

The Attempt To Kidnap Olive Kraft

New Albany Daily Ledger, 21 November 1893, p. 4 col. 3 BOLD CRIME! Four Masked Men Conspire to Kidnap a Twelve-Year-Old Girl, Olive, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Kraft. Mr. Kraft's Hired Man Taken Into the Scheme and Gives It Away. One of the Conspirators Killed and Three Arrested. Whiteman Confesses Before Dying and Reveals the Names of the Others. Charles Compton Also Makes a Full Confession. A Wild Night and a Wild Scene. One of the most daring crimes ever attempted in this part of Indiana was undertaken Monday night, 20th inst., at the home of Mr. Joe H. Kraft, two miles north of the city, near the New Albany and Paoli turnpike. This crime was the attempted kidnapping of Olive, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. Joe H. Kraft, manager of the extensive dry goods house on Pearl street, this city, known as "the New Albany White House."

The conspirators were Mason Whiteman and Stephen Whiteman, brothers, Charles Compton, and John Parker, the latter a negro.

About three or four months ago a notorious woman named Compton, but generally known as "Calamity Jane," gave information to Superintendent Cannon that her brother-in-law, Charles Compton, and others had conspired together to kidnap the daughter of Joe H. Kraft and secrete her and hold her for ransom. The woman's character for truth is so notoriously bad that Superintendent Cannon placed no credence in her statement. He, however, informed Mr. Kraft of the woman's story but neither of them paid much attention to what she had said.

Four or five weeks ago conspirator Stephen Whiteman went to Mr. Kraft's farm and meeting his hired man, John Keene, who is a white man and an excellent farmer and horticulturist, after a general talk revealed to him the scheme of himself and others to kidnap Olive, the daughter of Mr. Kraft, secrete her for a time, holding her for a ransom of \$10,000. Keene pretended to favor the scheme, and to encourage him Whiteman told him if the kidnapping plan succeeded he would receive \$2,000 out of the \$10,000 to be demanded for the girl's ransom. As soon as Whiteman had revealed this scheme, and left, Mr. Keene told the family. Mr. Kraft informed Superintendent Cannon, who sent for Whiteman and interviewed him. Whiteman began to laugh and frankly told Supt. Cannon that he had talked to Keene as reported, but was only "coddling" him, just for a little sport, and never dreamt of committing such a crime.

Other revelations were made, however, sufficient to put Mr. Kraft and his family on their guard, and Mr. Kraft sent his fine gun away to have it put in perfect repair so that he would be ready should any such attempt be made. When the gun was returned he carefully loaded it. "I

thought I would give them a reception they would never forget," said Mr. Kraft. It happened, however, when the time for action came, that Mr. Kraft had overloaded his gun with an extra shell that became fouled and rendered the gun useless.

On Monday Stephen Whiteman again saw Keene and told him he and his friends intended to capture Miss Kraft that night. Keene pretending to be in the scheme, was given all the plans of the would-be kidnapers. It was agreed that they were to come to the place about 6 o'clock, and if everything was right Keene was to place a large sheet of white paper on the north side of the barn. Keene was to be in the barn, where it was agreed the kidnapers were to tie him and gag him, leaving enough room in the gag for him to make such an outcry as would bring Mr. Kraft to the barn, where he also was to be captured, tied and gagged. This done the conspirators were to go to the residence and kidnap and carry off the child and take her rapidly away in a wagon, and finally secrete her in a house at Louisville. This was the scheme complete.

Mr. Keene informed Mr. Kraft of all its details early in the afternoon. This, of course, greatly excited Mr. Kraft and believing it probable that the kidnaping would be attempted; he secured the assistance of Messrs. Will Shea, generally known as "Pat," Jackson Brown, Wesley McCulloch, A. J. Gwin, Stewart Lowry, Frank Kraft and Will H. Widman. All these gentlemen except Mr. Widman, armed with guns and pistols, Mr. Shea having a Winchester rifle, left early in the evening for Mr. Kraft's home, arriving there before 6 o'clock. Mr. Widman went out half an hour later.

The men were stationed in the barn to which the conspirators were to come for the purpose of binding and gagging Mr. Keene and capturing and binding and gagging Mr. Kraft. The signal agreed upon was placed upon the north side of the barn, and then the guards, reinforced by Mr. Kraft, Keene and another hired man took their positions in and near the barn; Mr. Widman, whose statement is published elsewhere, not having yet arrived.

The men in the barn waited about fifty minutes, when the conspirators appeared at the front door. The guards were stationed in the stalls so as to be out of sight. The would-be kidnapers entered and began groping in the stalls, it being very dark. They proceeded in this way to the center of the barn when Mr. Will Shea, who was in the stall nearest the door, stepped out and commanded them to halt. All the conspirators were armed with revolvers and they all made a rush for the door, firing their revolvers as soon as the word "halt" was given. They got out, but the guards pursued and fired on them, fully forty shots in all being fired.

Stephen Whiteman had run but a short distance when he threw up his arms and fell upon his face. He had been shot through the thigh and groin and through the stomach, and also twice in the back and once in the arm. It was just 6:47 o'clock when the first shots were fired by

the conspirators. At 7:40 Stephen Whiteman died. The others of the gang fled toward the woods and escaped. None of the guards were hit.

Before his death Stephen Whiteman made a confession giving the names of the men engaged in the plot the same as given at the head of this article. He was told that his brother Mason had been killed: "Poor fellow," he said, "but my brother is the fault of it all."

The men had brought a wagon with them in which to carry away their intended victim. This was hitched in the woods about a quarter of a mile northwest of the Kraft residence, and the tracks were plainly visible where the horses had stamped and the wagon had approached and left.

Stephen and Mason Whiteman are sons of the late John Whiteman. Stephen lived with his mother, Mrs. Sarah Whiteman, on her forty-acre farm immediately west of the Bragdon place. Mason resided with his wife on the Bragdon place. Stephen has not been regarded as a bad man, but his brother Mason bears an unsavory character. He married Miss Minnie Biel, and afterward seduced her sister, Josie Biel, and deserting his wife eloped with her. After a time he returned. The ruined girl gave birth to a child and then committed suicide.

John Parker, who is a Negro, lives with the Whitemans, and Charles Compton is also a resident of this city, spending a good deal of his time, however, at Jeffersonville and Louisville, where his sister-in-law carried on her house of shame.

Capt. Smithwick, Sergt. Strack and officer Mitchell arrested Mason Whiteman at his mother's home, where he had gone, and brought him in and lodged him in jail. Officers Richards, Fess and Mitchell arrested Compton at his home, assisted by Capt. Smithwick and Sergt. Strack, and soon had him locked up. John Parker was captured by Supt. Cannon and Capt. Smithwick.

Will. H. Widman's Statement.

Widman was over the river when Kraft sent for him and learned from Henry Bott on his return what was in the wind. He immediately drove out. On arriving the house was all dark and he feared he might be fired on and he halloed. The hired man was sent to him with instructions to drive out the pike to a house and hitch and take a stand further on, and watch. The man reported to the kidnapers that Widman had come out to borrow Kraft's gun, and when he drove away they supposed the coast was clear. Widman had been on watch ten or fifteen minutes when the firing commenced. He thinks about 20 shots were fired. Shortly after a man came up the road without his hat and Widman leveled his gun but he proved to be a neighbor, Mr. Young. Widman then went to the barn, came to town for a physician and to notify the officers. He afterwards drove officer Smithwick to the scene of the tragedy.

The Excitement.

No crime committed or attempted in or near the city has caused more excitement than this attempt at kidnapping. Large crowds were assembled on the streets this forenoon notwithstanding the bad weather, discussing the matter in an excited manner. There is, however, no disposition to interfere, the general sentiment being in favor of allowing the law to deal with the accused.

Whiteman's Remains.

After being shot, Whiteman was placed in the barn upon some straw. He remained conscious until near his death. When Capt. Smithwick, and Sergt. Strack and Featheringill reached the place, Whiteman was still alive, but nearly speechless. Capt. Smithwick asked him if he knew him and the dying man signified that he did. Ten minutes later he was dead. After coroner Starr had viewed the remains they were taken charge of and brought to the city by undertaker Shrader. They were then ordered taken to the residence of his mother. By mistake, however, they were taken to the residence of his brother Mason Whiteman, and no one being at home were brought back to the city and sent to his mother's home this morning.

What They Say.

All the accused under arrest denied that they had anything to do with the attempted kidnapping. They all asserted that they knew nothing about it except what had been told them since their arrest. The dying confession of Stephen Whiteman, implicating his brother Mason as the leader of the gang, and naming all the parties under arrest as belonging to it, convinces the officers that they have got the right men. It is believed that some of them will confess. Mr. Keene implicated them as being the parties.

Mr. and Mrs. Kraft.

Of course the occurrence of last night is a great shock to Mr. and Mrs. Kraft, and they are very nervous over it is natural. They are gratified beyond expression, however, that the vile plot against their daughter miscarried. Had Mr. Kraft's gun answered the trigger it is certain there would have been three dead men instead of one.

Charles Compton Confesses.

Charles Compton and the other prisoners were visited in their cells this forenoon by Superintendent Cannon, Capt. Smithwick and Prosecuting Attorney Utz. Compton was the last one visited. At noon he made a full confession. He said the parties engaged in the conspiracy were Mason Whiteman, who was the leader, Stephen Whiteman, a Negro in the employ of the Whitemans named John Parker and himself. Compton's confession verifies the statements published above in full. He says the conspiracy was entered into about six months ago, and the least ransom that would have been listened to was \$10,000.

Will Be Arraigned.

The prisoners will probably be arraigned for a preliminary examination Wednesday, though the hearing may be postponed till Thursday. Evidence in addition to Compton's confession is being accumulated. The police are certain they have the right men in custody.

The Masks.

The masks worn were curiosities. The dead Whiteman had on a cap, under which was a red flannel mask with holes for the eyes, nose and mouth, and to this was attached the end of a cow's tail, containing a long switch of black hair.

Pity It Was Taken.

Jackson Brown was preparing to shoot two of the kidnappers as they were breaking away, but Mr. McCulloch, his brother-in-law, restrained him, as it looked too cruel to see them shot down. The advice was kindly meant but it is a pity it was taken.

[Note: The article printed in the Public Press lists different conspirators.]

Coroner's Inquest: (345) STEPHEN WHITEMAN, 11/21/1893. VERDICT: I find that Stephen Whiteman came to his death on the evening of the 20th of Nov. 1893, at the place of Joseph H. Kraft, 2 miles North of the city of New Albany, on Paoli Pike, while engaged with others, in an attempt to steal or kidnap the 12-year-old daughter of Joseph H. Kraft from her home. I further find that his death was caused by a gunshot wound in the abdomen, received at the hands of those who were assisting Mr. Kraft in the protection of his home and his family, with the purpose of preventing any such attempt and of apprehending the participation. W. L. Starr. F.C.C.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 22 November 1893, p. 4 col. 2 Stephen Whiteman will be buried at the Leyden graveyard, on the Green Valley road, Thursday afternoon.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 22 November 1893, p. 4 col. 4 HELD TO ANSWER. The Would-be Kidnappers Arraigned, Enter a Plea of Not Guilty. And Bond in \$5,000 Required of Each. An immense crowd of people was assembled about the city hall and on the sidewalks around the court house this morning in anticipation of the arraignment of the three men charged with being

engaged in an attempt to kidnap Olive, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Kraft, on the night of the 20th.

There was a manifest feeling of indignation against the men and an outspoken condemnation of the crime they had attempted; but there were no threats of violence to the prisoners. The general expression was: "It is unfortunate that every one of them was not killed by the guards present to defend the child from their intended outrage."

The prisoners are Mason Whiteman, said to be the leader of the gang, Charles Compton and John Parker, the latter a negro. Whiteman and Compton were very nervous when brought out of jail and during their arraignment, but Parker, the Negro, was defiant in look and nervy in action, giving evidence that he has the nerve for almost any crime.

The prisoners are represented for the present by Joseph Foley, while Prosecutor W. C. Utz represents the state and will be assisted in the prosecution by Messrs. C. L. & H. E. Jewett, and Alexander Dowling.

On being arraigned and the charge of conspiracy to kidnap read to them, the prisoners all entered a plea of not guilty. Justice Richards then set their preliminary examination for Friday, 24th inst., fixing the bond of each at \$5,000 to answer on that day. None of them could give bond and they were all sent to jail.

Superintendent Cannon and Capt. Smithwick have secured a good deal of evidence against the prisoners outside the dying confession of Stephen Whiteman, killed in the attempt, and the confession of Charles Compton.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 23 November 1893, p. 4 col. 3 Mrs. Compton, wife of Charles Compton, one of the conspirators to kidnap Olive Kraft now under arrest, has removed from the Lemon plat to the home of her mother, Mrs. Thompson, on Pearl street hill. Her mother is over 80 years old. Mrs. Compton feared to remain at her old home.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 24 November 1893 CHANGE OF VENUE. Whiteman, Compton and Parker Take a Change to Squire Huckeby's Court. Each of Them Held in a Bond of \$5,000 to Answer Next Wednesday. Coroner's Verdict – Stephen Whiteman's Funeral. Mason Whiteman, Charles Compton, and the Negro John Parker were arraigned this forenoon before Justice J. J. Richards for preliminary examination on the charge of attempting to kidnap Olive, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Kraft, on the night of the 20th inst. All the parties made affidavit that they did not believe they could have a fair hearing before Justice Richards

and moved for a change of venue. Justice Richards granted the change and sent the case to Justice L. B. Huckleby, fixing Wednesday next, 29th inst., for the trial, and holding each of the accused in a bond of \$5,000 to appear and answer on that day. They were all unable to furnish bond and were sent back to jail. Their attorney, Mr. Joseph Foley, asked for a reduction in the bond, but this was refused by Justice Richards.

All the state's witnesses were in attendance this morning and ready to testify. So far the defendants have had no witnesses subpoenaed.

Coroner Starr, on the evening of the 23d, returned his verdict of the inquest held by him on the body of Stephen Whiteman. It is as follows:

"I find that Stephen Whiteman came to his death on the 20th day of November, 1893, at the place of Joseph H. Kraft, two miles north of the city of New Albany on the Paoli pike, while engaged with others in an attempt to steal or kidnap the twelve-year-old daughter of Joseph H. Kraft from her home. I further find that his death was caused from gunshot wounds in the abdomen, received at the hands of those who were assisting Mr. Kraft in the protection of his home and family, and who were concealed in the barn of Mr. Kraft, near his home, with the purpose of preventing any such attempt and apprehending the participators."

The funeral of Stephen Whiteman took place this afternoon from the residence of his mother. Rev. E. R. Vest, by request of the family, attended and officiated in the religious services. His remarks were in illustration of the Bible declaration that "the wages of sin is death." The remains were interred in the Leyden graveyard on the Green Valley road, where the family has a burial lot. Mason Whiteman's wife called on Sheriff Kelly Thursday evening and requested that her husband be permitted to attend his brother's funeral, remarking to the sheriff, "I will be responsible for his safe return to jail." Sheriff Kelly very promptly declined to allow Whiteman to leave the jail.

The evidence against the accused is accumulating, and no doubt is entertained that all the guilty parties are in custody.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 29 November 1893 Mason Whiteman, Charles Compton and John Parker, charged with riotous conspiracy had their preliminary examination before Magistrate Huckleby in the circuit court room this afternoon. No testimony was introduced beyond that already published. The trial was in progress when the report closed, but there is no doubt that they will be held for the circuit court.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 28 February 1894, p. 5 col. 2 The case of the State against Mason Whiteman, John Parker and Charles H. Compton, indicted jointly for conspiracy to kidnap Miss Olive Kraft, is set for trial at the March term of the circuit court, for March 22. All the accused are in jail.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 21 March 1894, p. 4 col. 4 THE KIDNAPPERS. Mason Whiteman, John Parker, and Charles H. Compton, the Conspirators to Steal Olive Kraft, Plead Guilty. The case of the State against Mason Whiteman, John Parker and Charles H. Compton, jointly indicted for conspiracy to kidnap Miss Olive Kraft, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Kraft, at their home two miles north of the city, in December last, is likely to come to a sudden and unexpected termination in the circuit court this afternoon.

The accused, against whom the strongest proof was arrayed, to-day signified their willingness to enter a plea of guilty. Their trial was set for Thursday, but they requested to be taken before Judge Herter this afternoon, where they will probably enter a plea of guilty to conspiracy, as charged in the indictment.

Whiteman and Parker pleaded guilty, sentence being deferred.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 22 March 1894, p. 5 col. 4 FIVE YEARS. This is the Sentence of Mason Whiteman and John Parker, the Would-be Kidnappers. Of Miss Olive Kraft, While the Indictment Against Charles H. Compton is Nollied. As stated in the LEDGER of the 21st, Mason Whiteman and John Parker entered a plea of guilty in the circuit court on the afternoon of that date to an indictment charging them with conspiracy to kidnap Miss Olive Kraft, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Kraft, and after entering this plea sentence was deferred by Judge Herter. To-day Whiteman and Parker were brought into court for sentence. Judge Herter, after briefly addressing the prisoners, sentenced each of them to confinement in the Southern Prison for the term of five years, fined them \$25 each and disfranchised them for five years. The prisoners took their sentence very stoically, though they were doubtless glad to get off so easily. The indictment against Charles H. Compton, for the same offense, was nollied. Compton made a full confession of the crime in which he with the other prisoners was engaged, and gave the officers the information that led to securing the evidence to convict. He had, in fact, turned state's evidence. It was for his services in the case that the indictment against him was nollied.

The conspiracy to kidnap Miss Kraft was concocted by Mason Whiteman, and he it was that got his brother, Stephen Whiteman, Parker and Compton into the villainous affair. On the night of November 20, 1893, Mason Whiteman, Stephen Whiteman, John Parker and Charles H. Compton went to the farm of Mr. Kraft, two miles north of the city, to carry out their scheme to kidnap Miss Kraft. Mr. Kraft had been informed of the conspiracy by a man named Kaine, who was in his employ, and whom the conspirators sought to enlist in their criminal act, and had called to his assistance a number of his friends in this city. When the conspirators appeared at Mr. Kraft's farm and had entered his barn to inspect the premises and where they expected to meet Kaine, they were confronted by the men who were on guard, commenced firing their pistols wildly and fled. The guards fired upon them, killing Stephen Whiteman. Mason Whiteman, John Parker and Charles H. Compton escaped. All three, however, were arrested the same night and lodged in jail, where they were held until the sentence of the court to-day of Mason Whiteman and John Parker, and the nollie of the indictment against Compton, and his discharge from arrest. The two prisoners will be taken to the penitentiary in a few days.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 23 March 1894, p. 5 col. 4 MASON WHITEMAN. He Makes a Statement in Relation to the Attempted Kidnapping of Olive Kraft. Alleges that Charles H. Compton First Suggested the Crime and Wanted to Steal One of the Walkup Children. A Startling Story, If True. To a reporter for the LEDGER, at the county jail, on the 22nd inst., Mason Whiteman made the following statement in relation to the kidnapping conspiracy for which he is to serve five years in the penitentiary. "The first man that ever spoke to me in regard to abduction was Charles Compton. He came to me over a year ago and proposed to abduct one of the Walkup children, who at that time resided on Silver Hills north of the city. Compton was engaged in doing some work for I. B. Friend at the time. I told him it was a dangerous business and that I would not have anything to do with it. He assured me there was big money in it. He said I had no grit. He said if I did not go in with him on the job, he would do it by himself. This occurred during the summer of 1892. In the meantime Walkup moved to Louisville, and my boy died.

"Compton came to me several times prior to the removal of the Walkup family, and again proposed to kidnap the child. At last I consented to be a party to the affair. It was about this time when he came to me and proposed to kidnap Olive Kraft. He said to me: John Cain is working for Kraft and we won't have any trouble in getting him to join us in the scheme. We then began to lay our plans. It was arranged to send my brother Stephen out to see Cain, and he went in the day time about five weeks prior to the 20th of November. Stephen returned,

saying that Cain was all right. Cain came to my house the evening of the same day. He said Mrs. Kraft was indignant because Stephen was allowed to come on the place, saying that he had come there for no good purpose, and intimating that he might steal something, and that she didn't want him on the place. We talked over the plans and he advised us to wait, as their suspicions (meaning Mr. and Mrs. Kraft) were aroused and it would be better to wait until they became quiet again. "About two weeks after this conversation I met Cain again; this time in front of the Briggs farm on the Paoli pike. I asked him how things were, and he told me he thought everything was quieted down now and it would be a good time to do the work. The 20th of November Compton and I drove to Mooresville. We were returning from Mooresville and met Cain and asked him to get in our wagon and he did so. Compton took from his pocket a diagram of Kraft's barn and surroundings and asked Cain if the diagram was correct. Cain said it was. Compton then asked Cain if to-night would not be a good time to do the work, and Cain answered that it would be as good as any. Then Compton told Cain we will be out that night, and that if everything was all right for him (Cain) to hang a white handkerchief on the barn door as a signal that all was well.

"After this conversation with Cain we drove home. Compton went to his home about a square away and I went into my own house. About dark Compton returned to my barn. We were milking the cows. About half past five Steve, Parker, Compton and myself started on foot for Kraft's place, reaching the Sach's woods adjoining the Kraft farm. We did not remain long in the woods but started for the barn; but upon hearing a noise I suggested that we abandon the scheme. Compton told me to go home, if I wanted to, but that he would see the night through. Cain at this juncture came to the fence and called, and Compton asked me to go to the fence and see what he wanted. I went to the fence and Cain said, G— d— it, come on, if you are ever coming. It will be too late if you wait longer. I then returned and told the boys what he said to me. Then we all started for the barn. I was in front and entered the barn with Parker from the rear and walked to the front of the barn. At this time a shot was fired and I knew all was up, and made my escape.

"Compton had proposed to me on several occasions that we go out and hold people up; but I would never consent to it. I was trying to do what was right before I met Compton, and he has been the cause of all my trouble. I will serve my sentence with a feeling that in a misguided moment I committed a great wrong, and that I am expiating my crime in sacrificing my liberty. I will come out of my prison garb a better and wiser man. I know that I have brought disgrace upon myself and my family; but when I return to freedom I will endeavor to make amends as best I can, and ever after live a better life. This talk of my doing harm to those who

have been against me when I get out of prison is all bosh. As I said before, I intend to lead a new life and make amends for the past."

COMPTON'S CONFESSION. He Tells Pretty Much the Same Story as to the Details of the Attempt as Whiteman, but Says Nothing of the Walkup Child. On November 21, 1893, the day after his arrest, Charles H. Compton made a full confession of his participancy in the attempted kidnapping of Olive Kraft, the details not differing materially from those related by Mason Whiteman. Compton, however, charges that Mason Whiteman planned and first suggested and then urged the miserable affair, and that it was solely through Whiteman's influence and persuasion that he entered into the conspiracy. One statement that he makes, that there were several persons besides the Whitemans, Parker and himself engaged in the conspiracy, is known to be false. He says Whiteman offered him money and promised to divide equally among them all the sum they might obtain for restoring the stolen girl to her parents. He says the child was to be secreted and kept in Whiteman's barn, until a reward was offered for her. Compton makes no allusion in this confession to the proposal to steal one of the Walkup children. He said he made the masks that the conspirators wore on the night of the attempted kidnapping.

New Albany Daily Ledger, 24 March 1894, p. 4 col. 5 MR. CAIN TALKS. He Gives the Absolute Lie to the Statement of Mason Whiteman and Charles H. Compton as to His Connection With the Kidnapping Case. A Straight Forward, Truthful Presentation. In relation to the statements heretofore made and published by Mason Whiteman and Charles H. Compton in which they try to implicate Mr. John Cain in their villainous scheme, it can be stated that all that Mr. Cain did in the matter he did under the advice and direction of both Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Kraft, and the statement made below by Mr. Cain is verified by both Mr. and Mrs. Kraft. Mr. Cain says: "The claim that I met Mason Whitman at his house, made by him, is absolutely false. I did not meet him there, and throughout the entire day and evening he refers to I was not off Mr. Kraft's farm. On that evening Mrs. Kraft was at my house, where she remained until Mr. Kraft returned home from the city." This statement is verified by both Mr. and Mrs. Kraft.

"Whiteman's claim that he met me at the Briggs place and that I said that everything had quieted down, is utterly false. I was not off the farm on that day." This statement is verified by both Mr. and Mrs. Kraft. "The Whitemans sought me both on Mr. Kraft's farm and in the city and talked to me of their scheme to kidnap Olive Kraft. I listened to what they had to say and got all I could out of them in relation to their scheme, and at once reported all I had learned to Mr. and Mrs. Kraft, under whose advice and direction I acted. They knew everything that

occurred between the Whitemans and myself, as I kept them constantly posted." This statement is verified by both Mr. and Mrs. Kraft.

"The only two men who were ever on the farm in connection with the affair were Mason and Stephen Whiteman. I never saw Compton on the farm. In relation to meeting the Whitemans at or near Mooresville, it was Mason Whiteman who did all the talking after I got on the wagon. He said that night was as good a time as any to do the kidnapping. He needed money and must have it. He did all the planning. Then Compton took the plan of the barn out of his pocket and Mason Whiteman asked if it was all right. I told him yes. Then he said we will come to-night. All this I told Mr. and Mrs. Kraft and we got ready to give the kidnapers a warm reception when they came. When they did arrive Mason Whiteman was in the lead. He asked me if everything was all right. I said yes, as right as they ever will be. Then I returned to the house and reported this. Just then William Widman drove up. This alarmed the Whitemans and Parker and Compton. I went back a second time to the fence. Mason Whitman was in the lead, lying in the fence corner, the others being back in the woods. Mason Whitman asked who it was that had driven up. I told him it was Widman; that Mr. Kraft was sick and Widman had driven out to see him. He then said all right, we will be there in three minutes, and I left and went behind the barn and almost immediately Mason and Steve Whiteman and Parker and Compton entered the barn. In the whole matter, as stated above, I acted under the advice and direction of Mr. and Mrs. Kraft and for their protection." His statement is verified by both Mr. and Mrs. Kraft.

"In the whole affair Mason Whiteman was the leader, doing all the talking. Compton had nothing in particular to say about it. It was always Mason or Stephen Whiteman, and Mason Whiteman visited Mr. Kraft's place three times in the interest of his kidnapping scheme."

A letter to Mr. J. H. Kraft, from Stanford, Ky., where Mr. Cain was reared, under date of March 23, 1894, and signed by D. W. Vandever, ex-Mayor; J. Newland, chief of police, and M. D. Elmore, a leading merchant, gives Mr. Cain the highest character, saying he is honest in all dealings and they placed the most implicit confidence in his integrity. "We regard him as an upright and honorable citizen, and we have always found him ready to see the law put into effect, he having sometimes acted as deputy marshal and always faithfully discharged his duty in that capacity," the letter concludes.