

TRIAL MAY SOLVE MYSTERY OF DEATH OF PROF. VAUGHN

Wealthy Widow and Family Physician Indicted for Murder of Kirksville, Mo., Normal Teacher.

Kirksville, Mo., May 14.—Mystery of an unusual character remains to be solved in the case of Professor John T. Vaughn for whose death his widow, Mrs. Alma Proctor Vaughn, and her family physician, Dr. James R. Hull of Monroe City are soon to be placed on trial.

The case of the murder of the country doctor for next Monday, but it is understood strong efforts will be made to have the trial delayed, probably until the fall term of court.

Professor Vaughn, who was instructor in American history at the State Normal school, died October 14 of last year at his Kirksville home under peculiar circumstances. He had been in perfect health and active in his work the evening of the 10 o'clock Professor Vaughn left the church after he had informed some of his friends that he had some work to do at home and could not stay in church any longer.

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Mrs. Vaughn, who is 35 years old and quite attractive and vivacious, is the daughter of Dr. James M. Proctor, a wealthy bank director, and the niece of Dr. Proctor, the Monroe City, Mo., bank. She is reputed wealthy in her own right and has many wealthy and influential relatives in various parts of the state.

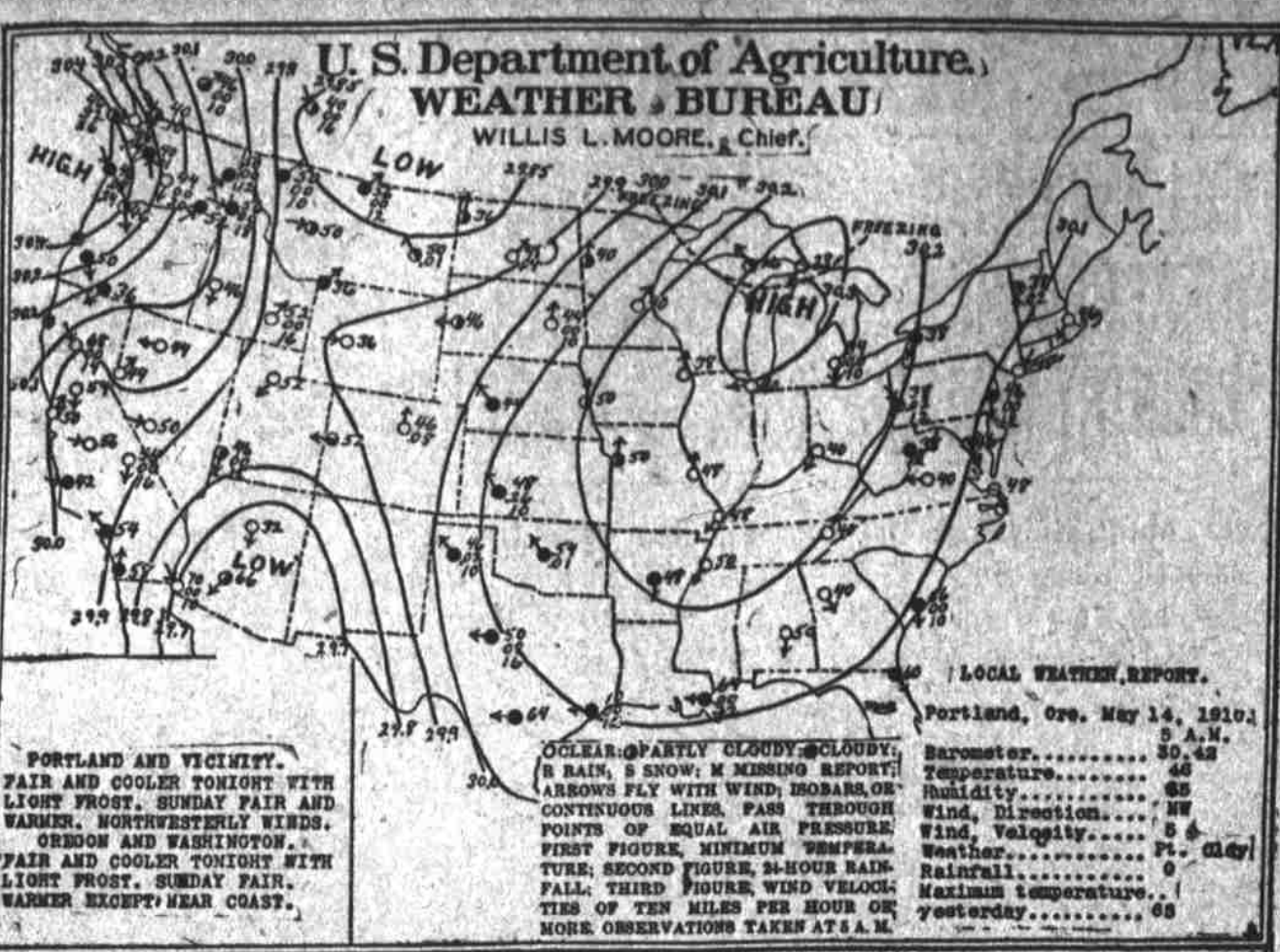
It is the general belief that if Mrs. Vaughn had in some way caused the death of her husband, her motive was not to obtain possession of his estate, which is said to be considerable. It is expected that the trial will throw some startling light upon the relations which are supposed to have existed between Mrs. Vaughn and Dr. Hull, for several years the family physician of the Vaughns. Dr. Hull is 50 years old and has a wife and married daughters. It is understood that the state will try to prove that Dr. Hull met Mrs. Vaughn secretly in Quincy, Mo., at times and carried on a rather intimate correspondence with her.

Neither Mrs. Vaughn nor Dr. Hull showed any disposition to evade service with the papers against them, and it is considered a strong argument in their favor. It is an actual fact that Mrs. Vaughn voluntarily came from Monroe City to Kirksville to accept service. She arrived as Dr. Hull went to the city and they were in the city together for the death of Professor Vaughn or that they had the slightest motive for removing him. Mrs. Vaughn has made the statement that her husband had been in the habit of carrying money with him and that on the night of his death, shortly after his return from church, he had taken a white paper which he said was a note, slipped in a piece of tissue paper. The paper was found in the stomach, together with some undigested food.

PEPOON DEFENSE ATTACKS STATE'S LEADING WITNESS

(Continued From Page One.) to bring out the fact that several times Crossan, after the murder of the woman, threatened the life of George Pepon and at one time tried to borrow a gun for that purpose.

Defense's Motion is Lost. Moving for an instruction, verdict, J. A. Crossan, of the defense challenged the sufficiency of the evidence to sustain an information for murder. Judge Kennen denied the motion.



health officer at the time of Edith Pepon's death, took the stand for the defense, but his testimony was so startlingly favorable to the state as to cause a sensation. He was asked regarding the burial certificate which he signed. He said that from what witnesses to the death of the woman had told him, he was inclined to believe that Edith Pepon died from heart failure.

Doctor Gives Testimony. "Have you since heard testimony which would cause you to change your opinion," asked Assistant Attorney General Lea, on cross-examination. "Yes," answered the physician. "From what now do you believe the woman died?" persisted the prosecutor. "Strychnine poisoning," replied Dr. Wells. His answer was a bombshell in the camp of the defense, for the physician had been expected to be the star witness for Pepon. Dr. Wells said, however, that he had prescribed laudanum and morphine for the woman. J. C. Harrigan, editor of the Colville Express, the next witness on the stand, told of an article about the case which he wrote at the dictation of Morton Crossan. Court then adjourned until Monday.

EXPERT TESTIMONY OF PHYSICIANS PROVES DAMAGING TO DEFENSE

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Colville, Wash., May 14.—Pepon stated closed its case against George L. Pepon with the remarkable expert and direct testimony of Dr. George Cathay of Portland and expert testimony of Dr. E. F. Pope of Spokane.

Dr. Cathay's testimony was unusual in its clearness and terseness, and because of the care which he took with the dispositive organs of the murdered woman and the preparations made for exposition in court, the defense was enabled to get only a meager opportunity to attempt to create doubt in the minds of the jurymen as to the certainty of the test.

Clerk Johnson of the Stephens county superior court was on the stand for a few minutes and was questioned as to the divorce decree granted Maude Keller from Louis H. Keller, November 8, 1908.

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MEETING NOTICES 41 NOTICE to Stockholders. Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the "Columbia News Vesta Mines Milling & Smelting Co." will be held in their office, located at 11th and Commercial, in Portland, Or., on Saturday, May 21, 1910, at 8 o'clock P. M. for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. WILLIAM TREVOR, Sec. Dated this 14th day of May.