

Another Account of the Tragedy in Queen Anne's County, Md.

We have already published several versions of the late terrible tragedy in Queen Anne's county, Md., differing in some of the particulars. One of the statements heretofore given was taken from the Centreville Citizen. Subjoined are fuller details from another Centreville paper:

[From the Centreville Observer, 14th inst.]

It is our painful duty this morning to chronicle two of the most horrible murders ever before known in this section. The perpetrators of this horrible deed are Wm. B. Paca, (a grandson of Hon. Wm. Paca, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and son of Hon. Wm. Paca, formerly Governor of this State,) and his two sons, Tilghman C. and James Paca. The victims were Alfred Jones and John P. Paca, the former an uncle of the latter, and the latter a nephew of Wm. B. Paca, and son of the late Edward Paca, of Wye Neck, Queen Anne's county. It seems that a portion of the estate of the late Edward T. Paca had been confiscated by the United States Government, and sold at public auction, Wm. B. Paca becoming the purchaser. The portion of the estate thus confiscated, we understand, was an undivided fifth, and was so situated that it could not be divided or taken from the remaining four-fifths of the estate, and the income from the whole could only be divided between the respective owners. We are a little particular on this point, as this is the cause of the horrible tragedy which we are now attempting to record. There are various statements and rumors regarding this lamentable affair, but having obtained a correct account of the evidence produced before the coroner's inquest, we will briefly state it:

On Tuesday last, Wm. B. Paca, in returning from Baltimore, passed the said estate, and observing Jones and Paca engaged in erecting a fence around a piece of ground designed for a garden, ordered them to cease their labor, stating that he was the owner of the property and would not allow them to erect the fence without first obtaining his consent. Meeting with no return he rode on to his home, and on Wednesday afternoon, accompanied by his three sons, John, Tilghman C. and James Paca, armed with double-barrelled shot guns, again rode over to the estate, and finding Jones and Paca still engaged in the erection of the fence, ordered them, we are told, in a very rough manner to cease their labor, adding that if they persisted he would arrest them. The threat being met by the manly defiance of John P. Paca, William B. Paca and his three sons, armed as aforesaid, sprang from the carriage, when Tilghman C. Paca levelled his gun at and shot John P. Paca, the whole load taking effect in the throat, killing him instantly. Jones, who was standing a few feet from John P. Paca, both of whom were at the time engaged in digging post-holes, started towards him, when Wm. B. Paca, we are told, levelled his gun and fired both barrels at him, the leads taking effect in the neck and head, killing him instantly.

Mrs. Paca, sister to Jones, and mother of John P. Paca, hearing the report of the guns, came to the scene, and in the most agonizing tones, and with all the distress and sympathy which a mother alone can feel, bent over and called to her son, "Speak to me, my son; speak to your dear mother." To which Wm. B. Paca replied, "He is past speaking now; and the blood is all on your skirts; you advised the erection of the fence; I killed them in self-defense," and putting his two sons, Tilghman C. and James (both said to be non *compos mentis*) in the carriage, he ordered them to be driven to Centreville, and lodged in jail, where they are at present confined.— On Wednesday night Constable Kelly arrived in town, having in charge William B. Paca, whom he lodged in jail. A coroner's inquest was held over the deceased on Thursday, and the above facts were revealed to the jury, whose report we give in substance as follows: "That a certain James P. Paca, or a certain Tilghman C. Paca, feloniously, voluntarily and of malice aforethought, did shoot the said John P. Paca with a shot gun, inflicting a mortal wound in the front of the throat, from which said mortal wound the said John P. Paca, then and there instantly died, and so the said Tilghman C. Paca or the said James P. Paca, then and there feloniously killed and murdered the said John P. Paca, against the peace and dignity of the State of Maryland."

It further charges Wm. B. Paca and John, his son, as being feloniously present and aiding and abetting the felony. It again further states that a certain Wm. B. Paca feloniously, voluntarily and of malice aforethought, did shoot the said Alfred Jones with a shot gun, inflicting a mortal wound on the left side of his neck and head, of which said mortal wound the said Alfred Jones then and there instantly died; and so the said Wm. B. Paca then and there feloniously killed and murdered the said Alfred Jones, against the peace and dignity of the State of Maryland. And likewise John Paca, Tilghman C. Paca and James P. Paca are charged with being feloniously present and aiding and abetting the said felony.

The funeral of the deceased took place at their late residence on Thursday last, attended by a large concourse of friends and acquaintances, the ceremonies being performed by Rev. Dr. Mason, of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Easton.

It may be well here to state, in order to allay a rumor to the effect that young Paca, when threatened with arrest by Wm. B. Paca, made an advance toward him for the purpose of inflicting injury upon him with the spade which he held in his hand, that he stepped backwards rather than forwards, and when shot he fell forward, directly across the post-hole which he was then engaged in digging. The same is also true in the case of Jones, showing that no disposition at all was manifested on their part to injure or molest any of the participants in this sad tragedy. We will also state that the rumor published in the Baltimore Sun, of Saturday last, to the effect that it was at one time feared that the Pacas would be forcibly taken from jail and subjected to mob violence, is without the slightest foundation in fact. True, the affair created great excitement in the community, but a general disposition is felt upon the part of the people to let the law have its undisturbed sway. The above facts, as we gather them from a gentleman present at the coroner's inquest, and corroborated by the evidence produced before the jury, give the true state of the case, and will be so stated in court.

On Sunday afternoon last a company of soldiers belonging to an Indiana regiment arrived in town and took up their quarters in the court-house. Gen. Kenley and escort also arrived in town on yesterday morning. The General comes, it is said, to investigate the case of Mr. Wm. B. Paca, who is at present confined in Centreville jail. As yet we have been unable to learn the result.