

***APPENDIX*** **XV**

***Volusia County, Florida***  
***Marriage Records***  
1856 thru 1925

**Donated to the DeLand Public Library  
By the DeLand Chapter DAR  
Colonel Arthur Erwin  
Transcribed by Bill and Nancy Morgan  
DeLeon Springs, Fla**

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***(IMG\_0164-0168)***

**[Book “D” thru “I” Brides 1904 to 1926 Tab “D” Page 137]**

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**Volusia County Death Records**

Vol. 84, #11987 1919

**Susan B. Clark**

# *APPENDIX* xviii

## **ORANGE CITY MURDER STILL A MYSTERY – MURDERER AT LARGE**

**DeLand Daily News  
Thursday, November 13, 1919  
(IMG\_0176-0178)**

There are no new developments in the murder of Mrs. Susan B. Clark at her apartments in Orange City Tuesday night, and the party who committed the murder is apparently still at large. The sheriff and his force arrested three negroes and two white men yesterday. One of the white men was a tramp charged with stealing a ride on 85 south-bound. The other white man is charged with vagrancy. The three negroes were picked up around Orange City. One of them was armed with a handsome Colt's revolver apparently a 45 calibre revolver, stamped "U. S. Property." The number is 392342.

Another of the negroes had \$9.83 in small change on his person. This one is a one-legged negro who has been loafing around Orange City some time.

### **Handsome Gold Watch**

A handsome gold watch, Waltham movement, was found on the floor of Mrs. Marshall's room; it is thought that this watch was worn by the person who assaulted her and was wrenched loose in the scuffle. Mrs. Marshall's bank book was found some distancedown the railroad track.

### **A Code Letter**

The sheriff tood a three-page code letter off one of the negroes he arrested. The wording is written backwards and in code. It is thought that the letter is a part of some secret organization maintained by Orange City negroes and will be thoroughly investigated.

### **Mysterious Negro.**

A mysterious negro jumped off a freight train at Beresford about noon yesterday and made his way into the swamp. The sheriff's deputies beat the swamp thoroughly but found no trace of the negro.

### **Mrs. Clark's Apartments.**

Mrs. Clark's apartments in Orange City were most thoroughly ransacked by the party who murdered her. One towel was tied around her neck and two towels over her mouth. Her hands were tied behind her back and her feet tied together. Every trunk and bureau drawer had been ransacked and the contents strewn about the floor. The presumption is tha the party who committed the murder, stold the Pratt horse from the stable, rode it to a point near the bridge, walked across the bridge at 4:10 Wednesday morning, boarded a freight train northbound, jumped the freight at Bersford and took to the swamps.

## **Coroner's Jury**

County Judge McCrory empaneled a coroner's jury and started an investigation of the case, after which the jury adjourned subject to call at any time. The jury consists of E. B. Allen, A. B. Granger, H. W. Michael, G. Harden, W. O. Bostwick and E. B. Warrensford.

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## **VOLUSIA COUNTY MURDERS BEING RECALLED BY ORANGE CITY TRAGEDY.**

### **THE DELAND DAILY NEWS**

Monday, November 17, 1919  
Vol. 6 No. 35 (IMG\_0214-0219)

### **THE DELAND NEWS**

Wednesday, November 19, 1919  
Vol XXXIV. No. 47 (IMG\_0616-0622)

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Daytona Daily News interestingly recalls the famous Packwood murder, in the following story;

A watch dropped by the murder of Mrs. Susan B. Clark at Orange City during the night of last Tuesday may be the means of apprehending the murderer, and at present seem to be the only tangible clue. The watch bears the appearance of being a watch such as a railroad man might carry. The authorities do not, however, connect any railroad man with the crime but believe the watch was stolen from some railroad man by a negro. The watch bears three jeweler's repair marks and Sheriff Morris hopes to be able to locate some jeweler who repaired the watch and in that way be able to locate the owner of the watch. It is thought that the owner of the watch may be able to give some information as to how it happened to be found in the room of the murdered woman.

### **WILL FILED FOR PROBATE**

The will of Mrs. Clark has been filed for probate but the legatees named in the will died before the testator. a search among the effects of Mrs. Clark fails to locate any trace that will lead to the location of the heirs of the murdered woman. She left in estate valued at probably \$25,000.

### **EQUALS PACKWOOD MURDER**

The Susan B. Clark murder is the most atrocious committed in Volusia county since the famous Packwood murder at Oak Hill in 1891. The facts of which will be remembered by residents of the county who were here at that time. The case against the three alleged assailants was tried in the Volusia county circuit court, it being charged that Irving Jenkins, William A. McRae and Marion Clinton, all residents of the Oak Hill-New Smyrna district had foully murdered Miss Adelaide Bruce, Mrs. hatch, a four-year-old Packwood boy and Mrs. Hatch's little son. The case was sent to the Lake county courts, and to the supreme court of the state and the three men tried for murder finally gained their freedom.

The story of the crime was one of the most gruesome tales of murder ever committed. In December, 1891, Francis Packwood, who with his sister-in-law, Miss Adelaide Bruce and his four-year-old son,

lived on the Hillsboro river, about half way between the towns of New Smyrna and Oak Hill. Mr. Packwood's house was somewhat isolated, being immediately on the river and about one mile east of what is now known as the Dixie Highway. A few days preceding the 12th of December of 1891, Mr. Packwood left his place to make a few days' visit in Orange county, and as was his custom on remaining from home over nights, he induced a Mrs. Hatch, living a few miles distant, to stay with his family until his return.

During his absence and on the 12<sup>th</sup> of December the dead bodies of Miss Bruce, the little boy, Mrs. Hatch and her little son, who had accompanied her to the Packwood home were found in the house, under circumstances about which there was no dispute, indicating that they had all been brutally murdered and the bodies badly mutilated.

A gun was produced at the trial which was said to have been loaned to one of the alleged murderers several days before and the same sized bullets were found in the heads of each of the four murdered persons. Jenkins, a half-breed Indian, McRae from a prominent home in Sanford, and Clinton were convicted of murder in the first degree, in the Volusia circuit court, but one of them, Marion Clinton, was recommended to the mercy of the court. The case was transferred to Lake county, where the same conviction was made and Jenkins and McRae were sentenced to be hanged and Clinton was given a penitentiary sentence for life. A great array of legal talent fought the case through the supreme court and the decisions rendered at that time have stood in many a murder case since then.

Feeling in Daytona ran high at the time of the Packwood murder, a crowd of citizens forming themselves into a body for the purpose of getting Jenkins, McRae and Clinton and hanging them. Before they could get together and capture the trio the courts had the three defendants securely under cover.



## **THE NEFF MURDER**

Several years before the Packwood Murder, Mr. and Mrs. Neff were murdered at their home between DeLand and DeLeon Springs. Mr. and Mrs. Neff lived alone in a cottage about where Fred W. Smith home now stands. They had recently come to Volusia County and were supposed to have considerable money. They were beaten to death one night, the house fired and their bodies burned. No one was ever arrested for this crime.

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## NEGRO WHO KILLED ORANGE CITY LADY WAS IN PLANT CITY

THE DELAND DAILY NEWS  
Wednesday, November 19, 1919  
Vol. 6. No. 37 (IMG\_0239-0240)

The negro who murdered Mrs. Clark in Orange City and assaulted Mrs. Marshall at Orange City Junction evidently worked Plant City on the Sunday before his visit to Orange City. Sheriff Morris this morning received the following letter from the marshal of Plant City:

Plant City, Nov. 18, 1919.

Sheriff, DeLand, Fla.

Dear Sir: I understand you have a watch, 21 jewel Waltham, you found where some robbery and murder had been done. There was a robber went through here last Sunday morning, November 9, entered four houses and took a watch from each one and forty or fifty dollars in money and rode out of town on a horse and turned the horse loose.

I will give you a description of one of the watches - 18 size Waltham, open face, gold filled, movement No. 12503752. case No. 7540451. If this fills the description I would be pleased to know it, and if not send me the number of the watch and I will search the records in the jewelry shops and see if we can locate some one who owned it.

J. A. HAMPTON, Marshall

This watch has been repaired three or four times.

### THE WATCH IDENTIFIED

The watch described is the one found on the floor of Mrs. Marshall's house and turned over to the sherriff.

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## **ORANGE CITY MURDERER MAY BE UNDER ARREST**

**DeLand Daily News**

**Friday, 21 Nov 1919**

**Vol 6. No. 39 (IMG\_0261-0262 & 0599-0600)**

A negro answering the description of the one who murdered Mrs. Clark of Orange City and beat up Mrs. Marshall of Orange City Junction was arrested in Sanford last night. Sheriff Morris and Deputy Ed Stone brought the negro from Sanford this morning and now have him in jail here. He will be taken before Mrs. Marshall for identification. It is but right for The News to state that the sheriff has doubts as to this being the party wanted.

He claims to have been in Bainbridge, Ga. On the 18<sup>th</sup>. That he gave up a job there on the 15<sup>th</sup> and did not leave until the 18<sup>th</sup>.

PROMISCUOUS Use of Guns.

On their way home from Sanford this morning, the sheriff in his car, passed two carloads of negroes beside the road, this side of Enterprise Junction. Before they had gone far, they heard several pistol shots. Thinking the negroes were shooting at them, the sheriff turned his car around and went back to where they were. One big fat negro giving his name as Lawrence Pinson and another giving his name as John D. Colley were arrested for having in their possession without license two fine revolvers, which now adorn he sheriff's desk. They will be tried this afternoon.

# *APPENDIX xxii*

## **SHERIFF STILL AFTER ORANGE CITY MURDER**

**DeLand Daily News  
Monday, 1 Dec 1919  
(IMG\_0283)**

Sheriff Morris is still after the murderer of Mrs. Susan B. Clark of Orange City, and is investigating every possible clue that may lead to his apprehension. On Sunday, Mr. Morris went to Sanford, where he secured a suspect and took him to Crescent City for inspection. It was a water aul, however, and the suspect was not the man wanted.

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**BOARD ASKS REWARD FOR  
APPREHENSION MURDERER MRS.  
SUSAN B. CLARK**

**DeLand Daily News  
Friday, 5 Dec 1919  
(IMG\_0294)**

At the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on Thursday, the clerk was instructed to write the governor and urge him to offer the largest possible reward to the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of Mrs. Susan B. Clark of Orange City and for the person who committed an assault on Mrs. Laura Marshall of Orange City Junction. Under the law, the county is not authorized to pay rewards for the apprehension of criminals, or the board would have taken action itself.

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**OFFER \$1,000 REWARD FOR  
APPREHENSION ORANGE CITY  
MURDERER**

**DeLand Daily News  
Saturday, 6 Dec 1919  
(IMG\_0299)**

The News was informed this morning that the town of Orange City has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the apprehension with evidence to convict the murderer of Mrs. Susan B. Clark of Orange City. Posters giving a description of the suspected murderer will be out the first of the week.

# *APPENDIX* XXV

## ORANGE CITY

DeLand Daily News  
Thursday, December 11, 1919

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A sale of the perishable things in Mrs. Clark's store was held the past week. None of the rest of the goods will be sold for some time yet.

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## **CLEVELAND, OHIO, LADY CLAIMS RELATIONSHIP THE LATE MRS. CLARK**

**DeLand Daily News  
Friday, 12 Dec 1919  
(IMG\_0313)**

The mayor of Orange City received a telegram yesterday signed Mrs. H. L. Schumann, 2095 East 71<sup>st</sup> street, Cleveland, Ohio, who claims to be a niece of the laate Mrs. Susan B. Clark of Orange City, who was murdered on ther 12<sup>th</sup> of November.

Sheriff Morris today offered for sale in Orange City all the perishable property in the Clark store. The sheriff was appointed custodian of the property until some heir of the murdered woman could qualify as administrator of the estate. Up to the present time no one has so qualified.

# *APPENDIX xviii*

## **ORANGE CITY MURDER MAY BE IN JAIL IN DADE COUNTY**

**DeLand Daily News  
Tuesday, December 30, 1919**

The editor of The News was informed by Sheriff Morris, last week, that a negro answering the description of the murderer of Mrs. Susan b. Clark of Orange City had been arrested in Miami and was being held in the county jail there pending identification. The News was requested by the sheriff not to mention the act, until identification had been completed; but what's the use of trying to hide anything. The Daytona Daily News got the story and published it as follows:

Samuel Habersham, colored, who was arrested here several days ago on a charge of burglary and for the carrying of concealed weapons, is being held in jail here awaiting the arrival of Sheriff Lee Morris, of Volusia county, and Mrs. Laura A. Marshall, who was assaulted at Orange City Junction by a negro on the night of November 11, at the same time Mrs. Susan B. Clark was murdered at Orange City.

Habersham is being held for identification by Mrs. Marshall and the sheriff, who are expected in the city from DeLand.

If Habersham proves to be the negro who murdered Mrs. Clark and grossly assaulted Mrs. Marshall in Orange City, he will be turned over to Sheriff Morris and returned to DeLand where charges will be preferred against him.

From a description furnished the local police at the time of the murder in Orange City, Habersham answers the description of the negro given the authorities by Mrs. Marshall.

Governor Catts offered a reward of \$150 for the capture and conviction of the man who murdered Mrs. Clark and an additional \$100.00 for the man who assaulted Mrs. Marshall. The town of Orange City also made an offer of \$1,000 reward for the murderer of Mrs. Clark. The case is being followed with much interest in this city, where Habersham was captured while attempting to break in and rob the home of ex-Sheriff John Fronoch.

# ORANGE CITY MURDER MAY BE UNRAVELED – NEGRO CONFESSES CRIME

DeLand News  
Wed, 28 July 1920  
Vol. XXXV. No. 29 (IMG\_1758-1770)

The murder of Susan B. Clark of Orange City and the assault on Mrs. Laura A. Marshall of Orange City Junction, which took place on the night on November 11, 1919, may be cleared up – and then again it may not be.

A negro going under the name of Mose Gibson was arrested recently at Topoca, Arizona, charged with the murder of Mr. And Mrs. Roy Trapp, at Fullerton, California. He was taken to the county seat of that county, Los Angeles, Calif., tried and convicted of the murder of the Trapps. He then confessed to the “murder of a woman at Orange City Junction in 1919.” No woman was murdered at Orange City Junction in 1919, or at any other time.

## Telegram from Los Angeles

The following telegram was received by the News Friday night:

Los Angeles, Calif., Editor DeLand News DeLand Fla. - Mose Gibson, negro, just sentenced to hang here for murder of Roy Trapp and wife, confessed to five other murders, including one at Orange City Junction, Florida. He says he killed a woman there in 1919, entering house for robbery. Used hammer to commit crime. Was such murder committed? Please wire. Rush 300 words details of crime, woman's name, etc. Will send our story if you want it.

City Editor, Los Angeles Examiner.

## Confesses Other Murders

Gibson is either the greatest murder or the greatest liar in seventeen states. An Associated Press dispatch says:

Sheriff Jackson, in a message today to Sheriff Cline, said Gibson had confessed also to having killed J. R. Reavis of Baton rouge, La., about ten years ago, a watchman at a sugar mill at Gramercy, La., in November, 1916 and a storekeeper at Wagoner, La., also in November, 1910.

Gibson, since his sentence had been under investigation in connection with the murder of Mr. And Mrs. Jacob Erhardt, an aged couple, in their home here the night of June 6.

## **Story of the Crime**

It will be remembered that Mrs. Susan B. Clark was tied, beaten up and killed and her rooms ransacked over her store in Orange City on the night of November 11 last; on the same night, Mrs. Laura A. Marshall was horribly beaten up and robbed at her little store at Orange City Junction, and may have been left for dead. No clues were ever obtained, so far as to the perpetrators of the crime though suspicion has pointed toward three white men, who have been under observation. The murder of the perpetrators of the crimes did not point toward a negro.

Mrs. Clark, who left an estate which has been estimated of a value of twenty thousand dollars, is supposed to have had considerable cash on hand. No cash was found later. Therefore, the object of the crime is supposed to have been robbery. At least three white men knew of the cash she had on hand.

## **Big Reward Offered**

Rewards aggregating twelve hundred dollars have been offered for the arrest and conviction of the perpetrators of the crime but even this heavy reward has not brought forth the information expected.

## **Confession Probably a Hoax**

Gibson has been sentenced to hang on September 24. He may have made confession to this series of crimes just to stave off execution while they are being investigated, in the hope of securing his release in the meantime.

## **Not Known Here**

No negro by the name of Mose Gibson is known here. There are several families of Gibsons here, but no Mose Gibson. From his own story, Mose has been a wanderer, committing a murder in one town and jumping to the next. He stopped in one place only long enough to rob or murder. The murder and assault at Orange City and Orange City Junction were apparently committed by some one who was thoroughly conversant with the habits of the town women and with that of Mr. Pratt, whose horse was stolen and ridden the same night.

## **Story from Louisiana**

Shreveport, La., July 24 – Mose Gibson, negro under sentence to be hanged in California, is believed by Judge William C. Barnete, former district attorney of Bienville Parish, to be “Monk” Gibson who in 1907, was sentenced to a term in the Louisiana penitentiary from blenville parish.

Judge Barnete stated that as district attorney he acted as prosecutor at the trial of Gibson, who was charged with shooting at another negro from ambush.

Prior to 1907 Judge Barnete, according to his statemtnt today, defended Gibson when he was tried for shooting and wounding another negro.

Louisiana planters, Judge Barnete stated, employed legal talent to defend the negro as he was regarded as a good farm hand. After serving his term in the Louisiana penitentiary Gibson left for Florida.

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Los Angeles, July 24 – a telegram asking if Mose Gibson, negro, who according to the police, has confessed to seven murders, admitted murdering Mrs. Susan B. Clark and Mrs. Laura Marshall at

Orange City Junction, Fla. November 11, 1919, was received here today by Sheriff J. C> Kline from Sheriff Lee Morris of DeLand, Fla. Officers yesterday said Gibson confessed he murdered one woman at Orange City Junction in November, 1919.

### **Two Mose Gibsons**

The News, is informed that there have been two "Mose Gibsons" in DeLand in times past. A negro who has lived here for years states that there was a man here named Mose Hall, who later married the widow of a negro named Gibson (the latter being killed by the falling of a pine tree on him) and that Mose Hall took the name of his wife, being known as Mose Gibson. He has moved away from DeLand.

A white man informs The News that there was a Mose Gibson years ago, who came to DeLand from Orange City and worked for W. C. Cannons, that this negro was known as "Circus" while working at the Cannons stable. He also has left DeLand.

### **May Lead to Guilty Party**

The alleged confession of Mose Gibson in Los Angeles may lead to the arrest of the party who really committed the murder. The probability is that Mose knows who committed the murder. He may have run across him in his wanderings, and got up his story from tales told by the murderer. That he himself committed the murder is very doubtful. In his "confession" he entirely forgot to mention the Orange City murder, and confused this murder with the Orange City Junction assault.

### **Further Investigation Promised.**

Sheriff Morris, in answer to his telegram about Gibson, received the following reply:

Santa Ana, Calif., July 24 – Mose Gibson confessed to killing woman at Orange City Junction in November 1919. Your telegram indicates there were two murders. He only confessed to one. Gibson is now in state prison. Expect to see him again soon. Will question him as to the second murder. Any further information will be wired to you immediately upon receipt. C. E. JACKSON, Sheriff