

# McKisson Murder Sensational Tale Of Early Settlement

A tragic affair occurred in Northfield on the 24th of July, 1837. On the night of that date, some person, or persons, entered the home of Robert McKisson, a respected citizen of the township, and with an ax struck Mrs. McKisson as she lay on the bed, splitting or rather hewing the right side of her head nearly away, and leaving the brain exposed or scattered on the bedding.

Lucinda Croninger, Mrs. McKisson's daughter by a former marriage, lying on an adjoining bed, hearing the confusion, raised up and screamed, but was instantly knocked down, senseless, with an ax. An alarm was given by some member of the family, and the murderer made off. The neighbors collected, and obtained from Mrs. McKisson, who, a few hours later died, the statement that the murder had been committed by her father-in-law, Samuel McKisson. This was the dying declaration of the woman, and the testimony of the daughter at the trial.

Samuel McKisson was arrested that night in his own house. Suspicion was at once attached to

David McKisson, a brother-in-law of the murdered woman. He had been paying addresses to the daughter, but had been refused admission to the house by the mother. He had been lurking around for several days, during which time he had obtained several interviews with Miss Croninger, in one of which they had exchanged rings. A few minutes after the murder, a person was heard running past a house toward the canal from the direction of the McKisson cabin. The next morning, at daylight, he was seen on the canal, about three miles from the place, getting a passage to Cleveland.

A few days later he was arrested on the Government works, at the mouth of Maumee Bay, with blood still on his shirt sleeves. The father and son were indicted for murder by the grand jury in September, 1837, and soon afterwards tried. The father was acquitted, but the son was convicted of murder in first degree, and on the 9th of February, 1838, was executed at Ravenna.

PERRIN'S 1881 History of Summit Co.