

*A STRANGE MURDER CASE.*

In the year 1815, after the fatal 15th of June, a favorite officer of the defeated Emperor, determining not to live under the rule of any other sovereign, made his way to Canada. He went into what was then the wilds of the primeval forest, now a portion of the County of Hastings in the Province of Ontario. There he married the only daughter of an Indian chief, whose tribe roamed through that region. The only daughter of that marriage married a white man by the name of Davis, and several children were the issue of this union.

One of the sons, Peter Edwin Davis, was the hero of a remarkable trial for murder which took place at Belleville before Chief Justice Armour in April, 1890. The case is somewhat remarkable, not only from the facts of the case itself, but from the callousness displayed by witnesses closely related to the accused and to the victim.

One William Emory, who had been married to Mary Martha McGarvey, was found dead in September, 1889, in a hay marsh where he had been mowing. His rifle, which he had with him, was found about six feet away from the dead body, with the muzzle driven with force into the marsh some six or eight inches. It was quite certain that his death was occasioned by a bullet from this rifle. No signs of powder were found upon his clothes. The rifle was empty. The bullet had gone quite through the body shattering the spine; and death must have been instantaneous. There was nothing to indicate suicide and it seemed a clear case of murder.

Suspicion at once fell upon Peter Edwin Davis. He was a stalwart, muscular man, over six feet in height, and straight as an Indian. Having something of the roving habits of his ancestry on the distaff side, he made his living by gathering ginseng, a plant, the root of which is esteemed in China a very valuable medicine, and which is exported in considerable quantities to that country.

After a coroner's inquest had been held, Davis and Mrs. Emory, the wife of the deceased, were arrested and were put