

The Oxford Daily News

INDICTED!

BODY OF HOMER BARRON DISCOVERED IN LOCKED ROOM!

NOVEMBER 26, 1905

Leading Citizens Shocked. Police suspect Arsenic Poisoning.

Yesterday, the skeletal body of Homer Barron, late of New York, NY, was found in the upstairs bedroom of Emily Grierson's home. Mr. Barron had been reported missing in early 1890 by relatives in the North; it was suspected that he had met with a misfortune while traveling, but no one had seen him leave town. Since he was best known by Miss Grierson, and since she did not report any trouble, no one knew where he may have gone.

Notorious Carpetbagger?

Miss Emily and Mr. Barron were known to be close acquaintances; it was once rumored that they were engaged. Miss Emily was seen purchasing expensive gifts for the man, whom some describe as a "ne'er do well." Those sympathetic to Miss Emily claim he was trying to cull favor and steal her family fortune, taking advantage of a young woman who had recently lost her father, the esteemed Colonel.

Experts believe defense will go for insanity plea. Witnesses for the Prosecution are expected to include some of the town's oldest citizens, including town druggist, aldermen, and society matrons. Witnesses for the defense should include Miss Grierson's relatives from Alabama, as well as many Veterans of the War Between the States.

The Grierson's old butler, who disappeared shortly before the body was found, and who some believe dropped the anonymous tip regarding the room's secret



The Grierson home, site of alleged murder.

contents, is being sought for questioning. Detectives are looking in Chicago, Illinois, where it is believed the butler has people.

When questioned, long-time residents said: "We did not believe she was crazy [back] then. We believed she had to do [what she had to do]. We remembered all the young men her father had driven away, and we knew that with nothing left, she would have to cling to that which had robbed her, as people will."

Others, when questioned about Miss Emily's habits, told the story of her frequent run-ins with City Hall over tax questions. A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was called to deal with the lack of taxes paid to Jefferson County, and one young member, who prefers to remain anonymous, was quoted as saying: "There was nothing on the books to show that she had a special dispensation from Colonel Sartoris." **more— see "Indicted" page A 2**

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