

Rudolph Buchly

(- 8 Feb 1875)

Buchly. On the morning of the 8th inst. at his residence in Alexandria co., Va., Rudolph Buchly in the 47th year of his age. His funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon, 10th inst. at 2 o'clock from the residence of his brother, No. 912, Pennsylvania ave. northwest, Washington, D.C. His friends and acquaintances and those of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

The Evening Star, January 5, 1860

Criminal Court

The Court then took up a case in which Patrick Gormley, a policeman, was charged with an assault and battery on Rudolph Buchly on Christmas day.

Mr. Buchly testified that between 2 and 3 o'clock on the day in question he was standing in front of his own door engaged in conversation when the defendant came up and placed his hand on witness's shoulder, and gave utterance to a number of profane expressions directed to witness, and called him a perjured, lying son of a b--h and other ill names and referred to an affair that had occurred a long time ago, in which witness had stated that defendant was drunk, and called witness a lying, perjured son of a b--h. Witness replied to defendant that he returned all the compliments which he (defendant) had directed to him (witness). Defendant then told witness he would arrest him, and called him a liar. Witness told him he was a liar. He then took witness by the collar, and Mr. German, with whom witness had been in conversation, cautioned the defendant not to arrest witness, as he was quiet and had done nothing. Defendant then took witness along towards the watchhouse and struck witness several times over the head, and was choking witness with his hand in his necktie, which he was twisting. Several persons in the crowd spoke to defendant and begged him not to beat and choke witness, saying to him that he was killing witness. Witness was choking under his hand, and caught hold of the tie of his neckcloth and pulled it out, and loosened his hold on his neck, and defendant was forced to let go. He swung off in another direction, and a man named Wise called upon defendant to desist, and he cried out that he would arrest him (Wise) and went back to do so. Witness stood there a moment and presently defendant came back and asked for witness. Witness turned round and saw defendant coming towards him and stepped to one side, and defendant went by. He came back and made a grab at witness and struck him several times, and took him along to the watch house and left him at the door. He didn't even go upstairs, but witness went up and finding no charge against himself went away. Witness was entirely sober, and Gormley was very drunk.

Mr. German testified that he was in conversation with Buchly, and heard the charges preferred by defendant against Buchly, and heard Buchly say in reply to defendant's charge. "That he was a liar"--put his hand out and say, "I wouldn't dirty my hands with you." Other words passed, and Buchly said "Go to hell!" whereupon defendant struck at Buchly and finally got hold of him, and took him along the street, when presently they both fell down, and witness thinks Buchly fell on the top of Gormley; Gormley had been drinking, and so had Buchly, but not to hurt him, and behaving in a quiet and gentlemanly manner when accosted by Gormley; witness cautioned Gormley not to exceed his powers; witness spoke to Gormley, saying, "how are you Pat" as he was going down the street, and Gormley came back; the difficulty above described then ensued. Buchly made no remark about Gormley as he passed, and until Gormley came back after witness addressed him, witness thought they were on good terms; Buchly made no remark to Gormley, or about him, till Gormley came up, and, putting his hand on Buchly's

shoulder, told him he was "a mean, contemptible puppy," after Gormley told Buchly he was a d--d liar. Buchly replied that "he (Gormley) was another."

Mr. P. Burns testified that he saw the latter part of the affair; was coming up the street, and saw defendant hold of Buchly's collar; witness walked behind them till they got off from the street, and took Gormley by the arm and walked along with him, telling him not to be so rough. When they arrived at the watchhouse Gormley left them at the lower door, and witness and Buchly went up and after waiting for someone to appear, Buchly was discharged by Capt. Goddard. Witness was induced to take Gormley by the arm because he was using Buchly rather roughly--too much so--and was using rough and violent language to Buchly and the crowd which was following Buchly had been drinking, evidently and showed it; Gormley was drunk. Witness don't think Gormley was capable of knowing what he was doing. Witness didn't see what had occurred with the crowd before they got down opposite the Intelligencer office. Witness didn't see that Gormley was hurt at all; he made no complaints. Gormley was the drunkest of the party.

The Evening Star, January 6, 1860

Criminal Court

Trial of Police Officer P. Gormley for an Assault and Battery on Rudolph Buchly

When our report closed yesterday, Messrs. Buchly, German, and Burns had been examined for the prosecution and the District Attorney had called to the stand.

Mr. Hagerty, who testified that he was on the spot when Gormley came along, and after passing came back, and putting his hand on Buchly, said something to him; some hard words passed, and the lie was passed between them; Buchly stepped up on the steps and told Gormley to go to hell; Gormley then struck Buchly, and afterwards took him by the necktie and pulled him along; witness followed the crowd, and when near the Post Office, Buchly got away and went on down the street with Mr. Young; the first remark made was by Gormley, who called to Buchly, and called him a dirty dog, or something; witness didn't see Buchly strike Gormley at all; Gormley accused Buchly of swearing falsely, and Buchly, after a few words, told Gormley he was a liar; Gormley, before Buchly said anything, called him "a mean, low, contemptible, dirty dog;" witness heard Buchly say, "I swore you were drunk, and so you were."

Mr. Young testified that he was coming down the street in a buggy and saw Gormley strike Buchly and take him by the collar; witness got out and walked down by the side of them; at the Post Office, Buchly got away, and Gormley had hold of three other men; witness and Buchly walked down the street and presently Gormley came along and struck at Buchly twice; when on the avenue, as they were crossing it Buchly said he was a citizen, and Gormley struck him again; witness remonstrated with Gormley for his rough conduct.

The United States closed here.

Mr. Denham, for defense, testified that he was riding up Seventh street, and saw a large crowd opposite the Patent Office; stopped and got up with the crowd, and saw Gormley have hold of a large man with red hair; the man was trying to get away; several blows were passed, and an effort was made to take the prisoner from Gormley, who was thrown, and witness told him to defend himself if attacked; two men had their hands in his hair as he got up; witness thought it his duty to protect him in the discharge of his duty, whether he was doing his duty or not witness don't know; the man who struck at Gormley first was the large man with red hair, and Gormley let go him and struck him; witness thinks Buchly was on Gormley's left when he was struck from that side, but didn't see him strike Gormley at all; witness don't think Gormley was drunk, so far as he could judge; at the Post Office a cry was raised to rescue the man, and witness told the crowd to let Gormley alone.

Mr. Perry testified that he was standing in his front door on G street and saw a large crowd, and an officer in the midst, some seventy-five or one hundred feet from the corner; witness went up to the corner of Seventh and F streets, and the officer seemed to have two men by the collar; when they got to the Post Office corner there seemed to be a fight, and witness rushed in and called the peace; Denham was also there in the character of peacemaker; Gormley had his hands entangled in some one's hair; as they got near the area at the corner of the Post Office, Gormley's hand came out of the man's head, bringing an immense tuft of hair with it, and witness picked up the officer's hat and placed it on his head, when Gormley said --"Where is the man I arrested?" and started off down the street after him; witness don't know whether Gormley's excitement proceeded from drunkenness or physical exertion, but witness noticed that he made a very poor run when he started off after his prisoner; there was no blow struck at all that witness noticed, nor any resistance made; there seemed to be a general flourishing of arms (not firearms) and uttering of oaths on the part of the crowd.

Messrs. Alexander Adamson and Finley (tobacconists) testified to the rough handling of Gormley by a number of persons in the crowd at the corner by the post office; they also testified to his character, giving him a good character for peace and order and also testifying to his efficiency as an officer.

Mr. Reynolds testified that he saw a portion of the affair, but saw no blows struck, nor the contest at the post office; it was all over when witness got there. This witness also testified to the defendant's good character as a private citizen and as an officer; also that Buchly was evidently pretty tight," and that Gormley did not appear to be so.

Mr. Smith saw the struggle between Gormely and the red-haired man; also noticed the crowd, several of whom cried out that Gormley had no right to strike the red-haired man when he struck him.

Mr. Harper testified that he saw Gormley taking away Buchly and the red-haired man, and the rush that was made at the Patent Office. Mr. H. testified to defendant's uniform steady conduct while working on the Patent Office extension as a granite cutter (stone cutter).

Lieut. Thomas of the night watch, testified that he saw Gormley on the night of the day in which the affair occurred, and thinks he was as sober as he ever was. Mr. T. testified to his good character as an officer.

The evidence for the defense closed her and Mr. Norris for defense, addressed the jury touching the evidence which had been given on both sides of the case, and held that it showed that the officer had the right to arrest Buchly for using profane language in the street, as was shown he had done, and read from Sheahan's Digest of the Laws of the Corporation, to sustain his position.

When he had concluded. Mr. Ould asked the Court to instruct the jury in reference to the duties of police officers, when they begin and how far they extend. This was done, the Court remarking among other things, that after an officer had arrested a party, and he is going along quietly without making any resistance, it is a gross outrage against the law and of his duty, and a violation of the rights and immunities of a citizen, in the officer to treat him roughly and strike him.

Mr. Ould then addressed the jury briefly, characterizing the conduct of the officer in this case in severe terms. The jury, without leaving the box, returned a verdict of guilty as indicted.

The Evening Star, May 4, 1874

Locals

Mr. Rudolph Buchly, formerly of the firm Buchly & Towles of this city is seriously ill with consumption at his home in Alexandria Co., Va.

The Evening Star, May 5, 1874

Locals.

Mr. Rudolph Buchly is not seriously ill as reported.

The Evening Star, January 23, 1875

Locals

Mr. Lot W. Crocker (brother of Warden John S. Crocker and Mr. Rudolph Buchly formerly of the firm of Buchly and Towles of this city are both very ill at their homes in Alexandria county.