

FINDING OF DECOMPOSED REMAINS OF INFANT CAUSES GRANT SENSATION

Ethel Nixon Held by Coroner For Having Taken Baby From Home to
a Brush Pile

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Grant held the Choctaw county sensation board Tuesday night and this morning, the occasion being the finding of the body of a recently born baby in a pile of brush near a lake close to that town.

Arrests were made Tuesday evening of Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Nixon, their son, and two daughters, the daughter Mattie being the supposed mother of the child, and Ethel being charged with having taken its life immediately following birth.

Sheriff Loftin and Deputy Birchfield went to Grant Tuesday evening to ascertain what facts were obtainable, returning that night, and the sheriff, with County Attorney Hardison and County Superintendent Wright went to Grant this morning, where an inquest was held by Justice of the Peace Biard. The evidence at the inquest was of a nature to cause the justice to issue a warrant for the arrest of Ethel Nixon, and the remainder of the family was set at liberty.

The infant was found in a brush pile not far from the Nixon home, and the skull had been crushed in from the front, apparently with some blunt instrument. Neighbors who were suspicious of the case had the county authorities notified with arrests as stated.

According to the testimony taken at the inquest this morning, the girl, Mattie, is the mother of the child, which lived but an hour after it was born. The mother of the two girls, Mrs. J.M. Nixon, said that after the child was born it was wrapped up and Ethel or Effy carried it to the place where it was found. Ethel testified that she did not see the child when she carried it away, although at one time intimated that it might have been alive -- she did not know.

The body was badly decomposed when found, and according to the testimony taken at the coroner's inquest, had been in the brush pile since about March 14th.

The sheriff brought the girl who carried the body from the home to the brush pile from Grant to this city this afternoon, and has her in custody at his home.

She will have a preliminary examination here Friday.

The mother of the infant, Mattie Nixon, and in fact all of the family admit that the child was born in the home, and all are agreed that it lived but a little time after birth. They express no knowledge as to how the bruises on the skull were made; stating that such were not there when the infant's body was taken from the home; at least each testifies that he or she knew nothing of how such injuries could have been sustained.

The investigation, so far, has brought no further proof of guilt that an attempt to conceal the body of the infant, and all of the family tell practically the same story as to time of birth, death, and when the body was removed from the house.