H R Lyle  
R H Figgat J D H Boyer Henry Boseman  
R M Ricket W H Forman [N?] Bosiman  
Geo H Fox W H Lackey H A Lackey  
also the following witnesses  
Thos L Perry  
Jim Walker  
Elijah Fielding  
David Fielding  
& Dr H G Davidson  
Jas A Lyle  
Special Constable

Contributions Message

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