

Preston E. Bradley

(13 Dec 1893 – 21 Feb 1921)

The Evening Star, February 21, 1921, p. 3

Attempts Arrest, Officer Is Killed

Policeman Bradley on Running Board of Auto Which Runs Into Street Car

Preston E. Bradley, a bicycle policeman, member of the second precinct command, died at Garfield Hospital at 6 o'clock this morning, as the result of injuries received in the line of duty, at 7th and O



streets last night about 11:15 o'clock. He was on the running board of the automobile of Norman O. Houghton, 2906 N street, trying to effect an arrest, when the machine struck a street car. Bradley was caught between the vehicle and both legs were broken. He also received an injury to his head and probably internal injuries.

Because of the inclement weather last night, Bradley was doing duty as a footman, and was on 7th between L and M streets with Policeman J.M. Frayne when the automobile driven by Houghton, going north, was moving from the side of the street to another. The two policemen stepped to the street and signaled the driver to stop.

Officers Mount Running Board

When the driver failed to stop the two policemen mounted the car. Seated in the car with Houghton was Thomas Frank McGee, forty-four years old, 1242 29th street, and it is charged by the police that both men were under the influence of liquor.

Houghton is alleged to have increased the speed of his machine as soon as the policemen mounted the running board, and it struck a street car that had stopped to let off passengers. It was then that Bradley received his injuries. Swerving to the left, the automobile passed to the northwest corner of 7th and O streets where it came in contact with one of the heavy iron stanchions supporting the roof over the sidewalk on the 7th street side of the market.

Bradley Taken to Hospital

Houghton, McGee and Policeman Frayne were thrown from the vehicle, Policeman R.A. Pence appeared on the scene and assisted in arresting the two men. John H. Frazier, 1535 6th street, took Policeman Bradley to the hospital.

Houghton, an electrician, thirty-one years old, was charged with failing to stop on signal from the policeman, driving an automobile while under the influence of liquor colliding and disorderly conduct. After the death of the policeman an additional entry, "held for the coroner" was recorded. Charges of intoxication and disorderly conduct were preferred against McGee. Coroner Nevitt arranged to hold an inquest at the morgue this afternoon.

The deceased was a native of the Charlottesville, Va., neighborhood, where he was born December 13, 1893.

In April of this year he was mounted on a bicycle and transferred from the fifth to the second precinct. Fifteen months ago Bradley and Miss Gertrude Hoffman of this city were married. They resided at 416 F street northeast.

An inquest was held at the morgue Friday afternoon in the case of Robert Hopkins, eight years old, 742 Columbia road, who was fatally hurt by the automobile of Brig. Gen. William S. Pierce, U.S.A. near the boy's home Thursday night. The jury reported the death the result of an accident.

The Evening Star, February 22, 1921, p. 15

**Check Sent for Widow of Policeman Bradley
Local Merchant Starts Contribution for Relief --
Star Will Receive Others**

Contributions for the widow of Policeman Preston E. Bradley, who died yesterday morning from injuries received in line of duty, were started today, when a check for \$20 was received by Capt. Flather of the first precinct. The check was contributed by one of the merchants of this city.

Additional checks or money, addressed to the cashier of The Star, will be turned over to aid the policeman's widow.

The Evening Star, February 22, 1921, p. 3

**Driver of Auto Is Held For Grand Jury's Action
Result of Inquest Over Body of Policeman Bradley, Killed in Collision**

Norman O. Houghton, 2900 N street, driver of the automobile that figured in the collision with a street car at 7th and O streets Sunday night about 11:15 o'clock which resulted in the killing of Policeman Preston E. Bradley of the second precinct, following an inquest at the morgue yesterday afternoon, was held by the coroner's jury for the action of the grand jury, and he was released on \$5,000 bond.

Thomas F. McGee, who was with Houghton when the accident occurred, was questioned by the coroner. He said he purchased a bottle of liquor from a colored bootlegger Sunday night and took a drink. He was near Center market when he took the drink, he said, and he remembered nothing more until early yesterday morning, when he found himself in a police cell. His face was scarred, but he said he had not the slightest knowledge of how he got injured.

McGee told the jury he did not see Houghton take a drink. Policeman Frayne expressed the belief that Houghton was under the influence of liquor and a civilian witness declared he was intoxicated. Houghton made no statement.

Funeral services for the victim of the accident will be held at his residence, 416 F street northeast, at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

The Washington Post, April 2, 1921, p. 2

**Pension Officer's Widow
Commissioners Grant \$35 a Month for Life to Mrs. Bradley**

A life pension of \$35 a month was granted to Mrs. Preston E. Bradley by the commissioners yesterday, because of the death in the line of duty of her husband, a policeman, who was shot while attempting to make an arrest last month.

The commissioners realize the smallness of the pension to Mr. Bradley's family, but it is the maximum allowed by law for the length of that office's service.

The Washington Post, October 4, 1921, p. 2

**Autoist Faces Manslaughter Trial. Colored Man
Accused in Bill of Causing Policeman's Death**

A bill charging manslaughter was returned against Norman O. Houghton, colored, in connection with the death of Policeman Preston E. Bradley, who died February 20 as the result of injuries suffered when Houghton is alleged to have driven an automobile on which the policeman was riding into a street car. Bradley had arrested the negro on a charge of violating traffic regulations.

The Evening Star, February 12, 1922, p. 20

Widow Sues For \$10,000

Mrs. Bradley Charges That Autoist Caused Husband's Death in 1921

Gertrude Bradley, as administratrix of Preston Bradley, has filed suit against Owen N. Houghton, to recover \$10,000 damages for the death of her husband. Mrs. Bradley, through her attorneys, Simon, Koenigsberger & Young, states that February 20, 1921, her husband was on police duty on Seventh street northwest, between N and O streets, and that Houghton drove an automobile on Seventh street in a reckless manner while intoxicated.

Bradley hailed the automobile, Mrs. Bradley says, and the driver refused to stop and Bradley then jumped on the running board. In an effort to throw Bradley from the automobile, it is charged, Houghton passed close to a street car, which threw the policeman, injuring him so severely that he died the following day.