

This informant being duly sworn  
saith: My name is Jonah Williams  
I am cow-man, engaged in looking  
after James Pearce's cattle. I saw  
David Arkes in Lethbridge on Friday  
evening last at Fred. Wheat's, did not  
see him again until today when I  
saw him dead. I know Thomas  
Purcell, I saw him ~~on~~ Sunday  
evening last, the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December,  
at about three o'clock at his own  
ranch; I came after a pair of  
bob-sleds belonging to James Pearce.  
The snow was melting so I did not  
take them home. I passed the time  
while at his ranch washing about  
and talking about cattle. I rode up  
to the door and Mr. Purcell asked  
me to tie my horses in the corral,  
I tied them there, he was just com-  
pleting a portion of it. I noticed  
a rifle leaning up against the calf-  
pen but saw nothing else about the corral,  
did not think it strange to find a rifle  
there, thought he had it to shoot coyotes  
with; his - Thomas Purcell's - saddle horse  
was tied to the fence - the grey horse.  
he was not saddled. There were cattle  
all around the corral some were  
Mr. Pearce's, some were Thomas Purcell's  
three or four cows, ~~and~~ three heifer calves  
in the barn. I did not see any ~~the~~  
persons about the ranch. I was at

Purcell's ranche about an hour. I left  
about four o'clock. I saw Mr. Purcell  
again that night at about quarter  
past seven o'clock, he rode up to  
the yard-gate of Scarce's ranche I  
asked him to come in. He told me  
he was on his road to town. That is  
Leshbridge - or something to that effect  
I asked him to stay all night as  
it was so dark, he consented. We went  
out to put up the horse and he said  
"You have no idea what I came up  
here tonight ~~about~~ for"; "I killed  
a man up here." I asked him who  
he said "David Arks." I asked him  
why he had done this he said to ask  
him no questions and he'd tell me  
no lies. We went into the house and  
he spoke of it again after supper.  
I asked him if anyone lived above him  
on the Mt Hole and he said there was  
David Arks. He said that they  
had had a disturbance over a coal  
mine that he - Purcell - had found  
and that he and Arks were in partne-  
ship. Arks ~~had~~ wanted to buy his  
right in the mine and that Arks  
had some cattle that he would take  
as his share in the mine. He said  
when he first saw Arks he was com-  
ing out of Purcell's door of house, he got  
on his horse and rode over to the corral  
and began taking the bars down.



Surcell told him to keep out; he let the bars down and rode into the corral and began quiting Surcell over the head with his indian whip. Surcell then climbed over the fence to get out of his way. Akers then rode up and hit him on the neck and knocked him off the fence. Surcell then ran and got his gun and told him to keep away from him or he'd kill him, Akers kept coming and he - Surcell - then shot him. He did not say whether he fired at him when facing or whether Akers ran away. He did not say much more about the affair. Surcell left us the next morning at about eight or nine o'clock. I did not see him start. He led his horse out and said "good morning." I said: "I wish you good luck!"

There were others with me at the house that night and overheard the conversation one man's name was Biglow and the others name I do not know. Surcell was not armed to my knowledge. I did not smell liquor upon Surcell nor did he appear excited. He said he felt sorry for it. He had no marks upon him that I noticed I did not think of looking at his head for any. I did not notice any mud, or blood upon his clothing.

~~There~~ The posts of the corral were up and he was putting in the rails; it would take about half an hour to complete the job. There were no cattle in the corral. <sup>As I</sup> ~~I did not~~ <sup>do not know the kind of rifle</sup> ~~noticed the~~ rifle. I think I would be able to recognize it. The saddle horse did not show marks of having been ridden recently. (The rifle is produced and identified as the one seen in the corral) He said that Astus was on his horse when he shot him. He said he thought he killed him dead - by that I took it to mean instantly. He did not say whether he - Snell - fell when struck inside or outside of the corral. The rifle stood inside of the corral. I noticed a box near the rifle did not know what was in it.

Jorrah. Williams

Taken upon oath and  
acknowledged this fifth  
day of December A.D. 1893,  
before me,

John D. Higginshaw,  
Coroner.

This informant being duly sworn saith: My name is Jonah Williams. I am cow-man, engaged in looking after James Pearce's cattle. I saw David Akers in Lethbridge on Friday evening last at Fred Whear's, did not see him again until today when I saw him dead. I know Thomas Purcell. I saw him Sunday evening last, the 3rd of December, at about three o'clock at his own ranche; I came after a pair of bob-sleds belonging to James Pearce. The snow was melting so I did not take them home. I passed the time while at his ranche walking about and talking about cattle. I rode up to the door and Mr. Purcell asked me to tie my horses in the corral, I tied them there. He was just completing of portion of it. I noticed a rifle leaning up against the calf-pen but saw nothing else about the corral, did not think it strange to find a rifle there, thought he had it to shoot coyotes with; his – Thomas Purcell's – saddle horse was tied to the fence – the grey horse, he was not saddled. There were cattle all around the corral some were Mr. Pearce's, some were Thomas Purcell's three or four cows. Three heifer calves were in the barn. I did not see any persons about the ranche. I was at Purcell's ranche about an hour. I left about four o'clock. I saw Mr. Purcell again that night at about quarter past seven o'clock, he rode up to the yard-gate of Pearce's ranche. I asked him to come in. He told me he was on his road to town, that is Lethbridge – or something to that effect. I asked him to stay all night as it was so dark, he consented. We went out to put up the horse and he said, "you have no idea what I came up her tonight for"; I killed a man up here." I asked him who, he said "David Akers." I asked him why he had done this he said to ask him no questions and he'd tell me no lies. We went into the house and he spoke of it again after supper. I asked him if anyone lived above him on the Pot Hole and he said there was David Akers. He said that they had had a disturbance over a coal mine that he – Purcell – had found and that he and Akers were in partnership. Akers wanted to buy his right in the mine and that Akers had some cattle that he would take as his share in the mine. HE said when he first saw Akers he was coming out of Purcell's door of house, he got on his horse and rode over to the corral and began taking the bars down. Purcell told him to keep out; he let the bars down and rode into the corral and began quirting Purcell over the head with his indian whip. Purcell then climbed over the fence to get out of his way. Akers then rode up and hit him on the neck and knocked him off the fence. Purcell then ran and got his gun and told him to keep away from him or he'd kill him. Akers kept coming and he – Purcell – then shot him. He did not say whether he fired at him when facing or whether Akers ran away. He did not say much more about the affair. Purcell left us the next morning at about eight or nine o'clock. I did not see him start. He led his horse out and said, "good morning." I said, "I wish you good luck!"

There were others with me at the house that night and overheard the conversation one man's name was Biglow, and the others name I do not know. Purcell was not armed to my knowledge. I did not smell liquor upon Purcell nor did he appear excited. He said he felt sorry for it. He had now marks upon him that I noticed. I did not think of looking at his head for any. I did not notice any mud, or blood upon his clothing.

The posts of the corral were up and he was putting in the rails; it would take about half an hour to complete the job. There were no cattle in the corral. I did not know the kind of rifle. I think I would be able to recognize it. The saddle horse did not show marks of having been ridden recently (The rifle is produced and identified as the one seen in the corral). He said that Akers was on his horse when he shot him. He said he thought he killed him dead by that I took it to mean instantly. He did not say whether he – Purcell – fell when struck inside or outside the corral. The rifle stood inside of the corral. I noticed a box near the rifle did not know what was in it.

Jonah Williams

Taken upon oath and acknowledged this fifth day of December A.D. 1893, before me, John D. Highinbotham, Coroner.