

SLAYER OF WIFE AND CHILD AT EAGLETOWN REACHED HUGO LATE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Practically Admits Killing and Says That He Has Made Arrangement of
Business Affairs

The Hugo Husonian-May 30, 1912 (from Monday's Daily) - Transcribed by Doris
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Will Everidge was arrested in Choctaw county Sunday afternoon by Deputy Constable Patterson and brought to Hugo, where he was turned over to Undersheriff Mead Harris.

Everidge was the slayer of his wife and child at their home at Eagletown, McCurtain county, Saturday morning at 3:30 o'clock, the telegraphic account in Saturday's Husonian having his name as Etheridge.

According to the story in Saturday's Husonian, Etheridge had gone to his wife's home at Eagletown and killed her and the child, and was supposed to have escaped on a fast horse. Everidge, however, had taken the almost straight line westward and was enroute to Hugo to give himself up to the officers, fearing a lynching if he were taken to Idabel Saturday. He reached the home of a relative in Choctaw county Sunday, and stated his mission. Deputy Constable Patterson was present and accompanied Everidge to the city, where he was given over to Deputy Sheriff Harris who at once apprised the Idabel authorities of the arrest and incarceration. Deputy Sheriff Will Tompson arrived Sunday evening to get the prisoner, who was ready to go.

While Will Everidge did not say in so many words that he was the slayer of his wife and child, his statement to Harris was admission of the crime. When he came to Harris, he said: "Mead, I'll tell you. All my business is straightened up. I know of nothing left undone. I rode as hard as I could when I left the house at Eagletown to reach Hugo, and not knowing whether those fellows down there would lynch me or not. I am ready to go back to McCurtain county and they can do with me as they see fit. I think that I have done everything that I needs to be done relative to my personal affairs."

Everidge is a Choctaw county man and is known well in several portions of Eastern Choctaw. He and his wife had been separated, and it is presumed that the tragedy was due to their family difficulties. The crime was committed about 3:30 o'clock Saturday morning. Mrs Everidge and child were in bed asleep, when they wee shot, a Winchester rifle being used kill them. When here Everidge had a Winchester of the same caliber, and when he was in custody of Harris, said, "There's the Winchester, and Mr. Patterson has the cartridges." Everidge had gone to the home, undoubtedly, late in the night, awaited his chance and shot through the window, then mounted a saddled horse, and through as hard rain as ever fell in that sparsely settled region, wended his way through the foothills to the corners of McCurtain, Pushmataha and Choctaw counties, thence rode in a southwesterly direction

to Hugo. He rode hard, for he had made within a few miles of Hugo- Sunday morning when he met with Patterson, whom he told he was enroute to Hugo to give himself up to the officers.

Everidge did not go into details of the troubles which caused him to commit the act. The Everidge family has long been prominent in Choctaw county and he is a member of it. It was known here that there had been a separation of the man and his wife, but no one was willing to say what had been the cause of same. The woman had gone to Eagletown, an isolated inland town some 25 miles northeast of the new city of Broken Bow, surrounded on three sides by mountains, and it was through those hills that Everidge made his hard ride to reach Choctaw county before he could be arrested.

The officer who came for the prisoner said that there was not the least probability of danger to Everidge at Idabel, but of course he knew no more about the sentiment where the killing occurred than was know here. A story was circulated Saturday that Everidge had tried to sell his horse, but that was denied by the prisoner, who related the way he had come and whom he had seen. So far as could be traced since he related his story, it can easily be verified, and probably was stating the simple truth when he said that he sought to reach Choctaw county before being arrested, fearing a mob.

When arrested by Harris, his first question was "Is she dead," evidencing that the man after he had shot made no effort to ascertain whether or not that the bullets had been fatal. He never knew that the woman was dead until told so by Harris at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon.