I could swear to state that it was not made by a hard substance.

Such a bruise as would be made by the fist naturally?

Yes sir, such a bruise as should be made by the fist.

You were present at the examination of this man?

Yes sir.

You examined him for those bruises?

Yes sir.

Did you see any bruise in any portion of the body of the deceased, that you have any reason to believe was made by a club or a cane or a hard substance or anything that contributed to his death?

No sir; if the bruise was made auto-murderous it was made by a piece of butter.
or a strap. It was only skin deep—as we call it  
erythrosis—a little effusion of blood under it.

Commissioner A. W. Jones, I will  
ask you if that bruise on  
the head in your opinion as a physician, in  
your opinion as a physician, in  
any way unceases this  
mans mind and produces  
mental aberration so that  
he did not know what  
he was doing.

"No sir, it could not. His  
conversation in very tall  
mist with him indicates per  
fect rationality.

Do you know anything about the whipping of a  
convict named Harris, if  
Do you know anything about the whipping of a  
convict named Harris, if  
you state to the Board  
of Commissioners what  
you know in regard to that  

case.

I will state all I know  
about it. I cannot place th
dates though exactly because I don’t remember it. I know that one time—how long ago I can’t remember—I was called or when visit-
ing the solitary my at-
tention was directed to
a convict by the name
of Harris with a ter-
men.
The Deputy Warden, Mr.
Mayhew called my atten-
tion to it, and wanted my
decision if that man
was insane or not. He
was not in punishment
then as far as I remem-
ber, but was in the cells
of the solitary in the low-
or part. I could not give
an opinion, but requested
that for observation before
I could make up my
mind whether the man
was insane or not. I instructed
Reed the keeper of the day
solitary, I believe, to give
me the history, or observe him, and tell me how he slept, how he would eat and drink, and how he acted in my presence — to get all the information I could and give me a report how he acted during the day. He told me that he couldn't tell anything about sleeping because he was not there most of the time, but I tried to get information as well as I could. I was not able to wake him up, my views or to ascertain which was the case, and requested the deputy to send him to the hospital for further observation, which was at once done. I believe he was two days or so in the hospital, but he made no noise and disturbance that I could not keep him there.
in the hospital disturbing the sick men some of whom were dangerously ill. An arrangement was made to take him below to the hospital into a private room guarded by two convicts whom we considered very reliable men, of whom we got information as to how he was to act during the day and during the night, and Doctor Moss also assisted and from the observation we made we doubted very much any aberration of mind but came more and more to the conclusion that there was malingering insanity. I then spoke to the Warden of the institution, Major McClaughry, requesting him to help to assist me in getting all the information in regard to...
the case that I could, and
I wrote a letter to the Sher-
iff who had brought him
here inquiring into the
conduct of that man. It
took about five or six
days when a letter was
forwarded me by somebody
either Major McCloughry
or Doctor Dripps—a reply
from his Sheriff stating
that this man had been
there in jail, and has act-
ed crazy—malingered
crazy or feigning craziness.
Not believing that he
was crazy he bring him
up by his thumbs, if I
rememberer right for a half
a day, when the man
confessed and said he was
playing off; he made fur-
thermore the statement
that he would not be in
the prison for two months
without being sent to the
asylum, that was the letter signed by the sheriff. The evidence and appearance of the man together the letter is a statement of the man's actions, and we were hoping to find out whether he was a lunatic or not.

The following is a copy of the letter above referred to:


R. W. McCoughney
Joliet, Illinois.

Dear Sir, Yours of March 11th received. I remember Thomas Harris very well. I know nothing of his history or his family, only what he told me while in jail here. He said he was from York state, had been in the penitentiary there and got out by taking the bus at a lodge.
[Handwritten text not legible]