

PERRY GILLAN Arrested

Source: Crawfordsville Star, Jan 12, 1894 p 3

Frankfort Times -- The human fiend incarnate, the cowardly cunning and merciless wretch, who 3 weeks ago criminally assaulted little Viola Shaffer, an inmate of the county poor house, after he had by the shrewdness of plans gotten her into his possession has been apprehended and is now in the cell of the Lafayette jail, trembling for his life. As every one supposed, Chas. Smith is an alias, the real name of the man arrested being Perry Gillan, who if he is not wonderfully misrepresented by the people who know him, is a professional in his line.

Ever since the commission of the foul crime, the police have been hard at work on the case and finally on last Sunday located Gillam. Marshal Bird and Deputy Denton drove to the farm of William Lucas several miles southwest of Clark's Hill where Gillam was employed. When near there they met him in the road quietly walking along and conversing with a young lady. Both were compelled to get into the carriage and the girl taken home and Gillam brought to this city and put in jail. He seemed to take the affairs as a huge joke, but admitted that he was the man wanted. He was identified by Supt. Ghore of the poor house and Trustee Daniels. Gillam does not deny the charge, but claims to have had the consent of both the girl and her mother.

Monday when it became known that he had been arrested and had confessed, there was many public expressions of indignation and no small amount of talk about lynching. In the evening this talk increased and a rumor that a mob had been organized at Manson where the girl lived at one time, made the officers nervous for their prisoner's safety and Sheriff Hill and Officer Rudy got him into a carriage and drove to Lafayette where he was placed in jail. As soon as matters quiet down again it is learned that Gillam will waive arraignment and the case will be sent at once to the supreme court. The prisoner had just a few months ago finished a five year term in the penitentiary for the commission of a similar crime near Delphi - transcribed by kbz