

Patriot, Monday, May 29, 1911; Many Are Drawn To Place Where Little Girl Disappeared Another Day's Search Failed to Furnish an Inkling of the Probable Fate of Four Year-Old Alice Arnold. Reward Offered By County And Committee Of Citizens – Fortune Teller Said to Have Predicted Girl Will be Restored Wednesday by Kidnappers Who Carried Her Off

Special Dispatch to the Patriot. Ickesburg, May 28. Fully one thousand strangers flocked into this ordinarily outlet section of Perry County today, drawn, some by idle curiosity and others by genuine sympathy for the parents of little Mary Arnold who disappeared from her home last Monday Morning and left not a trace behind although hundreds of men and boys scoured the vicinity daily ever since. People came in automobiles and in carriages, and some even walked long distances. There were people here from every county in the central part of the state and it may be doubted that there has been so much excitement on a Sunday since the Civil War.

Mountain Side Searched

Three hundred men under the direction of four members of the State Police made a systematic search of the mountain side. For a distance of between four and five miles by perhaps three quarters of a mile wide every bush and every rock was carefully examined, but when darkness forced suspension of activities for another day the searchers were forced to acknowledge that they had discovered not a single thing that threw light on the mystery of the missing baby.

Today it was announced that the county commissioners of Perry County had offered a reward of \$50 and that a committee of citizens had raised a similar amount that will be given for the return of the girl. This step was taken because of the possibility that someone has carried her off and is holding her for ransom.

Story About Fortune Teller

It was reported here today and believed by many persons that two fortune tellers, one of them a woman from Harrisburg, were among the crowd, and that one of them said the girl has been kidnapped and will be held until Wednesday. An attempt to verify this tale was unsuccessful.

The State Police here are the objects of a great deal of interest to the crowds and their movements are closely watched and freely discussed. Two of them went to Duncannon this evening and it is said here that they are working on some clue. Whether they are or not cannot be said positively. They are not especially communicative and do not take the people into their confidence. It became known today, however that following the statement on Saturday of one of the missing girl's brothers that he had struck her with a stick in order to make her hurry home from the pasture where she was last seen, the policemen put the boy through a rigid examination with a view to finding out whether or not they knew more about the fate of their sister than they have so far admitted. At the conclusion of the examination the officer in charge reported to District Attorney Rice that he is satisfied the little girl came to no harm at the hands of members of her family.

Trailer's Work Fruitless

The Indian trailer who came in here last week is still here but he has not been able to accomplish anything. Of course the air is thick with rumors and surmises but these almost invariably are worthless and the hard headed members of the community who are conducting the search are forced to admit that the case is one of complete mystery. The little girl is gone and there is not a single clue to indicate the manner of her going or where she is now. Among those who are trying to help the afflicted family is Judge Shull who has been on the ground personally a great deal during the past few days.

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**Patriot, Friday, June 2, 1911; Fall Back On Kidnapping Theory - Sylvester Long, the Indian Trailer, Has Abandoned Search**

Special Dispatch to the Patriot. Ickesburg, June 1. – All theories in connection with the disappearance of four-year-old Alice Arnold, then days ago have been abandoned by the worn-out searchers except that the baby was kidnapped. The surrounding territory has been raked with a fine toothed comb without result.

Sylvester Long, the Indian trailer, returned to Carlisle today completely baffled. He says that had he hit the country before hundreds of persons had trodden down possible clues he might have accomplished something, although he is not especially sanguine of this.

The State Police who have been here for a week are sticking to the job. They have several threads to follow before they will give up.

**Patriot, Thursday, July 20, 1911; Find Body Of Alice Arnold In Mountain - Huckleberry Pickers Discover Little Skeleton in the Bushes About Three Miles From Her Home – Father Identified Remains By Means of Dress – Believe That She Wandered Away And Died Of Exhaustion – Mystery That Excited an Entire County for Many Days Partially Solved – Authorities Will Make an Investigation – Great Searching Parties Passed Body By**

Ickesburg, July 19. – Huckleberry pickers working on top of Tuscarora Mountain this afternoon came upon a tiny skeleton, a wisp of light hair and a little dress. And by this mute evidence of a tragedy was cleared away that much of the mystery surrounding the disappearance of little Alice Arnold. Whether the whole story will ever be told remains to be seen, but with the pathetic little heap in the underbrush as a starting point the authorities will make a thorough investigation and the object of solving a problem that for many days excited the people of this county as they had not been excited in half a century.

**Identified By Dress**

The discovery was made about 3 o'clock by H. H. Wallet and Robert Zimmerman at a point about three miles from the home of the girl's home at Marsh Run. The spot is not more than three-quarters of a mile from a road.

William Arnold, the father, was notified immediately and he went up into the mountain and by means of the hair and the material in the little dress the little skeleton as that of Alice.

The authorities at New Bloomfield were immediately notified and District Attorney Rice, who was unable to come here, deputized Charles Swartz to make an investigation. Accompanied by about a dozen men Mr. Swartz went into the mountain this evening and is not expected to return here until early in the morning.

**A Pertinent Query**

After Alice had toddled off into the woods that covered the mountain in the rear of her home the morning of May 22 a search was kept up practically without let up for ten days or two weeks. At times, many as 100 men and boys were engaged in it at one time and for a while the work was carried on under the direction of State Police. The mountain was scoured and the brush beaten for miles in each direction from the Arnold Home. An Indian trailer from the Carlisle Indian School spent several days trying to

pick up a clue. The nonsuccess of the searchers led to many wild stories about kidnapping and possible foul play. Now the people of the community, which was the center of the excitement, are asking themselves how it happened that the organized search failed even to discover the dead body.

### **Death Due to Exhaustion**

In view of the failure of earlier theories and guesses there is little speculation here tonight as to how the baby reached the spot where the skeleton was found. There is little or no suspicion of foul play and everyone seems to think it highly probable that the little girl, who wandered away before she had eaten breakfast, became lost in the woods and in her terror pushed on and on until she felt exhausted and perished from hunger and exposure. It is plain from the position in which the skeleton was lying that the baby's face was pressed to the earth when the end came.

Mary Arnold was four years old. On the morning of Monday, May 22, she followed her brothers when they started to drive the cows to pasture. They did not want her along and at a short distance from the house they told her to go back. She was reluctant to obey but one of the boys struck her a light blow and she turned. That is the last that was seen of her alive. Later in the day the family began a search. The neighborhood was alarmed and when the day began to wane and there was no trace of the girl.

That night men searched the mountains and the country about the Arnold home with lanterns. The next day more searchers volunteered and larger numbers were at work the third day. Soon the whole county was wrought up over the disappearance and the country authorities and prominent citizens of Perry took a hand. Among the most energetic of the searchers was Judge Shull. The county commissioners of Perry offered a reward of \$50 and this sum was increased by wealthy men whose sympathies were enlisted by the mental anguish of the little girl's mother. By Sunday the excitement over the mystery was so great that over a thousand strangers visited this town and the immediate vicinity. Automobile parties from all over central Pennsylvania were among those drawn here.

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Patriot, Friday, July 21, 1911; Alice Arnold Was Killed By Exposure That is the Verdict of Jury Empaneled by Justice Swartz – Jury was Lost in Mountain – Inquest Was Held on the Spot Where the Bones Were Found

Special Dispatch to the Patriot. Ickesburg, July 20. – In the opinion of the jury impaneled by Justice Charles Swartz, little Alice Arnold, whose bones and little dress were found in a thicket in the Tuscarora Mountains, three miles from her, came to her death through "exposure and thirst."

This finding is approved by all intelligent people who are acquainted with the facts connected with the discovery of the body.

The inquest was held today on the spot in the mountain where the bones of the little girl were found. The jurymen and those who accompanied them got back to this village about 2:30 o'clock with the report. It was their second trip to the mountain on the same errand. Wednesday night they got lost and after wandering about for several hours in an effort to regain the trail that would lead them to the place where the little girl died; they returned here.

Early this morning they set out again. They found the little bones scattered over a surface of about six feet, indicating that they had been stripped of their flesh by birds and possibly small animals. As when the father visited the spot the only thing that could be found that would lead to identification was the little dress and wisp of yellow hair.

The inquest did not last long. The spot where the bones were found is more difficult of access for an adult, which probably explains why the searchers failed to find the body, but a child would not have much trouble to penetrate the spot.

WRITE PLAINLY, WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

Form V. S. No. 5-50M-4-5-07.

PLACE OF DEATH.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS.
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

County of Perry Registration District No. 3162 File No. 68191

Township of Sauell or Borough of _____ Primary Registration District No. Sauell Registered No. 10

City of _____ (No. _____ St.; _____ Ward) [If death occurred in a Hospital or Institution, give its NAME instead of street and number.]

[If death occurs away from USUAL RESIDENCE give facts called for under "Special Information."] FULL NAME Alice May Arnold

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
SEX <u>Female</u>	COLOR <u>White</u>	DATE OF DEATH <u>Decl. on mountain date of death unknown</u> (Month) _____ (Day) <u>19</u> (Year) <u>1901</u>	
DATE OF BIRTH <u>Last May</u> (Month) _____ <u>22</u> (Day) <u>1911</u> (Year)	AGE <u>4</u> years, _____ months, _____ days.	I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____ 1901 to _____ 1901	
SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED <u>Child</u>	BIRTHPLACE (State or County) <u>Perry Co Pa</u>	that I last saw h _____ alive on _____ 1901	
OCCUPATION <u>none</u>	NAME OF FATHER <u>Mrs Arnold</u>	and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____	
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or County) <u>Perry Co Pa</u>	BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <u>Perry Co Pa</u>	M. The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>439</u> <u>unknown, Alice May Arnold, last seen</u> <u>22. 1911. Found July 19. 1911 near top of Tuscarora</u> <u>mountain 5⁶ days after being lost. Skeleton</u> <u>bones with loose skin by which she was</u> <u>indentified by parents</u> <u>Contributory</u> <u>Engest Decl. which child died of Exhaustion</u> <u>hunger & thirst date unknown</u> (Signed) <u>No physician certifies date</u> _____ M. D.	
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <u>Maggie Hess</u>	BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or County) <u>Perry Co Pa</u>	_____ 1901 (Address) _____	
THE ABOVE STATED PERSONAL PARTICULARS ARE TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF		SPECIAL INFORMATION only for Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents.	
(Informant) <u>Alvin Waller</u> <u>who found the child skeleton</u> (Address) <u>Jacobburg Pa</u>	Former or Usual Residence _____ How long at _____ Place of Death _____? Day?		
Filed <u>July 19. 1911</u>	Where was disease contracted? _____		
<u>W. Gray</u> Registrar	PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL <u>Eshevl</u>	DATE OF BURIAL <u>1911</u>	
	UNDERTAKER <u>Mr Kern with Consent of Town</u>	ADDRESS <u>Millersburg Pa</u>	