

A. M. Howley  
Justice of the Peace

21  
Signed on the body  
D. J. Howley  
November 2, 1886

Filed November 12<sup>th</sup> 1886  
Geo W. Bredwell  
Clerk

We the jury summoned by D. C. Narver  
Coroner of Yamhill County, to investigate  
the cause of the death of D. J. Corber  
find: that said D. J. Corber was  
murdered on the night between Nov.  
first and second 1886, in his bedroom  
in the rear of his store, in Lafayette  
Yamhill County, Oregon, with and  
and after thorough examination have  
good reason to believe that said  
murder was committed by one R. E. Marple

Lafayette Oregon  
Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1886,

P. P. Gater  
J. H. Olds  
R. B. Daniel  
George W. Babcock  
J. L. Ferguson  
Joseph Hoberg

Filed Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1886

A. W. Worsley  
Justice of the Peace

Testimony taken at a Coroner's inquest  
held at November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1886. upon the  
body of D. J. Coaker.

Ques, State your name age residence and  
occupation

My name is Jesse Dison age 55 years  
I reside in Lafayette Augar occupation  
a Milliner

A stranger asked me this morning  
where Mr Coaker was I told him  
I thought he was in the store or  
was eating his breakfast. It was  
about 8 o'clock I think. He went  
to the Hotel to find him and soon  
returned and informed me he was  
not there. I then told him to go to  
the back window and knock he  
went away and returned soon and  
informed me that he could not  
wake him and said that he could  
see an ~~ax~~ through the window  
that looked as though it was  
covered with blood. By this time  
others had collected about the  
window and some of them said  
it was paint.

I came around with others to the back door and was let in by Willie Westfield who had entered through the window, and I found Mr Coker on the bed with his face badly chopped up, and a bloody ax at the outside of the bedroom door covered with blood. We noticed that a large light sufficient to admit a man was out of the window at the rear of the building. There was a stand at the side of the bedroom door and a chair on top of the stand when we entered the room. A search was made but no money was found. I live in the adjoining building. I heard nothing unusual during the night. I saw Mr Coker I think about dark. I have no suspicion of any one I know.

J Dixon

Recalled Nov 8. 1866

I am acquainted with Mr. P. H. Have seen him in Coker's Store several times the last month he was in there looking around. I don't know if he was acquainted with the store.

Maple  
I saw Mr. Coker office at one  
time sitting by the stove in  
Coker office of Dixon

Nov 2, 1886

State your name age

Mr J L Vickrey being duly sworn testified as follows.

While making a fire in my store this morning about 8 o'clock Mr Tracy inquired of me about Mr Locker and wanted to know where he was I told him I thought he was at breakfast at the Hotel.

He went to the hotel and returned and said he was not there nor had not been this morning He then shook Mr Locker's foot door but could not awaken him He then went to the window at the side window along with me and we looked through the window and saw a bloody ax at the side of the bed room door I told him it was perhaps paint on the ax and while we were talking about the ax other persons came and I went into my store I closed up about 8 o'clock I do business in the adjoining store There was a light at Mr Cooks when I closed up.

J. L. Vickrey

Dr. Watts being duly sworn and testified as follows.

On last Tuesday morning I was on the side walk near Mr. Vickrey's Store a little after 9 o'clock. I saw Mr. Dixon and Mr. Macy in front of Mr. Corker's Store. Mr. Dixon turned to me and said they could not find Mr. Corker. he was setting at the door seeming by trying to awaken Mr. Corker. I went up to where they were and shook the door and looked in at the door window. I saw an ax that looked as if it was very bloody then I went around to the side window and looked in at that and saw the same ax sitting at the side of Mr. Corker's door the ax and handle both were bloody. I could see a pair of pants on the Chair in the back part of the bed room. Several men were gathering about the windows and looking in. I gave it as my judgment that it was blood on

the Ax and handle

Frank Connor said he would go and get Redding and started off for him in a short time he returned with Mr Redding Willie Westfield and Mr Frank Tinton

Willie Westfield went into the window where a large pane of glass had been broken out and opened the door the back door being fastened by a bar running across which took and let the door open

The front door was locked and the key was on the inside in the lock The front door was unlocked and the door opened and several persons went in at both doors

I went in with several others into Mr Hooker's bed room the bed room door was open I asked some one to strike a match and light the lamp on a stool which was at the head of the bed which was done The lamp was not burning when



we went in.

We saw Mr. Corker's body on the bed. The corner of the bed next to the stool was broken down. The plank had been nailed with two nails nailed to the bed post. The plank or bed rail had split leaving a part of the rail sticking to the post.

I felt of the body it was quite cold. he was dead.

Nov. 2. 1886

Dr. W. R. Littlefield being duly sworn testified as follows

I was called in by Frank Connor and Joseph Matting and I found Mr. Leaker lying on his back on his bed with his face turned a little to the left and he was dead. He had three wound wounds in skull and face which I think was produced by a blow from an ax in the hands of some person unknown to me. Each wound penetrated the brain. He also had three blows on the head and face which I think was done by the pole of the ax. Two of which completely shattered the skull. All of these wounds were on the right side of the head and face.

He also had received two or three heavy blows on the right arm just below the shoulder completely shattering the humerus.

I believe from careful examination of the wounds that all the blows and cuts were made by a left-

handed strikes or at least the  
blows were delivered left handed

Five out of the six or rather one  
of them about head and face  
would in my opinion have  
proved fatal

I think Mr Corker woke up before  
he was struck and made an effort  
to resist and received the first  
blow on his arm which fractured  
it. After which the death blows  
were given. One of the blows passed  
through the face cutting off a part  
of the tongue <sup>and</sup> knocking out  
nine teeth. The bed rail was  
broken down at the head of the  
bed and his feet were both  
over the rail and was partly  
tangled in the blanket.

There was a stool at the side of  
the bed on which there was a Lamp  
~~that~~ and was burning when I entered  
the room about ~~was~~ 9 o'clock I  
think. After taking Mr Corker out  
of bed and placing on a bench  
we examined the bed and found  
a loaded pistol under his pillow  
but no money. There was a Carpenter

R E Marple being duly sworn  
testified as follows.

I think I saw Mr Coaker several times  
during the ~~evening~~ afternoon  
probably the last time as he passed <sup>the Clerk's Shop</sup>  
going to supper. I saw Mr Eastman  
about a quarter past 8 o'clock at De Witt's  
office we talked awhile in front of  
the office when I remarked to him  
it was quite cool and we had  
as well go in to the fire in the  
office. We then went in and I  
remained in with him I think about  
three quarters of an hour

He told me about a man being  
robbed in Portland and that he had  
sand bagged a man at the fair at  
Dalem and obtained about \$700<sup>00</sup>  
He told me that the man he sand  
bagged at Dalem had robbed him  
of about \$110<sup>00</sup> and that he sand  
bagged him to get even with him

He said he and another fellow  
were together when he sand bagged  
the man at Dalem on the fair grounds  
and that he had a sand bag in  
a stable I have had rather a

I think  
hand reputation and, he thought  
he would see if I would do to  
ter to I am a correspondent for the  
Sunday Mercury and an ~~active~~<sup>active</sup>  
employment of several Eastern Detective  
Companies. I did not say that  
I said that I had been in the  
employment of several Eastern  
Detective Companies I mean to  
say that I have been connected  
at various times with several  
Companies in different States by  
Correspondence and otherwise  
and have at various times received  
descriptions and offers of rewards  
for the apprehension of Criminals  
from different Companies through  
out ~~the~~ <sup>several</sup> ~~various~~ states

R. E. Marple

one year I don't know where  
the glove is now sometime  
after Christ week I put  
some wood in Judge Longhorns  
wood house and during the  
time use the glove  
since that time it has  
been in my pocket continually  
until taken from me, by  
Mr Singleton & Mr Harris, during  
the time when I was putting  
the wood in the wood shed my  
nose bled a little, but I don't  
think I got any on the  
glove, however my handkerchief  
was pretty bloody and I  
afterwards washed it myself  
If I got any ~~any~~ on it, it  
would be on the four fingers and  
back of the left glove or on  
the ball of the thumb.

I know nothing further about  
any blood on my clothing  
other than I have stated

I have carried game in  
my coat pockets, grouse & pheasants  
which is all the explanation I  
can make about ~~that~~ blood stains  
in the pockets

I have not carried any game  
for some time and don't  
know whether there is any  
stains in the pockets or not.

Question - did you state to Jeff  
Harris at any time, in conversation  
about that trouble with Phil  
Wilson, that an ax was the  
best thing in the world to  
kill a man with, and if  
you then thought it was  
why did you think it was  
the best thing in the world  
to kill a man with

Answer

I don't know as I used  
those exact words, but it is  
possible I might, and if I  
did any idea in this and other  
cases is that a pistol might  
missfire, while an ax or a  
knife would not.

Question

Did you say to him in that  
conversation, that if you got in  
one good blow that was enough  
with an ax

Answer

I dont know. I might  
have said such a thing. There  
was a great many high  
words between Mr Nelson and  
myself, which I admit I was  
afterwards ashamed of to a  
certain extent.

R E Marple



R. E. Maple, Re Called

During the time Eastman and I were in Littlefield's office he commenced to write a letter. The letter read something like this. Dear Carrie and I am well at present and am working for Dr. Littlefield.

Sincerely,

R. E. Maple, Recalled

I <sup>thought</sup> was in Mr Corker's <sup>store</sup> the Friday before Corker was murdered and I saw a man purchase a Hay and Landside for a plow and brought back a pair of a Landside. I did not see any money paid by him to Mr Corker. He told Mr Corker he would pay for the Landside in a few days.

Sometime during the week prior to Mr Corker's death I was in his store I think Thursday or Friday I saw a gentleman I don't know his name purchase what is commonly called a Plow Lay

and Land side for a Chilled  
Metal Plow I am positive it  
was hooked because the  
Gentleman told Mr. Corbin  
he would settle all in a  
short time to which Mr. Corbin  
Made no objections or assented  
From there he went to the back  
room and has kept the <sup>books</sup> account  
While he was there I walked  
to the door of his office between  
the hardware room and the  
office on the left going toward  
the office of which there was  
several Cans of Oil I dont  
know what kind for oiling  
Machinery I suppose

I dont think I was in there  
any time during that week  
prior or after the time I  
have described on any business  
but might have been in the  
front of the store I am not  
positive in regard to that  
as I have frequently stepped  
in there during the summer  
as I thought well of him  
and ~~was always~~ <sup>frequently</sup> had something  
to say to him a different times  
as I passed him

When I carried the beef and heart  
up to my house I carried them  
up on my left arm. I think I  
had this coat on. A black coat  
I now have in that. I bought  
in Portland I bought <sup>it</sup> of  
Mark A Malarky a second  
hand dealer in Portland in  
July 1883. I eat some of the meat of  
the sheep head on the night of the  
murder after returning home from  
Johnson, and after leaving But  
Eastman or Littlefields corner  
I don't think I had the brown  
coat on when I cut up the sheep  
head

Admitted until 9 o'clock  
tomorrow morning

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> 1886

Maple Recalled

This gentleman here Mr. Slighter  
asked me if I knew anything  
regarding some blood being  
on a glove of mine

I don't know whether there  
is any blood on the glove or  
not or ever has been. I have  
only used the glove once to  
the best of my knowledge  
and recollection in about

\* R E Maple

Chest in his room where he usually kept his money. The key was in the lock of the Chest. The Chest was opened by the Sheriff and no money was found. I know that three or four days prior to his death he had about one hundred and sixty dollars. This examination took place yesterday in the town of Lafayette Oregon first at the solicitation <sup>of friends</sup> and my own will and soon after the body was discovered but did not touch the body until afterwards and then under orders from the Coroner at which time I have in a thorough examination and found the facts as above stated. After which I dressed the wound and prepared the body for burial by order of the Coroner.

H. R. Littlefield

L. B. Eastman being duly sworn  
testified as follows.

Now I saw Mr. Barker about half  
past seven or 8 o'clock I was walking  
with him on the sidewalk between  
his store and Mr. Kellys. I talked  
with him in front of his door until  
he went in and locked his door  
and took his lights and went into  
his office at the back end of the  
store I asked him if he was going  
to bed and he said he was. I  
then went into Dr. Littlefields  
Office and Mr. Marble and Shad  
Dunn <sup>and</sup> Ray Huger came ~~out~~ along  
together and Mr. Marble came into  
the office and said he was cold  
and set down by the stove and  
we talked together in the office  
about a half an hour and then  
went together up to Dr. Littlefield  
corner where we separated I  
going to Dr. Littlefields Barn  
and he went on.

L. B. Eastman

Mr Eastman Re. Colver

~~He~~ told Maple I ever  
saw bagged any one at Dalton  
or anywhere I consider him a  
Crank Maple asked me in  
the office if I understood Construction  
I told him I knew but little  
about them. He said he had  
chances in his <sup>young days</sup> ~~young days~~ to make  
a haul but he thought then  
that it was wrong but if  
he now had a chance he  
would not let it pass.

L B Eastman

Nov. 8. 1886

When Maple was in Doctor  
Littelfield's office the night  
of the Murder I think he had  
a kind of brown Coat on Had  
a jumper under the Coat did  
not notice his shoes He had  
a Cap on the Coat shown me  
is the same color I don't know  
that it is the same

He had a checked Jumper  
on

L B Eastman

J. E. Clark being duly sworn  
testified as follows

At. I and the Deputy Sheriff  
Mr. Savage was in his room under  
the jail on the evening of the  
Murder about half past 8. o'clock  
playing Cards and I saw ~~or~~ <sup>my</sup>  
look in at the window twice  
I think he had on a light coat  
and had no whiskers

I went out next morning and  
examined under the window  
and found tracks that I think  
was made by a number eight  
hook While playing Cards Mr  
Savage asked me what I was  
looking at and I told him I  
saw some one looking through  
the window

About three weeks ago Mr  
Maple came to me with a piece  
of Octagon Steel and asked me  
to make him a cold chisel

I asked him what sized piece  
he had and he said it was  
about three quarters I told  
him in a joking way that he had

the Murder. They claimed that  
the blood on his close came  
from a Hog's head and that  
and did not claim that it  
came from nose bleed or  
from Mrs Maple when she  
had a fit

of J. L. Lark

### Recalled

I and Mr Savage the Deputy  
Sheriff went to Mr Maples  
and think we were the first  
to inform him of the murder  
Mr Maples jumped up and  
seemed surprised and said he  
thought he knew who done it.  
Mr Savage insisted on knowing  
who it was and he said it  
would be time enough to tell  
it when the time come

He afterwards told me he  
thought it was But Eastman  
& on account of a conversation  
he had with Eastman and that  
Eastman told him he said Lasse  
a man.

of J. L. Lark



stole that somewhere He said  
he had not and I then told him  
I could tell him where he got  
it He said if I did he would  
give me the steel I told him  
I thought he got it at Judge  
Longhays place He then told  
me I was correct and that the  
steel was mine

I made him a cold chisel out  
of the steel he didnt say what  
he wanted with it.

The point of the chisel was ~~not~~  
square rather blunt He took  
the chisel away I have not seen  
it since I think I would know  
it if I should see it

W. T. L. 1886

Nov. 8. 1886.

J. O. Bark Peaked

I dressed up three cold chisels  
and made one cold chisel  
and one screw driver combined  
and one cold chisel and  
dressed up several punches  
for Mr Maple Mr Maples  
Mother and his wife stayed  
at my house two nights since

Lee Pay being duly sworn testified  
as follows:

Sam W. came to see me at Mr Crawford's  
about seven o'clock this morning he  
said he had slept in Mr Crawford's  
Barn last night. I asked him what  
he came for and he said he  
wanted twenty dollars. I told  
he ~~go~~ could not get it that  
I had loaned him twenty dollars  
before and he had only paid  
me ten dollars back. He did  
not sleep with me last night  
I showed him a coat <sup>and a pair of socks</sup> and took  
his socks which were very dirty  
and washed them. He wore  
China shoes and they were  
very muddy. He talked with  
me only about about fifteen  
minutes and then he came  
back on the road.

Nov. 8. 1886.

A B Westerfield being duly sworn  
testified as follows

Mr Maple left his coat at my office  
~~and came and got it on Friday~~  
So Mr Maible informed me He came  
in on Monday between one and two  
o'clock and said he had played  
hell I said how is that - Gus  
he said he <sup>we</sup> went off and left ~~my~~ <sup>his</sup> coat in  
the office And I did not get <sup>his</sup> ~~my~~  
paper to read I laughed and said  
You ought to have had the paper  
I saw his coat hanging there on  
Monday

that conversation that he had  
said bagged a man in Balun  
and that he had committed a  
robbery in the City of Portland  
and that he knew where he  
could make a raise and that  
he was going to do it and there  
was no danger.

I had understood that he had  
said he had never been in the Coker  
office and I told him to come  
with me into the back room  
there was another man DeWaters  
standing there at the time I ~~remembered~~  
remarked that some one must  
have broken all the glass out  
the upper part of the door between  
the office and back room on the  
night of the Murder. He said  
no that was all broken out before  
I asked him how he knew it  
He said he knew it because he  
had <sup>called</sup> Coker's attention to it  
before He told him he ought to  
have it put in. That some body was  
liable to come in on him

He said it was probable that  
Moss had committed the  
Murder I asked him how  
Moss could have committed

Feb 8. 1886

Andrew Hurley being first duly sworn testified as follows

I have had a great deal of conversation with Mr Maple on the morning of the first day after the murder. I went down to the back part of Mr Corker's building there were <sup>a few</sup> ~~two~~ or three persons there at that time Judge Loughry called my attention to some tracks made from the back part of the building and around the corner of Dixons Barn I was examining one of the tracks it was near the first crossing west of the barn and Mr Maple came along and told me it was entirely off the track those tracks were never made by the man that killed Corker and I told him he suspected something and asked him who it was and he told me that he was satisfied that Eastman killed Corker and gave as his reason a conversation a conversation he had with Eastman the night before that Eastman told him so

The Murder, when he knew  
Eastman had committed the

Murder He then said mind  
you I dont say that Mosier  
committed the Murder we  
should look after all of their  
suspicious characters

When I first spoke to him he  
asked me if he could rely  
on me I told him he could  
and after he had related his story  
about Eastman I asked him  
what he meant by asking me if  
he could rely on me He told  
me he did not want me to say  
anything about what he had  
said about Eastman

Alf Hoveley

Nov. 8. 1886

The S. Huston being duly sworn  
testifies as follows

I saw Maple if I am not  
mistaken in Cocker's Store on  
Monday afternoon the day  
previous to the murder this  
was about 2 o'clock did not  
see any light in Maple's house  
(it was dark at 7 o'clock)

He had a jumper on when  
he came to my house on  
~~Friday~~ Monday before noon  
no coat on I think he stayed  
about an hour and a half  
He left about one o'clock

~~and~~ Came and inquired  
for a piece of hoop iron  
I came with him as far as  
the Court House I went in  
The Court House He went  
on down to Town I and  
Coker were in his office when  
Maple came in and looked  
through the door leading to  
the office, he did not speak  
but turned and went out  
again. This is to the best of my  
recollection J. W. Huston

Nov. 9. 1886

Mr Nancy being duly sworn  
testified as follows

I think ~~Maple~~ <sup>at Mrs</sup> ~~even~~ <sup>at Mrs</sup>  
Coker's ~~store~~ <sup>store</sup> sitting behind the store  
in the office on Monday <sup>in the front</sup> <sup>between</sup>  
8 and 9 o'clock A.M.

Mr Frank Stoberg came in  
to my store very early <sup>in the morning</sup> to get  
to get a pair of shoes

I found a pair to fit him and  
he handed me \$20<sup>00</sup> I had no  
change and started out to get  
the change and asked Mr Kelly  
Mr Connor and Mr Bradshaw  
who were on the corner I then  
stopped at Mr Vickers store and  
asked him Mr Dixon was  
standing out in front of his  
house on the side walk and  
I called to him I then stopped  
at Mr Coker's store he was in  
the act of opening a box in the  
front part of the store at the  
time He said he would  
see and got up and went into  
the back part of his house  
I followed him in and saw  
Mr Maple sitting back of



the store in Mr Coker's office  
he was sitting north of the store

Mr Coker went to the chest  
and took a purse out and  
turned toward the window  
and drew ten or twelve twenty  
dollar gold pieces out of the  
purse and then turned them  
up in search of small change

He said he did not have  
the change and I walked  
out. I asked Mr Maple on  
~~Wednesday~~ Thursday if he had  
seen me in the <sup>store</sup> of Mr Coker  
on Monday or at any other time  
to get money changed

He said that although he  
had seen me previous to this  
in the front part of the store  
when I asked him

Mr Maple said to me when  
I entered the office of Mr  
Coker: Good morning it  
is a cold morning

Mr Maple could have seen  
the money and the chest from  
~~where he took it~~ at that time  
in Mr Coker's hands. I left

Mr Maple in Mr Coker's office

John Harey

Nov. 9. 1886

Jefferson Harris being duly sworn  
testified as follows

Mr. Wampler stated to  
me the recent day he was in jail  
that he never had been in Mr  
Corker's office. he stated this in  
the presence of Mr Singleton  
I asked him if he had ever been  
in that office because I had  
seen him there on Thursday & Friday  
before the murder

T. J. Harris

Nov. 9. 1886

Frank O Connor being duly  
sworn testified as follows

I saw Mr Maple on Monday  
Morning Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 1886 I think  
about 8 o'clock AM near  
Hembres Livery Stable going  
toward Bidt & Gates Store  
and had a conversation with  
him about a Cross Cut Saw.  
he had borrowed of me

I am positive I saw him that  
morning

Frank O Connor