

## **INQUEST MAKES MURDER THEORY STRONG**

Dubuque Telegraph Herald

Friday, 07/08/1904

Page 3

### ***MRS. REED TELLS JURY THAT HUSBAND THREATENED TO KILL HER AND POINTED GUN AT THE BABY.***

Mrs. Reed's testimony was in effect as follows: "My husband came home about 6:30 o'clock, washed himself and sat down at the table. He did not talk to me at first, nor did he eat anything. He began to cry, saying that people down town were always fighting with him and he was going to kill himself. He told me to take the baby away or he would kill us both. The baby was in the buggy and he pointed the gun at its head. I took the baby and went up stairs. I gave the baby to Mrs. Foster, then went outside and warned some men not to go within as my husband had a gun. When the policemen came I went to the head of the stairway and heard my husband say "Don't come down here; I am all right". Then the shots were heard. My husband had been sick for some days before the shooting."

Witnesses testified before the coroner's jury, which is investigating the cause of Officer Daniel Norton's death, that James Reed, the assailant, was frenzied from excessive drinking and that he had been in a quarrelsome mood since Sunday night. Mrs. Reed testified that her husband threatened to kill her Wednesday night and that she ran terrified out of the house when he pointed the revolver at the baby's head.

None of the witnesses advanced testimony which would tend to strengthen the theory that Reed is insane. Mrs. Reed told the jury that she did not notice anything wrong with her husband excepting when he drank heavily.

### ***WARNED NOT TO DESCEND.***

Very damaging testimony was given by Mrs. Foster, who was an occupant of the tenement house in which the tragedy took place. She heard Reed warn the policemen not to endeavor to descend the stairway and described the incidents leading up to the shooting.

The testimony showed that Reed had been on a drunk from Sunday night. He had been in an ugly frame of mind and was looking for trouble. On Sunday night he became involved in a quarrel with a number of men in front of his home and threatened to kill them. In fact, one witness swore that he heard Reed declare that he could "pick any of them off across the street." Previously he had armed himself with his big Colt's revolver.

Briefly, Reed was a dangerous man when he was drinking. When sober he was a good workman, but of a quiet turn of mind. The conductor who collected his fare at 6 o'clock Wednesday evening stated that Reed was perfectly sane then, but was more or

less under the influence of liquor. He was ugly, said the conductor, complaining about the poor service the street car company was giving the public.

#### *CARRIED THE REVOLVER.*

Martin McDonald, a saloon keeper, testified that he knew Reed and that the latter was a frequent visitor to his place. Reed always carried the big six-shooter, said the witness, and on one occasion got into a fight in the saloon and threatened to use the gun, but was prevented from doing so. The gun he was in the habit of carrying was a 44-calibre.

Officer James Barry testified concerning the manner in which the shooting occurred. His story did not differ materially from that already published.

Mrs. Foster, who lived in the same house with Reed, said she heard Reed Sunday night having an altercation with a number of men. The talk was loud and she heard Reed threaten to "lick anyone in the crowd." She heard him go into the house and get his gun. On Wednesday evening she heard Reed tell the officers not to come down the stairway. The passage way was narrow, she said, and rather dark. The officer lighted a match and then Norton led the way. Witness was standing at the banister at the head of the stairway and the policemen only went down two or three steps when Reed opened fire and Norton sank to the floor dead.

#### *MRS. REED'S STORY.*

Mrs. Reed, wife of the assailant, told her story tearfully. She is a little woman, probably twenty-eight years old, and attractive. She was well dressed and held her infant on her lap. She said that Reed had been drinking heavily and that he came home in an ugly frame of mind. He sat down at the table and threatened to kill her. When he pointed the revolver at the baby's head she remarked that there were no cartridges in the weapon and rose with the child in her arms and ran to a neighbor's apartment. Mrs. Reed said she had not noticed anything wrong with her husband's behavior excepting when he was drinking heavily.

#### *SAYS REED WAS PERFECTLY SANE.*

Andrew M. Knutdson, a conductor on the Union Electric Company, stated that Reed boarded his car shortly after 6 o'clock Wednesday night to come down town. Reed was perfectly sane at that time and did not act strangely, excepting that he complained of the poor service the street car company, due to the improvements being made. The conductor said nothing to anger him, seeing that he was under the influence of liquor. The conductor stated that Reed tendered him five cents fare without a word of protest.

### *FRANK GREGORY TELLS OF CAPTURE.*

Frank Gregory told the story of how he succeeded capturing Reed when he was running amuck down the street. His story has already been published.

### *J. D. McCARTHY TELLS OF SHOOTING.*

J. D. McCarthy, who lives in the vicinity of the Reed home, heard the altercation Sunday night. Reed was boisterous and was looking for a fight. Witness was preparing to go to bed and hearing the noise went to the window where he could plainly see Reed. He heard the latter remark that "I can pick any one of you off across the street if I wanted to." Witness was at home Wednesday when the shooting occurred and assisted in getting the surgeons. He related the incidents surrounding the shooting, his story confirming the details of the tragedy as already published.

### *SAW REED WITH THE GUNS.*

Roy Marietta, who lives at Clay and Tenth streets, was walking on Bluff street when the shooting took place. He saw Reed run out with the guns in his hands and shoot promiscuously. The witness went to Officer Barry's assistance and at his direction went to Dr. Hamilton's office which was nearby. As the witness was coming out of the doctor's office Reed was walking down Bluff street. Turning on witness he leveled his revolver and fired at a distance of not more than twelve feet. Witness dodged and escaped unhurt. He then went to the place where Officer Norton was lying in a pool of blood and assisted in removing his clothing. He described the condition of the body covered with blood and the size of the wound.

### *H. BUTT TESTIFIES.*

H. Butt was one of the persons present when Reed was overpowered. He told the circumstances surrounding the capture and Reed's actions while walking down Bluff street.

### *MALONEY'S STORY.*

Frank J. Maloney, who assisted in capturing Reed, said he saw the assailant walking down Bluff street Wednesday. He was sitting in the park facing Bluff street. Reed had a revolver in the right hand and the rifle in the left, swinging it. He saw people getting out of the way. Witness walked to the corner and stopped. At this point Reed took a shot at witness. Reed took deliberate aim. Witness met Gregory and Gregory said, "Where are the police?" Gregory then started after Reed, witness following. "Gregory jumped on Reed and threw him to the ground and then I assisted him. I took the guns away from him." He described the condition of the guns. Reed did not talk when captured. He did not offer any resistance to the officers. On Reed's journey down the street Reed shouted to people in doorways "Get out of my way."

Policeman Michael Kilty said he was called by telephone at 7:10 p.m. Wednesday to Washington park and went thither in the patrol. He described Reed's actions in the wagon, saying that Reed was ugly and asked the officers not to hurt his wife and child. Reed made no reference to the shooting of Norton, notwithstanding the fact that the officers were talking about the killing. It was after the reference to the dead officer that Reed spoke of not hurting his wife.

Len Steiner testified he was in the vicinity of the Wales Hotel when the shooting occurred. All the guests of the hotel got out of sight when they saw Reed coming. Reed was shooting in all directions. Witness followed Reed to Washington park and was present when Maloney and Gregory captured him. Witness told of the taking of the guns from Reed, who was shouting "I am dying".

#### *DR. HAMILTON STORY.*

Dr. C. H. Hamilton said he was called to the Reed residence Wednesday night, where he found Officer Norton on the floor of the hallway. He examined the body and found no pulse. Norton was lying on his face in three pints of blood. He drew him into the light, but could not find a wound in his face. He discovered a puncture of the chest, caused by a bullet in the vicinity of the sixth rib.

Maggie Heck, 930 Bluff street, told of the altercation Sunday night. Reed was quarreling with a man named Sullivan and several others. Reed wanted Sullivan to come across the street to fight and Sullivan was warned not to do so by the husband of witness. Reed then went into his house and came back with something in his hand. It looked like a gun. She said she saw a flash like that of a gun.

The inquest is being conducted by Coroner Hoar, who is assisted by County Attorney Fitzpatrick. The latter examined all the witnesses. The jury is composed of Charles McLean, John McCabe and J. H. McCarthy.

#### *KNEW THE PREMISES.*

Patrolman Norton was well acquainted with the building in which Reed, his assassin, resided, because he had been called to the house on the previous Sunday night to quiet Reed, who had been causing some disturbance. The officer went through the narrow stairway to see him.

He occasioned no extraordinary excitement when Norton arrived on the scene. He quieted down, although he had the neighbors and his wife on edge the entire time that he was on his tear. When the call came for the officer Wednesday night, Norton anticipated no trouble and thought that he would have to deal with Reed as he had before. The patrolman did not fear Reed in the least and when he began to descend the steps he did not stop until shot dead.

The stairway which the officers took is very narrow, being only about 26 inches wide. Norton was a big heavy set man and when he walked down the stairway he had to turn a little to one side, so that it was impossible for the murderer to have missed him, had he fired on the level. Neither of the policemen had their dark lanterns with them when they went to the house, and Norton had to light a match. He held it over his head to see the lay of the stairs and as he did there was a shuffle of feet, a little noise, then a threat, and lastly the murderous and villainous shots that brought to an end the life of a good, tried and efficient officer.

The police visited the scene of the shooting this morning and secured the bullets that were shot by Reed, when he aimed at Barry. One went through the outside door, passed through a thickness of plaster and lodged in a folding door. The second went through the top step of the stairway and ploughed its way through a thickness of pine and finally imbedded itself in the ceiling of the Reed home. Both bullets were dug out by the officers and offered as evidence at the inquest.

Chief of Police Reilly and the dead officer were friends since boyhood. They were both the same age, played at school, received their first communion and were confirmed together and joined the police force at the same time. Chief Reilly thought very much of Norton and considered him a true and faithful officer, who never shirked when duty called him.

#### *HERO TO GET WATCH.*

A committee of citizens consisting of C. W. Patterson, Fred Kretschmer and N. J. Schrup were out Friday morning collecting money to buy Frank Gregory, who captured Reed, a gold watch. Everyone asked responded liberally and a handsome timepiece will be presented Mr. Gregory tomorrow afternoon, as a reward for the bravery he displayed and the consequent service to the community.