

FUGITIVE FREEMAN.

A RUMOR THAT RECALLS THE TOCCOA TRAGEDY.

Fred Freeman Alleged to Have Been Seen, and Confessing to Have Killed Aleck Mauldin Accidentally—Some Stories of His Wanderings.

GREENVILLE, Ga., April 10—It will be remembered that the alleged murderer of the Mauldin boy at Toccoa, a few months ago, was Fred Freeman, the son of the postmaster at Toccoa. The details of the tragedy are still fresh in the minds of the people. Information received here states that a few days ago a travel-stained, ragged boy of 15 stopped at the home of Josie Hamby, a farmer five miles north of here. The boy was intelligent, for his years, and very hungry, asking for employment. Mr. Hamby gave him work and food. Mr. Hamby suspected the little fellow was a fugitive, and asked if he was not named Fred Freeman, the murderer of Aleck Mauldin, at Toccoa.

The boy fell upon his knees and acknowledged his identity, begging that his secret might be kept from the public. Fred said he shot his little playmate accidentally. They were rabbit hunting. Fred had cocked his gun, having caught sight of a rabbit. His companion ran in front just as Fred's foot tripped, throwing him to the ground. In falling the gun was discharged, the entire load entering the body of the boy in front and killing him instantly. Fred's parents sent their son to South Carolina first.

He has been hotly pursued several times. Once a party reached the river just as Fred reached the opposite bank. The ferryman made attempt to detain Fred, but the boy's ready pistol was displayed and he left without hindrance. A sheriff was paid \$100 at another time to let the boy go. Such are some of the stories told of his adventures. He so wrought upon the sympathies of his friend that he was allowed to depart, notwithstanding that a reward of \$300 has been offered for the boy's apprehension. It is whispered that some one has started from here in chase of the boy.