

# Knapp's Body Found.

## Body of Martin Knapp, Formerly of Binford, Found by Boy.

After having rested in a watery grave for a period of more than eight months, the body of Martin Knapp, which was so eagerly longed for by his friends and relatives, and for which the bottom of the lake was dragged almost continually from the time he was drowned until the elements of winter stopped the search, was found during the forenoon of Thursday, July 13th by Herman Schindele, who with a party of other boys, went to the lake to swim. Schindele is a boy about fifteen years of age and, as he went down to the shore his attention was attracted by what he thought to be a peculiar object, whereupon he went to it and found it to be the body of the unfortunate man.

At the time Mr. Knapp and his friends went to the lake, they spent the first night at the home of Mr. Schindele, the boy's father, so that he was thereby enabled to recognize the body by the clothing, this being the only method because of the flesh of the face and head having been removed by the action of the water. As soon as possible after the finding of the body, August Schindele, cousin of Herman, was sent to Binford to convey the tidings to those who were anxiously awaiting some favorable report in that connection, although a great many had no hopes of the body ever being recovered. He arrived here at about 8 o'clock in the evening and in less than an hour nearly everyone had heard the news. A party at once began preparations to get the body home, and, after having a sealed coffin made, went with it to the scene, leaving here at about 12 o'clock the same night and arriving there next morning.

The body was found on the east shore of the head of the lake and about one mile south of the line along which the deceased was believed to have been drowned, and along which all efforts were made to recover the body last fall. It was lying partly upon the shore and partly in the water the entire head and a portion of each hand being exposed to the air, and these parts being the most affected. All parts that were protected by the clothing were naturally in a bad state, although not as bad as

had been anticipated.

Since the drowning there has been considerable diversity of opinion as to whether or not deceased had removed the loaded shells, of which he was believed to have several boxes, from his pockets when he at last realized that he was doomed to battle for his life in the water. He wore a hunter's coat which is provided with several pockets for ammunition, and the belief is that he had in his pockets a good supply of heavy ammunition that helped bear him downward and to prevent the body from rising within the usual time. The lower part of the back of the coat was missing, which would tend to strengthen the theory that the action of the water had so weakened the material in the coat that the weight of ammunition tore that part of the coat away, and the body was allowed to come to the surface. Some again argue that there were evidences of the coat having been gnawed by animal inhabitants of the water. The pants pockets contained \$7.35 in change, and a bill-book found in the clothing contained a number of papers the value of which can not be ascertained as the water has practically ruined them; the watch and chain were also found in the proper place.

Nothing but the skull remained by which to identify the head and a portion of the flesh of the fingers was gone which left the joints exposed. What held the body to the bottom during the warm weather of last October is not known, but the opinion of some is to the effect that the ammunition, being of considerable weight, prevented it from rising while credence is given the theory that the clothing became entangled among objects at the bottom of the lake.

The funeral was held from the home in Binford at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, and was attended by a large gathering of admiring friends from all parts of the surrounding country. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Dybyik of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of which deceased was a member, and interment was made in the Lutheran Cemetery south-west of town.

It will be remembered by the readers of this paper that Martin Knapp, the deceased, and a party of friends were hunting at Stump Lake, Nelson County, last October, and that he was alone in the boat when it capsized.—Binford Times