

cerning Johnson. The last time I saw Johnson alive was about 11 o'clock Saturday forenoon. He had on then a coat blouse, shirt and, I think, overalls, also a hat and vest.

Sergeant Curran testified—I was informed of Johnson's death shortly after he expired and sent for Marshal Young and Dr. Meacham. The physician was soon on hand, and after an examination, announced that life was extinct. Coroner Harris was present and asked if it would be necessary to hold an inquest. Dr. Meacham said he thought not, and the body was shortly afterwards removed. It was clothed in a shirt. I examined the body and know that the cut now on the body was not there at that time. I could see his body from the breast downward, because the shirt was crumpled up around the upper part of his body.

In reply to questions by Mr. Kenner, Curran was positive that there were no cuts on the body at that time—no cuts such as now were visible. As to the bruises on the left side he could not say about them, because the shirt covered that part of the body. He knew Edwin Johnson, the brother of the deceased, but did not know at the time that Edwin was brother of the deceased.

Dr. R. A. Hasbrouck testified—I have examined the body and should say that the incision was made for hernia. The incision extends over the region generally operated upon for that complaint. I do not think there was any other object in view, as the parts do not show it.

Dr. Benedict testified—I have examined the incision. It is as described by Dr. Hasbrouck, and is drawn together by continuous stitches. The incision was certainly made post mortem, not ante-mortem, as indicated by the character of the stitches. For post mortem purposes the incision is an unusual one, and unless a hernia were known to exist would be extremely unnecessary and out of place. The body was somewhat bruised and scratched, but this might have been entirely due to ordinary circumstances; such an incision might have been made for hernia, or in searching for the large artery there.

Mr. Kenner—Do you know who made that incision?

Dr. Benedict—No, sir, but I should say it was made by an unskilled hand. The incision was not necessary and did not answer any useful purpose. My opinion is that death resulted from actual alcoholism. The body bears some marks of external violence in some form or other. Some marks across the back look as if made by finger nails. The facial discolorations are all post mortem. The scratches, however, are ante mortem, and I don't think it would have been possible for the deceased to have inflicted them. There are some marks on the arm which appear to have been inflicted by blows. "The parts appeared healthy. There was no evidence of external injury or of rupture. For post mortem purposes the incision would be unusual and contrary to scientific principles, and unless rupture were known to exist would be entirely out of place."

The witness was further examined by Mr. Keuner and the result was that the doctor adhered to his original state-

ments; that the cutting was unscientific, the stitching unskilled, the bruises occasioned by violence of some kind before death, caused by blows; that in all cases death does not result from alcoholism; that abuse would aggravate a case of alcoholism.

Edwin Johnson, brother of the deceased, indignantly repudiated the medical assertion that his brother died of alcoholism.

Police Officer Siegfus next testified—At about 10:30 Friday night Officer Eslinger and myself found Johnson on Commercial Street drunk. We arrested him. He was pretty drunk and seemed to be enjoying himself. I have seen men arrested who were not as drunk as he was.

Mr. Kenner subjected this witness to a close examination. It transpired that when Johnson was arrested he was merely talking a little loud near to Kelly & Page's saloon. Johnson made no resistance but walked quietly to the wagon. Johnson staggered a little. Siegfus testified to locking Johnson in the "drunk house" and then giving the key to night Clerk Hilton.

Mr. Kenner said that Hilton must appear before the jury and explain his possession of the key.

Undertaker Evans testified—Monday morning my partner and myself took the body of Johnson from the slab in our place and put it in a coffin. I screwed the cover on. I then took a certificate and went to the City Hall and got a burial permit. When I returned to our office my partner had the coffin which contained the body in the wagon. I drove the wagon to the city cemetery and gave the body to the grave diggers.

In reply to questions by Mr. Kenner Evans said—I do not know who placed the body on the slab. In some cases I examine bodies. In this case I did not examine the body but simply took it to the cemetery. I was alone going to the cemetery. I did not see the cuts at that time. I have not seen them at all.

George Rawleigh, jailer at the city jail, testified—On Sunday morning at 8 o'clock I came to the jail. After a few minutes I heard some one calling but did not understand what was wanted, until Mr. Lyons came and told me there was a man dead in the jail. Lyons and myself went upstairs and found that the man was dead. He had on a shirt and socks. When the body was taken downstairs the clothes were taken down also. I saw Johnson on Saturday night. He was all right and ate three meals that day.

Richard Williams, who was a prisoner in the jail at the time Johnson died, testified—When I turned out last Sunday morning. I saw Johnson lying on the floor with the blankets. We called to him, and as he didn't answer, we took hold of him and tried to wake him up. Failing in this, we concluded that he was dead, and I called to the jailer and told him about it. I saw him on Saturday night talking to the prisoners and he appeared to be all right. I went to bed before he did.

George Brannan, another prisoner, testified—I saw Johnson for the first time on Saturday night, when he appeared to be all right. The next morning we found him lying on the floor, dead.

There were no cuts or marks on the body that I saw.

Andy Devine, a city prisoner, testified to substantially the same facts.

In reply to Mr. Kenner, Devine was positive that there were no cuts on the body. He helped to lay out the body on a blanket on the floor, and also covered it with another blanket, therefore he was positive that if cuts existed he would have seen them. Devine helped also to place the body of Johnson in the undertaker's wagon and was positive Johnson's clothing was all turned over to the undertaker.

By this time Dr. Meacham had arrived. Though he testified in the morning he was not then sworn. The Coroner explained this by saying the Doctor was in a hurry. Mr. Keuner asked that the testimony given in the morning be read. It was read and the Doctor made some corrections. Mr. Ross, of the firm of Evans & Ross, undertakers, acted as clerk for the Coroner. Mr. Ross found it difficult to read his own writing. He did not, as is customary in coroner's inquests, read the testimony to each witness before the witness left the chair. Dr. Meacham was then sworn and placed in the witness chair.

Dr. Meacham testified—I saw the body at the city jail, and satisfied myself that the man was dead. Marshal Young and Coroner Harris were present and we concluded that there was no necessity for an inquest, as there was no suspicion of foul play. I do not know the cause of death. I have seen the incision on the body and am unable to state what the intention was in making it. It might have been made by physicians for information. I do not know who made the incision.

Mr. Kenner here suggested that the inquest be postponed until 2 p.m. today. He claimed that in order to solve the mystery it was necessary that Marshal Young, Undertaker Ross, Night Clerk Hilton and the city cemetery gravediggers be examined. He said that the evidence showed that Richard Johnson was all right on Saturday night at nine o'clock; at that time he was happy, hopeful, talkative and entirely free from any sign of intoxication or alcoholism; that on Sunday morning the body of Johnson was found in the jail cold and lifeless; that the marshal, the Coroner, and the doctor were present and made no examination of the remains, though common sense would suggest that an inquiry and an investigation would be at once set on foot. Furthermore it was positively proved that Johnson's body had no cuts on it on Sunday morning when it was taken from the jail.

J. C. Ross, undertaker: "Last Sunday morning, at 9 o'clock, I arrived at my office, shortly after our assistant and Coroner came with a wagon bringing the body of Johnson. I assisted to take the box out of the wagon, and take it to the morgue. Then my assistant and myself laid the body on the slab. I saw the body was naked except shirt and socks. I examined the body to see if there were bruises or wounds. I saw nothing except a scar on the shin. I asked the coroner if he intended to hold an inquest. On Monday morning Mr. Evans and I prepared the body for burial. We took the body