# Columbiana County Archives and Research Center

*Preserving the past* ⋆⋆⋆ *Saving the future* ⋆⋆⋆

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**NEWSLETTER** **MARCH 2014** **Mary Ann Gray, Editor**

## President's Message

Thank you to everyone who supports CCARC by being a member and for your kind donations. The funds donated for a new copier, which is desperately needed, were very generous. We have applied for a grant to help toward the cost. Hopefully we will receive good news.

I'm constantly amazed by all the work the volunteers have accomplished in our almost 5 years of being open. In the last several months different people have donated research books, family albums, pictures, letters, old newspapers and obituaries. CCARC will never refuse historical material pertaining to our County.

Mary Anne Creatore has graciously agreed to offer the Irish Heritage Class again in March. It has been advertised in the local newspapers and on our Facebook page. So far we have received a good response.

Hopefully the winter weather will soon be over. Come visit CCARC to check out our new collections. We LOVE to help people jump over their brick wall to find their elusive ancestors.

-Linda McElroy
President

**Next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2014 7:00 p.m. at CCARC 129 S. Market St. • Lisbon Members Are Welcome**

### 2014 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

At the Annual Meeting held Thursday, October 24, 2013 the following were installed as officers and board members:

President - Linda McElroy, V. President - Shirl Criss
Secretary - Deb Weigle, Treasurer - Mary Ann Gray

Board Members: Ken Everett, Deb Weigle, Mary Anne Creatore, Melissa Percic, Leah Rudy and Carolyn Stepien

2012-2013-2014 Term: Gray, McElroy and Everett
2013-2014-2015 Term: Criss, Rudy and Percic
2014-2015-2016 Term: Stepien, Weigle and Creatore

### 2014 QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The following dates are scheduled quarterly meetings for CCARC in 2014: February 27, June 26, August 28 and the annual meeting will be October 23. Mark your calendars and plan to attend. Members are welcome at all meetings.

*The following is from a Lisbon Newspaper dated 10 Dec 1885.*

Sheriff Harbaugh shows signs of insanity. The four counterfeiters were making a noise in their cell on Tuesday, when the Sheriff went down to quiet them. Some words passed between them, both the Sheriff and prisoners getting angry. Finally the prisoners bantered the Sheriff to come into the cell and fool-like he threw open the door, stepped inside and locked it. Here he was in the presence of four stout men, with no weapon except a pair of handcuffs. He undertook to chastise the prisoners with the handcuffs, and the result was he soon found himself on the floor and very roughly handled. He cried murder with great vehernence and help came in time to save him from bodily harm. The act of going into the cell was an insane one, but nobody is surprised at anything Sheriff Harbaugh does.

*The following article was found in* The Pittsburgh Post, *7 January 1862.*

**Murder at Wellsville**

On Sunday evening a man named David Wright was killed in the public street at Wellsville, O., by Andrew F. Scott and Thomas Urie. The three had gone to a drinking house and procured a drink each. Scott and Urie went out and Wright, who remained to get his bottle filled, said he was afraid to go with them. The man who supplied the liquor had scarcely got up to bed, when he heard an alarm in the street, raised by Mrs. Cunningham, next door to the tavern, who looked out and saw three men struggling, one prostrate. Her husband went down stairs and found Wright lying on the sidewalk, covered with blood, with five ghastly cuts in the abdomen. The other two men had by this time disappeared. Cunningham called up the neighbors, and Wright was carried into the tavern, where he expired after a few minutes of intense suffering. Tracks were discovered in the snow leading from the spot where Wright was murdered to Scott's house; and from Scott's back door, through lots and fields, to the house of Urie. The appearance of blood was detected on the knob of Urie's door. They were both arrested, at their respective dwellings, before daylight next morning, and held to answer a charge of murder. On Sunday night an inquest was commenced by Justice Carpenter, but after examining one or two witnesses, the investigation was continued until Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

The deceased was a blacksmith by occupation, and had lived in Wellsville for a number of years. The cause of the murder is not known. Scott is an old resident of Wellsville, and is a man of a family. He is a saddler, and was formerly employed by M. Delange, of this city. For the last two or three years he has been leading a reckless life. Urie has been residing at Wellsville for the past five or six years, during which time he has been mostly employed with his father in the manufacture of threshing machines. He is about twenty four years of age and but recently married.

The affair has created much excitement in Wellsville, where the parties are all well known.

*The following was an article in* Our Harrison Heritage, *vol. 31, no. 1, Spring 2013, p. 7.*

**Reasons Motivating the Pursuit of Genealogy**

Three researchers who studied genealogists were contacted by a Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak (Megan married an unrelated gentleman named Smolenyak) to explain their extensive study on why people become interested in genealogy. The complete text of her article appears in *Ancestry Magazine*, September/October 2003, Vol. 21, No. 5 entitled "Who Is the Genealogist Next Door?" On page 19 of this magazine is stated "The 10 Top Reasons Family Historians Catch the Bug". Here are their results:

| | |
|---|---|
| 21% | School assignment |
| 20% | Death of family member |
| 15% | Gave or received a family gift (software, heritage scrapbook, compiled family history, etc. |
| 11% | Other |
| 8% | Family stories |
| 7% | Desire to share heritage with children |
| 5% | Co-workers or family sharing enthusiasm |
| 4% | Adoptees/orphans seeking answers |
| 4% | DAR membership/scholarship |

The study also found that if a "person has a strong sense of place, of rootedness, that they are more likely to have a stronger interest in genealogy."

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**GENEALOGICAL ONE-LINERS**

Can a first cousin, once removed, return?
Cemetery: (n) A marble orchard not to be taken for granite.
Crazy .... is a relative term in MY family.
Genealogy: Chasing your own tale!
Genealogy: It's all relative in the end anyway.
Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
Searching for lost relatives? Win the Lottery!
That's strange; half my ancestors are WOMEN!
Life takes it's toll. Have exact change ready!
It's hard to be humble with ancestors like mine!
Every family tree has some sap in it.
Floor: (n) The place for storing your priceless genealogy records.
Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.
Genealogists live in the past lane.

Genealogists never die, they just loose their roots.
Genealogy: A hay stack full of needles. It's the threads I need.
Genealogy: Collecting dead relatives and sometimes a live cousin!
Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.
I think my family tree is a few branches short of full bloom.
My ancestors are hiding in a witness protection program.
My family tree is a few branches short!
Research: What I'm doing, when I don't know what I'm doing.
A family reunion is an effective form of birth control.
Ancestors: They can hide, but they can't RUN anymore!
Any family tree producers some lemons, nuts and bad apples.
Did our ancestors ever have a bad heir day?
Fastest way to trace your family tree: run for public office.
If only people came with pulldown menus and on-line help.
Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem leads to two more.
It's 2014...Do you know where your great-great grandparents are?
A family tree can wither if no one tends its roots.
A new cousin a day keep the boredom away.
Genealogists are time unravelers.
Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide ... I seek!
Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related.

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**Figuring Birth Year**

In the event you don't have a computer close at hand to do the calculating. **REMEMBER 8870**.

That's not an error, it's the number to remember when you want to find the birth date of someone when you only have the date of death and age. How do you figure the birth date? Suppose the person died May 6, 1889 at the age of 71 years, 7 months, 9 days.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Write the year, month, day as | 18890506 |
| *Subtract the age at death | -710709 |
| *This gives the figure | 18179797 |
| *Now subtract 8870 | -8870 |
| *The result is | 18170927 |

Year 1817, 9th month (Sept.), 27th day or 27 Sep 1817.

*From Santa Barbara Co. Genealogical Society "Ancestors West" Vol. 26, No. 3, Spring 2000 wia Holmes Co. Heirs, Holmes Co Chapter OGS March/ April 2001.*

*The following is an article from* The Farm & Dairy, *Thursday, November 28, 1946.*

**The Old Bridges Are Going**
**by L.H. Copeland**

With the opening of the new concrete bridge on the Gavers-Dungannon road, another old landmark of the horse and buggy days disappeared. A brief history of this landmark, known as the "Old Donaldson Covered Bridge", is told by Mrs. Lydia McKarns, of near Millport.

This is a history of the old covered bridge known as the Donaldson bridge, so named from the Donaldson farm, located naear New Lebanon United Presbyterian Church in Wayne Township, one mile west of Gavers.

The old covered bridge was built about 70 years ago, the contractors being Benjamin Crosser and Robert McClelland, and was built out of the best of material.

There have been three bridges erected across this stream, known as the West Fork of Beaver Creek, the first structure being built nearly 100 years ago, a light bridge for horse and rider only. On Sunday John Binsley and sister, Miss Mary, and a cousin, were returning home from Lebanon Church service on horseback, and while crossing the first bridge the floor gave way landing all three in the creek. Aside from a good wetting and bruises no one was badly injured. Then came the old covered bridge, built for horse and buggy traffic.

At the present time there are only three covered bridges open for highway traffic in the county.

Mrs. McKarns, 91, is the oldest resident of Franklin Township and the only living person to use all three bridges. She crossed the new bridge a week ago, and crossed the first bridge many times as a young girl, when going to visit her grandfather Donaldson, for whose farm the bridge was named. James Thompson now owns the Donaldson farm, and is known as one of the largest potato growers in the county.

Mrs. McKarns was born on the Freeman farm, just west of Lisbon, and has always resided in this county. She is active and her memory is keen as she relates incidents of her girlhood days. Besides being a good historian, she raised a family of five boys and five girls, who, with the exception of one, are all living.

*The following is from a Lisbon newspaper, 9 June 1910.*

**Reese Prosser is Killed**
**By His Wife, Vera**

Counting the hours until they would see their son, Reese, who had telegraphed them on Monday that he would eat Sunday dinner with them, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Prosser of West Washington Street were utterly prostrated at noon Thursday, a telegraph messenger brought a terse message from the authorities of a small town about six hundred miles east of Seattle, Washington, that he had been instantly killed by a bullet fired by his divorced wife, Vera Prosser, while a passenger on one of the U.P. mail trains.

The reported shooting of Reese Prosser by his divorced wife, Vera Prosser, near Libby, Mont., Wednesday evening created great excitement in Lisbon when the news reached here Thursday morning.

No further particulars of the tragedy have been received. It is generally thought that jealousy was the motive. For some months it had been known that Mrs. Prosser had been trailing her husband in the West and that he was attempting to avoid her. Three weeks ago he obtained a divorce in the Seattle courts, and it is reported that Mrs. Prosser had said the Prosser intended to marry a Seattle woman, but that as long as she lived he would never succeed.

When he started east Wednesday morning Prosser was taken to the station in a closed auto, but missed the train. A fast run was made to Ballard, where the Union Pacific train was boarded. Mrs. Prosser was aboard the same train. How she knew that her husband was going on the train is a mystery. It is said they occupied one compartment, and that for the time the divorce and all former differences were forgotten. Then they quarreled and it is supposed Mrs. Prosser fired the fatal bullet. There were no witnesses so far as known. It was not until after the train had pulled out of Libby station that the body was discovered propped up in a seat and apparently Mr. Prosser was reading a magazine which lay upon his lap.

The train was stopped at the next telegraph station and word of the shooting sent back to Libby, where Mrs. Prosser had left the train. She was at once arrested and is being held at Libby awaiting a hearing. The fact that no one saw or heard the fatal shot fired is explained on the theory that Prosser was occupying the drawing room of the sleeper, and that the noise of the train drowning out the sound of the revolver.

Reese T. Prosser spent his boyhood in Lisbon and attended the city schools. As a young man he went to Cleveland to accept a position in the general offices of the Card & Prosser Coal company. He was of attractive appearance, gentlemanly in his manner, jovial in disposition, and was a general favorite in the circle in which he mingled. It was while in Cleveland that he first met Vera Clark, as she was then known. She is said to be the daughter of wealthy parents of Denver, Colorado, although her life is surrounded in mystery, and but little is known of her until she enters the limelight as the wife of Reese Prosser. She was possessed of considerable beauty of the dashing style, and also was said to have $15,000 in her own right. She had spent some part of her life on the stage, and had the vim and chic manner usual to the profession. That Prosser was infatuated with her not only at their first acquaintance, but even to the end, is evidenced by the frequent reconciliations that were made between them. She was jealous of him, and while she had a nature capable of the most endearing demonstrations, she also had the temper of the devil, which she displayed on many occasions. These such as breaking the household furniture, going into hysterical fits upon the least provocation, and committing other deeds of reckless abandon which horrified the dignified citizens of Lisbon where the Prosser's made their home for some months. Many who were acquainted with the woman's actions, predicted that a tragedy would be the end.

Soon after the couple married their domestic troubles began, and never ended, except at short intervals, until the bullet from the revolver in the hands of the desperate woman, drew the curtain. They came to Lisbon shortly after their marriage, and rented a home. Later Thomas Prosser, the father of Reese, purchased the Miller home on West Washington street, remodeled it, and turned it over to them. Mrs. Prosser purchased an automobile and startled the citizens of the placid village by some escapades in which she usually went alone, being rather averse to making close confidants of her neighbors. In fact she early formed a dislike not only to the town in general but to the Prosser family in particular, and never seemed as happy as when making a row of considerable magnitude. Finally her behavior led to the separation of the couple, and the wife disappeared. She turned up later in Cleveland where she occupied apartments at the Hotel Seville and started an action for divorce against her husband charging him with gross neglect and cruelty. Some time later a reconciliation was effected and Mrs. Prosser telegraphed from Washington that her "grand divorce" case was off.

Prosser had accepted a position as a salesman for the Winton Motor Car company of Seattle, Wash., and they had resumed their relations as husband and wife. While there they met with an automobile accident when their big touring car collided at night with a rock crusher on one of the city streets. The chauffeur was thrown out and seriously hurt.

On April 8 of this year Prosser brought an action in the Seattle courts asking for a restraining order enjoining Mrs. Prosser from molesting him, at the same time beginning a suit for divorce on the charge that his wife had made his life "one long lingering burden without cessation or relaxation". Prosser alleged that his wife threatened him if he sought a divorce from her. On one occasion ...

a vase and tore his overcoat off his back. Prosser after being a prisoner in the attorney's office two hours Saturday, with Mrs. Prosser on guard outside, finally escaped by dropping from a window to a nearby roof. Mrs. Prosser stood watching until 10 p.m. and then left Seattle. It was then she declared that her husband intended to marry a Seattle woman, but that as long as she lived he would never succeed.

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Libby, Mont., June 4 -- Mrs. Vera Prosser is held today without bail on a charge of first degree murder, in shooting her recently divorced husband, Reese T. Prosser, in a drawing room of a Great Northern train Wednesday.

Mrs. Prosser was arraigned before a justice last night, following the coroner's inquest, and entered a plea of not guilty. She waived preliminary examination and was bound over to the district court. The coroner's jury held that Prosser came to his death by gunshot wounds inflicted by Mrs. Prosser.

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Cleveland, O., June 6 - A force of Pinkerton detectives is now in Cleveland gathering evidence for the prosecution of Vera Prosser, charged with the murder of her former husband, Reese T. Prosser, a former Clevelander. The murder which was committed under peculiar circumstances on a fast Great Northern train near Libby, Mont., Wednesday afternoon, was described by two close friends of the dead man who were with him at the time of the murder and who are now in Cleveland, as one of the most remarkable crimes of modern years.

G.W. Miller and A.G. Shaffer, automobile salesmen, who were on their way from Seattle, Wash., to Cleveland with Prosser, arrived at the Euclid hotel.

Mr. Miller, who was in charge of the Winton automobile agency at Seattle and for whom Prosser worked described in graphic terms the finding of the body of the young man in a pool of blood in the stateroom, the subsequent flight of the woman and her subsequent coolness before the picturesque coroner's jury at Libby, Mont. Both he and Mrs. Schaffer were much shaken by the strange series of events which resulted in the death of their companion.

"Prosser had secured his divorce at Seattle and when he returned to the Butler hotel there was a scene", said Mr. Miller. "In the evening I gave a dinner to my salesmen at the Arctic club. Prosser was very popular and one of the best automobile salesmen in the country. He acted as toastmaster and was fairly bubbling with life and happiness. He believed that everything had been finally settled and that he was free from his former wife.

"After the banquet we boarded the train at the Union station, occupying compartments in the observation car. Prosser talked of his former wife all the way to the station.

"She is on the train, all right," he said, 'but I have nothing to fear from her. I've fooled her for years although she's threatened to kill me a hundred times and I guess I'll be all right this time.'

"For twenty-four hours we didn't catch sight of the woman; then I saw her in the Pullman ahead of us. I told Prosser to keep away from her. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon we were on the platform smoking and the boy was in the compartment. We saw the woman go in. She sat on his lap and ordered a drink. She ordered a second drink and then a third. At that Prosser could be heard throughout the car ordering her from the room and telling the porter to bring no more drinks.

"I could hear her order the porter out of the room and he left. Then we drew into Libby.

"The woman hurried out of the compartment and jumping from the train hastened to the telegraph station. The auditor told her that the train stopped but one minute, but she said she must wire. The train pulled out and left her and I went to talk to Prosser. I found him in a pool of blood, a bullet hole in his head. For a half hour I worked over him, but he died in my arms."

Miller and Schaffer told of getting off the train at Eureka and returning to Libby.

"The woman was locked in a room at the hotel at Libby. She made the coroner's jury wait two hours while she dressed. The she swept into the room in a wonderful gown, wearing more than $2,000 worth of diamonds. The coroner was a gruff old fellow and the jury was made up cow punchers wearing their guns. Lumber jacks stood against the wall and gaped at her.

"Your husband is dead,' said the coroner, 'and you are charged with his murder."

"A remarkable woman she is. I watched her as she glanced about the small room and then smiled.

"I must have counsel,' she said. Then she was taken back to her room. There is no jail at Libby."

The pearl handled revolver with which it is charged the man was shot could not be found. A well known Cleveland business man knew that the former Mrs. Prosser always carried it when she lived here with her husband at the Euclid hotel. At the trial, it is said, several Cleveland men will be asked to testify and Cleveland counsel may be employed to aid in the prosecution.

Mr. Schaffer and Mr. Miller will stay in Cleveland several days. They had been associated with Prosser for a long time and will employ counsel if necessary to aid in the prosecution of the woman charged with his murder. The father of the dead man lives in Lisbon, O.

According to testimony at the coroner's inquest, the woman had her arm about Prosser as he was partly reclining on a sear in the compartment. As he turned his head away she pressed the revolver to his temple and fired.

Prosser is well remembered in Cleveland, having left for the west but two years ago. Although but thirty-one, he was counted as one of the best automobile salesmen in

the country and was one of the highest salaried on the Winton pay roll.

### TRIAL EARLY IN JULY

Spokane, Wash., June 7 -- Mabel Howard, alleged to have been a friend of Reese T. Prosser who was shot and killed in a Great Northern train near Libby, Mont., when interviewed first denied all knowledge of Prosser. When shown a photo of Prosser and his slayer Vera Prosser, she admitted that she knew him but claimed she knew nothing of his trouble with his wife.

While she was talking she had been holding the photographs of the dead man and his wife in her hand, and looking at them carelessly. Suddenly she jumped from her seat, rushed over to the window and carefully scrutinized the picture of Mrs. Vera Prosser.

"Why", she exclaimed, "that's Nellie McGuire a girl I used to know."

The woman was assured that the photograph was the latest one of Vera Prosser, taken in Seattle shortly before the shooting. "I know that girl," she declared, "I know her by the funny little twist below her left nostril. She may have been posing as Vera Prosser, and may be she married the man, but she is no Denver heiress. She and I were in Minneapolis and St. Paul together. I don't see how I could be mistaken, I know the girl as well as if she were my own sister."

In regard to the divorce filed in Cuyahoga county, she said she did not know whether or not she was the woman referred to as "Mabel", but added that she might have been, as she had known Prosser for a long time, both in the East and the West.

Mrs. Prosser refuses to make any statement.

### WOMAN HAS SYMPATHY

Libby, Mont., June 17-- The fact that public sympathy in Libby is all with Mrs. Vera Prosser, formerly of Cleveland, held for trial on the charge of murdering her divorced husband, Reese T. Prosser of Lisbon, O., on a Great Northern train, may cause County Prosecutor Maiden to request a change of venue.

The story told by Mrs. Prosser of Prosser's continued abuse, even after he had invited her into his compartment on the Pullman car and asked her to remarry him, first aroused feeling in her favor. On her daily walks throughout the streets under guard, her manners have made some love her. Several times "the lady locked up at the hotel" has given bouquets which she has picked, to the children on the streets.

Mrs. Prosser herself expresses confidence that she will be acquitted after telling her story on the witness stand, though she declines, on advice of her counsel, to discuss the case further.

She has over 200 four-leaf clovers which she has picked on her walks. She says the will bring her luck.

*There are other articles which mention that she found a horseshoe that will also bring her luck and hang it over her room door; found a nine-spot of hearts; and at end of trial she had over 300 four-leaf clovers.)*

### Plead Insanity.

Libby, Mont., August 10-- Mrs. Vera Prosser held here on a charge of murdering her former husband has become an amateur washer-woman. Aided by Werner Wallo, who with Werner Palma, a Finn, like himself, is awaiting trial for murder beautiful Mrs. Prosser now does her own washing and other work about her cell. Wallo hangs out her washing and performs other duties like any well trained valet de chambre.

The washing is distasteful to Mrs. Prosser. She does not deny that. But she has to do something to occupy her mind and attention, since the district court judge ordered her into strict confinement.

Judge Erickson personally investigated stories that the woman was permitted to parade the streets of Libby without a guard, to have the door to her cell unlocked at all hours of the day and night, to amuse herself pounding on the typewriter in the sheriff's office, and to hold receptions each afternoon without even the slightest suggestion of a guard.

Judge Erickson came here August 1 and set Mrs. Prosser's case for trial August 15. After the preliminary of jury drawing, he set about investigating the reports of Mrs. Prosser's pleasant life at the jail.

As a result, Mrs. Prosser has since been confined to her cell and the key turned in the door, practically for the first time since her arrest. Her afternoon receptions were summarily cut off and she is no longer permitted to entertain the villagers on the sheriff's porch.

She has become irritable under the confinement at this phase of jail life, which she is really beginning to experience for the first time since her arrest.

As the date for the trial approaches, it has become known that the prosecution will depend upon two mysterious witnesses from Seattle to obtain a conviction. The defense will set up the pleas of emotional insanity.

Libby, Mont., August 17 - When court convened today in the trial of Mrs. Vera Prosser of Cleveland, charged with the murder of her husband, Reese T. Prosser, Sheriff M.A. Shanahan was recalled by the state. He testified that when Mrs. Prosser was arrested in Libby she had $5,350 in cash and some valuable diamond jewelry.

Some of the state's principal witnesses did not appear, among them C.C. Arlington, the star witness at the coroner's inquest.

Before the witnesses for the defense were called Attor-

ney Long addressed the jury, outlining the defense. He said evidence would show that during the five years that the Prossers were married Mrs. Prosser was always madly in love with her husband, but that he treated her brutally and inhumanly, and that when the murder was committed she was mentally irresponsible.

The deposition of Dr. W. E. Morris of Lisbon was read. He told of attending Mrs. Prosser at Lisbon, O., after Prosser had beaten and kicked her. The woman suffered from hysteria, often talked incoherently, was frenzied and violent, but talked much of her great love for Prosser.

Mrs. Thomas Coulter of Lisbon, O. was the first witness for the defense. Mrs. Prosser had roomed with her in 1908 for several months. Prosser visited his wife only three times during that time...

She told how Mrs. Prosser was always overjoyed to see her husband and how she was deeply in love with him. She told how Prosser on one occasion cut off his wife's hair and otherwise abused her.

... T.J. Rachford of Seattle, sales manager for the White Steamer Auto Co., was the principal witness of the forenoon. He told of being at the Butler hotel, Seattle, with the Prossers immediately after they were divorced. All ladies were excluded from the court room during this testimony. According to his testimony Prosser had got his divorced wife to come to the room to get money from her. Prosser also told how he had asked Mrs. Prosser to go with him to Cleveland, O.

Sheriff M. A. Shanahan furnished some sensational testimony when he told of a conversation between Mrs. Prosser and County Prosecutor Maiden which took place in his presence. The sheriff stated that Mrs. Prosser told of what took place when she was in the compartment of the observation car with Prosser. He said that the woman told how her husband, satiated with her companionship, called her unspeakable names and grabbed her by the throat and that she then reached and got a gun near by and shot him.

E. W. Lindsay, the negro porter on the Pullman, in which Prosser had a stateroom, testified that Mrs. Prosser was not under the influence of liquor on the day of the shooting although he said he had carried a considerable quantity of liquor into Prosser's stateroom while Mrs. Prosser was there with her ex-husband....

*(There is a picture of her in the article but would not reproduce for printing of this newsletter.)*

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**MRS. VERA PROSSER FOUND NOT GUILTY**

Cleveland,O., August 19--The jury in the case of Vera Prosser, on trial at Libby, Mont., for the murder of her husband, Reese T. Prosser, on a Great Northern train June 1, returned a verdict of "not Guilty" this morning. The verdict was received with approval by the citizens of Libby, who have been in sympathy with the fair prisoner ever since her arrest for the crime.

The jury was out 15 hours and rendered the verdict on the ground that the woman shot in self-defense.

When the verdict was announced the prisoner was greatly affected, but soon recovered, and thanked her counsel and the members of the jury. She was immediately given her freedom, but did not indicate what her future course would be. ...

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**Vera is Penniless**

Seattle, August 23 -- Accompanied by Mrs. F.H. Coulter and daughter, Helen, Mrs. Vera Prosser returned to Seattle penniless, the lawyers in Libby having taken $5,000 in cash and $1,500 in diamonds as their reward for securing her freedom. She was almost hysterical and physically weak.

"Where can I go now?" she moaned. "I suppose that none of the hotels will have me. I'm practically penniless and friendless. Everybody will turn against me. I'm just a woman in trouble.

"But it's good to be back, it's good to be back. My God, how I've suffered. The newspapers told what a fine time I had in Libby, but I went through a living death there.

"Now I've got to start all over again, drive the past out of my mind and heart. Oh, I don't know how I can forget, but I must.

"For a long time I have been getting telegrams from a theatrical man, offering me engagements at a good salary. I understand all that; I'm notorious now and the men and women who wouldn't speak to me would gladly pay money to see me on the stage."

"I haven't any theatrical ability. I don't want that. I don't want people staring at me whispering, 'That's Vera Prosser'. No, not if I can help it. That's the last thing before starvation. Just because I've gone through what I have doesn't make me any less human."

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**Dismiss Prosser Divorce**

Cleveland, Aug. 24 -- Vera Prosser, who was recently acquitted in Montana of shooting her husband, Reese Prosser, yesterday entered a dismissal of the action for divorce which she had commenced against her husband in the common pleas court of this county. Attorney Walter McMahon represented Mrs. Prosser. Judge Chapman entered the dismissal.

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**Vera Prosser Arrested.**

Seattle, Wa., September 29-- The police of this city last night placed Mrs. Vera Prosser under arrest on a charge of grand larceny when she called at the union depot to check her trunk.

Mrs. Prosser has been rooming with Miss Minnie Lyon at the Nelson hotel. She is charged with having stolen clothes from Miss Lyon to the amount of $100. When her trunk was opened the goods were recovered. Mrs. Prosser says the clothes belong to her.

Miss Lyon makes the claim that she is the daughter of a Montana ranch millionaire. Mrs. Prosser placed in the care of the desk sergeant four diamond rings when she was taken to the station.

# Columbiana County Archives and Research Center

*Preserving the past ✯✯✯ Saving the future ✯✯✯*

129 S. Market St.

Lisbon, Ohio 44432

**Can You Climb Your Family Tree?**

**If You Can't, Come See Us For Help.**

***Have you hit a brick wall check with us - we may be able to help.***