

Robinson's about half past six, and passed McKenzie's; I was in my shirt sleeves, and had a new axe handle in my hand. The house looked very gloomy. There was no light in the windows. It is eight years since I went down there to live, and I knew McKenzie during that time; spoke to him seldom, and was very rarely in his house. Heard of the murder first on Sunday evening; went to the place on Monday morning; saw the ruins and the remains of the bodies, (these he described.) I opened the safe with some others, and put in it what we considered the remains of Mrs. McKenzie, and one of the children. When we opened the safe there was nothing in it. Last saw McKenzie hanging a barn door, with Brown, of Lower Mispeck. It was eight or nine days before the burning. The trunk of the man found I thought corresponded in size with that of McKenzie's body.

To Mr. Kerr.—Could not swear the trunk was that of McKenzie. Passed McKenzie's on the Saturday night about seven o'clock. It is as much as five years since I was in the house McKenzie lived in. Was often in what is called the farm house; it was a house of entertainment. Polly, his wife, and children lived in it. When I passed, nothing struck me as singular, only that there were no lights. It did not strike me as extraordinary at the time. I met nobody.

John Leet, examined by the Solicitor General—I have lived at West Beach about seven-teen years, and have known Mr. McKenzie since he went out there seven or eight years ago. George Leet, my son, worked for McKenzie; he came home on the night of the burning about eight o'clock. He got his supper and went to bed; I saw him next morning; heard of the fire on Sunday night; went to McKenzie's on Monday morning, and found seven or eight of the neighbors there; examined a little brown and white dog I had known as McKenzie's, and found blood on his side, but there was no wound; all the neighbors were satisfied it was blood—a small spot on the right hip; saw the remains (described them.) On Tuesday was at McKenzie's again; found near the trunk of McKenzie three buttons and part of a brace, and what they thought was the brains, rolled up about the size of a pullet's egg, and all burned; the buttons were a sort of metal buttons; had seen about a fortnight before a brown coat on McKenzie with such buttons as those; can not tell what the impression on the buttons was; observed the buttons when moving the trunk into a box prepared for it.

In spring I got some oats from McKenzie, and in paying him and getting change I saw a large roll of notes with him; he had it in his pocket; I often saw McKenzie as I was passing, and would speak to him; when he was at work he generally was in his shirt sleeves, and wore a cloth cap; can not identify any of the clothes he wore.

Cross-examined by Mr. Wetmore.—The body had been removed about two feet before I saw the buttons; I could see where the body had lain; the buttons were where the shoulders had been; I recollect distinctly that the buttons on Mr. McKenzie's coat were not plain, and were not covered with cloth; I saw it a fortnight before, and remarked it as a new coat; would not swear that the stain on the dog was blood.

Wm. Hawks, Esq., J. P., examined by Solicitor General.—I live at Black River, and knew McKenzie, and saw him in the course of that week binding oats. Heard of the burning on Sunday afternoon, between three and four o'clock, and went at once to the burning. My residence is six miles from McKenzie's. At the barn that was unconsumed, we took a shovel and fork. Robinson pointed out as nearly as he could where the bed-room was, as I thought they might have been burned in their beds. We found nothing. A man named Peacock was searching about, and remarked that there was something unpleasant about the fire-place—the chimnies had fallen. After removing the bricks and rubbish, we found what we thought the remains of Mrs. McKenzie, and then from the appearance of the body, and its position, I concluded that murder had been committed. After a further search we found the remains of a child. Of Mrs. McKenzie there was a portion of the back bone, and some ribs and the heart were visible.

The safe was at this time outside the building, and open. In it were what seemed the remains of a book and a bundle of papers. We gathered the remains and put them in the safe. No one but Robinson and O'Hare, who had gone for me, were there at first. Mr. Power and others arrived soon after. While still searching at the upper house, the lad Peacock, who was also searching about, came up and told us there was a body down at the little house. This had a cellar with a stone wall. Saw the body there, and could identify it as that of a man. Concluded that it was McKenzie's. It was then pretty well on in the afternoon. We consulted together, and my object was then to find out how, what I believed to be a murder, was committed. I heard then that the young man Leet had worked there, and I at once resolved to send for him, and direct him to come up, join Robinson at his house, and be in with him in the morning in the city at five o'clock, to give information to the Mayor. On Monday I came into town past McKenzie's, and as I passed O'Hare's he ran out to tell me Leet was there. Leet told me he was afraid to pass the place during the night, and that this was the reason he was not in town at the time appointed. Came into town, and did not go out until Tuesday.

Jane Robinson, examined by Solicitor General—I am wife of James Robinson, and live a mile at this side of McKenzie's. Knew Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie; they had four children; the