

Sheriff William S. Purple
1869 -- 1923

Nellie {Midgley} Purple
1872 -- 1942

Purple Inn, Destroyed By Fire
Brutus, Emmet County, Michigan
May 5, 1937

Petoskey Evening News
Tea Table Talk, page 2
Wednesday, June 2, 1915

—Sheriff Will Purple has just purchased a Monroe automobile for the use of himself and family. The car is a runabout and the sheriff should secure considerable pleasure from his trips about the country in it. Representative Hinkley has also just purchased a similar car.

Petoskey Evening News
Tea Table Talk, page 3
Thursday, June 21, 1915

—There is trouble in the negro quarter today, according to the prosecuting attorney and sheriff. One colored man's wife has deserted him and her few months old child for another colored person. It appears, so the story goes, that the woman took her child and went to Brutus a day or so ago and that the man she is now said to have run away with, followed her there. She is supposed to have left the child at Brutus or Levering and gone on north. The husband and father has Sheriff Purple with him and is following the couple. The last heard from them just after dinner Thursday was that they were headed for Cheboygan.

The Petoskey Evening News
Tuesday, June 29, 2015, page 3

—Sheriff Purple says he is making out his annual report for the year to close July 1, 1915, and that in that year he has had no women prisoners in his jail. This is the first year in a long time that there has not been at least one female prisoner in the Emmet county jail. Fifty-six prisoners is the record for the year.

Petoskey Evening News & Daily Resorter
Tea Table Talk, page 3
Wednesday, July 7, 1915

—Sheriff Purple is spending the day in Harbor Springs where he was called to investigate reports of violations of the local option law recently.

Petoskey Evening News & Resorter
Saturday, July 31, 1915

—Sheriff Purple says there is very little doing in his department these days for people in Petoskey and Emmet county are not breaking the laws to any great extent. The police also report everything quiet these days.

Petoskey Evening News & Daily Resorter
Thursday, September 9, 1915, page 3

—Sheriff Purple, who went to Grand Rapids and points south in search of the party who stole several articles of value from a Harbor Springs barber shop and also to locate a witness wanted in circuit court here this week, returned home Wednesday afternoon. He found the witness but the man who took the goods was not to be found in that section.

AN ATTEMPTED JAIL DELIVERY WAS HAD SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

Another jail delivery was attempted Sunday afternoon while Sheriff and Mrs. Will S. Purple were absent from the sheriff's residence for a short auto ride in the country.

According to the story of one of the inmates of the jail, Bob Hill, the colored man in for attempted murder, and Glenn Craig, in for attempting another serious crime, secured a jeweler's saw, probably having it handed to them through one of the jail windows, and sawed one of the bars from the middle south window. They had secured a table knife and with the aid of a hugo iron bar, also given them from the outside by some of their friends, cut through the wire screen.

The south window is hid from view by the high board fence erected by R. J. Smith, within a foot or two of the south side of the jail, and the men were not noticed at their work. They evidently planned to make their getaway in the night.

Their plans were all halted when one colored person, with more respect than the rest, informed one of the police that the delivery was to be attempted. When Sheriff Purple returned he and the police entered the jail and found conditions about as had been described to them.

Sheriff Purple says it has not been his watchfulness nor the strength of the jail that has kept many prisoners from escaping but just pure luck. He says that almost any person can get out of the outside corridors of

the jail in ten minutes if left to themselves. The doors are also easy to open with hand made keys.

A few days ago he took several keys away from one of the prisoners who was evidently attempting to escape and says he is not at all surprised that the attempt should be made as conditions are about right at most any old time for men to get away if left in the outside corridors. He says the jail needs hardened steel bars on all the outside windows and the doors also repaired.

Petoskey Evening News, page 2
Tuesday, September 28, 1915

SHERIFF PURPLE GETS FOUR MORE LOCAL OPTION VIOLATORS ON TUESDAY.

Four more men were arrested Tuesday for bootlegging, or in other words violation of the local option law. Sheriff Purple made the arrests and the men, Fred Wilcox, L. B. Fry, George Phillips and Lee Payne, the latter from the brewery, will give bonds to appear in circuit court for trial.

The city and county officials have employed two men from out of the city to come here and work up the cases and more arrests are expected. The outside men report there are no blind pigs and that bootlegging seems the only difficulty with option violators here.

JAIL BREAKERS CAUGHT IN ACT

FIVE PRISONERS READY TO LEAVE

Sheriff Purple Hears Them at Work
Taking Bars from Window and
Finds Men Ready to Crawl
Through to Liberty—
Negro Prime
Mover.

"I guess I will have to go to Europe and fight in the war if I am to get a chance to shoot anyone," remarked Sheriff Purple Wednesday, when after lying outside one of the south windows of the county jail Tuesday night waiting for five prisoners to crawl through, he decided that they would not make the attempt.

He changed his mind however when he went into the jail for there lined up in front of a window, from which the bars had been partly sawed and hammered, were five prisoners: two white men, a negro, an Indian and a Chinaman.

Felix Henderson, the negro, is the man who escaped from jail some years ago and was at liberty for several months. He has made several efforts to get out but only once was he successful. He is supposed to be the fellow who made the key with which he unlocked the combination door of the inner corridor and thus allowed the men to reach the window from which they would have escaped. They made a slight noise while aroused Mrs. Purple instantly and she called Sheriff Purple.

Supposing the men were already making their escape he took his automatic and went to the south side of the jail expecting to see the men crawling out. They evidently knew their noise was heard for they did not start for some time.

He then went in to ascertain the reason for their delay but had he remained for a few minutes longer he would without a doubt have been forced to wing at least one of the fellows. Finding the five lined up ready to make a break for liberty, he quickly covered them with his gun and locked them in their cells.

Henderson and Craig are supposed to have been the ringleaders in this attempt according to an Indian in the jail. This fellow says John Rupers, another prisoner, aided the men to unlock the door but did not aid them to break out the bar from the window. This was done by securing one of the heavy window weights and covering it with strips of blankets torn from Henderson's bed. The bar which they broke off had previously been sawed almost in two and had been repaired with a piece bolted across it. This repaired part was driven off and the bar bent to allow the prisoners to get through.

Sheriff Purple says he chased the men around the corridor a couple of times in the dark before getting them back in their cells again. He says the jail is anything but the safest one in the country and that it will always be easy for men to get out of it until it is remodeled or a new one built. Just a few days ago a man was seen passing something in through the window to some of the men inside but a search at the time failed to locate any keys, saws, files, etc., which could be used in an attempt at jail delivery.

Recently constructed jails at Traverse City and other places are controlled; that is, the cell doors and jail doors are automatically locked with levers worked from the sheriff's residence from which any of the cells can be opened or closed without entering the jail. There are no locks to be tampered with.

Two of the men will be taken to Ionia at once but what will be done with the other three is not yet known. Felix is a bad man and will probably be severely dealt with.

Petoskey Evening News, page 1
Friday, September 24, 1915

HARBOR SPRINGS MAN FALSELY IMPRISONED IN EMMET COUNTY JAIL.

According to news from Harbor Springs Friday morning there was one very angry citizen of that village on the war path Friday night and from his remarks some one in Petoskey is in for a peck of trouble.

"I declare I was imprisoned falsely and I will have not only revenge but damages for the personal insult," declared A. W. Reynolds, of the law firm of Deuel & Reynolds of that village, Saturday morning.

Here is the story and it is a good one, too. Thursday, Felix Henderson, the negro who attempted to get out of jail, pleaded not guilty to the charge of grand larceny and Judge Shepherd appointed Mr. Reynolds his attorney.

The latter went to the county jail to see his client, having secured the promise of Sheriff Purple that the latter would come and let him out in time to catch the last train for Harbor Springs. To make the story short the sheriff forgot and at supper time Mr. Reynolds found himself locked in jail.

"False imprisonment" is said to be the charge which is brought against the sheriff who is now undertaking to settle for \$1,000,000. Friends of Mr. Reynolds and Sheriff Purple are having a mighty good laugh over the incident.

The Petoskey Evening News & Daily Resorter
Tea Table Talk, page 3
Saturday, August 14, 1915

—Friday night Sheriff Purple was called on the phone from Pellston and requested to arrest one John Durfers, wanted there for a serious crime. The man had left on the evening train south and on the train between Pellston and Petoskey had shaved off his whiskers. He passed the cordon of police at the station and made for the south G. R. & I. yards. Sheriff Purple with Representative D. H. Hinkley and City Assessor C. J. Gray, in the Hinkley automobile drove to the north side of the city and made a search hunt through the yards. Durfers was surprised and captured without any trouble. Sheriff Purple says he found two razors, a towel, shaving soap and brush in his pockets, showing evidence of having been used within an hour or two. The sheriff says he walked very quietly among the long lines of box cars and finally came upon his man quite unexpectedly. Durfers was placed in the county jail awaiting action by the authorities.

Petoskey Evening News
Tea Table Talk, page 3
Wednesday, January 19, 1921

—Sheriff Will S. Purple has made the following additional deputy sheriff appointments: Charles G. Lomain, Newton Thomas, Charles J. Ditto and Olin L. Garber, of Petoskey, and Ralph D. Walker, of Levering.

PURPLE MOVING TO NEW HOME

HOUSEHOLD GOODS ON WAY
TO SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE
IN THIS CITY.

Sheriff Miller Moving to New Resi-
dence on State Street. Gives
Up Office Friday.

Sheriff-elect and Mrs. Purple are busy this week hauling their household goods from Brutus to the sheriff's residence on Division street, and Mr. and Mrs. Miller are busy moving their goods to their new home on State street. Both families expect to have their goods in their new homes before tomorrow night.

Mr. Purple started from Brutus yesterday with four loads of goods but some time later telephoned that one load had upset in the deep snow.

Sheriff Miller has but one more day to serve, and will transfer the office to Sheriff-elect Purple at midnight Friday night.

Petoskey Evening News
Tea Table Talk, page 3
Saturday, January 1, 1921

—Mr. and Mrs. Will Purple, of Brutus, have completed moving their household goods to the sheriff's residence on Division street, Mr. Purple having assumed the office of sheriff of Emmet county today.

SHERIFF PURPLE NAMES DEPUTIES

ANNOUNCES LIST OF MEN WHO
WILL ASSIST HIM IN
HIS WORK.

Has Not Yet Announced Name of
His Undersheriff. Says He
Will Do So Later.

Sheriff Will S. Purple, who started active work in his new position Monday, has announced the list of his deputy sheriffs but has not yet announced who his undersheriff will be. Saturday being New Year's day and yesterday being Sunday, the new sheriff was not very busy during the first two days of his terms.

The list of deputies follows:

Robert L. Wolff, Petoskey.
C. E. Culbert, Petoskey.
C. E. Miller, Petoskey.
Irvine Crawford, Petoskey.
A. B. Krieger, Petoskey.
S. L. Wixson, Petoskey.
W. H. Van Gorder, Petoskey.
Harry Pokriefke, Harbor Springs.
Louis Neuman, Alanson.
Armout T. Cope, Carp Lake.
Armour T. Cope, Carp Lake.
Henry Gregory, Brutus.
Alymer Pope, Oden.

SHERIFF PURPLE CAPTURES NEAR

MAN WANTED FOR BURGLARY
AND JAIL BREAKING IS
FOUND IN U. S. ARMY.

Arrested at Fort Pike, Arkansas, by
Emmet County Officer After
Considerable Red Tape.

George Near, who escaped from the Emmet county jail in 1920, has been retaken by Sheriff Will S. Purple at Ft. Pike, Arkansas. Near had enlisted in the army and was stationed at Ft. Pike when the Emmet county sheriff arrived upon the scene.

Near and Robert Johnson escaped from jail by sawing the window bars with a hack saw. At the time it was believed that they were given assistance from the outside, and an investigation of the escape was made which resulted in one arrest.

Johnson was later recaptured by Charles E. Miller, who was sheriff at the time, but for some time no clue could be obtained as to the whereabouts of Near.

Sheriff Purple has spent considerable time on the case, and by following up every available trail, finally learned that the elusive Near was in the service at the Arkansas point.

In order to obtain the custody of Near it was necessary to secure the consent of the secretary of war to release the enlisted man to the civil authorities, and also to secure the proper extradition papers from Governor Groesbeck which would be honored by the governor of Arkansas.

The legal formalities were successfully complied with, and Sheriff Purple is expected to land his man in the county jail early the coming week.

LOCAL WOMAN SHOOTS PROWLER

MRS. CORNELL, EMMET STREET
REPORTS HAVING WOUNDED
NEGRO SUNDAY MORNING.

Tells Sheriff Purple that Walter Bannister Broke into Her Home and That She Used Resolver.

Mrs. Ernest A. Cornell, South Emmet street, reported to Sheriff Will Purple Monday forenoon that she had shot and badly wounded Walter Bannister, a negro, when the latter broke into her home at about 3 a. m. Sunday, and tried to break into her bedroom.

She declared that late in the night she heard some one in the basement and that the person soon came to the main floor of the house. She called asking the party to halt and getting no response opened fire. At the first shot she heard a scream and the man fell to the floor. A neighbor was called to the scene and the man allowed to get to his own home at 214 Wesley street.

She did not report the affair Sunday but by Monday she had become very nervous and expressed fear of being arrested for having shot the man, reported the case to the sheriff.

Sheriff Purple visited Bannister at his home and found that the bullet had pierced the man's stomach. So far he has not been placed under arrest.

Petoskey Evening News, page 1
Thursday, October 13, 1921
Price three cents, Newsboy five cents

**SHERIFF PURPLE GETS READMOND
BOOZE MAKER
OFFICERS RAID FARM HOME
IN READMOND TOWNSHIP
AND GET BOOZE**

**Paul Krystoff Placed in County Jail
to Face Charge of Violating
Liquor Law**

The farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Krystoff, in Readmond Township, was raided Wednesday by Sheriff Purple and a force of deputies and a complete still, a quantity of mash, and several quarts of moonshine found.

Krystoff was placed under arrest on a charge of manufacturing moonshine and will likely be given a hearing before Judge W.R. Montgomery within a short time. He is being held in the Emmet County Jail.

Woman Destroys Evidence

Sheriff Purple reports that when the officers entered the home Mrs. Krystoff rushed in a cupboard and seized four quarts of moonshine, breaking the bottles on the floor. The officers halted the work of destruction in time to save two bottles of the stuff.

It was the opinion of the officers that the couple cooked their mash on the kitchen stove as no other place was discovered. In the equipment found was a good sized copper worm used in the manufacture of moonshine, about 30 gallons of mash, and the bottles of the finished product.

Petoskey Evening News, page 1
February 28, 1921

—Sheriff Purple arrived home Sunday morning with George Near from Fort Pike, Ark., where Near was serving in the U. S. army.

Petoskey Evening News
Friday October 28, 1921

—Sheriff Purple, special state officer Harry Gardner and a force of deputy sheriffs made a raid in Pleasantview township Thursday and found a quantity of mash being prepared for moonshine. Fire under the cooking kettle had been destroyed and the still and other equipment had been removed only a few hours before the officers arrived. The mash and barrels, etc., were destroyed.

Levering Local
Thursday, October 20, 1922

Petoskey—The farm home of Paul Krystuff in Readmond Township, was raided by Sheriff Purple and deputies last week and a still, a quantity of mash and some moonshine were taken. Krystuff was arrested and is being held.

Petoskey Evening News
Thursday, December 29, 1921
Tea Table Talk

Sheriff Purple and Deputy Sheriff Harry Pokriefke went to Ionia, Mich. Thursday with John Macey and Fred Gasco, sentenced to the state prison at the last term of Emmet County Circuit Court, the former for assault and the latter for burglary.

Petoskey Evening News, page 3
Thursday, April 21, 1921

—Sheriff Will S. Purple reports that during the first three and a half months of his present term as sheriff he has had more men call at the jail seeking a place to sleep than during all the forty-eight months of his two previous terms.

N. SOBLIENSKI UNDER ARREST FOR BURGLARY

ALLEGED TO HAVE TAKEN
FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS
FROM PELLSTON HOME.

Was Self-Invited Guest of Joe Molchun Who Reports Loss of Money Sunday.

Nick Soblienski is today in the county jail charged with taking several hundred dollars from Joe Molchun, of Pellston, early Sunday morning. Molchun is employed in a lumber camp at Pellston.

The quick apprehension of Soblienski was accomplished as the result of thorough co-operation of the city police, the state police and the game warden's department, under the direction of Sheriff Purple. By notifying every public safety officer within a large territory, Sheriff Purple spread a net which made it almost impossible for Soblienski to escape.

Arrested at Levering.

When arrested at Levering by Deputies Ed. Long and Frank Lloyd, Soblienski was found to have nearly five hundred dollars concealed in a fold in his shirt. At first he denied having any considerable amount of money, but a forced search by the officers disclosed the concealed funds.

Soblienski attempted to escape from the officers at Mackinaw City, while temporarily detained at that point, but was quickly subdued.

Was Guest at Party.

Molchun claims to have lost about \$400 and Soblienski contends that a part of the funds were his own property.

Soblienski asked to stay overnight at the Molchun home and was given permission to do so. Later in the evening a party was in progress to which Soblienski was one of the participants. The funds were missed Sunday morning, Soblienski was suspected and his arrest followed quickly.

He was bound over to the April term of circuit court.

CAPTURE NEGRO JAIL BREAKER

ROBERT JOHNSON MAKES
HIS SECOND GETAWAY
MONDAY P. M.

Dodges Sheriff as Latter Makes
Rounds of Jail to Lock
Prisoners in Cells.

Robert Johnson, colored, escaped from the Emmet county jail Tuesday night in a sensational manner and enjoyed a night's liberty only to be returned to jail Wednesday morning. Johnson eluded Sheriff Purple Tuesday night when the sheriff went into the jail to lock the prisoners in their cells for the night and dodged out the door of the inner corridor and on out of the jail building.

When Mr. Purple went to lock Johnson in his cell he attempted to throw a blanket over the sheriff's head, but failed. As he ran through the jail the sheriff pulled his gun on him but the mechanism failed to work and the gun proved useless.

Home-made Key Used.

Johnson was kept locked in the inner corridor of the jail but is believed to have fashioned a key and to have secured help of a fellow prisoner in letting himself out into the outer corridor. There he hid behind the door. Sheriff Purple noticed that the door was not in its usual position and attempted to adjust it. As he did so he discovered Johnson hidden behind it.

Mr. Purple made a leap for the door leading to the jail kitchen and there again attempted to use his gun but it failed. He followed the escaping prisoner through the sheriff's residence and out across the Lake street porch. There he again attempted to work the gun but again it failed him. Charles Hitchings of the fire department saw the prisoner escaping and gave chase but failed to overtake him.

The sheriff then returned to the jail to prevent other prisoners from escaping but this had been prevented by Mrs. Purple who with a wicked looking revolver had the men "covered."

Found at Walloon Lake.

The sheriff, his deputies, city police and a posse of citizens searched over the city and country. No trace of the man was found until later in the night when Mr. Thomas, of the Thomas Hotel, Walloon Lake, telephoned that he had Johnson at that point. Johnson formerly was employed at the Thomas Hotel as chef. Sheriff Purple brought him back to Petoskey Wednesday morning.

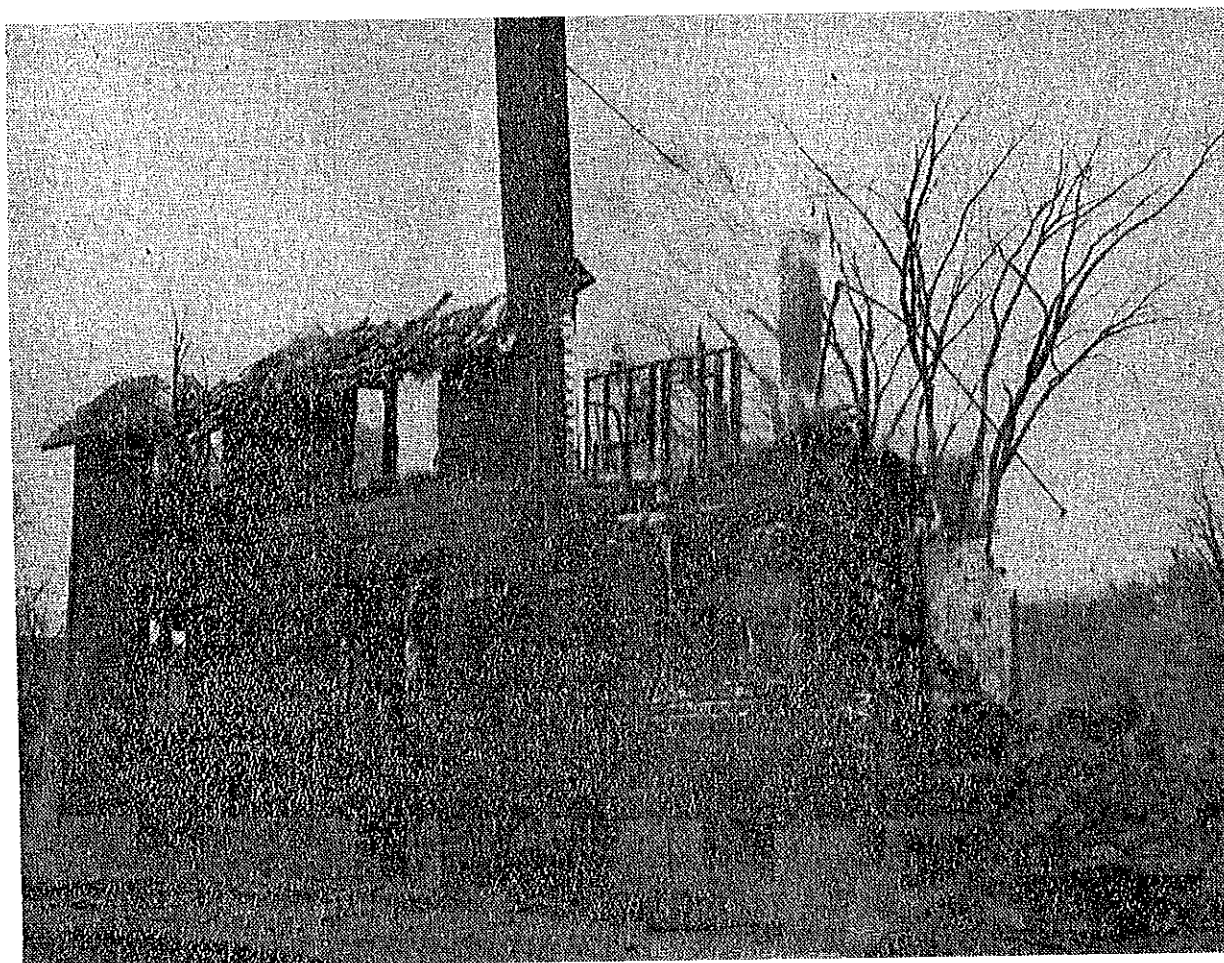
Johnson was recently convicted of forgery, and this is the second time he has escaped from the Emmet county jail. On the first escape he made his getaway with George Near and was captured at Elkhart, Ind. Johnson was convicted at the present term of court and comes up before Judge Shepherd for sentence at an early date.

Petoskey Evening News, page 3
Saturday, April 30, 1921

—Sheriff W. S. Purple took George Near and Joseph Grobaski to the Michigan state prison at Ionia Saturday morning.

Petoskey Evening News
Friday, May 7, 1837

AS FLAMES DEVOURED THE PURPLE INN



All that remains of the famous Purple Inn at Brutus today is a cellar full of broken debris and smoldering coals following a fire which destroyed the Evans Store and leaped across the street to burn the popular hostelry. The picture shown above was taken about 11:00 a.m. yesterday when the fire was at its height. Later the flames reduced the wooden frame to ashes and each chimney fell. The Inn had been operated by Mr. Nellie Purple since early in the century.

PURPLE INN IS DESTROYED BY FIRE BLAZE WHIPPED ACROSS STREET BY HIGH WINDS

Fire Starts in Quarters of Dan Evans Family Adjoining Store Three Fire Departments Called To Save Other Buildings As Blaze Spread

Petoskey Evening News
Thursday, May 6, 1937, Page 1

The famed Purple Inn, popular Brutus hostelry since the early days of the town, was destroyed by fire this morning when a strong north wind whipped flames across the street from the burning Evans Store.

Starting in the living quarters of Mrs. Adele Evans and her daughter, Jill, which adjoined the store, the fire spread over the building so rapidly that only the cash register was saved.

A strong wind blew the flames directly across the street to the old Purple Inn, operated by Mrs. Nellie Purple. Quickly organized volunteer crews removed some of the furniture from the Purple Inn but the building and much of the furnishings were lost.

"There was angelfood cake in the oven and chicken in the ice box all ready for the opening on Sunday," Mrs. Purple said. "We had just finished placing the old home in the best shape it has ever been, anticipating an outstanding season."

Mrs. Evans was working in the store when her daughter called from the living quarters.

"I couldn't run in there immediately because of customers," Mrs. Evans said. "Finally Jill came out and said 'Something terrible has happened in the kitchen.'"

"I ran into the kitchen and found the wall behind the stove a mass of flames. It spread so rapidly we couldn't save a thing."

"There had been a fire in the kitchen stove at breakfast time but I had not touched it for at least an hour and a half. I don't know how the fire started on the wall."

The Evans store was partially covered by insurance, she said. Mr. Evans is working in Detroit.

Mrs. Purple said her building was partially covered by insurance.

The Alanson, Pellston and Petoskey fire departments were called but could do nothing to

save the Evans and Purple buildings. A barn belonging to Jack Frye caught fire but crews extinguished the blaze. All furnishings were removed from other nearby buildings in fear the blaze would wipe out the town. Combined efforts of the fire departments and volunteers saved adjoining buildings.

When the fire first broke out the wind was directly in the north, threatening the Pennsylvania Railway Station. Later it changed to the north-east and spared the depot.

Mrs. Evans suffered a minor burn on her wrist and scorched hair. The daughter, four and one-half years old, was uninjured. They were taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Greiner.

In April, 1903, Mr. and Mrs. Will Purple came to Brutus and purchased the Pier House, the town's hotel since the earliest days of the settlement. With the exception of the years which Mr. Purple served as sheriff and a few other short interruptions, the Purple Inn had been a popular rendezvous for diners. The fame of Mrs. Purple's chicken dinners was known throughout the county as more and more visitors stopped there for meals.

Mr. Purple was killed while sheriff in a gun battle. Later Mrs. Purple re-opened the Inn and entertained thousands each summer with her famous dinners.

The Petoskey Evening News
Friday, May 7, 1937

WILL GIVE BENEFIT TO HELP FAMILY

Residents of Brutus today took steps for the relief of the Evans family who lost everything in the fire which destroyed their store and the Purple Inn at Brutus yesterday.

It was announced that the Maple River Grange will stage a dance at the township hall at Brutus on Saturday evening for the benefit of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Evans and their child, Jill, 4.

The Evans lost everything that was in the store. The child, who was barefoot at the time, found herself without shoes or stockings as the fire destroyed the living quarters adjoining the store.

EMMET COUNTY SHERIFF SHOT WILL S. PURPLE KILLED BY FARMER

Attempt To Serve Papers On Wequetonsing Man Is Fatal To Officer

Charlevoix Courier
September 12, 1923

The attachment of an automobile to satisfy a circuit Court judgment was the excuse for the brutal murder of Sheriff Will S. Purple, of Emmet County, near Wequetonsing, last Wednesday afternoon.

Accompanied by Edward Pailthorp, son of a Petoskey attorney, Sheriff Purple visited the farm home of Joe Grosskopf, near the Wequetonsing golf links, and, in attempting to serve his papers on Grosskopf, received his death wound at the hands of the latter. Several days previous, the sheriff had made his first attempt to attach the car of the Wequetonsing farmer and at that time Grosskopf is said to have shown the officer a bill of sale of the property, held by his wife. Mr. Purple is said to have remarked that the writing on the bill of sale did not appear to have been written any great length of time, although it was dated several months previous. On the Wednesday trip, he had planned to seize the car to satisfy the judgment, leaving the ownership of the property to be decided later.

Mr. Pailthorp, who accompanied the sheriff and tells the story, says that on their arrival at the home of Grosskopf the latter threatened the sheriff in case he attempted to remove the car and finally ran into the home, returning with a single barreled shotgun. Pailthorp, fearing mischief, tried to get the sheriff under cover and himself dodged around the side of the house. He almost immediately heard a shot and saw the sheriff fall. Although mortally wounded, the officer managed to draw his automatic and open fire on Grosskopf, all of his six shots taking effect. The enraged farmer, however, managed to load his gun a second time and his shot struck the prostrate sheriff in the back of the head killing him instantly. Grosskopf then turned his gun on Pailthorp who by that time was running towards Wequetonsing for assistance but missed him.

After reaching the golf clubhouse at Wequetonsing and having telephoned Harbor Springs and Petoskey authorities, Pailthorp returned to the scene of the shooting, accompanied by some of the golfers who happened to be around the

building and to whom he had explained the situation. They found the sheriff dead and Grosskopf still conscious but badly wounded. The murderer's first shot had taken the sheriff in the abdomen, just below the ribs, a fatal wound in itself. Bullets from the dead man's automatic had pierced Grosskopf's body in six places, two in the chest, two in the right shoulder, one in the back of the neck and one in the left hand. He was taken to the Petoskey Hospital, the body of Mr. Purple being removed to Harbor Springs where the inquest was held on Wednesday evening.

Will S. Purple has been sheriff of Emmet County for two full terms and part of another. He was one of the best liked officers the county ever had. For the last twenty-one years, he had resided at Brutus and at Petoskey. At Brutus, the sheriff and his wife operated the general store and hotel, which was unusually popular with people of the region and the summer tourists. Mr. Purple was born at Lowall, Mich., in January, 1859. He was a member of the Petoskey Elk and Masonic Lodges and attended the First Presbyterian Church in that city... D.H. Hinkley, undersheriff, will be acting sheriff, temporarily.

The second terrible crime of violence in the past few weeks. What are we coming to? Is capital punishment the solution, or are we approaching an era of vigilante rule?

Prosecuting Attorney, Wade B. Smith, of Emmet County, has issued a warrant for Joe Grosskopf, charging him with first degree murder. The latter according to latest reports is hovering, between life and death. He will be taken before a justice for examination just as soon as physicians state that his condition will permit his removal from the hospital.

Memo:

Joseph F. Grosskopf died September 15, 1923.
Burial at Holy Childhood Cemetery
Harbor Springs, Emmet County, Michigan

COURT HONORS DEAD SHERIFF

JUDGE FRANK SHEPHERD
CLOSES BUSINESS FOR
TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

Memorial Presented by Emmet Co.
Bar and Written Into Records of
County. Copy to Widow.

Judge Frank Shepherd ordered court adjourned for the day Tuesday afternoon, as a mark of respect to the memory of Will S. Purple, late sheriff of Emmet county.

The summary closing of court for the day, was preceded by the presentation of a memorial prepared by a special committee from the Emmet county bar, composed of C. J. Pailthorp, Wade B. Smith and B. H. Halstead.

Following the reading of the memorial, Judge Shepherd ordered it entered at length on the journal of the court and a certified copy given to Nellie Purple, widow of the late sheriff.

Attorneys Mesick, Keating, Miller and Shanahan, County Clerk Madlem and Judge Shepherd feelingly expressed their sense of personal loss of both a valued friend and efficient co-worker.

The memorial in full is published elsewhere in this issue.

IN MEMORIAM

WILL S. PURPLE

The following memorial was ordered spread at length on the county records by Judge Shepherd Tuesday afternoon, following which court was adjourned for the day, as a mark of respect for the late sheriff of Emmet county, Will S. Purple.

In Memoriam.

While in the immediate performance of official duty, Will S. Purple, sheriff of this county, met a tragic and untimely death on the fifth day of the present month. Preparing to levy a writ of execution issued out of justice's court, involving a small sum of money, he was slain by the defendant in the execution. Almost in the twinkling of an eye this quiet, considerate, genial and kindly officer, representing in person the majesty of the law, was removed from the stage of human activity. So recently, athrob with vitality and well-being, was he moving among us in the unobtrusive discharge of the duties of his office that it is with difficulty that we are able to compel ourselves to accept as a fact that his work in our midst is finished. That we shall long remember and mourn his passing, it is unnecessary to say.

Will S. Purple had a definite and comprehensive appreciation and conception of the responsibilities of his office. He realized in full measure that he was the representative and protagonist of organized society in the ever present conflict with vice and lawlessness; that as he administered his office well or ill, so should human life and womanly virtue be protected and defended, and the community be made and kept a suitable abiding place for men and women of good morals and intentions. With consummate courage and coolness and rare judgment he went about this task. By inherent nature, as well as by virtue of his office, he was an enemy of crime. He spared no effort in tracing and bringing to the bar of justice offenders against the laws of the land. Yet, withal, he was not the enemy of any individual man, no matter how grievously errant. Like the Master, "he knew what was in man," and he never failed to remember that back of and underneath the misguided and mistaken foe of society was a personality endowed by the Creator with sympathies and faculties which, could they be awakened and aroused into activity, might serve to regenerate and restore the unfortunate victim to usefulness and service to his fellowmen. Actuated by

this spirit of hopefulness and optimism, he was ever considerate and thoughtful of those with whom he had to deal in the enforcement of the laws enacted for the prevention and punishment of crime. He spared the use of force where possibly avoidable. He caused no unnecessary humiliation to those in his charge. He resorted to no methods of doubtful propriety in order to achieve convictions. As a witness he was as frank as to matters favorable to the accused as he was honest and conscientious in detailing the proofs of criminality, and for this reason no member of this bar ever felt justified in challenging the sincerity or good faith of any action of this officer or of his testimony in any case. He was at once faithful to the high traditions of the ancient and important office which he filled and to the more ancient and fundamental precepts of the Master, through whose compassion the repentant thief on the cross was assured of the joys of paradise.

As members of this bar and as officers of this court and co-workers with our departed friend in the administration of justice, we grieve that an able, honorable, efficient ally has been so ruthlessly taken from our ranks. We deplore the prevalent spirit of disregard for the law and its institutions which makes such crimes as this one possible, and we here pledge anew our fidelity to the maintenance of our system of government, in order that the blessings of liberty which have been bequeathed to us by the forefathers may be passed on unimpaired to our posterity, our children, with whose happiness and welfare we all ought, at least, to be more concerned than with our own.

We extend to the widow of our friend our sincere sympathy in her great personal bereavement, and assure her that she does not mourn alone.

The members of this committee request the court to receive this memorial as evidence of the esteem and affection of this bar for Will S. Purple, not only as an officer of this court but as a man among men, that it be entered upon the journal of this court, and a certified copy thereof transmitted by the clerk to the bereaved widow.

C. J. Pailthorp,
Benj. H. Halstead,
Wade B. Smith,
Committee.

**SHERIFF WILLIAM S. PURPLE
1869 -- 1923**

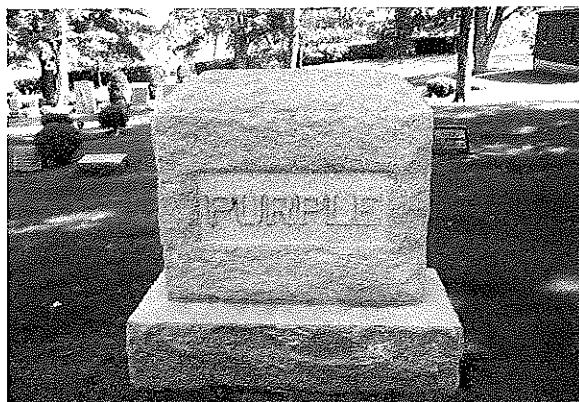
Cheboygan Democrat
Thursday, September 6, 1923

EMMET COUNTY SHERIFF KILLED

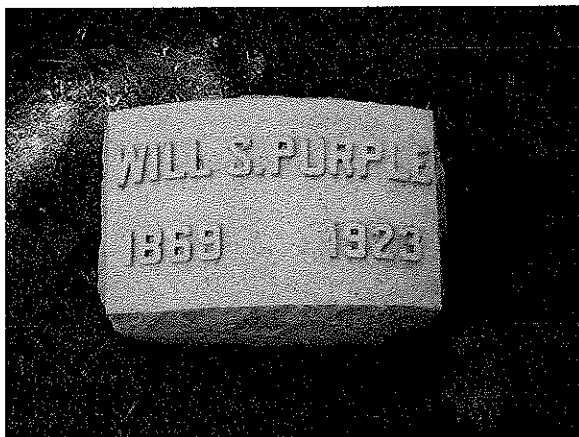
**Serving Papers on Farmer Has
Head Blown to Pieces**

Sheriff Will Purple of Emmet County was shot and killed at Harbor Springs yesterday afternoon at about two o'clock by a farmer by the name of Grossent living just outside the village beyond the golf course. Sheriff Purple had gone to the man's farm to serve some papers and in the argument that followed the farmer procured his shot gun and aiming at Purple pulled the trigger, the shot taking effect in the Sheriff's side. Purple then drew his revolver and opened fire on the enraged man, slightly wounding him, as he advanced on him. The farmer discharged his shot gun the second time at Purple this time at close range, blowing his head to pieces. The neighbors gathered on hearing the shooting. Grossent begged to be taken care of and he was rushed to the Petoskey Hospital. Purple is well known and had been an efficient and capable officer and was well liked. The terrible affair has created great excitement in that section of the state.

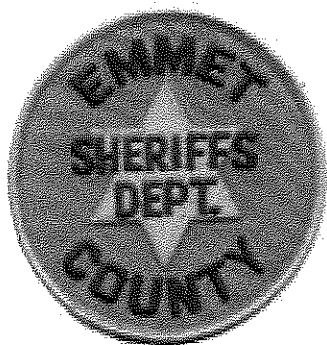
{This article transcribed exactly as in Newspaper}



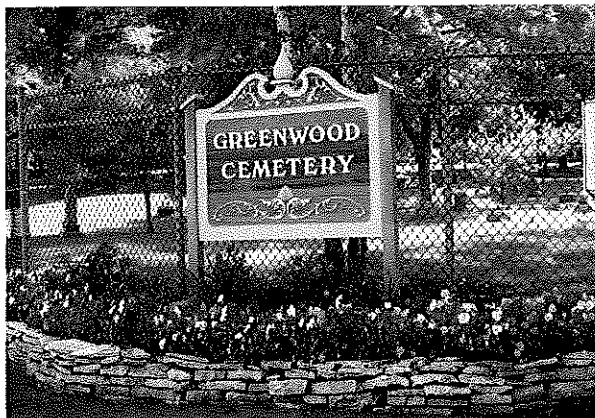
PURPLE



**WILL S. PURPLE
1869 -- 1923**



**Sheriff Will S. Purple
Emmet County Sheriff Department
End of Watch: Wednesday, September 5, 1923**



**Greenwood Cemetery
Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan
Section A, Block 112, Lot 12**

**Greenwood Cemetery Records
Find-A-Grave Records**

NELLIE {MIDGLEY} PURPLE
1872 -- 1942

Petoskey Evening News
Monday, April 20, 1942

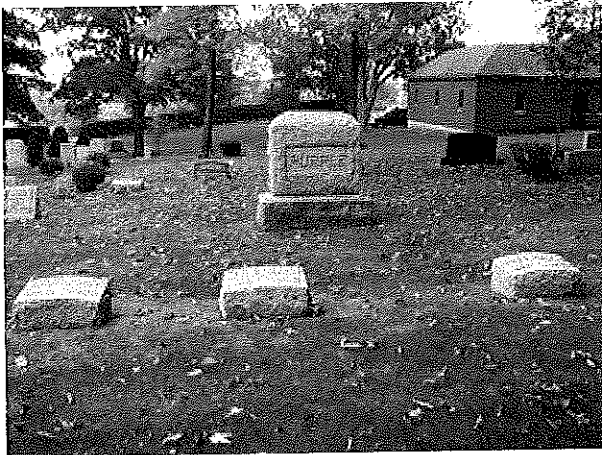
Born: February 1, 1872

Died: April 18, 1942

Age: 70 years



NELLIE PURPLE
1872 -- 1942



Greenwood Cemetery
Petoskey, Emmet County, Michigan

Section A, Block 112, Lot 12

Greenwood Cemetery Records

Mrs. Nellie Purple Dies Here Saturday

Mrs. Nellie Purple, owner and manager of a tea room business here for many years, died very unexpectedly Saturday afternoon at her home from a heart attack. She was 70 years of age.

Mrs. Purple was born in England, February 1, 1872 and came to America with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Midgley, in 1874. She first came to Emmet county in 1877. She married the late Will Purple. While Mr. Purple was sheriff she served as matron of the county jail and also as an under sheriff.

She operated her first business at Brutus, the former family home. When her building there was destroyed by fire she came to Petoskey and for several years has had a place on Arlington avenue, overlooking the Bay.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian church, the Order of Eastern Star, of Peilston, White Shrine of Jerusalem, and of the Rebekahs.

Surviving her are her father, Samuel Midgley and a brother, Thomas Midgley of Hillsdale, Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Midgley arrived here Sunday.

Funeral services will be held at the Stone Funeral Home at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The Rev. E. P. Linnell, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, will be in charge. There will be an Eastern Star service. Burial will be in Greenwood.