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Rainsbarger Family. A REIGN OF TERROR FOR YEARS.

The Johnson Murder-Two of the Gang Meet Their Fate at the Hands of the Mob-The

Latest Outbreak. Eldora, ta., correspondence of th Chicago Tribune:-The events of the last few years have brought Hardin county, Ia., into unenviable notoriety. Thirty years ago there located in this county a family named Rainsbarger, and five sons, William, Finley, Nathan, Emanuel (Manch or Manse), and Frank, who were destined to give this country the prominence in history which the There were also five daughters, William, the eldest son, was married when he came here, and has raised a family of four boys who pride themselves on their notoriety as Rainsbargers. Will- went lam had served a term in the penitentiary in Missouri before he came to this county. They were all peor when they came here, and to replenish their larders they made frequent levies upon their neighbors' stock. Timber-steal-ing with them reached a high art, but in a new country nearly every one steals timber. The sons under such influences, took as naturally to stealing as a duck takes to water. The oldest giri married Henry Johns, a man of energy, who was not averse to turning a penny by questionable methods. So successful was he that at the time of his death in 1885,he had amassed a fortune variously estimated at from \$100,000 to \$200,000. The Rainsbarger method of doing business frequently led to the arrest of some member of the family, but they were al-ways able to establish an alibi. In Feb-ruary, 1866, Fin Rainsbarger stabbed and killed Charles Vailes, in a crowded store at Steamboat Rock. This act brought the family into general notor-icty for the first time. The defense was managed so eleverly that Fin only served a two years' sentence for one of the most cowardly murders ever committed in this country. When he returned from the penitentiary he gave himself up to a life of crime with the utmost abandon. His brothers, naturally more industrious, and who, if left to themselves were not bad citizens, were by degrees drawn into participating in his crimes. The people, after several ineffectual attempts to establish the majesty of the law in dealing with these criminals, gave it up in despair. The torch of the incendiary or the maiming of their stock soon convinced the most courageous that it was dangerous business to cause the arrest of a Rainsbarger or to testify against them. Not until the murder of Enoch Johnson, November 18, 1884, which aroused the

was there any concert of action in bringing them to justice. The events which have followed the attempts to make crime odious in this county and the energy with which the gang have defended themselves are full of thrilling interest and hair-breadth escapes. Enoch Johnson was a clever thief and counterfeiter. In 1882 Johnson's daughter, Nettie, married Frank Rainsbarger. In March, 1883, the United States marshal swooped down upon Goldfield, Ia., and arrested Johnn and a man named Biggs for counterfeiting money. Biggs jumped from the Johnson, after train and escaped. lying in jail a year, was bailed out by his son-in-law, Frank Rainsbarger, and brother Nate, who made to be guarded for nearly a year, so de-

people of this and adjoining counties,

son then came to live with his daughter. During the summer of 1884 the boys were hard up and struck upon a plen to make a raise by beating the life insurance companies. Johnson and his wife fell in with the plan, and a preliminary examination and were held without bail. The grand jury at the some \$7,000 insurance was taken out for the benefit of Mrs. Johnson, and a like amount for the benefit of Frank Rains-barger and his wife. Jack Reed, a leader of the thieves and noted for his shrewdness and tact, was sent for to help carry out the scheme. Jack promptly informed the conspirators that their scheme would not work; that the for the state. The case lasted two insurance companies were onto the "stiff" racket, and that it was a stale chestnut, What was to be done?

While Enoch Johnson and one Winans were turning their attention towards "shoving the queer," Frank and Nate consummated a plan to furnish Johnson himself as a subject for the coroner. The place selected for the terrible crime was a ravine surrounded by brush and timber and half a mile from any farm-house. The spot was one mile north of Gifford, four miles south of Eldora, and James brothers gave to Clay county Mo. | thirteen miles distant from Frank and Nate Rainsbarger. On a dark, cloudy night, the 18th of November, 1884, they induced Johnson to go to the place selected, ostensibly to steal stock, while Nate and Frank went to Cles, three milesve north of the Rainsbarger place, and six-teen miles from the scene of the murder. It was 4 o'clock in the afternoon when they left home. They were met at Cleves by their nephews, Joseph and George Rainsbarger. Going out of the village a short distance, Frank and Nate exchanged one of their team—a slow traveler—for a fast roadster. About 7 o'clock Frank and Nate went the through Eldora, driving rapidly.

Coroner Underwood and Dr. Rutenour who had made themselves obnoxious to the gang by taking part in the prosecutions of Frank and Nate, were fired through Eldora, driving rapidly. They met Johnson at the place ap-pointed, and were met by Fin Rains-barger and one or two other parties. The Rainsburgers are all powerful men. and at least four of them had assembled to murder a feeble old man. After crushing Johnson's skull with heavy knuckles they set him on his horse be-fore he was yet dead, and carried him out in the road 200 yards from the scene of the murder. Making his foot fast in the lines they allowed him to fall from the horse, and dragged him some distance. The buggy he drove they left on top of the hill 300 yards north of

where the body was left. The next morning the dead body of Eva Johnson was found on the road, with the lines looped around the leg and attached to a part of the harness. The flesh of the left leg was congested underneath the lines and there were a num-ber of scratches on the body and face. Back of each ear the skull was broken. The horse was feeding near by. The mark of the body being dragged was also found. One wheel and one of the fills of the buggy were broken. pokes were broken at the hub and the fill upward the outward as if it were done by hand. The buggy was not moved after the wheel was broken. The boys reached home about 12 o'clock that night, and the next morning Nettie discovered blood on Nate's overcoat, and his bloody overalls were found by her hid in the barn. Frank's mittens were also bloody. When Johnson's body was first found it was supposed the horse had killed him, but the fact that his cap had disappeared lead some to suspect foul play. The next day after the funeral blood was found in the ravine. The next day after the A coroner's jury was impaneled and body taken up. The jury found that "deceased came to his death by some blunt instrument in the hands of per-sons to the jury unknown." No evi-dence was found implicating the Rans-

Six weeks after the murder Nettie Ramsbarger sent word to the coroner that she was afraid of her life and wanted help to get away from home and a guarantee of protection. The next day she was brought to Eldora and had

May term found a bill against them. Nate Rainsbarger was put on trial at Marshalltown December 28, 1885. He was defended by C. L. Albrook, one of the most brilliant young attorneys in weeks, and over one hundred witnesses were examined. The defense sought to prove an alibi, and that the horse was vicious and had killed Johnson by throwing him off and dragging him. The only evidence tending to criminate the accused, however, was that of Nettie Rainsbarger, and could they have succeeded in silencing her they would have been at large to-day. Nate was con-victed and sentenced to life imprisonment in the penitentiory. As soon as he was convicted other witnesses were ready to testify who had before been intimidated, and when Frank's trial came off last March at Marshalltown his conviction was easy. He was also sen-tenced to life imprisonment. Last March the supreme court of Iowa March the granted Nate Rainsbarger a new trial on

a writ of error. The conflicts between members of this gang and the officers and witnesses since the arrest of Nate and Frank Rainsbarger for the murder of Enoch Johnson, would make a volume of thrilattack was made by four men with handkerchiefs tied over the lower part of their faces.

The doctors escaped without a scratch. although their clothes and buggy were struck by several bullets. The next day illiam Fin and Mauch Rainsharere were arrested on the charge of shooting at the doctor. William gave bail and was released, while the other two were placed in jail at Eldora. That night they were attacked in the jail, taken away by a mob of 100 men, riddled with bullets and their bodies left lying in the

THEIR TIME HAD COME.

Instead of terrorizing the remainder

of the gang this only made them more desperate, and they vowed to be revenged. Threatening letters were sent to witnesses and every effort made to intimidate the people. Stock were ham-strung and killed, one family burned out, and several persons shot at. Henry Johns, the brother-in-law, was shot on a dark night by one of the gang because he refused to "shell out." When Nate's case was sent back for trial they determined again to kill off a number of witnesses. Writing threatening letters and killing stock had lost their terrors, and they determined upon a bold and daring scheme. A number of cutthroats were imported and were detailed for a wholesale slaughter. Mrs. Johns, the wealthy widow, was to be burned out and made to believe it was the work of the vigilants. It was then expected that she would draw upon her fortune for the purpose of revenge, and thus supplied with funds, they would pay their imported murderers. Letters purporting to come from the vigilants were written and given to a trusted friend to copy. These letters never reached Mrs. Johns, but fell into the hands of the officers of the law. When the conspiracy was discovered, members of the gang began to suspect each other, and it was not long before this murderous brood were warring with themselves. As a result, Jack Reed was convicted of

tiary for three years, and other members were indicted. Recently William Scott, a forme

norse-stealing, and sent to the peniten-

termined were the gang to kill her. I member of the gang, testified against Joe Rainsbarger, the Jesse James of Hardin county, a son of William. Joe had been indicted for shooting at a German. This so incensed the personator of Jesse that he went gunning for Scott. They met on a dark night, both shot, and Scott drew first blood. Monday night, November 7, John Bunger, William Scott, and Tom Hathaway went to Steamboat Rock, and the two first named made affidavit to the effect that their lives had been threatened by the Rainsbargers; also to some facts very damaging to the gang. Three of the Rainsbargers were watching them. When the boys went home they took a cut-off to avoid a heavy body of timber on the road. When crossing the field 300 yards from the woods they heard several signals given down the road they were expected to have taken. When they arrived at Scott's the three separated, and Bunger started home on horseback. While crossing a bridge on a lonely road, and nearly a mile from his home at Cleves, he was run into a horseman going quite fast. and his horse shot. Four men then came forward and fired six shots at him. He fell from the bridge, shot through the right leg, and several balls passed through his clothes. He lay perfectly still, however, and, after looking at their victim and concluding he was dead, the red-handed fiends withdrew. Bunjer crawled a quarter of a mile to the nearest house, from which he was taken to his home. Three years ago Joe Rainsbarger and a man named Krull entered Bunjer's house, knocked the father downstairs, drew their revolvers, and threatened to kill the family. and criminally assaulted one of the daughters. For this they were indicted, but the torch of the gang was applied to the Bunjer home, some of their stock killed, and their own lives threatened. This had the desired effect upon the Bunjers, and Joe was acquitted. Since then John Bunjer has been much in the company of the gang and has learned many things valuable to the prosecution. In order to seal his lips they anned to murder him, and they had done so. The attack and defense were so well planned, however, that it is doubtful if they will be convicted, For several months William Rainsbarger has been keeping his son-in-law at his house. When asked by Jack Reed why he kept him when he had such a large family of boys to help him on the farm, his reply was that they had all been impeached, and he

> Sunday before, may all be relied upon to sustain the alibi, and it will be nine witnesses against one. It is such bloody work as this, through a long series of years, that has led the people in this community up to the point of taking the law in their own hands. The people of Hardin county are as law-abiding as can be found anywhere in the country, but they have already suffered their rights to be trainpled upon too long.

wanted the son-in-law there because he

had never been impeached, and could not be, as he had lived in Nebraska.

The four Rainsbargers who took part in

two women belonging to the gang,

whom they brought to their house the

Jack Reed is one of the shrewdest and most notorious crooks in Iowa. He was the oldest son of Robert Reed, an early settler in DuPage county, Illinois. He was early educated in crime and took naturally to stealing. Jack's first arrest was in Fayette county, Iowa, when he was twenty-seven years of age. He escaped by jumping from the second story of the court house, in which he was confined. He was next heard of in Dallas county, Iowa, where he operated from 1868 to 1873 with the John Meraiam gang. In 1873 he came to Hardin county, made the acquaintance of the Rainsbargers, and has since been a frequent visitor here. He has been convicted twice from this county and sentenced to the penitentiary. He was

once convicted in Dallas county for stealing a cow and got eighteen months. Through his shrewdness he has only served four years and twenty-one days in the penitentiary, and has paid but one fine of \$100. This remark. able character has been arrested twentyseven times for stealing and "shoving the queer," and has defended himself seven times, and has only been convicted four times. He has helped thirteen criminals out of trouble and has paid out as bail for others \$1,900, and \$2,300 as security debts. He has used thousands of dollars for bribing juries and witnesses, and has found it more successful than the Rainsbarger method of shooting and threatening witnesses. He has operated in nine states and territories, using as many different alliases. He is now fifty-five years of age, broken in health, and robbed of his property by dishonest officials and in defending himself. He enters upon a three years' sentence a living example of the truth of the proverb: "The way of the transgres-sor is hard."

BOOK REVIEWS.

"A CHILD OF GENIUS" is a sketchbook by J. J. Wood, of Wood's book store, Hudson, Mich. The book contains a number of other sketches each well written and thoroughly interesting.

THE CENTURY COMPANY has issued the seventh number of "Battles and Leaders of the civil war." These publications consists of articles which have appeared in the Century Magazine, is issued in parts and sold exclusively by subscription. When completed the parts will make a valuable and handsome book.

"IN THRALLDOM, a psychological romance" publication by Leon Mead and published by J. L. Ogilvie & Co., Chi-

RECENT TELEGRAMS from Russia show that the government of that country is still pursuing the policy of armtrary and despotic repression which is described by Mr. Kennan in a paper entitled "The last appeal of the Russian liberals," in the November Century. A number of young army and navy offi-cers in St. Petersburg have just been sentenced to penal servitude in the Siberian mines for merely setting forth in the course of a debate the advantages the shooting, the mother of the mur-derers, the daughter and son-in-law and which another governmental system would have over the present one. There is said to be much excitement and indignation among the friends of the young officers in military circles, and the circumstance furnishes another illustration of the way in which the Russian government, by punishing with excessive severity natural and peaceful discussion, excites and keeps alive the revolutionary spirit. As the liberals of Moscow say in the interesting appeal to the esar, quoted in Mr. Kennan's article, "the principal reason for the mor-bid form which the contest with the government has taken is the absence in Russia of any opportunity for the free developmedt of public opinion and the free exercise of public activity."

> STALL'S LUTHERAN YEAR-BOOK for 1888 is in every respect a book of superior excellence. With this issue, Mr. Stall has introduced into the ecclesiastical annuals such charts and diagrams as those used in the United States census, thus making the growth and work of the church manifest at a single glance. This new feature is so valuable that all other church annuals will likely follow the example. Institutions of learning, home mission stations, etc., are located separately on maps of the United States. It will awaken a new admiration for a people so fully consecrated in every phase of moral, social, religious and

pages, and sells at the nominal sum of 25 cents. It may be ordered through any book dealer, or from the editor at Lancaster, Pa.

1216 Farnam Street, Omaha

THE ART REVIEW for September. October and November has appeared and proves itself fully entitled to its name. This number contains ten interesting articles on art and artists together with sixteen photogravers each, exceedingly pleasing. The Art Review is published at 31 East Seventeenth street, New York.

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE for December will be a Christmas number. Its leading article, by William H. Ingersoll, will discuss the peculiarities of the accepted likeness of Christ, and re-count the legend of its origin. This line is traceable in the sacred arts of all Christian nations from the beginning of our era. Mr. Ingersoll will more especially describe the endeavors of distinguished American painters and sculptors to represent this ideal. The article will be abundantly illustrated.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S remarkable ballad of "Ticonderoga," which will appear in the Christmas Scribner's, will be splendidly illustrated from drawings made by two of the author's friends—William Hole, A, R. S. A. and Will H. Low, the American artist and illustrator of "Lamia," to whom Mr. Stevenson recently inscribed two poems.

MRS. F. H. BURNETT's new story will begin in the Christmas number of St. Nicholas. It is called "Sara Crewe," and it depicts the life of a little girl in a boarding-school in London. This number of St. Nicholas will have stories by Washington Gladden, H. H. Boyesen, Frank R. Stockton and J. T. Trowbridge, with an illustrated account of the voyage of the World baloon, written by the reporter who took the trip from St. Louis last summer.

THE CONTENTS of the Century volume include some notable papers. Here are Prof. Atwater's valuable economic studies on the food question-papers which have attracted wide attention among scientists in this country and in Europe; several of Mrs. van Rensselaer's Cathedral papers, with Pennell's illustrations (to be continued in 1888); Dr. J. M. Buckley's "Christian Science and Mind Cure;" biographical contributions from George Bancroft, Clarence Cook, Karl Blind, George Kennan and others; travel papers and art papers; essays on important subjects by E. C. Stedmam; single illustrated articles on "Finding Pharaoh," "College Boat Racing" by Julian Hawthorne, etc. The fiction in-cludes the latter half of Mr. Stockton's "Hundredth Man," with notable short stories, among them "Jack," by Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, "Azalia," by Joel Chandler Harris, etc., etc. The War Papers in this volume have covered some of the later batties of the war, with Sherman's March to the Sea, and many minor engagements.

THE ST. NICHOLAS bound volumes for 886-87 (price \$4 for the two parts) conadjectives for St. Nicholas. The Newark Advertiser said recently that "St. Nicholas is so exasperatingly good, month in and month out, that the reviewer may well wish, once in a while, that he might be able to pick a flaw.

During the past year the leading fea-tures of St. Nicholas have included Frank R. Stockton's "personally con-ducted" paper; suggestive articles enti-tled, "Ready for Business;" General Badeau's war stories for boys and girls; the serials, "Jenny's Boarding House." by James Otis, and "Juan and Juanita," by

come to be very widely used as a supplementary reader in schools. For a supplementary reader in schools. For next year St. Nicholas has a greater programme than ever. Mrs. Burnett, author of "Little Lord Fauntleroy," is to contribute a short serial; and Joel Chandler Harris, John Burroughs, Frank R. Stockton, H. H. Boyesen, J. T. Trowbridge, Colonel Richard M. Johnstone, and Leuisa M. Alcott are among the many distinguished writers. among the many distinguished writers who will contribute serial and short stories to this famous magazine for

young people.

ALL THE monthly numbers of Babyland for 1887 are out and bound in a book with a cover as pretty as the hundred pages inside. That cover appears to be a world full of children, shy and curtous children, with apple blossoms and butterflies under and flying around it. A beautiful book it is! But the best of it isn't the beauty. Baby may not have a very keen eye for beauty; but he understands easy pictures and stories and puzzles and finger play. His mammat makes him understand. Just there is the best of Babyland. It brings out all the mother's brightness, increases her brightness, gives her something to talk about. Mothers need but little premating to size and need but little prompting to sing and tell stories to their little ones. Naturo affords the stimulus. All the mother

love wants is the story, the rhyme, the jingle, the picture. The baby responds with confidential crow. What are such relations worth? 'Babyland' costs but 75 cents in the book. You can get a sample monthly part of it, or of Our Little Men and Women, or of "Pansy," or of Chautauqua Young Folks Journal, or of Wide Awake, by sending 5 cents to D. Lothrop company, Boston.

BELFORD'S ANNUAL for 1887-8 is an American Book for American children edited by Thomas W. Hauford (Elmo) This book is worthy of a place in every household in America. It is illustrated with 125 original drawings, by Williams, Jones, Kendricks, Vaughn and piece and cover, and full of stories, sketches, fables, fairy tales, poems, by Louisa M: Alcott, Olive Thorne, W. K. Forbes, P. T. Barnum, Eugend Field, Lucy Larcom, Henry Ward Beecher, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, W. D. Howells, L. F. Tolstoi, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, and others. Belford, Clarke &

Co., New York, are the publishers.

Some of Brigham Young's Wives. St. Louis Post-Dispatch: The other wives of Brigham Young were Augusta Cobb, a proxy, who died before her hus-band; Eliza Ann Webb Dee, the runaway, who is now living in Detroit, and Augusta Adams Young, his very first; Eliza R. Snow, the Mormon poetess, now aged eighty-six, who claims to have been scaled to Joseph Smith; Maomi K. J. C. Twiss, Martha Bowker and Har-rlet Amelia Folsom. This makes twenty-two polygamous wives whom the Prophet Brigham possessed during his lifetime and whom he acknowledged; Eliza Snow, Miss Twiss and Martha Bowker, all childless, have rooms in the tain nearly two thousand pages of de-lightful matter for young folks. Critics | there, receive life annuities from the of the press have about exhausted their | estate. "Miss" Snow is a living skele-Lion house, and, like the other widows ton and cannot last much longer. She has written three volumes of poetry and a huge life of her brother, Lorenzo Snow, the apostle who served a term in the Utah "pen" for unlawful cohabita;

> Harriet Amelia Folsom Young, who has gone into history as the favorito wife of Brigham, and for whom the Amelia palace, now called the Gardo house, was built, is now forty-five years old and still a fine-looking and impressive though by no means handsome woman. She lives in her own two-story house at the corner of First West and

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