

CIRCUIT COURT.

THE BEAVER LAKE TRAGEDY.

FULL REPORT OF THE WHOLE PROCEEDINGS!!

**PATRICK SLAVIN, SENR., AND HUGH BREEN,
PLEAD GUILTY!**

TRIAL OF PATRICK SLAVIN, JR.

Arraignment of the Prisoners.--Breen Pleads Guilty.

On Thursday afternoon the Grand Jury found true bills against Hugh Breen, Patrick Slavin, Sr., and Patrick Slavin, Jr., charged with the murder of Robert McKenzie and his family.

On Friday morning the three prisoners were brought into court and arraigned. It was the first time they had met since they were committed to prison. They looked less wretched than when arrested, as they were clean and comfortably clad; but Breen looked quite prostrate. Old Slavin looked much more hardened; while the boy seemed reckless or insensible to his position as ever.

The indictment having been read, Breen was asked whether he was guilty or not, and without hesitation answered GUILTY. He was then warned by the Court of the effect of such a plea, viz., that it would place him in the same position as if convicted by a jury, and he was then told he might withdraw the plea of guilty, if he chose; but he refused to withdraw it.

The question being put to old Slavin, he wriggled for some time, moving his body up and down. His reply was, "I could not say that I am clear of it." It was explained to him that this was not sufficient, the law required a plea of Guilty or Not Guilty, but no other answer could be got from him, and therefore a plea of Not Guilty was recorded. He was asked if he wished to have Counsel assigned him. He said he did not want any.

The younger Slavin pleaded Not Guilty. The Court assigned him Mr. D. S. Kerr, as Counsel.

Mr. Kerr made some objection. He said an unpleasant rumor had gone abroad that he had been employed by the prisoners, and he was afraid if he now appeared as their Counsel it would give color to the report.

The Court thought this was not sufficient reason why Mr. Kerr should decline. Mr. Wetmore was assigned as Counsel to assist Mr. Kerr in defending the younger Slavin.

When the plea of Not Guilty was entered for the Slavins, Breen was again asked if he did not wish to withdraw his plea, and plead not guilty; but he still persisted in pleading guilty.

On motion of the Attorney General, Tuesday next was appointed for the trial of the two Slavins.

On Wednesday evening Mr. Scoullar and a party of men went to the place where Breen and the Slavins encamped, and instituted a close search of all the ground surrounding the encampment. The search was continued until Friday. Breen told where the watch and other property were concealed. We believe the search was partially successful.

Patrick Slavin, Sr., Arraigned and Pleads Guilty.

At one o'clock on Monday the Attorney General moved that Patrick Slavin, Sr., be arraigned on two indictments, found against him by the Grand Jury—one for the murder of Mrs. McKenzie, the other for the murder of a male child, (name unknown) offspring of Robert and Effie McKenzie.

By direction of his Honor, Judge Parker, the old man was then brought in and placed in the dock. He wore a most extraordinary expression of countenance, as if gazing intently on vacancy until his eyes appeared glazed. To the spectators he seemed dogged and obstinate, and it was with feelings of the utmost amazement they heard him plead guilty.

The clerk read the first indictment in a loud voice. It set forth that on the night of October 24th, the prisoner had killed one Effie McKenzie, or Reed, or Mrs. McKenzie, by striking her with an axe a blow between the shoulders, and several other blows, one of which proved fatal, &c.