

MYSTERY GROWS CLEARER

Strong Evidence Against Suspect Randolph in the Buxton Case.

MOTIVE ONLY IS LACKING

Detectives Pohler and Seibold Have Traced Their Man From Georgetown to Gaithersburg—Was Near Where the Ax Was Stolen—Foot Prints Led to Hunting Hill.

(From a Times Staff Correspondent.)
Gaithersburg, Md., June 2. Mystery yet surrounds the Buxton assault of over a week ago.

Metropolitan detective talent and county officials have done the best to unravel the tangled mass of statements and deduct from them any real foundation of a clue to the perpetrator of the deed.

Detectives Seibold and Pohler have worked untiringly, and while they have cleared up many unexplained statements and reduced the number of theories somewhat, yet they have failed to place the guilt upon any one person.

In their investigation Sidney Randolph has been an important feature, and around him a strong chain of circumstantial evidence has been woven. If the detectives can only connect Randolph with Neal and find the former's coat they feel confident they have the right man, but this link in the chain is missing and the efforts of yesterday failed to bring it to light.

The county officials have not been inactive, and by their assistance and through the statements of many witnesses the evidence against Randolph has been secured in proper sequence and proves beyond any doubt that he has lied in his statements.

CHAIN OF EVIDENCE.

The chain of evidence shows the whereabouts of Sidney Randolph from Friday afternoon before the assault, when he was in the District of Columbia, to Sunday evening, when he stood near the fence of Mr. Bun Watkins' home just outside of Gaithersburg, and looked over where only a few minutes before the ax, with which the crime was committed, was lying in the yard.

The first person to have seen Sidney Randolph within the past month, as far as is known, was Dr. G. R. Hollingsworth, of 1072 Thirty-second street, Georgetown. To The Times correspondent, Dr. Hollingsworth has stated, that the Friday before the assault he was driving on the Tenleytown road, having left Georgetown about 2 o'clock. Just a little beyond Woodley Inn, he noticed walking in the road ahead of him a tall negro, whose shoes he took particular notice of. Owing to the warm afternoon, Dr. Hollingsworth was walking his horse which overtook the negro.

The negro spoke and he replied and asked him which way he was going, the negro answered: "I am going to Rockville. I've been looking for work and got word that I could get some there." The man had a small bundle which he said was a lunch.

Dr. Hollingsworth gave the negro a ride as far as Tenleytown. The last seen of him was as he disappeared over the hill on the road to Rockville.

The doctor read of the atrocious assault and the man named Randolph, and, from the description, determined it was his companion of two days before. When Randolph was taken into custody Dr. Hollingsworth went to Rockville, and there identified him as the man who rode with him to Tenleytown.

IN ROCKVILLE SATURDAY.

To The Times representative Randolph stated that he did not leave Georgetown until Sunday morning. The next heard of him, in the sequence of evidence, was from Mrs. Nancy Baker, an old colored woman, who lives a few rods from Rockville and keeps a colored boarding house. Mrs. Baker identified Randolph, after his arrest, as a negro who called at her house Saturday morning and begged something to eat, at the time telling her he had no money.

Saturday afternoon a white man named Claget saw Randolph going toward Washington Grove, which is the first station toward Washington from Gaithersburg. At 6 o'clock the same evening James H. Lawson, a resident of Gaithersburg, saw Randolph at a public pump in the place near the railroad station and remarked at the time: "Look; does he not look like Clem Johnson?" "Clem" is a negro resident of Gaithersburg, who at that hour was at work in a mill several hundred yards away.

Very near 10 o'clock that night, David Carlisle, a store keeper at Gaithersburg, saw a negro come in the door of his store. The man came toward the cashier's desk and asked Mr. Carlisle if he had any handkerchiefs to sell. On a reply that he had none the negro went out.

From that hour to Sunday afternoon a trace of Randolph is lost; but about 5 o'clock Sunday, William Gardner, a farmer living next door to Mr. Bun Watkins' place, saw Randolph looking over the former's fence in the rear of the house. Mr. Gardner has positively identified Randolph as the negro who was at his place and who passed on up the road. He was seen a few minutes after by Mrs. Watkins, who saw Randolph walking along in front of her house.

AX STOLEN SUNDAY.

It will be remembered that the ax found covered with blood in the Buxton house was identified by Mr. Bun Watkins as belonging to him and upon investigation was found to have been used Sunday only a short time before Randolph was seen near the place.

The chain breaks here but forms again the morning of the crime. While David Vartz cannot identify Randolph as the man, he has stated that a party answering his description ran across the road soon after the alarm was given by Mr. and Mrs. Buxton. Vartz was going for a doctor for the Buxton victims and saw coming from the English premises a tall dark form which ran into the woods on the opposite side of the road. This was about 4 o'clock. Exactly one hour afterward on the railroad track in almost a direct line with the track taken by the negro seen by Vartz, Opera Warfield, a colored girl coming down the track, saw