

BOLD BANK ROBBERY.

Concordia Savings Bank Entered in Broad Daylight by Three Highwaymen—Reward of \$500—Pursuers and Pursued Fighting on Blackwater—Great Excitement—Probability of Their Capture—\$3,000 Stolen.

At half past one o'clock this afternoon a bold and daring robbery was committed at the town of Concordia, on the Lexington Branch in Lafayette county, six miles northwest of Brownsville. Three men rode into town, stopped at the bank, and, while there were very few, if any, persons on the street, entered, overpowered the officers and took what money they could secure and escaped. The robbers were well armed, riding good horses and left in a southerly direction. The following dispatch was received by Marshal Smith at 2:20:

CONCORDIA, Aug. 28, 1878.

Bank robbed at 1:30 by three men on horseback. Look out for them; left going south. \$500 reward.

J. H. LOHOEFENER, Pres.

The robbery was committed in such a quiet and methodical manner that no one outside of the bank knew of it till after the highwayman had left the town and were out of sight. Pursuit was immediately given.

The bank was a corporation known as the Concordia Savings Bank, and is officered by Mr. J. H. Lohofener, President, and Mr. Henry Ficken, cashier. About a year ago, their building being old and insecure, they determined to have a banking house worthy of the name and the town. So they built the elegant brick structure in which they now do business.

THE PURSUIT.

Pursuit was made immediately by the citizens of the town and vicinity, armed with shot guns, rifles, revolvers and a variety of weapons that came to hand. At this writing the pursuers and pursued are

FIGHTING ON BLACKWATER,
as the following dispatch just received will show:

CONCORDIA, 3 p. m.

City Marshal, Sedalia:

Men and robbers are fighting on Blackwater, driving them in your direction.

J. H. LOHOEFENER.

Our citizens ought to turn out in this emergency and help capture the scoundrels. It's getting

TOO NEAR HOME.

They were being driven south, but will, in all probability, endeavor to avoid Sedalia or telegraph stations, unless they are too closely pressed. The pursuit ought to be made hotter now that the Concordia men are on such a close trail. It is said one robber was killed, but it is not ascertained to any certainty the result of the fight. It is presumed that it is a running fight and the pursued are making south as fast as possible.

The Pettis county sheriff will join in the hunt as soon as a posse is ready and endeavor to head them off and get them surrounded. The robbers are doing their best to fight them back until night comes to cover their retreat. Whoever they are, it shows old hands at the business, and

A WELL LAID PLAN

to rob the bank, well matured and mapped out. It is to be hoped that every able bodied man along the route will turn out and assist in their capture.

The amount taken is not known, but supposed to be a

CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT.

Concordia is a great shipping point for grain and stock, and is situated in the midst of a fertile section. It contains a population of about 1,200.

Parties are ready to start from here as soon as the robbers can be located.

THE FACTS.

The following was received at 4:30 this afternoon, for which the *BAZOO* was delayed:

CONCORDIA, Mo., Aug. 29, 4:30 p. m.
Special to the Daily *Bazoo*.

At about half past one o'clock today, while Mr. H. Ficken, cashier, was in the Concordia Savings Bank, three men made their appearance, one remained at the door while one advanced and asked to have a ten dollar bill changed. While Mr. F. opened the drawer to make the change, he jumped over to the counter and caught Mr. F. around the wrist and with one hand while he placed the other hand over his mouth; at the same time the third man closed the door and held a cocked revolver at him, when the two men demanded his money or his life, whereupon Mr. F. gave them the money that was in the drawer. The robbers then pushed Mr. F. to the safe and compelled him to open it and give them all the money that was in it. They then backed out of the bank holding their pistols at Mr. F. until they got to the door, when they ran for their horses, which were hitched north of Mr. Kroencke's store, when they took a southward course in full gallop. The robbers got about three thousand dollars before the robbery was discovered and several shots were fired, but it is not known whether any one was hit. Five hundred dollars reward is offered by the bank for the capture of the robbers. A large force of citizens are in pursuit of them.

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The Bank Robbers.

The report concerning the capture of the Concordia bank robbers is fully confirmed. They were traced to a place in Fayette county near Columbus, twenty-five miles from Lexington. They were farmers, middle aged men, and lived in that section of the country. Their names are Ottie Orfutt, Reilly Correll and Thomas Renick. They were captured early yesterday morning. One was at breakfast, another in bed and the third was working in the field. They were fully identified by the cashier of the bank. They are now in the jail at Lexington.

The Concordia Bank Robbers.

The three men captured near Columbus, Johnson county, Missouri, a few days ago, by Constable Eadmann and Sheriff Mountjoy, are being held in the Lexington jail for trial. Their names were given at the time as Offut, Carrol and Renick. They strongly assert their innocence and have determined to stand a preliminary trial, which takes place next Monday, the 9th of September, at Lexington. Henry Ficken, the cashier of the Concordia bank has been to the jail and identified the men as the ones who robbed the bank. They have about twenty five witnesses summoned for the purpose, it is surmised, of proving an *alibi*. If they are not the guilty parties they can very easily prove their whereabouts at such a recent date. Columbus is some thirty miles from Concordia, and these men certainly know where they were on the day of the robbery, and can no doubt prove by respectable witnesses their locality on that day. The men are said to be well off, and those who know them are at a loss for a motive in men of their circumstances robbing a country bank of a few thousand dollars. But having been identified by the cashier, the burden of proof shifts to their shoulders, and it devolves upon them to show their innocence. It is to be hoped that their skirts are clean, at the same time it would be a pity should they turn out to be the wrong men.

SCOT FREE

Went the Concordia Bank Robbers Yesterday.

The Result of the Very Tallest Kind of Swearing.

The farce is over and the Concordia bank robbers are free, having proven an alibi by forty relations and friends. No wonder that Missouri is called the robber State!

The examination of Offutt Carroll and Renick began before Justice Callahan in Lexington on Monday last. Judge Young, Maj. Henry Neal and Messrs. Walker & Field appeared for the State; Messrs Rathburn & Shewalter and R. Hicklin defended the robbers. The case ended at 4 p. m. yesterday, as we have above stated, by the discharge of the robbers.

On the side of the State there were fifteen witnesses. Let us look at the testimony. In the first place Mr. Henry Ficken, the cashier, recognized all of the robbers and swore positively to their identity. He saw them under such circumstances as to photograph every lineament of their countenances upon his memory as long as life should last.

Five other good, reputable men, citizens of Concordia, also recognized them and swore as positively to the identity.

A boy 11 years of age saw Offutt riding from Concordia holding a drawn revolver over his head. The boy was returning from fishing; he had never seen Offutt before. He was taken into a court house for the first time in his life. When asked to pick out the man from the crowd who he saw riding away from Concordia, he instantly and unhesitatingly picked out Offutt from all present as the man he met.

Jerome Greer, a responsible citizen of Johnson county, met the robbers at Hazel Hill, going toward Columbus at 4 p. m. on the day of the robbery. He met them square in the road, and identified Renick and Carroll.

Yet in the face of all this plain and indisputable evidence, here comes a troop of relatives and friends, and the testimony of these swift witnesses shows that it was impossible for the robbers to have been within ten to twenty-five miles of Concordia on the day of the robbery.

We are informed that the general impression in Lexington is that these men should have been held for trial. Some few, however, think their alibi has been proven satisfactorily. And this is the last of another outrage upon the good name of the State of Missouri.

CAPTURED!

Concordia's Robbers!

How a Detective Got Them.

Their Arrest at Warrensburg.

Brought to Sedalia and Taken to Concordia.

Full Development's and all the Particulars.

The Preliminary Examination and Commitment.

The recent robbery of the Concordia bank is yet fresh in the minds of all, and the particulars attending it have been widely published. When the arrest of Offutt, Carroll and Rennick was made, the public was under the impression that the right persons had been caught, and when the cashier swore to their identity, all, or nearly all, were equally as positive.

They proved an alibi, however, and were released. Great was the dissatisfaction thereat, and the press was not slow to denounce the action of the justice. But recent developments seem to prove that the justice was right, and public opinion wrong.

THE BANK OFFICERS, after the discharge of Offutt, Carroll and Rennick, determined to have the real perpetrators at all hazards, and investigated the matter thoroughly. If Offutt, Carroll and Rennick were the real culprits, they should receive the punishment their crime

merited. If others had committed the robbery, they should be hunted down and brought to judgment. So the matter was placed in the hands of

EXPERIENCED DETECTIVES, and the result of their labors closely watched and anxiously anticipated. They have run down their game and the following are the full particulars of their capture and the events that led to it:

Last week one day a stranger registered at the Ends House in Warrensburg as "J. H. McCann, St. Louis." He said he was in Johnson county for the purpose of BUYING A FARM.

He called on several persons, large land owners in the county, with a view of purchasing. One gentleman who pays large taxes here, thought he saw an opportunity to reduce his real estate to money and thereby "pass" when the successor came along.

His hopes were, however, blasted. The farm buyer was

A DETECTIVE and was smelling around. He played ten pins, patronized the shooting gallery and bought tules.

Near the fair ground, adjacent to Warrensburg, resides William Shewalter, a farmer. He has four sons, named respectively, Edward, George, John and Robert. Also Hon. M. C. Shewalter, of Lexington, is a son in the same family.

Abe Cresswell is a farmer in that county and resides some seven or eight miles south west of Warrensburg. He formerly resided where he was raised, at Norbome, a small place in Carroll county. He has resided in Johnson about eighteen months. He is the possessor of twelve mules and some other stock, and is living on a rented farm. Cresswell is a tall man, dark hair and whiskers—face bony; aged about thirty five.

BANK ROBBERING. After the discharge of Offutt and his companions, arrested charged with robbing the Concordia bank, the bank officers and officials commenced to look for the real persons who did commit the crime. Experienced detectives were employed and set to work.

How the detective got the

FIRST THREAD

which lead to the arrest of Abe Cresswell, Ed. and John Shewalter, last night, is one of the things that the BAZOO reporter, who went to Warrensburg yesterday, did not learn, but he does know that the main information which lead to the arrest of Cresswell was given by a woman.

This woman told, that on Thursday morning, the day the bank was robbed, about sun-up, Cresswell and John Shewalter were together at Cresswell's and that John had staid there the night previous.

This, with some other things, lead the detectives on. They learned that John had told in Warrensburg that Wednesday previous to the robbery he had helped Cresswell drive some cattle and on Thursday night late, Ed. Shewalter had ridden into Knob Noster boasting that he had ridden forty miles that day.

Ed. stopped at Knob Noster several days John was sent for to come to Knob Noster as Ed. was sick with a fever.

HE WAS SHOT.

It was always thought that one of the men engaged in the robbery was wounded, as he had stopped on the road and blood was seen on his clothes at the hip. When Ed was arrested last night there was still a small bullet hole in his coat tail, and for some time he had been walking with a cane.

When Detective "McCann" arrived in Warrensburg the preliminary examination of Davidson was going on. John Shewalter was one of the witnesses in that examination, as he was one of the men who had helped to arrest Davidson. The detective hung around the court room and made the acquaintance of John Shewalter, who introduced the stranger (who was looking out to buy a farm) to his brother Ed., and they had

A CONVERSATION

about as follows:

Detective—What is the best or most safe bank here?

Ed. Shewalter—The First National is said to be the most solid.

D.—Good land 'round here?

Ed.—Yes, the best in the State.

D.—People well fixed?

Ed.—Yes, mostly—but the banks have got all the money now a days.

D.—Yes, that is the case most everywhere.

Ed.—A little bank at Concordia was robbed a few weeks ago of \$3,000.

D.—Is that so? (Surprised.)

Ed.—Yes, and they got away with the loot, too.

D.—I want to smoke, 'spose you walk down and get a cigar with me.

Ed.—Don't care if I do; thank you.

And the two walked to the cigar store and while on the road there Ed. detailed to the detective a

FULL ACCOUNT OF THE ROBBERY,
some particulars of which have never been published.

The two then went to the shooting gallery and shot at a mark, the detective beating Ed., made him pull out his pocketbook to pay for the same, and when he did so the detective would notice how much money he had.

"I had it right down to a dollar," said the detective to the BAZOO reporter last night.

Yesterday, Monday, everything was ripe for a pull. Mr. James Rauch, who was at the depot in Concordia the day the bank was robbed and who shot at the tall man (Cresswell), was sent for. He arrived on the morning train.

BUYING MULES.

Yesterday the detective and Rauch rode out to Cresswell's to buy his mules. Cresswell was found and Rauch recognized him as one of the robbers—the one he shot at. The mule trade was made. The detective was to pay him \$575 for the mules, which was accepted.

"Now," says the detective "you ride to town with us and I will make this proposition in writing and pay you some money on the contract."

"Very good" said Cresswell. He mounted his horse and the trio arrived in Warrensburg about 5:30 yesterday evening.

They proceeded to the detectives' room on the third floor, and when once in the room, Abe Cresswell was looking down the muzzle of two Colt's revolvers.

He did not ask what he was arrested for, took the matter very easy and wrote the following

NOTE TO HIS WIFE:

WARRENSBURG, Sept. 30, 1878.

My Dear Wife:

You need not be uneasy about me. I don't know when I will be at home. They have got me arrested here. I suppose I will be at home soon.

Lucy, you had better get Ben Hudson to finish cutting up that corn.

Your husband,

ABE CRESSWELL.

To Mrs Lucy J. Cresswell.

John Shewalter was arrested while in the streets of Warrensburg on a horse, and his brother Ed. nabbed at his father's near the Fair Ground.

It was all done in a very short space of time, but the

NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILD FIRE.

and Warrensburg was convulsed from center to circumference. A large crowd of people gathered about the Eads House many demanding an audience with the prisoners. This was refused every body.

At 9:30 p. m. the train left Warrensburg which brought

THE PRISONERS

to Sedalia, who were put in the cooler, where they were kept until this morning. They took the 5:15 train this morning for Lexington, guarded by detective McCain, A. N. Tuttle and James B. Rauch.

When arrested Ed. Shewalter had in his pocket \$36; John Shewalter had \$15 and Cresswell had \$2.

CRESSWELL

does not bear the best of reputation. His neighbors in Johnson county say that many indications are that he is crooked.

THE SNEW LTER B Ys

have a fair reputation—little inclined to be rowdyish and don't work much.

Arrival at Concordia.

Special to the BAZOO.

CONCORDIA, Oct. 1—10 a. m.

The prisoners, Abe Cresswell, Edward and John Shewalter, arrived at 9:30 this morning, in charge of the officers, and were placed in the railroad

DEPOT STRONGLY GUARDED.

They expressed some fears upon their arrival here that they would be summarily dealt with by the Concordians, and they manifested considerable nervousness and apprehension.

They have been assured, however, by the best and most influential men in the town that they need have no fears, as they should have

AMPLE PROTECTION

from all attempts at violence, should any be made.

There is no mob feeling apparent here among the people. Aside from a firm determination manifested that justice should be done, there is no expression of ill-will against them.

The depot platform is crowded by the curious to get a sight at

THE BANK ROBBERY,
who take matter more coolly since they have been assured of protection.

Still Later.

Special to the BAZOO.

CONCORDIA, Oct. 1—3 p. m.

The prisoners were arraigned before Justice Theiman and pleaded

NOT GUILTY.

Their bonds were fixed at five thousand dollars each, in default of which they were sent to the

JAIL AT LEXINGTON.

The examination is set for October 10th at this place.

Mayor Powell wisely took the precaution to

CLOSE ALL THE SALOONS

to prevent any disturbance that might arise from intemperance or the use of ardent spirits.

A BAZOO reporter accompanied the prisoners, guards and detective from Warrensburg to Concordia and had an opportunity to get acquainted with the accused, and had an interview with Cresswell, the supposed leader, and with John Shewalter his accomplice. The interviews are published below. They were pumped separately twelve hours after their arrest, and they had not been allowed to talk to each other up to that time. Their stories are given and the public can draw their own conclusions.

ABE CRESSWELL.

Reporter—You are in a bad scrape Mr. Cresswell.

Cresswell—Yes, but I never wringed a man out of a nickel in my life.

R.—Can you account for your time at the time of the robbery?

C.—What robbery?

R.—The Concordia bank robbery. I suppose you know what you are charged with, and what you are arrested for?

C.—He (meaning the detective) did not

tell me what I was arrested for, but I supposed it was something of this kind.

R.—Can you tell where you was the day of the robbery?

C.—Yes, I can.

R.—When did you see the detective first?

C.—Yesterday he come to my place to buy my mules. We traded and he was to pay me \$100 in town. When we got to town in the room he pulled a pistol on me. I never was so surprised in my life.

R.—How many mules have you got?

C.—Twelve.

R.—Did you raise them?

C.—No, I bought them when colts and now they are two and three years old. I can give the names of every man I bought them of.

R.—Were you ever at Concordia?

C.—No.

R.—Where were you the day of the bank robbery?

C.—I was out buying cows with John Shewalter.

R.—How and from whom did you first learn of the robbery?

C.—John Shewalter told me on the Saturday after the robbery, in Warrensburg.

R.—Where were you on Thursday?

C.—I was in Chilhowie in Fulton's store. I eat dinner that day at Bob Polick's and staid all night at Clay Bothies. On Friday I eat dinner at Enoch Wiley's, my cousin, and went home on Friday and staid all night. On Saturday I took a load of wood to Warrensburg and heard of the robbery. John Shewalter told me of the robbery. John was with me all round buying cows. I asked John in town on Saturday "if they had got the robbers?" He said "yes, they got those fellers," and that was the last I heard or thought of the matter until they arrested me last night. I never had any idea of going out of Johnson county to steal.

R.—What has been your business before you come to Johnson county?

C.—I formerly kept a saloon at Norborne, in Carroll county, five years ago. I am married and my wife has two children. I am her second husband. Her first husband is in California. His name is Wai Paine.

R.—What was you going to do with the money that you expected to get for the mules?

C.—I was going to buy a house of Koontz in Warrensburg, and intended to move to town. If I had sold my crop, I might have went to Kansas this fall. I wanted to go about 80 miles west of Wichita.

WHAT JOHN SHEWALTER SAYS.

The following is an interview with this individual:

Reporter.—What is your name and age?

Shewalter.—John Shewalter, and I will be twenty-seven years old in January next.

R.—Now make a statement of this trouble that I can publish.

S.—I lived during the war in Saline county, near Arrow Rock. We have lived in Johnson county about nine years and have been renting. The first I heard of the robbery was on Friday evening after the robbery. I think that that was the time I heard of it first; will not be positive. My sister told me.

Creswell and I went to his house on Wednesday evening, August 28th.

THE NIGHT PREVIOUS TO THE ROBBERY and staid all night there. The next morning a young man at Creswell's showed me a pistol, and after looking at it Creswell sent for his pistol. This was at the stable, and while there Alfred White, a neighbor, came along and I playfully pointed the pistol at him.

That Thursday morning, the day of the robbery, Creswell and I went to old man Grover's. We were looking for some fat cows. We went to a number of places that day and

TOOK DINNER AT BOB POLICK'S.

After dinner we went to a number of other places, the names of which I cannot remember.

That was near Chilhowie. When we were going to Chilhowie we met Grade Morrow and he told us where there were some cows. We talked to Dr. Howard about buying his cow and he would not sell her. We spoke to a number of others about cows in the neighborhood. We went southwest of Chilhowie to look at some cows. We bought none. Got to Chilhowie about dusk and talked to John Fulton. Staid all night at Clay Rothick's, three miles from Chilhowie, got there about eight or nine o'clock.

CLAY'S WIFE WAS SICK

Thursday night and Friday morning and did not get supper or breakfast. We asked for breakfast at a house on the Warrensburg and Chilhowie road. Got no breakfast. We went toward Cornelia. Got breakfast at an old darkey's. Got dinner at Enoch Wiley's. I went home from there and I suppose Creswell went home too.

I WENT TO KNÖBOSTER

on either the first or second Tuesday after the robbery. Brother Ed. was at Tilman Offutt's sick with a fever. Dr. Miller was attending him. On Wednesday I went home. I think I saw Ed. about a week afterward when he had got better and come home. Ed. went to Knöboster on the train—did not go horseback, left his horse at our house.

We are innocent of this crime and propose to prove an alibi.

CONCORDIA.

Nothing of much interest in our burg this week. Trade is good.

The farmers are all busy planting wheat. They all complain of dry weather.

Mr. J. Krienke, one of our dry goods merchants, has returned from St. Louis and brought a very fine and large stock of goods.

The Sedalia Times, a newspaper published in your city, is trying to make a robber out of our cashier, Mr. Henry Ficken. If that dear friend will come to Concordia and repeat the words he printed last, we guarantee the people of Sedalia that they will have no more trouble with that crazy cuss.

Mr. Henry Ficken, cashier of the bank, is safe in his cage now. No robbers are going to get at him again, for he is next to a living arsenal when he appears on the street. Ninas has a hard set of boys around him, and he has no way to control them. Their names are James Rauch, a Dutch Yankee; Frank Adams, an English Yankee, and John Welborn, a Missouri Yankee. Can the Big Injin of the Bazoo give us a remedy in his Sunday sermons? If so, all O. K. More next time.

S. F. Ritz.