

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 7, 1890

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The new court house is to be lighted by electricity as soon as the building can be wired.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 21, 1890

## NOTE-BOOK AND SCISSORS!

Items in Side-head Form for  
All to Read.

▲ CHANGE OF PROPRIETORS.

Married Thirty Years—Time-Piece  
Stopped—Iron Material Ordered  
—At Eugene—Does not Want It—  
Cranky—Other Items.

**TIME-PIECE STOPPED**—Just now those words "the flight of time" on the court house tower are no good—they should be erased and "something has drapped" substituted instead. About 6 o'clock on Monday there was a sound of dropping in and about the tower and the hands ceased to move. No one being in the building at the time, outsiders forced an entrance and soon saw the trouble. Some flaw in the winding gear

caused a giving way to occur letting the heavy striking weight—about 900 pounds—fa'l to the floor twenty feet or more. The immense weight damaged things considerably about the timbers. Some will pass before the repairs can be made. The expression "How I miss the cleck" is now prevalent. P. S.—The clock is now (Friday) running with the exception of the striking part.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 28, 1890

## HAPPENINGS OF THIS WEEK!

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Caught on the Fly and Put in  
Type for the Public.

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GOING TO MOVE TO "WASH."

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River and Boats—Half Interest Sold  
—His First Railroad Ride—Will  
Pay the Damages—A Slight Fall  
—A Successful Architect—A New  
Grubber—Other Items.

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**A SUCCESSFUL ARCHITECT.—D.**  
D. Neer, the gentleman who was  
the architect of the court house in  
this city, has secured the contract  
for a \$30,000 building designed for  
the same purpose to be erected at  
Snohomish in the state of Wash-  
ington. He had fifteen other arch-  
itects to compete against. If he  
gets up a "palace" like Benton's  
for the Snohomish people, it *will*  
be a fine piece of architecture.

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**THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE LIGHTS.—**  
That beautiful chandelier, which  
has been hanging in Rose's cigar  
store for the past week, is the one  
which will be suspended from the  
center of the ceiling in the circuit  
court room of the court house. It  
will have six incandescent lamps of  
30-candle power attached to it  
with porcelain shades of exquisite  
designs above them. Mr. Fryer  
has finished the wiring of the build-  
ing and is now engaged in attach-  
ing the lamps to the wires in the  
different rooms. It would be a  
capital idea to place a light in front  
of each dial of the large clock in  
the tower—it could be done very  
easily. The expense would be but  
a small item. What think you,  
Judge?

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# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 28, 1890

TO PAY THE DAMAGES.—L. Henrichsen, who supplied Benton county's court house with the large clock, has agreed to pay for the damage done to the building by the giving away of the striking gear on the 17th inst. He has also ordered new cog wheels from the manufactory in which it was made.

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# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MAY 2, 1890

## BRIEF LOCALS.

The picture of every circuit judge who has held court in Benton county has been ordered to decorate the walls of the court room of the new court house. The following is a list of judges: O. C. Pratt, G. H. Williams, Mr. Skinner, J. A. Stratton, John Kelsay, A. J. Thayer, L. F. Mosher, John Burnett, J. F. Watson and R. S. Bean.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

JUNE 13, 1890

## BRIEF LOCALS.

The town clock has been repaired  
and its familiar strike is heard again.

Benton County Court Journal

7/2/1890

In the matter of Furniture  
for  
Office of County School Supt.

Comes now W. E. Yates, County School Supt.-elect-and presents an application for furniture mentioned below. It is ordered that said W. E. Yates, be allowed to purchase the following named articles of furniture for the Office of School Superintendent, of Benton County, Oregon, Viz:

- 1 Secretary with top shelves
- 4 Examination tables
- 4 shelves for waste paper et.c.  
carpet for floor

and that he occupy for Superintendents office the North East Office room on 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Court House.

# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

**JULY 18, 1890**

## **LOCAL NOTES.**

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Benton county can boast of the finest court house and grounds in the state, but a coat of paint on the fence would be more in keeping with the appearance of the building.

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# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 19, 1890

## BRIEF LOCALS.

The shade trees in the court house yard are being trimmed.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

NOVEMBER 21, 1890

**FIRE WEDNESDAY.**—About 9 o'clock last Wednesday morning the fire bell rung out the alarm of fire, it being the first time since the fire at Geo. Waggoner's house last summer. The fire department turned out promptly, but the fire which was caused by a burning stove in E. W. Fisher's residence, was extinguished with a few buckets of water without aid of the entire department and with little damage. Pight here it might be well to make a few suggestion in regard to the fire protection in that vicinity. Corvallis has one of the finest public school buildings in the state, built at a cost of \$25,000, and all of our citizens take pride in pointing it out to strangers as one of our monuments of public spirit and enterprise. What could be done in case of fire in this building? The nearest water supply to be had is the cistern at the court house, which is two blocks

away. The nearest hydrants are at Bryson's corner three blocks distant on the north, and that at Prof. Grimm's corner, five blocks to the south-east. On account of the distance a stream of water from either of these hydrants would not reach the second floor of the building, hence they are practically useless for the purpose. To set the engine at the cistern at the court house, it would take nearly all of the hose the department has on hand to get a single stream of water on the building, which, in case of such a fire, would be of little practical use. When the amount of valuable property, besides the school house, in this vicinity, which is in danger of destruction by fire, is considered, it would seem that some steps toward a better fire protection should be taken without delay. A cistern and at least one hydrant should be at or near the school house block.

# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JULY 1, 1892

## LOCAL NOTES.

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Ever since our town clock has been running a great deal of confusion and annoyance has been occasioned through the fact that there has always been a difference between railroad and city time, amounting to nearly a quarter of an hour, the city time being the faster. On Monday, however, the town clock was put back so that it now corresponds with railroad time and will in the future be kept there.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 23, 1892

**CHANGING QUARTERS.**—The room in the court house which has in the past been occupied by the city council was intended for the county recorder. That officer, however, at considerable inconvenience to himself, has been occupying a corner in the clerk's office in order to allow the council to use his room until the new city hall could be completed. Of late the recorder's business has increased to such an extent that he has found it impracticable to attend to his duties satisfactorily in the cramped quarters given him, so this week, he is engaged in removing his effects into his own room, thus dispossessing the council. When you have any business with the recorder in the future you will find him in his own quarters.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

OCTOBER 21, 1892

## BRIEF LOCALS.

Frank Voight and Gus Seol, who secured the contract for giving the court house roof a new coat of paint, have commenced operations, and are using nothing but the best materials. Mr. Voight also has the contract for painting the city hall. +

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

NOVEMBER 25, 1892

## CIRCUIT COURT.

A NUMBER OF VERY IMPORTANT CASES DISPOSED OF.

Circuit court for Benton county, which has been in session for almost two weeks, has been notable for the number of important cases that have been on trial, and the court held evening sessions a good part of the time.

One of the notable cases was an Indian squaw, living on the Siletz reservation, who rejoices in the patriotic name of Martha Clay Muggins, but who had concluded she did not want any more Muggins in her'n, and secured a divorce from her husband, Peter Muggins, on the ground of cruel and inhuman treatment. This is the effect of civilization on the ward of the nation. John Dove was sent to the penitentiary for two years for larceny, as was also Lee Foo, a Chinaman, for assault on a man named Walker at Yaquina.

William Drugg, who was arrested and brought up from San Francisco on a complaint sworn out by the special agent of the New Zealand insurance company, charged with burning the Inman mill, near Mooroc, about 18 months ago, was determined by the grand jury to be not guilty.

The case of The Benicia Agricultural Works vs. Creighton & Quivey, has been in court for a long time and was decided this time in favor of the defendants, who obtained judgment.

The state cases against Fred W. Root and J. W. Inman were both dismissed.

The case of Ferris P. Prescott, charged with rape, was dismissed by the petit jury, who returned a verdict of "not guilty." This case has cost the county something in the neighborhood of \$1000.

The case of Almond Dow, who recently killed his brother in a row at Alsea valley, attracted considerable interest. The case was ably presented by deputy District Attorney, W. E. Yates, assisted by J. K. Weatherford, while Judge McFadden and Burnett made eloquent pleas in behalf of the defendant. The trial was concluded late Wednesday evening, and the jury, after being out a short time, returned a verdict of "not guilty." There was an affecting scene when the verdict of the jury was announced, and the wife and family of the defendant were overjoyed with the decision.

Chris Germanason, who was indicted for assault with a dangerous weapon, had his case continued until the next term of court.

The grand jury was overwhelmed with matters for investigation, many of them of a petty nature, and they were not discharged until Tuesday.

Following is a brief summary of the cases disposed of since our last report:

### CRIMINAL CASES.

State of Oregon vs Ferris P Prescott; not guilty.

State of Oregon vs John Dove; two years in penitentiary.

State of Oregon vs Wm Drugg; not a true bill.

State of Oregon vs J G Blake; discharged.

State of Oregon vs Sam Price; dismissed.

State of Oregon vs Lee Foo; two years in the pen.

State of Oregon vs Almond Dow; verdict not guilty.

State of Oregon vs Prentice Dow; dismissed.

State of Oregon vs Chris Germanason; continued.

### ACTIONS AT LAW.

John Harness vs Pearl Rollins; dismissed.

W A Gentry vs The Corvallis Feandry & Manufacturing Co; judgment for plaintiff.

James Patterson vs R F Baker and J B Lee; continued.

Moyer Bros vs H W Vader; continued.

Moses Hurd vs Albert Bradway; judgment for plaintiff.

B F Smith vs J B Price; continued.

N Blam vs T H Taylor; continued.

Wm Deering vs Creighton & Quivey; verdict for plaintiff.

Wm Deering & Co vs Creighton & Quivey; continued.

R M Wade & Co vs Creighton & Quivey; continued.

B T Taylor vs S Wyatt; judgment for defendant.

C S Naylor vs Henry Nice et al; judgment for defendant—settled.

J C Henkle & Co vs C Rogers; judgment for plaintiff.

State Bros vs Morris & Hayes; appeal dismissed.

L Vanbobber vs Jas Plankett and Ashnah Plankett; continued.

### SUITS IN EQUITY.

F B Dunn vs Alex Wood and W S Lock; continued.

W C Monroe vs R F Baker et al; decree for plaintiff.

Sol King vs the Farmers' Loan and Trust company; continued.

Mary A Byrd vs H A Byrd; divorce granted.

R F Baker vs J O Stearns; dismissed.

Belvin R Forbes vs M B Guess, Isabella Guess and Wm Mackay; settled and dismissed.

Urilla Gardner vs Jas W Gardner; decree divorce.

Mattie J Patterson vs T O Patterson; decree divorce.

Geo C Walker vs Ella Walker; decree divorce.

J C Haseltine & Co vs Morris & Hayes; decree for plaintiff.

Gust Olsen vs J D Graham et al; continued.

W H H Rich vs Wm Hammond; decree for plaintiff.

Martha Clay Muggins vs Peter Muggins; decree divorce.

P P Rollins vs C J Bramfield and John Harness; decree against Bramfield.

Louisa P Osborn vs M P Ketchum et al; continued.

John Foster vs Jacob Madie; decree for plaintiff.

J D Spencer vs C S Gideon; sale confirmed.

### GRAND JURY REPORT.

To the judge of the circuit court of the second judicial district, State of Oregon, for Benton county: We, the grand jury for the November term of the year 1892 of court aforesaid, would respectfully report;

First, that we have visited the offices of the sheriff, clerk, recorder, and treasurer of Benton county, and find their books respectively in good condition.

Second, that we have also visited and examined the county jail and would respectfully recommend in regard to it the following:

(A) That the ventilating windows of the cells of the jail be enlarged and improved so that the inmates thereof may not be subjected to so much foul and unhealthy air.

(B) That the front windows be so repaired with glass between the two sets of bars that cold air from the outside cannot enter the front room and cause the inmates to suffer with cold when the jail is crowded and also to prevent persons from the outside handling through those windows articles of any kind to those confined therein without permission of the county sheriff.

(C) That there be constructed a water closet with proper apparatus, such as privy seat and urinal, inside of the jail building for the use of the persons confined therein.

(D) That the entire building be covered with a good substantial roof.

Third, that we have visited the operating room of the county clerk and found the same vacant on account of the stench arising from the water closets immediately below, and we would recommend that this same be remedied. We have examined into all crimes made known to us in the county and now ask to be discharged.

G. W. COOPER, Foreman.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

DECEMBER 2, 1892

THE TOWN CLOCK.—A few days ago the town clock, with its four-face dial was evidently on a periodical tear. A few months since it was similarly affected, and the heavy weights loosened from their fastenings dropped through the court house floor. The big clock was regulated and run regularly with a slight increase in its speed, until recently it made a big leap forward. Three-fourths of the people rise in the morning, eat, work and sleep by the town clock; even the mill and factory whistles look on it with reverential respect. But the clock was beginning to play sad havoc with a large proportion of the population. People were getting up in the morning too early for breakfast, and arrived at their place of business and work ahead of time. Monday morning a number of students at the agricultural college arrived at the class rooms long before study hours and thought the forenoon a long one. Between the hours of 11 and 12 Monday morning, the hands on the ponderous clock were turned back to regulation time, and business and society, now moves with the regular tenor of its way. The GAZETTE suggests that the proper authorities secure some competent person to look after the clock and keep it properly regulated. E. P. Greffoz, the jeweler, offers to keep the same in repair and regulated for \$1 per month.

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# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, OREGON

DECEMBER 23, 1892

The town clock is again in the sulks—evidently out of sorts—decidedly “wamble-cropped”—essentially stubborn about something. It refuses to keep step with the onward march of time. Many of the rest of us are similarly inclined. These visitations of the flaky “pure and beautiful” don’t exactly inspire the average Webfooter with enthusiasm the most heavenly. They had as well be left off the programme for all the welcome they ever get here. The town clock has a right to get mad about it. But the fact is that while the “big majority” have to go on doing business, snow or no snow, chill or no chill, the town clock ought not to be excused any more than the balance of the folks. It is there to do business and should be brought to “time.” This is a plain fact on the face of it. The GAZETTE has suggested how it may be properly done, and if anybody can offer a better idea, all right. At any rate the town clock should be kept in motion, or else label it “dumb watch” and be done with it.

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# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

JANUARY 20, 1893

## BRIEF LOCALS

Through indifferent work of the contractor who did the plumbing in the court house, the county officials have been greatly annoyed with sewer gas for the past week or more. A remedy seems to be difficult to reach.

# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

FEBRUARY 10, 1893

## 'SPOSIN' THE CASE.

Once there was a nice court house and it cost about \$75,000. And there was spread upon the floor of the court room a thick coating of saw dust, most of which was not saw dust at all, but really a lot of fine, fuzzy shavings. And there was a meeting of fifty men in the court room; and of those fifty fifteen of them, by actual count, were smoking either cigars, cigarettes or pipes. And each cigar, cigarette or pipe aforesaid had fire enough in it, if a stray spark had gotten down into the sawdust and there smouldered till everybody had left and then communicated to the shavings, to have burned seventeen court houses. Then the question would have been "how in the world could it have happened?" And the great American verdict would have hovered like a messenger of consolation, whispering "Incendiarism, without a doubt." Such an occurrence never befell in Corvallis, but has always happened down in Ypsillanti—away over "east of the mountins," you know. But just 'sposin' the the case.

# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

APRIL 14, 1893

## BRIEF LOCALS.

The vault that was used in the old court house has been sold to the county of Lincoln and was shipped for Toledo on Saturday last.

# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JULY 28, 1893

## BRIEF LOCALS.

A new sidewalk has been laid on the north side of the courthouse block.

# The Corvallis Gazette.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

JANUARY 26, 1894

## OUR MAN ABOUT TOWN.

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Mixes Much Meaning Matter  
for the Many Mirthful  
Minds.

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Corvallis has a justice—his name is Holgate. He has his office in the court house and don't know when to go home to meals. Last Monday afternoon he went over to his office, where he became deeply interested in one of Bullwer's novels. That evening about eight o'clock a friend, seeing a light in his office, concluded to call on His Honor, but found both doors of the building securely locked. Going around to the window from whence issued the light the friend enquired if the court was to be in session all night. "No," came the reply, "just wait a minute and I will go up town with you." Putting on his overcoat he proceeded to the rear door, but found it locked. This was also true of the front entrance. The judge had no key—and the only means of egress afforded was through the window, which was a long distance from the ground, but by means of a ladder provided by the pal outside a landing was effected in safety. The squire has since given notice to the public that no business will be transacted in his court after the janitor locks the doors.

# The Corvallis Gazette

## CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON

AUGUST 17, 1894

### A New Jail.

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In another column appears an ad. for sealed bids for jail cells affording sufficient space for the accommodation of twelve prisoners, which it is the intention of the county court to have placed in the basement of the court house under the sheriff's office. The amount of the bid is also to include the cost of a concrete floor and connections with all sewer, water and ventilating pipes.

Why the court desires the jail under the court house is not apparent except from point of economy. This room is several feet under ground and is damp and unhealthy during the entire year. Each winter the ground becomes soaked with water and frequently covers the floor to a depth of several inches. A concrete floor may avoid the presence of standing water if raised one foot, but proper sanitary conditions can never be had in a room located under ground unless the best of drainage facilities are afforded. This is impossible to secure from the court house during high water

because the sewer pipes are four or five feet under ground during such times the water from the river backs up and overflows into the basement. To compel prisoners to remain in a room unprovided with proper ventilation, light and drainage would be a most inhuman act; and this place can never be made other than it is—a dark, damp, and unhealthy room. The experience in other counties with basement jails has, as rule, proven very unsatisfactory because it is impossible to prevent the disagreeable and unhealthy odor of the prisoners apartments from permeating the entire building. Unless the county can afford to build a jail outside of the court house and provide it with all the modern improvements, which would cost from \$5000 to \$7000—further consideration of the project should be deferred for the present. In the meantime desperate characters could be taken to Eugene for safe keeping without much additional expense.

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# The Corvallis Times.

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 25, 1896

## TIRED OF LIFE

M. T. LINDSEY, OF CORVALLIS  
CHOSE TO END IT.

He Planned Well—Reclining on a  
Pile of Wood, He Sent a Pistol  
Bullet Crashing Through His  
Brain.

Martin Thomas Lindsey, for more than two and one-half years past a resident of Corvallis, a soldier of the late rebellion and a member of the G. A. R. post and of the order of United Workmen committed suicide by shooting himself through the head last Saturday afternoon. The weapon used was a revolver, and the terrible deed of self destruction was done in the basement of the county court house. No note of explanation, detailing a reason for the rash act was found on the body, but the cause universally assigned is that the unfortunate old gentleman was in straitened financial circumstances, and that he turned the weapon to his head to relieve himself of a burden that he had long borne in silence. The shooting happened at the noon hour, while the usual occupants of the court house were at dinner, and so far as known, only the inmates of the county jail situated on the same block with the court house heard the report of the weapon as the bullet sped on its mission of destruction. The body was found within perhaps less than half an hour after the shot had been fired, a fact most likely upon which the old man planned when he

selected the spot for making away with himself. He knew that the court house janitor frequented the place chosen for the sacrifice, and how well he judged, is shown by the fact that the air was still filled with powder smoke and the body was still warm when the suicide was discovered. The remains were interred in Crystal Lake cemetery Sunday afternoon.

### HAPPENED IN THE WOOD ROOM.

The first inkling the public received of the affair was when the sheriff appeared on the street, quietly summoning a coroner's jury. That was shortly after one o'clock, and in half an hour the news had electrified the town, and those who had not left the streets to view the ghastly sight, stood in groups and discussed the matter.

It was in the wood room of the court house basement that Lindsey turned the weapon to his head and pulled the trigger. About midway of the long hall that runs east and west through the basement is a doorway opening in the north side of the hall. This doorway is almost under the assessor's office, and through it the janitor usually passes when after wood for the big

furnace that heats the building. Several cords of wood standing neatly in tiers running north and south occupy the room, and only a small amount of one of the tiers remains unused. It is near the doorway. It slopes down gradually until its lower portion is perhaps a foot in height, and on this low spot the old man laid his head before he fired. When found, his head was still pillowed on the wood, and the hat that was on the head when the shot was fired was picked up in the doorway.

### THE SIGHT WAS AWFUL.

There were but few of those whom duty, friendship or curiosity, called to the scene that did not shudder at the shocking picture in that wood-room. The body, with feet to the north and head to the south, laid flat on the back with the shattered head resting on the woodpile. The right leg was crossed over the left one, and the left arm laid alongside the body. The right arm, the hand still clutching the revolver laid across the body near the abdomen. There was blood on the floor, and there was a terrible hole in the head into which a man might easily have passed his fist. The muzzle

of the weapon had been pressed close to the head just above the right eye, near the temple, and the bullet had passed out back of and above the left ear. The ball after tearing its frightful way through the head struck the brick wall a few feet to the right of the doorway and five feet above the floor. The position of the body indicated that, after the trigger was pulled, there had been no struggle. The hand that held the weapon to the head, still grasping the deadly implement, had simply dropped into the lap, and all was over. Death was painless and instantaneous.

#### FINDING THE BODY.

James Smith found the body. He is janitor at the court house, and keeps up the fires in the furnace. He entered the basement from the rear about one o'clock, and started for the furnace. He had heard no report of a pistol, and was in the basement in the regular course of his duty. Immediately on entering he smelled and saw the smoke of burned powder. He thought it queer and at once started on a tour of inspection. As he passed the door to the wood-room he glanced in, and the first object on which his eye fell was the gaping wound in the head that was pillowed on the low pile of wood. The sight of blood and brains startled him, and he turned from the place. On the steps of the court house he met Sheriff Osburn, and the two returned for fuller investigation. Passing around where a view of the dead face could be had, the mystery of his identity was speedily solved, and the big pistol in the nerveless hand told the story of how it all happened. Justice E. E. Wilson, acting coroner was immediately notified, and a coroner's jury was empanelled. In a short time the gloomy basement was filled with men, discussing in subdued tones the terrible affair.

#### WHEN THE SHOT WAS FIRED.

The shot was fired about twenty minutes before one o'clock. One person, at least heard it plainly, and that was Blanche, the twelve year old daughter of A. F. Hershner. She was en route home from her father's store, and to be sure that she would reach school in time she

looked at the court house clock. It was twenty minutes to one. A minute later as she approached the corner at Judge Burnett's residence she heard the report of a pistol. She heard it plainly, but paid no attention to it. It was undoubtedly the report of Lindsey's pistol, for the prisoners in the county jail heard also a report that they took to be that of a pistol, and they fix the time at about twenty minutes to one.

#### THE PISTOL WAS BORROWED.

The weapon used was a forty four calibre, Colt's revolver. On the five and a half inch barrel was stamped the words, "Colts frontier six shooter," and the cartridges in the cylinder were Winchester rifle cartridges. Three chambers of the cylinder were loaded, two were empty, and the other contained an empty shell—the fatal shell that took a man's life. It was a weapon, wicked looking enough, that most men would hesitate to point at their own heads though they knew the chambers to be empty.

The gun belonged to O. C. McLagan. Two or three weeks ago Mr. Lindsey asked to borrow it, saying in explanation that he wanted it to kill a calf that he was going to butcher across the Willamette. Mr. Lindsey did not want it at the time but would have use for it later on, and an arrangement was made so that he could get it any time. On Tuesday of last week he called for it, and the same day left it at the second hand store. At the time four chambers were loaded, the other two containing empty shells. The latter Mr. Campbell removed, and he started to remove the loaded shells, but they fitted tight, and the job was given up as dangerous. The weapon was accordingly laid away in a desk, and there it remained until perhaps an hour before it was used with such deadly effect.

#### TOO PROUD TO ASK AID.

When Mr. Lindsey left his home Saturday morning, he was, according to the statement of the family, in a very cheerful frame of mind. Many times he had been despondent, and on more than one occasion had made the remark that the family would be better off without, than with him. Though not

yet an old man, four years of service in the civil war, including fourteen months of confinement in Andersonville prison had rendered him physically infirm. This unfitted him for labor on his little farm near Lebanon, and when, nearly three years ago he came to Corvallis to school his children it was with the hope that employment at some light work might afford the necessities of life. He had several times been an applicant for employment, but was always disappointed. The eight dollars per month pension, and the slender income from his forty acre farm, it is now known was his chief income, and inadequate to his needs. To no friend or confidant, however, did he utter the tale of his woes, for that woes he had is proven by the way he went out of the world. For whatever of sorrow he had, he bore uncomplainingly, and Saturday morning he left home apparently even more cheerful than usual. There was then no wood in the woodshed, but the \$24 pension check was over due, and when received it would supply the wood.

#### UNOBSERVED, HE ENTERED THE BASEMENT.

##### The forenoon of the shooting, Mr.

Lindsey spent at the Racket store and the second hand store. In the former place he purchased a few small articles, and after chatting awhile, went to the second hand store. Here he was wont to spend much of his time in reading and conversation and but little attention was paid to his coming and going. His arrival there Saturday morning happened about ten o'clock, and he remained, intently reading a book until nearly twelve. As he passed out of the store he remarked to Proprietor Campbell carelessly, that he "Guessed he would take the revolver along home." He took it out of the desk where had been kept, and passed out the door. This so far as known, was the last seen of him in life, and whether or not the determination to end his existence then had possession of the old soldier, or whether the spell seized him as he walked homeward with the weapon of death handy in his pocket, is a mystery for eternity to solve. It is known only that unobserved he entered the basement, that he selected his position with grim determination, and that he



pulled the trigger—and was no more.

#### NEGLECTED TO SIGN THE CHECK.

After the coroner's jury had viewed the body, and heard the statement of those acquainted with the facts the body was taken to the morgue connected with Wilkins' undertaking establishment. There with two hours and a half of labor Dr. Lee patched up the terrible hole in the head of the dead, and the body was robed for the grave. A search of the clothing brought to light a curious fact. There was in one of the pockets the quarterly pension check, for which in life Mr. Lindsey had watched and waited. It was for \$24 and turned into money it would have relieved at least temporarily the pressing need, that drove the old gentleman to suicide. How long he had carried it is not known, but as a large number of such checks arrived at

the postoffice early in the week, it is supposed that he had carried it a day or two. This however, the family deny. Yet, how possible it is to be true is proven by the fact that Mr. Lindsey died without having signed the check, and it cannot now be cashed without much delay and bother.

The verdict of the coroners jury was as follows: We, the jury empanelled to inquire into the cause of the death of M. T. Lindsey, find that said deceased was Martin T. Lindsey; that deceased came to his death by a gunshot wound in the right temple; that said shot was fired from a Colts' revolver of 44 calibre by said deceased with suicidal intent.

C. B. Wells,  
E. Skipton,  
S. L. Henderson,  
Ruthyn Turney,  
J. M. Porter,  
J. N. Brandebury.

#### THE FUNERAL.

The funeral occurred from the Presbyterian church at 2:30 Sunday afternoon, and the remains were interred in the Crystal Lake cemetery. The services at the church were conducted by Dr. Thompson, and at the grave by the A. O. U. W. lodge, under direction of Master Workman V. E. Watters. Martin Thomas Lindsey was born at Zaneville, Ohio, in 1840. He arrived in Oregon in 1871 and in 1874 was married in Linn county to Miss Bettie Burkhart, who, with a son and two daughters survive him. Early in the war he enlisted in an Ohio regiment and later he became orderly sergeant in the body guard of General Thomas. It was in the latter capacity that he was captured while carrying a message through the enemy's lines and sent to Andersonville prison, where he spent fourteen months. He was a kindly old gentleman, and those intimately acquainted with him found in his character many admirable qualities. The sympathy of the entire community is with his estimable family.

# The Corvallis Gazette

CORVALLIS, OREGON

MARCH 26, 1896

## COURT HOUSE TRAGEDY.

M. T. Lindsey Ends His Life  
With a Shot from a Colts  
Revolver.

Weary with the struggles of life, shattered in health and despondent over financial reverses, M. T. Lindsey ended his existence, Saturday afternoon, in the basement of the court house, with a shot from a 44 calibre Colts revolver. He had given no warning of his intended tragic ending; and his friends and family were as much surprised and horrified, as was the general public. Mr. Lindsey, according to his usual custom, left home after breakfast and spent the forenoon in reading the papers at the second hand store of Dunn & Campbell. On leaving the store, about noon, he asked, Mr. Campbell for a revolver that he had left there for sale, remarking that he believed he would take the pistol home with him. Leaving the store, he started homeward, and when near the court house met and talked a few moments with Rufus Skipton, who was probably the last person to see him alive. Shortly before one o'clock the prisoners at the county jail heard a pistol shot ring out from the neighbor-

hood of the court house; and few minutes later, J. R. Smith, the court house janitor, discovered the body of Mr. Lindsey, in a sitting position, in the basement of the building, with his head thrown back against a rick of wood, and his right hand grasping the revolver. The whole side of his head was blown away and death was evidently instantaneous with the shot. E. E. Wilson, justice of the peace, appearing soon after, was notified, and as acting coroner took charge of the remains. A jury, composed of C. B. Welis, E. Skipton, S. L. Henderson, J. M. Porter, Ruthyn Turney, and J. N. Branderbury, was empaneled, and after viewing the remains, and hearing the evidence, adjourned until Monday, when they concluded their investigations, and returned the following verdict:

We, the jury empanelled to inquire into the cause of the death of M. T. Lindsey, find that said deceased was Martin T. Lindsey; that deceased came to his death by a gunshot wound in the right temple; that said shot was fired from a

Colts revolver of 44 calibre by said deceased with suicidal intent.

Mr. Lindsey was an old soldier, being a member of the 3rd Ohio Cavalry. He had quite a brilliant war record, having been orderly sergeant on the staff of Gen. Thomas. At the battle of Chickamauga, he was captured by the rebels and placed in Andersonville, where he remained fourteen months. He was born in Zanesville, Ohio, in 1840. Early in the '70s he came to Oregon and located near Brownsville in Linn county. December 3, 1874, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Burkhardt, who with three children, two daughters and a son, survive him.

The funeral services occurred from the Presbyterian church Sunday afternoon, Dr. E. J. Thompson officiating. The interment took place at the Crystal Lake cemetery, under the auspices of the G. A. R. and A. O. U. W., of both of which orders the deceased was a member.

His family has the sympathy of the entire community.

**The Corvallis Gazette**  
**CORVALLIS, BENTON COUNTY, OREGON**  
**JULY 30, 1897**

**LOCAL HAPPENINGS.**

The court house clock face sports a  
new coat of paint.