

LYNCHED A WOMAN.

Mrs. W. E. Holton Was First Assaulted and Then Hanged by Vigilantes.

CATTLE THIEVES HER ENEMIES

Wanted Revenge for Important Testimony She Had Given Against Them.

BODY FOUND BY A NEIGHBOR.

She Lived Alone, Her Husband Being Confined in an Insane Asylum.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

BUTTE, Mont., March 18, 1895.—Word was brought to this city this morning of the discovery of the dead body of Mrs. W. E. Holton, of Keya Paha county, who had been lynched.

William Cowen, a neighbor of Mrs. Holton, not seeing any stir about the premises for several days, concluded to investigate. He came upon the dead body of the woman lying on the floor of the house, with a piece of rope about ten feet long, a hatchet and hammer beside her.

Cowen immediately notified the authorities, and the Coroner was summoned from Spring View. The autopsy, held yesterday, revealed the fact that the woman had died from strangulation, after having been assaulted by some of the lynching party. The woman was living alone, her husband being confined in the State Insane Asylum.

HER STRUGGLE FOR LIFE.

The deed is supposed to have been committed by a gang of vigilantes out of revenge for testimony furnished to the authorities in several cattle stealing cases, in which Mrs. Holton was an important witness. She had borne a good reputation and was in good circumstances.

Her struggle for life had evidently been a hard one. The bedding was torn and the clothing of the woman was scattered about the building. Her shoes had evidently been removed,

probably by herself, preparatory to going to bed and before she was surprised by the lynchers. The woman had undoubtedly been assaulted before she was hanged. Everything points to a cool and premeditated planning of the crime.

No warrants have yet been issued, but a meeting of the best citizens of the neighborhood was held yesterday, and it was decided that prompt measures should be taken, as it is expected that another and possibly several other hangings will take place before long. Several persons are under suspicion and these will be arrested.

ONE MAN IMPLICATED.

The body of Mrs. Holton was interred in Oakdale Cemetery, Doty, this county, yesterday.

Keya Paha county is noted for its lynchings by vigilantes. There is no doubt that the crime was committed by rustlers, who have been running off horses and cattle from the neighborhood and who have reason to fear the Vigilance Committee.

One man is already implicated in some way with the lynchers, and it is thought he can be forced to a confession. Several of the alleged rustlers were recently arrested and taken to Spring View. They broke jail and escaped to the reservation, where they were afterward recaptured and convicted.

The proximity of the Indian Reservation to the scene of the depredation makes it possible that a United States deputy marshal may be able to make the arrests if warrants are sworn out.