

## William H. Brooks

( - 25 Jun 1898)

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*The Evening Star, June 24, 1898, p. 1*

### **A Brutal Murder**

### **Wm. H. Brooks Killed at His Home**

### **His Wife Also Assaulted**

### **She Lies Now at the Emergency Hospital**

### **Her Condition is Serious**

### **Robert Funk is Suspected as Having Committed the Deed**

### **The Coroner's Inquest**

A horrible tragedy was enacted at No. 914 22d street northwest about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon, William H. Brooks, a veteran of the late war and seventy-three years old, dying soon after an ax had been used on his head, and his wife, Martha, sixty-five years old, receiving terrible injuries from blows inflicted with the same weapon. Mrs. Brooks is in the Emergency Hospital, and it is said nothing short of a miracle can save her life. The police believe that robbery was the motive which impelled the killing, and the detectives are doing their best to cause the arrest of Robert Funk, a carpenter, who is charged with the crime. Funk's wife and child live on Wood street, Philadelphia, and his father and other relatives live in Baltimore.

Daughters of the victims have reported that their mother had between \$890 and \$1,000 tied in a false pocket about her waist. This money, they say, is missing, as are the false pockets. Telegrams asking for the arrest of Funk have been sent to the police authorities in different cities and Inspector Mattingly is doing everything in his power to have him apprehended.

### *Popular Among Neighbors*

"Pappy" and "Mammy" Brooks, as the old people were familiarly known to their relatives and neighbors, had not an enemy in the world, so far as any one knows. They were extremely kind-hearted, and were highly respected by all who knew them. Yesterday afternoon as late as 5:30 o'clock Mrs. Brooks was in front of her house, watering some plants. Half an hour later she was found in a little store room in the rear, on the first floor, unconscious. Her husband was in the same little room and life left his body before he could be removed from where the terrible crime had been committed.

Dr. Morhart, from the Emergency Hospital, who came hurriedly in response to a summons, pronounced the man dead. He had Mrs. Brooks placed in the ambulance without delay, and she was soon on the operating table in the hospital.

George Larson, a friend of the Brooks family is the man who made the discovery of the crime, while one of the neighbors heard the groans of one of the victims from her house.

### *Attracted by Groans*

Larson called at the house a few minutes after 6 o'clock. He was so well acquainted that he entered without the formality of ringing the bell or knocking on the door. He found nobody in the parlor or dining room, and thought he would wait a few minutes, but before anybody appeared he heard groans in the little room in the rear of the dwelling. Going to the door, he found it securely bolted on the outside. Pulling back the bolt, he opened the door, and was horrified at the sight of the old people in pools of blood. Without stopping to make an investigation he hastened to the street and called for assistance. A letter carrier, Mr. Johnson, who lives in the adjoining house, was the first one to respond

to his call, and soon afterward a large crowd collected. The police were also sent for and Precinct Detective McClue and Policeman Vanhorn were assigned by Lieutenant Boyle to make an investigation.

It was the belief of the police at first that the dead man had committed suicide after having inflicted injuries upon his wife. He had threatened to end his life several times, and had expressed the fear that he might possibly injure somebody else. The theory of suicide, however, was dispelled by information given by Mr. Larson.

There is a window in the room which opens upon the yard, but it was found to be nailed down, and cobwebs over the nails indicated that it had been secure for many months, and possibly years. This fact in connection with the fact that the communicating door was declared to have been bolted when Mr. Larsen reached it caused some perplexity, but the police made a thorough investigation which ended in the effort to apprehend the missing Philadelphia carpenter.

#### *Detectives at Work*

Detectives Weedon and Phillips were assigned to the case this morning by Inspector Mattingly, and it was after they reported to headquarters the result of their investigation that the message asking for Funk's arrest was sent out. Robert Funk's sister, Mrs. Kate Clark, lives at No. 963 New Hampshire avenue. At her house Mrs. Sophie Brown, daughter of the aged couple, met and became acquainted with him about a month ago. He was then working on a new school building at 24th and F streets, and, desiring a boarding house, Mrs. Brown introduced him to Mrs. Buckley, who keeps boarders at 2145 I street, just around the corner from the Brooks house. Mrs. Brown, who is separated from her husband, lived with her parents, as did her unmarried sister, Maggie Brooks. Mrs. Buckley gave her new boarders the best room in the house and for the two weeks he was there he paid his board and kept regular hours. He seldom remained out, she said today, later than 10 o'clock. Funk frequently called at the Brooks house and Mrs. Brown had called at his boarding house, so Mrs. Buckley says. She would call just after supper and they would go out together for a stroll.

#### *Suspicious Actions*

Yesterday during the day Funk was in the Brooks house, having been laid off the job at the school building. In the afternoon he did a little work about the premises and assisted in the moving of a stove. Mrs. Brown left the house about 3 o'clock, which was near the time Funk went away. She went to the War Department to attend to some business. Before Mrs. Brown went away, however, she made an engagement to meet Funk near Washington Circle between 6 and 7 o'clock in the evening. This engagement, she said, was made at the suggestion of Funk, and when she reached the place he was not there. She said he had never disappointed her before. He also made an engagement with Miss Maggie, at the house of his sister, Mrs. Clark, on New Hampshire avenue, which was to occur about the same hour that the other appointment was to be kept. This engagement he made after Mrs. Brown had left the house for the War Department. Neither woman knew of the engagement the other had made. It was impossible for the man to have kept both engagements, and he did not keep either.

Funk ate supper at Mrs. Buckley's boarding house yesterday at the usual time, 5:30 o'clock, and Mrs. Buckley thinks it was a few minutes before 6 o'clock, possibly fifteen minutes, when he went out of the house. There was nothing unusual in his conduct when he left, nor did she give him another thought until he failed to return home at bedtime. She had heard of the tragedy around the coroner from her house, and thought that Funk was probably there assisting the family.

#### *May Be a Clue*

Two pieces of lead pencil picked up in the room may play an important part in the solution of the mystery. They are marked "E. Faber, Penny Pencil," and have a small rubber in one end.

"They look like Robert Funk's pencils," one of the young women remarked when they were found.

Subsequently the detectives called at Funk's room in Mrs. Buckley's house, and pencils of the same make were found. A thorough search of the room was made by the detectives in the hope of finding some written material which might be of assistance in locating the fugitive. The only things in the shape of letters found in the room were pieces of a destroyed letter and a note found in the pockets of one of his coats hanging in the room. These bits of paper were taken to headquarters, and an effort will be made to put them together. Mrs. Buckley said that Funk had been receiving letters from his wife. He received a letter yesterday. He had told her that he sent money home for the support of his child, but said he would not give one cent to his wife. What was in the letter received yesterday she did not know.

#### *The Weapon Used*

The ax with which the crime was committed was picked up on the floor near the woman. It has a broken handle, and upon it were blood stains, showing finger prints.

It is likely that the husband was the first one attacked, for he was wearing a new pair of slippers, and there was not a blood stain on the bottom of either of them. Had Mrs. Brooks been first assaulted it is thought she would have struggled with her would be assassin, and would in all probability have walked in the blood on the floor. In making the autopsy this morning Deputy Coroner Glazebrook found seven cuts on the old man's head. There was one blow in the back of the head, which the doctor thinks was the first inflicted. This knocked him down, and then the six other cuts, side by side, were inflicted. The blade of the ax, the doctor says, was no doubt used in all the cuts, and the skull was literally hacked to pieces.

#### *Mrs. Brooks' Injuries*

At the Emergency Hospital Dr. Horhart made a careful examination of Mrs. Brooks' wounds, as well as of the condition of her clothing. He found five depressed fractures of the skull and these he thought were made with the blunt end of the ax. He found her clothing above the waist intact, while her skirts showed that they had been tampered with during or after a struggle. Mrs. Brooks wore four skirts, and three of them had been torn about the band, both in front and back, and the false pockets mentioned were not found.

An operation was performed and portions of the patient's skull were removed. The doctors found that her skull was unusually thick, and this had possibly saved her life. This morning she was partly conscious. She wanted to get out of bed and insisted that she had not been injured. An opiate was administered.

She was resting quietly at the Emergency Hospital this afternoon at 1 o'clock. Previously she was delirious and raving, and it was with the greatest difficulty the surgeons finally succeeded in quieting her. Her chance for life is very slim, her uneasiness and raving having a very deleterious effect upon her.

#### *Orders for Funk's Arrest*

This afternoon a message was sent from police headquarters to the several stations requesting Funk's arrest on a charge of murder. He is described as being about twenty-eight years old, five feet eight inches in height and weighing about 180 pounds. He has a light complexion, light hair and a smooth face. When he left Mrs. Buckley's boarding house he wore a pair of checkered trousers and checkered coat to match. He wore a brown derby hat and a new green tie.

The police were told that a man with dark complexion had been seen to jump the fence in the rear of the house shortly after the commission of the crime.

### *Funk Wishes for Money*

Funk, his landlady said, had frequently spoken to her about going away, and complained that he was not wealthy. "If I could only get \$800 or \$1,000, he remarked to her, on a recent occasion, "I would go to the Klondike."

The officers spent considerable time on the case this morning. Many theories were advanced by persons interested.

With the members of the family there was but one theory. Their mother had been brutally assaulted for the purpose of robbery. Just how much money their mother had they are unable to state, but they felt certain she had at least \$800, and she may have had twice that amount. People in the neighborhood have always been under the impression that she had a large sum of money, and that she carried it around her waist, as already stated. These false pockets were made of bed ticking and were tied with a string. They were missing and so is the money.

### *Coroner's Inquest*

This afternoon at 2 o'clock Coroner Carr held an inquest at the sixth precinct station. The jury was composed of ex-Policemen Hamilton and Mooney, Charles W. Downing, William H. Harrison, John Garner and Alfred S. Wilson. Precinct Detective McClue, Sergt. Keefe and Detectives Weedon and Phillips, were present. Deputy Coroner Glazebrook and Mr. Lasky, the latter of the district attorney's office, were also present. Deputy Coroner Glazebrook described the condition of the body as already stated.

He told of the seven incised wounds of the head and said they were all about the same size. Every wound penetrated the skull, and the cuts had so injured the skull that one side of his head presented the appearance of having been crushed with one weapon. He thought the man was flat on the floor when six of the wounds were received.

"Do you think it possible that the man could have inflicted the injuries himself?" asked the coroner.

"Absolutely out of the question," was his response. "He certainly could not have inflicted them."

Witness found some evidence of an old heart trouble.

The wounds, he said, were necessarily fatal. "

*The Evening Star, June 25, 1898, p. 11*

### **Frank Funk Held**

### **Coroner's Jury Accuses Him of Murdering Wm. Brooks**

### **Abstract of Testimony Taken**

### **The Detectives Active in the Search for Funk**

### **His Whereabouts Unknown**

Yesterday afternoon at the inquest held in the case of William H. Brooks, who was so brutally murdered Thursday evening at his home on 22d street, several additional witnesses were examined and the jury returned a verdict expressing the belief that Frank Funk had committed the crime. Mrs. Sophia Brown was on the stand when The Star's report closed yesterday. She told of how she became acquainted with Funk through his sister, and said he had been a frequent visitor to the home of her parents. She was with him in Washington circle about an hour before the murder was committed, and had made an appointment to meet him again about 7 o'clock. This appointment he failed to keep.

Mrs. Brown said she had seen letters Funk had received from his wife and she had also seen letters he had written to her.

"He told her that he was going to leave here this week," said witness.

"Did he tell his wife where he was going?"

"He told her that he was going to Pittsburg," she answered, "but he only told her that to bluff her off, for he didn't want her to know where he was going."

#### *Pencils as an Exhibit*

The lead pencils found in the room in which the crime was committed were produced and witness said she had seen Funk have pencils like them. She thought, however, that he had had a pencil with silver on it. Witness had seen him write letters with a pencil. Witness said she did not return home until after 7 o'clock. When Funk failed to keep his appointment with her she sent to Mrs. Buckley's for him, and learned that he had not been home since dinner.

Mrs. Ella Maria Buckley, at whose house Funk boarded, testified that he was at dinner about 5:30 o'clock Thursday. He did not seem hurried or excited. Soon after he had finished eating he went out. When he left the house he was dressed in his best clothes.

"Did he return home after dark?"

"No, sir," she answered. "He hasn't returned yet."

"Was there anything unusual about this?"

"Yes, sir; he had never remained away all night before."

Thursday night about 10 o'clock a telegram was received for Mr. Funk. Witness received and signed for the telegram, and yesterday morning she sent it to the police

Mrs. Brown, daughter of the deceased, she said, engaged board at her house for Mr. Funk, and she had called for him every afternoon since he came. They usually went out together. Last night was the first time she had failed o call.

While at the house Funk constantly talked about money, she said, and said if he could get eight or ten hundred dollars he would go to the Klondike. He seemed very anxious to go to the gold fields. Funk had answered an advertisement of a Bible house in Philadelphia, and Tuesday he received an answer. He answered that, and next day he received something from the Philadelphia firm. About six years ago she counted Mrs. Brooks' money and she then had about \$700. Mrs. Brooks carried her money in pockets made of bed ticking. Asked if Funk knew Mrs. Brooks had money, witness said that Wednesday night Mrs. Brooks told her that Funk had advised her to rent a large house and take boarders. He told her she ought to do it before all her money was gone, but she said she could not do anything with boarders while her husband was sick. Mrs. Buckley identified a piece of lead pencil shown her as the piece she had found in Funk's room.

#### *A Neighbor's Evidenced*

Mrs. Laura E. Chamberlain, 924 22d street, testified that she saw Mrs. Brooks between 5:30 and 6 o'clock. She went home and ate her dinner, and just about the time she finished she heard that Mr. Brooks was dying. A short while afterwards she heard that both Mr. and Mrs. Brooks were dying, and she said she could not believe it, for she had just seen Mrs. Brooks. It was just a little after 6 o'clock when she walked up the street and heard that both had been murdered.

"Do you know Mr. Funk?" the witness was asked.

"I don't know that I do know him now," she answered. "I knew him as a boy, but he was so mean and low that I never had anything to do with him."

Witness said Funk lived here when he was a boy, but he went to Philadelphia. His father lives in Baltimore.

#### *Saw Nobody Enter or Leave*

Joseph E. Johnston, letter carrier, who lives at 916 22d street, next door to the Brooks house, testified that he was in front of his house Thursday afternoon from 5:40 to 6:15 o'clock, but he saw nobody enter the house. The front door and window were closed. Mrs. Brooks, he said, had been in the

habit of sitting at the front window in the afternoon, but she was not there Thursday. Witness first heard of the affair when Mr. Larson called him. When witness finished watering his park he went in the back yard and used his hose, but did not hear any noise in the Brooks house.

Harry Burch, 916 1/2 22d street, testified that he went to the house after the affair had happened. He did not see either Mr. or Mrs. Brooks that evening prior to the murder.

Samuel F. Smith, who was among those to respond to a call for assistance, also gave evidence.

#### *Questioned Mrs. Brooks.*

Sergt. E.J. Keefe of the third precinct, testified that he went to the Brooks house when the report of the affair reached the station. He thought it was 6:40 o'clock when he arrived at the house. Mrs. Brook shad been removed to the dining room and witness questioned her to ascertain who had assaulted her. The only response she made was "Nobody did it." Witness picked up the lead pencils on the dining room floor, and he was confident they had been dragged from the little room by the removal of Mrs. Brooks. Mr. Brooks breathed several times after witness reached the house.

Sergt. Keefe told the jury that Mrs. Brown did not give the information about Funk Thursday night that she gave yesterday. Witness said he read the telegram, and as far as he could remember, it read: "Will be at No. 5 Chess street tomorrow at 8:30 a.m." He thought the telegram was signed "J.B." and was from Philadelphia.

Detective Phillips testified to the investigation made yesterday. He told of his visits to several places and of the finding of a pencil in the bureau in Funk's room. This pencil is similar to those found in the Brooks house after the murder had been committed.

#### *Evidence Withheld*

Coroner Carr said there were other witnesses in the case, but in view of the investigation being made he thought it best that they should not be examined until later. This closed the case and the jury returned the verdict stated.

The detectives are still engaged in the hunt for Funk, but this morning it was stated they had not received any information concerning his whereabouts. Some criticism of the precinct police has been made because the affair was not reported to headquarters until three hours after it was known at the station. Inspector Mattingly had then gone home, and it was not until yesterday morning that he learned of the murder.

#### *The Missing Link*

Inspector Mattingly's detectives have worked hard on the Brooks murder case ever since yesterday morning when the inspector first learned that the horrible crime had been committed, and today the missing link in the chain of evidence connecting Frank Funk with the affair was obtained. This consisted of the suit of clothes worn by the murderer, and the blood-stained garments are now in Inspector Mattingly's custody. They are the garments which were so fully described by Mrs. Buckely, the I street boarding house keeper, where Funk had boarded for something like three weeks.

There was a pair of trousers of mixed goods with the coat and vest to match, the white shirt and turned-down collar, the brown derby hat, and even the green tie. Just how these garments were obtained only the police and the boarding house or hotel people who turned them in knew.

These garments, together with the shoes, were turned over to the inspector by the keeper of the house where they were left.

It is reported that Funk changed his clothes in a hotel near one of the depots about 7:30 o'clock Thursday night, a little more than an hour after the commission of the crime.

His cast-off garments, which form so important a link, were left in the room he had occupied, and they were not found until yesterday. They were kept until this morning, when the blood stains on them aroused the suspicions of the proprietor, and he sent them to headquarters.

Soon after these articles were received Detective Phillips went to Mrs. Buckley's boarding house, where he found the trousers belonging to the coat and vest that Funk had left in the hotel.

### *The Garments Identified*

Mrs. Sophia Brown, married daughter of the woman who was murdered and robbed, was sent for and when she reached headquarters and entered Inspector Mattingly's room she was shown the garments of the man whom she had known and in whose company she had been not two hours before the murder was committed. She fully identified them as belonging to Funk. She held a long conference with the inspector before she returned home.

Detective Parham made an investigation this morning of the report that a man had been seen to jump the fence in the rear of the Brooks house Thursday, but he was unable to find the colored woman who it was reported had seen the man. An old colored man who lives there stated that he was sitting in the alley fully two hours Thursday and was there during the time the murder was committed. He saw no one come over the fence, and he is certain that no one could have left the premises in that way without attracting attention.

Detective Weedon left the city last night and went in search of the fugitive. It is thought he went to Philadelphia. Some pencil shavings in a cuspidor in the room occupied by him were taken to headquarters by Detective Phillips. It was thought possible they might be fitted on the pencils found in the Brooks home, but they had been in the water so long a time that nothing could be done with them.

### *Mrs. Brooks' Condition*

This afternoon at the Emergency Hospital the physicians said that there was no change in the condition of Mrs. Brooks. She is still delirious and the physicians have been unable to get any information from her. The funeral of her husband took place this afternoon. The body was buried in Congressional cemetery.

It has been stated in a city paper that Mrs. Kate Clark, sister of the accused man, resides at No. 903 New Hampshire avenue. This is declared to be a mistake, Mrs. Clark's home being at No. 903 22d street.

*The Evening Star, June 27, 1898*

### **Mrs. Funk's Story**

#### **She Left Her Husband Because of Non-Support**

*Special Dispatch to The Evening Star*

Laurel, Md., June 27--Mrs. Emma M. Funk, wife of Frank Funk, who is accused of the murder of William H. Brooks in Washington, was seen at the Laurel shirt factory by a reporter of The Star today. She answered all questions willingly. She said her maiden name was Emma M. Whitmore; that she was married in Laurel to Frank Funk five years ago, the 30th of November, and one daughter, four years old, the 26th of last November, was the issue of their marriage. She said she left her husband, who was a carpenter, about three years ago because of non-support; that at the time of the separation her husband and herself were living with his parents on Virginia avenue southeast between 7th and 8th streets, Washington, D.C.

After the separation she went to live with her uncle, C.C. Ewin, who keeps a store at 3d and D streets southeast. She and her husband, she said, lived in many houses in the southeast part of the city. About one year ago she returned to Laurel and for the past ten months has been employed in the shirt factory, residing with her mother, Mrs. Mary V. Whitmore, here.

When asked what her age and the age of her husband was she replied:

"I was twenty-six years old the 4th day of last February and my husband is about twenty-eight years old."

"What do you know about this murder of which your husband is accused?"

"I know nothing except what I have read in the Washington Star."

"Have you had any communication with your husband at any time recently?"

"I have not seen or heard directly from him since May 25, 1897. When he came to Laurel and asked me to live with him again I told him no."

*The Evening Star, June 27, 1898*

### **Funk A Bigamist**

#### **Facts Gathered Concerning the Murderer of William Brooks**

#### **Lawful Wife Resides at Laurel**

#### **Police Trace the Fugitive's Movements in This City**

#### **Deserter From The Army**

The escape of Frank Funk, who it is alleged killed William H. Brooks and brutally assaulted and robbed the aged man's wife, has given the police department as much work as they had just after the escape of Dorsey Foulz, more than a year ago. Since the information concerning Funk was given to the police by the daughters of his victims, the morning after the affair happened, the officers have received considerable information concerning the man's history, but up to this morning they had learned but little concerning his whereabouts. The latest and possibly the only real clue received was that Funk had been seen in Jackson City, and that he was on his way to Camp Alger, where he expected he would be able to get in with some of the companies going south.

The information was received yesterday morning and Detective Boardman was sent across the river to ascertain, if possible, what truth there was in the report. After visiting Jackson City the detective went to Camp Alger. Just what he learned at these places is not known except to the police officials.

#### *Funk a Deserter*

The police investigation thus far made shows that Funk is a deserter from the army and is probably a bigamist. He has been arrested in this city on various charges and several members of the police force are acquainted with him. His father and stepmother also being here, and he has a sister, Mrs. Clark, living at No. 903 23d street. In 1895 he was arrested for false pretenses, but the charge was subsequently withdrawn. He was afterward arrested on a charge of assault, and this experience in court cost him \$10. Soon after Detective Weedon went to Philadelphia, where it was stated the man's wife and two children lived, the police received information that there was a deserted woman at Laurel, Md., named Funk. She was visited by Detective Boardman Saturday and he was informed that the woman, who has one child, is undoubtedly the fugitive's lawful wife. Three years ago she was deserted, and she has not seen her husband since. It was her belief that he was in Philadelphia, and she was surprised to learn that he had been living in this city.

#### *Purchases a Suit*

It is likely that the murder was committed a little earlier than was at first supposed, for the fugitive reached a 7th street clothing store not later than 6:15 o'clock, possibly a few minutes earlier. The store had closed for the day, and the proprietor was standing at the door with his head clerk, waiting for the bookkeeper to come out, when Funk, whose appearance was that of a mechanic, stepped up and asked:

"Can I buy a suit of clothes?"

"I guess so," was the proprietor's response although he did not care about returning to the store. He thought, however, that the man was a mechanic, and had probably just come from work, and he concluded he would accommodate him.

The clerk went in the store, and the customer, who seemed perfectly at ease, purchased a blue serge suit. He was not hard to please, although he did not appear to be in a hurry. When he had tried on the trousers and found that they fitted him, he was told that the coat and vest measurements were all right. This satisfied him, and, taking the money from his vest pocket, he paid for the suit, took his bundle and departed. Between the clothing store and the hotel he bought a pair of shoes and hat.

All his shopping was done in about fifteen minutes, for it was about 6:30 o'clock when he reached the hotel and registered his name as "Harry A. Nicholson, Cincinnati."

"I've been traveling and I'm all tired out," he remarked to the hotel man. "I want to get right to bed."

#### *Hotel Proprietor's Impressions*

There were a number of excursionists from Danville in the place at the time, and the proprietor thought he was one of them.

"He looked as if he might have been a countryman," the hotel man said to a Star reporter this morning.

The fact that he had several bundles in his arms also caused the belief that he was an excursionist who had been shopping.

"I'll eat supper before I go upstairs," he remarked and walked in the dining room. He was not in the dining room very long, and when he came out he paid a day's board, and was shown upstairs to room 29. There was nothing more seen of the man, and it was not until the next morning that his absence was known.

#### *Tell-Tale Slip of Paper*

It is now certain that he left the hotel a few minutes after he was shown to his room. The gas was left burning and the man had not even stopped to wash his face and hands. Friday morning one of the chambermaids went to the room to make an investigation, the gas having been burning all night. Much to her surprise there was no one in the room, nor had the bed been occupied. There was a full suit of clothes there, however, and a slip of paper found on the floor contained Funk's name. This paper was a contract of some kind that Funk was at work on. When the hotel proprietor saw the name on the slip of paper corresponded with that printed in Friday's Star, he sent word to the police and turned the important evidence over to Detective Lacy.

At the hotel, as at the clothing store, the fugitive exhibited only about money enough to settle his bills. There was blood stains on the trousers and shirt, but non on the shoes. The coat and vest were also free from blood stains and the police think he many have been in his shirt sleeves when the crime was committed.

#### *Descriptive Circular*

Inspector Mattingly prepared a circular Saturday for distribution, asking departments and police officers of other jurisdictions to assist in the efforts to apprehend the fugitive. The circular reads:

"Lookout for and arrest for murder committed in this city about 5 p.m., Thursday, June 23, 1898, Frank William Funk, a white man (may register at second or third class hotels as Harry A. Nicholson or Wilson), twenty-three to twenty-five years old, five feet eight inches high, 185 pounds, light hair, no beard, sunburned complexion, deep-set gray eyes, large Roman nose, India ink mark 'F.W.F.' inside of one forearm, clasped hands in India ink inside other forearm, works as a carpenter, education poor, dressed when he left here on Thursday evening, June 23, in a new blue serge sack suit, black bone

buttons, half lining, size about 38, has on new No. 9 shoes, new shirt and necktie, new No. 7 hat. Funk entered the house of William H. Brooks, whom he killed with an ax, and attempted the murder of Mrs. Brooks, who may die. Funk took about \$1,000 from the person of Mrs. Brooks, and escaped. Please have diligent inquiry made and send any information to

J.W. Mattingly,  
"Inspector Detective Bureau,  
"William G. Moore,  
"Maj. and Supt. Met. Police."

#### *The Stolen Money*

The police have not received any additional information which enables them to tell the exact amount of money taken from Mrs. Brooks. At the inquest it was shown that six years ago she had \$700 in bills, and her relatives say that this amount had increased from time to time, but that Mrs. Brooks never spent any of this money.

As the discussion of the case continues additional facts are obtained, which show that Funk's crime was premeditated. He had done all in his power to get the old man out of the way before the day of the tragedy. He had tried to induce him to go to a hospital for treatment, but this the latter had refused to do.

It is likely that a small amount of money was taken from a drawer of a piece of furniture in the dining room, for the drawer was found open and the key to it missing. Mrs. Brooks always kept money for household expenses in this drawer, and carried the key tied to a string around her neck. This key was missing, and has not yet been found.

#### *No Reward Offered*

It was stated this afternoon that no reward had been offered in the case for the reason that the contingent fund is about exhausted.

"That is the great trouble in this city," remarked an official. "The money appropriated for the prevention and detection of crime is not near enough to meet the demands."

This afternoon at the hospital it was stated that Mrs. Brooks' condition was unchanged. At times she raves about the crime and her disconnected statements are contradictory. Her condition has not yet been such that her statement could be taken.

#### *Before the Grand Jury*

The grand jury is now investigating the Brooks homicide and very probably will in a day or two present an indictment for murder against Funk. Very great care is being taken and all the witnesses have been summoned to give their evidence. The corridors in the city hall leading to the grand jury room are guarded by deputy marshals, and the strictest secrecy is maintained.

The jury has a great deal of regular business on its hands, in view of the fact that the present is the last week of the regular juries in the Criminal Courts.

*The Evening Star, June 28, 1898*

#### **No Late News of Funk**

#### **Detectives Have Learned Nothing of His Whereabouts**

Inspector Mattingly said this afternoon that he had received no information regarding the whereabouts of the fugitive murderer, Frank W. Funk, alias Nicholson, alias Wilson, who is wanted for the murder of William H. Brooks. Alleged clues have been less numerous in this case than in any other of importance in this city for a number of years. The murder was committed about 6 o'clock Thursday,

and it was about 9 o'clock the next morning before Inspector Mattingly had received word that Funk was suspected of the crime. The people in the house did not give the police any information about Funk until Friday morning. This gave the fugitive fifteen hours' start of the police.

The officers say they have found no one who saw Funk in a railroad depot, and because of the lack of funds they are depending almost wholly upon the authorities of other cities for assistance. Detective Weedon has gone out of the city again on the case, but if he has learned anything additional it was not known at headquarters this afternoon.

The grand jury did not finish hearing the testimony in the case yesterday afternoon. Members of the jury were very much interested in the case and the garments left in the hotel were closely examined. Detectives Phillips and Lacy had charge of the clothing. It developed that there was considerable blood on one of the shoes, as well as stains on the trousers and shirt. In order to make certain of the character of the blood that grand jury had a microscopic examination made of the stains.

This afternoon at the Emergency Hospital it was stated that there was no change in Mrs. Brooks' condition.