

ALICE FOLLICK - Chicken Theft

Source: Crawfordsville Weekly ARgus News, Jan 31, 1891 p- 1

Last spring Jacob Beam, a prosperous farmer of Ripley Township was greatly annoyed by the disappearance of many of his chickens, and could find no clew (sic) to the thieves till the 20th of May when happening in the store of Howard Fruits he discovere din the coop a couple of chickens which he claimed as his. It so happened that Mr. Fruits had bought the chickens of Miss Alice, the pretty 20-year-old daughter of Isaac Follick. Notwithstandng the fact that Miss follick had always enjoyed the best of reputations she was arrested, a preliminary examination was held before Justice Cumberland and she was bound over the court. The trial was set for Tuesday and from the appearance of the court room Ripley and Wayne Townships must have suspended business and come in.

Source: Same p 2 c2

Miss Alice Follick, the defedant in the celebrate case just closed, desires through the columns of the Argus News to thank her neighbors and friends, including the people of Crawfordsville for their sympathy and to say that their many acts of kinsness and good will are greatly appreciate

Source: Same p2 c 2

The ire of Judge Snyder was aroused by the cheering of the crowd when the jury brought in the verdict of not guilty in the Follick case. He rapped in vain for order and grabbing a pencil commenced taking down names and ordered Deputy Davis to do likewise. The dignity of the court was at stake and Judge Snyder declared that all who were engaged in making the demonstration should pay for it.

Source: Same p2 c 3

As but one day had been set apart by the court for the trial of Miss Alice Follick, indicted for chicken stealing, and two had been already consumed in the case, Judge Snyder concluded Wednesday evening that he would hold a night session and finish the case. A large crowd witnessed the closing scenes and such scenes too as have never before been witnessed in Montgomery County court house, ujpon whose stage has been enacted many startling, strange and tragic affairs. The examination of the witnesses was finished about 4 o'clock but nothing which has not already been made public was brought out.

Miss Follick herself had been placed on the stand and had told a plain and unvarnished story, denying any knowledge whatever of Old Speck; Black Long Neck; Muckle Dunn or any other of the Beams chickens. Prosecutor Moffett made the opening speech, presenting his points, such as they were, in a clear and forcible manner. He was followed by ME Clodfelter for the defense, who spoke till 6 o'clock. His was a very able effort and had much weight with the spectators at least. In it he released from blame the Ripley Horse Thief Detective Association in which he said there were many noble and right minded men but scored to a queen's taste a few members of that organization who through spite work or other motives, have spent their time and money and used all their influence in bringing this matter into court. From the opening of Mr. Clodfelter's speech until after the verdict in fact, the Follick family, who surrounded their attorneys were in tears and at times their loud demonstrations of grief were simply heartrending. Court was called to order again at 7 o'clock and Hon. MD White began a fine argument for the defense, which was not finished when time was called and he was rapped down by the court. Judge Seller closed the argument, and while he expressed himself as full of sympathy for the defendant, he evidently felt that it was his duty to convict if possible, and he tried to do so. He advised the jury that should they think the penitentiary too great a punishment, it was in their power to confine her in the county jail for any period. Here the demonstrations of the defendant and her broken hearted parents became so violent that a halt was called and there was scarcely a dry eye in the house. Some lawyers would have broken completely down but Judge Seller thinking this was for effect continued, but closed in a few minutes. The instructions, which were if anything, favorable to the defense, were then given to the jury together with three forms of ballots and they retired to their room in charge of Deputy Davis. They had no sooner retired than the defendant who had for two days been undergoing the terrible mental strain, lost control of herself completely and went into hysterics, crying loudly all the time. To add to the confusion her mother fainted and it seemed that the panic must ensue. They were taken to the Judge's private room and were finally quieted by the doctors. The jury were out about 15 minutes when they returned with the following verdict.

We the jury find the defendant NOT GUILTY. James Foster, foreman.

It is probably that no verdict ever rendered in Montgomery County gave such universal satisfaction for no sooner were the words out of Clerk Brown's mouth, than a yell went up from a hundred throats that could be heard blocks away.

The crime of which Miss Follick was accused was the stealing of a dozen chickens, worth 25 cents each in all a paltry \$3.00. Had the person suspected been one of shady reputation it would have been bad enough but for a young lady of spotless character and belonging to a family as highly respected as Isaac Follick, being compelled to undergo the humiliation of being tried as a sneak thief, is simply outrageous. Had the

parties who have been working and who in fact were instrumental in bringing this into court for we understand that Mr. Beam prosecuted the case only because he was continually urged and forced to, hav they, we say, been present after the jury retired, their cup of happiness would surely have overflowed - kbz

Source: Crawfordsville Weekly Argus News Feb 7, 1891 p 1

The defendant in the celebrated chicken case, Miss Alice Follick, was prostrated by the excitement and had to take to her bed. Her fgather waisn this week and reports that she is getting better.

same Judge Snyder has decided not to fine the persons who cheered when the Follick verdict was returned bu twill let the matter drop. However should such another contempt of court occur during his term of office the offenders may expect to pay the penalty.