

Thomas Auldridge (- 24 May 1896)

The Evening Star, 1872

The City

James Burnett, a notorious colored rough, was shot dead yesterday afternoon by Officer Auldridge, under peculiarly aggravating circumstances. The facts gleaned in the case are: Officer Brelsford while patrolling his beat yesterday, heard of a fracas in a house in Fighting alley, on the Island. He went there and saw James and George Burnett and a woman named Mag Foster engaged in quarreling. He asked them to desist and they refusing he sent for assistance, and Officer Auldridge responded. The brothers defied the officers, and they in attempting to arrest them were considerably worsted in the melee. The Burnetts then ran away, George succeeding in making his escape, but Jim was not so fortunate, and after running some time and finding escape hopeless he turned, and on being asked to surrender answered Officer Auldridge with a storm of abuse, and recommenced the affray. As a last resort the Officer pulled out his revolver and shot the ruffian, the ball taking effect in the right breast one inch from the nipple, and from which he died shortly after. The dead body was placed in a wagon and taken to the First Police Precinct Station. Both the officers surrendered themselves, though it is the general opinion that the homicide was perfectly justified. The deceased was a man of about 30 years of age, of powerful frame, and a terror to his neighborhood, where he was the virtual leader of a gang of thieves.

The Washington Post, October 19, 1895, p. 2

An Ex-Policeman Missing

Thomas P. Auldridge Leaves Home to the Alarm of His Family

Ex-policeman Thomas P. Auldridge wandered away from his home, 722 Eighth street southwest yesterday morning, and at a late hour last night had not returned. The police were requested to look out for him.

Thomas Auldridge was recently retired from the police force on account of his age, after having served as a patrolman since a young man. During the past few months his age has told on his mind, so that his relatives are quite worried about his disappearance.

Auldridge. On May 24, 1896 at 10:40 p.m., Thomas Auldridge beloved husband of Sarah C. Auldridge in his 57th year. Funeral from residence, 722 8th street southwest, Wednesday at 4 p.m.

Auldridge. The remains of the late Thomas Auldridge, beloved husband of Sarah C. Auldridge who died May 24, 1896 will be removed from the vault and buried at Congressional Cemetery, Monday evening, June 29, 1896 at 3 o'clock.

The Evening Star, May 25, 1896

Ex-Officer Auldridge Dead

Thomas Auldridge, a retired policeman, who has been ill for a long time, died at his home, No. 722 8th street southwest last night. For several years he has shown signs of mental weakness, and during recent months he has been troubled over the killing of the colored man, Jim Burnett, whom he shot several years ago when the latter was about to use a brick on him. Saturday night he fell down stairs and injured himself, and this injury, it is thought, hastened his death. The deceased was an elderly man, and had made a brilliant record during his many years of service on the force. During the last few years of his

service he was detailed for duty in connection with the chain gang. He leaves a wife and four children, his son Frank being a member of the police force, on duty in the second precinct.