

KILLED IN A MASK.

**Tragic Result of a Practical Joke—A Masker
Shot Dead by a Negro.**

From the Nashville Union and Dispatch, 10th.

A startling sensation report was current upon the streets yesterday morning to the effect that one of the Ku Klux-Klan had been shot dead by a negro, near McWhirtersville, on the night previous. A summons reached Coroner George W. Norvell, who at once left the city for the purpose of holding an inquest upon the reported dead man, and upon arriving at the point where the tragedy was said to have occurred, found a portion of the story true. The body had been removed to McWhirtersville after an inquest by Esquire Jerry Bowen, who had at first objected to take upon himself what was really the duty of a coroner.

The testimony taken by Esquire Bowen was entirely that of negroes, who were on the premises where the shooting occurred. It ran to the effect that about nine o'clock Tuesday night a man wearing a mask; and enveloped in a sheet had knocked for admittance at a house one mile and a half this side of McWhirtersville, occupied by a negro named Bob Anderson, or Bender, or Guillem, all of which names he answered to. Anderson refusing, the visitor declared he would force the door if it were not opened, saying he had business there, and would kill the last one of them. At this Anderson got down an Enfield rifle, the barrel of which had been smoothed, and opening the door, fired upon the intruder, who fell, pierced by fifteen buckshot, and died in half an hour, groaning in terrible suffering from the wounds. The shot all entered his chest, and tore and trampled the flesh in a shocking manner.

The negroes about the place were too much frightened to ascertain the extent of the unfortunate man's injuries, and all night long he lay at the door of the house. In the morning, when the mask was removed, to the astonishment of all, the features of Henry C. Blair, a young man residing at McWhirtersville, and who had always borne an excellent character at that place, were disclosed.

Bob Anderson was immediately put under arrest, but as soon as the testimony was heard, Esquire Bowen ordered his release. He is a negro, said to be of a vicious nature, and not at all liked in the neighborhood where he lives.

The mask and garments found upon young Blair were not the mask and robes worn by the Ku-Klux Klan, and, indeed, no branch of that organization exists at or near McWhirtersville. The mask was one of the kind to be seen every day in our shop windows, and bore no resemblance whatever to the diabolical cowl of the Ku Klux. It is supposed that the design of Blair was simply to frighten the negroes. There is nothing to indicate that his intentions extended beyond this. The stories of the midnight wanderings of the Ku Klux, and the universal terror of the blacks probably put it into his head to play the practical joke which terminated so fatally.

Though this tragic affair created a great deal of excitement at McWhirtersville, where the relatives of the deceased reside, it was the general opinion that the negro Anderson was, under the circumstances, justified in the act, and little disposition was shown to molest him.