

A BRUTAL ASSAULT ON THE JAILER

Tuesday morning at about 11:30 a brutal assault was made upon Mr. Ben Johnson, the County Jailer, by a prisoner named "Hoffman".

As is the custom, Mr. Johnson was taking the noon meal to the prisoners confined in the jail, and as a special favor at the request of the prisoner, had been to town and purchased something special for the prisoner and the assault took place at the time Mr. Johnson was delivering this food to him.

This man "Hoffman" was being kept apart from the other prisoners and was allowed the use of the female ward which was empty, thus allowing him more privileges.

When Mr. Johnson entered the ward and handed the food to the prisoner, he, Mr. Johnson, stooped over to pick up a broom from the floor of the ward at which time the prisoner struck him over the head with a bottle making a very serious wound.

Mr. Johnson offered resistance but was soon overpowered from the blow when the prisoner bound a blanket around him and dragged him into the ward, closing the door and going below with a view of escaping.

It is supposed on account of many passing the jail, preventing the prisoner from making a ready escape, when Mr. Johnson came to himself, he went to the window and called to Mr. Hartford Jenkins who was passing to come to his assistance, as soon as Mr. Jenkins recognized the predicament Mr. Johnson was in, he gave the alarm to other County officers who immediately went to the jail and released Mr. Johnson. The prisoner could not be found at first, but on Mr. Geo. W. Davis going through the building he found him concealed behind a door of one of the living rooms. He was made to come out and then placed in safe keeping in a locked cell. Later on that evening a sheriff of another county came for him to answer a charge of forgery, it appears that he is wanted for various offenses, he was in jail here for forgery at Smithville.

We are pleased to note that Mr. Johnson is doing nicely and was fortunate to get off without more serious injuries.

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