

Chastly Witness

Rankin's Skull Produced at the
Freeman Murder Trial.

The Case for the Crown Closed—The
Defense Begins.

The Prisoners Allowed to Testify on
Their Own Behalf.

Lemuel Freeman Denies Complicity
in the Affair.

The Prisoners' Aged Mother in the
Witness Box.

George Freeman Testifies That He Was
Shot in the Hand Before He
Fired at the Men.

Friday Morning.

The judge took his seat at five minutes
to 9, and by 9 o'clock the court was
ready to receive the jury. There were
fewer ladies in court than on the previous day.
The colored women occupied the seat next
to the prisoners.

WILLIAM STANLEY.

William Stanley is a boy 14 or 15 years
old, whose parents reside in sight of Mrs. B.
Freeman's, between the house and Alexander's
place. Lemuel Freeman lived with his
mother, Mrs. Byron Freeman. The boy
said that on Jan. 24 he had gone skating
after school. When he got home a little
before dark he saw Alexander Freeman
come west on a horse galloping towards
Lemuel's place. He was shouting as he
galloped. When Alexander got to the
house, Lemuel came out and jumped on the
back behind Alexander and the two rode
towards the place where the tragedy
occurred. The boy could not fix the exact
time beyond that the school came out at 4
o'clock and he had to go to the mill for his
father at 6 o'clock. The boy went home
and hitched up the horse to go to the mill.
At old Freeman's place he saw Alexander
again at the corner of the lane on the
horse. "I asked him," said the boy,
"what was the matter. He said murder.
I asked him where, and he replied, 'Right
here,' pointing to the house. The boy
found Dezelia and McDonald at the mill.
To Mr. Oser the boy said that he met a
woman when he was going to the mill. He
could not say whether she was a white or
colored woman.

CHARLES BEVIN.

Charles Bevin was taking a load of logs
to Bryan's mill on the day of the tragedy.
At the Freeman's he saw Alexander
gallop up to Lemuel's. Old Mrs. Freeman
had just driven into the gate when
Alexander drove up. "Alexander," she
said, "where's Lemuel?" Alexander re-
plied that he was up home, or something to
that effect. He could not catch the words
exactly, as his team was moving. He did
not see what became of them after he
passed, as it was snowing and drifting
badly, and he was afraid that his load
would slide into the ditch. He met Stan-
ley's boy a little nearer the mill, and asked
him where he was going. The boy replied
that he had heard that Rankin was killed,
and he was going after the body. The time
would be 5:30 or 5:45 in the evening.
When he first turned into the four-road road
he heard two pistol shots fired. He met
Roxanna Webb coming west from the
Freemans.

Cross-examined by Mr. Oser—The witness
admitted that he was snowing and
blowing that night, that he was excited
and had all he could do to manage his
horses. He could not hear very well and
would not swear positively to the conver-
sation.

FREDERICK BUMP.

This man told the same story as the
previous witness about Alexander Freeman
galloping up and Mrs. Freeman asking
him where Lemuel was, and Alex-
ander's reply that he was up at the
house. This witness saw Alexander
leave Mr. Bryan Freeman's place and
gallop westward. The witness pro-
ceeded and when about opposite George
Freeman's place he heard two pistol shots
in the direction of Jeremiah Freeman's
place.

CHARLES LANGFORD, M.D.

Dr. Charles Langford, physician, re-
ceived a telegram from the Freeman about
9 o'clock at night. When he got to Free-
man's place he saw Mr. and Mrs.
Jerry Freeman, William Henry Freeman
and a man named Michael Dillon. They
went out to the body of P. C. Rankin and
found it lying partly on his left side, cov-
ered with two or three inches of snow.
William Henry Freeman turned the body
over and the doctor examined it. Rigor
mortis had not yet set in. In the pockets
some cash was found, between \$7 and \$8,
handkerchiefs, key and whistle, but no club
or revolver. He then examined William
Henry, who had a bullet in his right side.
By probing it was located between the
sixth and seventh ribs, inward and down-
ward seven inches. Alexander Freeman
had a scratch on his right shoulder that
might have been caused by a bullet.

TALBOT TORRANCE.

Mr. Torrance, editor of the Chatham
Planet, was representing the Planet at the
reporter's table. He saw Constable Mc-
Donald on the day of the murder and in
a warrant, which the witness identified as
the one produced. It was then duly cer-
tified and sealed. He saw P. C. Dezelia
that night and examined his pistol. Three
chambers had been discharged; two were
loaded; one of the latter had been struck,
but had not exploded.

Cross-examined by Mr. Oser—Dezelia
was showing the pistol in derision
when he saw it and was saying
that was a poor sample to arm a police-
man with. He would not state whether
Dezelia had more cartridges with him or
not.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS.

William Douglas, clerk of the peace and
crown attorney of Kent county produced
the commission of Duncan McNaughton
when appointed justice of the peace, in
Kent county. He also produced a cer-
tified list in which the names of Alexander
McDonald, Peter Dezelia and Robt. Rankin
were printed in the list of county con-
stables.

"I object to that being received," said
Mr. Oser with reference to the printed and
certified list of constables.

"The objection is overruled," said his
lordship.

Mr. Douglas then produced the property
qualifications of D. McNaughton, J. P.

Cross-examined by Mr. Oser—This com-
mission was issued in 1893, and there was
another general commission of justice
issued in 1892. Did that not
sue Kent county? A.—Not to my
knowledge. I have never seen it.

Q.—How many associated commissions
have you received since that time? A.—
About twenty.

Q.—Why did you not produce them? A.—
I did not think it necessary.

Q.—Alex. McDonald was sworn in as
constable for Dover township in 1878 was
he not? A.—Yes.

Q.—Well then he has never been sworn
in as a constable for the whole county? A.—
Well, now you are asking me a question
that I can't answer.

Mr. Oser—Well, you can't show me any-
thing to show that he was? A.—No, I
can't say that I can.

Some books that were at Mr. Douglas's
hotel were needed and while he went after
them another witness was called.

RANKIN'S SKULL PRODUCED.

Dr. J. B. Rutherford then took the
stand. He had made the post-mortem ex-
amination in company with Dr. R. B. Brey,
and before the latter's father, Coroner
J. L. Brey. Rankin's skull was in a very
healthy state. The injuries that
caused death were on the head.

Mr. Lount was by that time busy un-
der a small square box and a silence came
over the room. It was intensified when
Mr. Lount produced the skull of the dead
policeman and handed it to the witness.

The doctor described the injuries in
medical terms. There were seven wounds,
any one of which might have been caused
by the weapons produced. The wounds that
caused death were shaped like the letter H,
and could have been inflicted by either the
axe produced or by the sharp angle of the
cordwood stick. Death was the direct
result of the depression of the broken skull
on the brain, and blood clots caused there-
by. Paralysis would result and the action
of the arteries grow weaker. The man
probably lived for half an hour after the
blows were inflicted.

Cross-examined by Mr. Oser, the wit-
ness said that Rankin's skull was unusually
thin.

Q.—Taking, therefore, much less force to
fracture? A.—Yes.

Q.—Would you say that the resisting
force of this dome (laying hand on skull) is
50 per cent. less than the average? A.—
Well, higher than that. Probably 25 per
cent. under the average thickness of skull.

DR. J. V. BRAY.

Dr. J. V. Bray took the box and Mr.
Lount asked him if he agreed with the
previous witness as regards the wounds.

"I agree, except in one point," said the
witness, "that is with reference to the
direction of wound described as number
five. If I understood Dr. Rutherford right
he said the wound ran from behind the right
ear upward. My impression of that wound
is that it ran upwards and then forward."

Cross-examined by Mr. Oser—This
numbering of the wounds is simply as a
matter of identification is it not? You do
not pretend to number them in the order in
which they were inflicted? A.—No; simply
to identify the wounds.

DR. DAVID G. FLEMING.

The doctor simply corroborated the two
previous witnesses, and nothing new was
elicited.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS.

Crown Attorney Douglas, Kent county,
had returned by this time with the sessions
record, in which were the judge's minutes
of the annual appointment of police officers
in Kent. On the list were Robert Rankin,
Peter Dezelia and Alex. McDonald.

Cross-examined by Mr. Oser—Have you
any record in the office of clerk of the
peace of the appointment of Alexander Mc-
Donald? A.—I made a slight search for
one, but could not find it.

Mr. Oser made some objection to a
question Mr. Lount asked as to the ap-
pointment. "I don't think it is material,"
said the judge.

This closed the case for the crown.

FOR THE DEFENSE.

Lemuel Freeman was put in the box for
the defense.

"I object," said Mr. Lount, interrupting
him before he had proceeded very far. "I
hold that evidence cannot be given by them
(the prisoners) under the law of evidence,
recent enactment. That I submit merely
applies to cases where the accused have
been committed since the act was passed."

"Well," said the judge, "I will see what
the act says. I think it applies to all trials
that take place after the act." His lord-
ship then consulted his books, and in a few
minutes delivered the following judgment:
"I rule that the act applies to any trial
taking place after the passing of the act,
without reference to the date of the trial."
"I want that objection noted," said Mr.
Lount.

"Very well, then," answered the judge,
"and, as Lemuel has been sworn, you had
better formally repeat it before the sweat-
ing in of the next witness."

LEMUEL FREEMAN.

Lemuel Freeman was the first witness
called. He was living at home with his
mother at the time of the trouble. "I was
working for Bryan at that day," said
Lemuel, "drawing ice in the forenoon and
in the afternoon hauling logs. It was not
quite 6 when I left Bryan's after deliver-
ing my last load. Ben Moore was behind
me when I started and rode behind him on the
sleigh with me before I got home. Ben
Moore's sleigh was following mine closely.
Zack Bass was with Ben. We proceeded
south to my mother's place. Bill Moore
went on some place on con. 15. I went into
the lane house and William Moore got
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