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"COUNT" HARRIS.

In another place we publish a communication from a correspondent at Ridgely giving the particulars of the finding of the body of "Count" Harris. More minute details will doubtless be interesting. It will be remembered that "Count" Harris, after wandering through Platte county for several days, finally disappeared on the 25th of last January and was seen no more. His friends and the people of Platte county generally instituted a careful and prolonged search for the body. They dragged the river from the point where his coat and overshoes were found, on the bank of the river near Edgerton Junction, to a point several miles below Platte City. A reward of $1,000 was also offered, which, with the natural interest taken in the case, put a large number of persons on the search. The search was finally abandoned and without any very good reason nearly everybody settled down to the conviction that the man had been murdered and his body disposed of.

Last Sunday, however, this opinion was dispelled by the finding of the body under the following circumstances: Caroline Brown, a negro girl about thirteen years old, step-daughter of Harrison Skinner, an old negro man who formerly belonged to Mrs. Polly Skinner, in company with her little brother, was playing along the bank of the river, just below the mouth of Bell branch, a short distance below the Edgerton railroad junction, when she discovered a small portion of a human body protruding from the sand in the river. She notified her step-father, who went to the place and after considerable labor succeeded in bringing to light the body, which afterwards proved to be that of the missing conductor.

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The body was found lying face downward, the head down stream. The action of the water had thrown the coat over the head which was covered with sand. The clothes were in a remarkably good state of preservation, with the exception of a few rents. The body was much swollen and a portion of the face was eaten away. To one foot was bound the shoe as when he was last seen alive. In a leathern pocket-book was found $420 in greenbacks and some small coins, also some conductors' checks and railroad passes—all well preserved. His watch and chain, diamond pin and shirt studs and finger ring were found on his person, everything indicating conclusively that his death was the result of accident or suicide, and relieving the community of the suspicion that "Count" Harris had been murdered for the valuables on his person.

Other parties were notified and the body was taken possession of, the Coroner notified and the friends of the missing man telegraphed for. The acting Coroner was Esquire Boydston, and the evidence adduced at the inquest was substantially as above. Upon the arrival of the friends they took possession of the body and paid the $1,000 reward. The money was given to Mr. Barney Walters who has deposited it in bank at Platte City until the Probate Court shall have determined the disposition to be made of it to secure the interest of the negro children. All expenses were promptly paid and the railroad men speak especially in high terms of Mr. Bell, agent at Edgerton Junction, Mr. Walters, above alludded to, and of many other citizens residing in the neighborhood, who materially assisted them in their long search and in the last kind offices to the deceased. To the honor of the county be it said, only two or three persons manifested a disposition to be brutal and mercenary, they finding a pretext in the rumor that the man had been murdered which was attributed to the searching party.

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The remains were taken to Quincy, Illinois, for burial, all the trains on the road being draped in mourning. He was buried with Knights Templar honors, being a worthy member of Excalibar Commandery at Hannibal, the members of which, together with the Knights of all the commanderies from St. Joe to Quincy, being in attendance. So, on Wednesday evening the earth finally closed over the mortal remains of John S. Harris, a gentleman and a Mason. His intimate friend, Mr. W. F. Allen, of Quincy, has devoted his entire time, since the disappearance, in the labor of love in searching for his lost friend. He has spent sleepless nights, endured cold and storm, and traveled thousands of miles in his untiring work. Such devotion stamps him as being more than an ordinary man in all the better impulses of the heart.

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