

## Mary E. Faithful

(1864 – 5 Feb 1920)

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*The Evening Star, February 4, 1920, p. 2*

### **Crime Prompted By Desire to Wed**

#### **Robbery Alleged Motive for Perrygo's Murderous Attack on Mrs. Faithful**

Desire to obtain funds to wed Miss Mabel Hill, seventeen years old, was given by Edgar Randolph Perrygo, also seventeen, of Oxon Hill, Md., as the motive for his attack on Mrs. Emily Faithful, sixty-three, and subsequent robbery, in an alleged confession obtained by the police.

Mrs. Faithful was attacked in her home at Alabama avenue and 10th street, Congress Heights, yesterday afternoon, and beaten on the head with an iron bar. She is at Casualty Hospital suffering from a fractured skull. Physicians are unable to hold out any hope for recovery.

Nurses at Casualty Hospital, on examining Mrs. Faithful's clothing today, discovered \$2,470 sewed up in the skirt.

Three hours after the attack yesterday Perrygo was under arrest as the alleged assailant. When first questioned, he denied any knowledge of the affair. Five hours later, according to the police, he admitted his guilt.

Perrygo's first excuse for having committed the deed, police declare, was that he was suffering from the effects of a drink given him by an unidentified man on the street. Later his explanation contained a statement of an intended elopement with Miss Hill, who resided not far from the Perrygo farm. He admitted, according to the police, that it was lack of finances which prompted him to commit robbery.

With plans made for the elopement, he went to the city yesterday morning to get a marriage license, the police say he told them. Before reaching the marriage clerk's office, he declared, he became ill on the street and was given a drink by a stranger. He then told of proceeding to Congress Heights, picking up an iron bar about eighteen inches long on the road to Mrs. Faithful's home, where he was going to get the money. He partly concealed the bar up his sleeve and partly in a pocket of his rain coat, at the time he entered the Faithful home, according to the alleged confession.

#### *When the Attack Occurred*

The attack occurred sometime after Mrs. Faithful had admitted Perrygo to the house, police declare. He was known to Mrs. Faithful. She was reputed continually to have several thousand dollars in her possession. Perrygo sat in the kitchen. He was introduced to William Collins, who occupies rooms on the upper floor of the Faithful house with his wife. Collins had been detained at home yesterday on account of the illness of his wife.

On his way to perform an errand he was introduced to Perrygo. Shortly after his return to his rooms the attack was made. Collins and his wife heard Mrs. Faithful moaning. He investigated. Due to this response the assailant missed nearly \$1,800 concealed in a pocket of Mrs. Faithful's belt. Another pocket was slashed and its contents extracted. Detectives later recovered \$50, which the prisoner is said to have admitted taking, a number of the bills being cut by the knife.

Collins dodged a blow aimed at him and returned for his pistol. He started in pursuit. The assailant escaped. Policeman Frank Hughes of the eleventh precinct took up the chase, following the trail in the direction of Prince Georges county and back to the city, ending at the home of a brother of the intended bride, in Southeast Washington, where Perrygo was arrested.

Perrygo was closeted with Inspector Grant and several detectives at police headquarters until 9 o'clock last night before he broke down. This occurred when Miss Hill was brought to headquarters.

Learning that the girl whom he was to marry was nearby, he told the story of the affair, begging the officers not to question her.

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### **Mrs. Faithful Dies Result of Injuries**

#### **Edgar R. Perrygo, Her Alleged Assailant, Now Is Charged With Murder**

Mrs. Emily Faithful, sixty-three years old, who was beaten into insensibility with an iron bar in her home at Alabama avenue and 10th street, Congress Heights, Tuesday afternoon, it is charged, by Edgar Randolph Perrygo, seventeen years old, who resided at Oxon Hill, Md., died at Casualty Hospital shortly after 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Following her death, police of the eleventh precinct preferred a charge of murder against the youth.

Coroner Nevitt had the body taken to the morgue, where an autopsy was performed at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and later the taking of testimony at an inquest was begun. Several residents of Congress Heights and the several detectives and policemen who participated in the investigation and arrested Perrygo and who are said to have obtained a confession, were in attendance as witnesses.

#### *Say Portion of Money is Missing*

No additional money taken from Mrs. Faithful has been recovered. Relatives of the dead woman feel certain that all the money she had on her person when she was attacked has not been recovered, and the police are continuing their investigation with a view of locating additional funds.

Young Perrygo was well known to the Anacostia police. He had been a newsboy in the section, it is said, and had a host of friends. A little less than a year ago he purchased an automobile for \$200. It developed that the car was a stolen one, and Detective Fred M. Cornwell took possession of it for its owner.

The young man remained in ignorance of the death of Mrs. Faithful until about 10:30 o'clock this morning, when Capt. W.T. Anderson of the eleventh police precinct visited his cell and told him.

"I kind of expected it," sobbed the prisoner, and as he sat in the cell crying he was asked by the police captain if he thought he would be able to undergo the ordeal of appearing at the inquest this afternoon. He responded in the affirmative.

At the house of detention, Mabel Estelle Hill, seventeen-year-old sweetheart of the alleged slayer, was apparently unaffected by news of the death of Mrs. Faithful. She is said to have made no comment when told of the death.

This morning Miss Hill was taken to police headquarters, where she was photographed and further questioned, but no additional information was obtained from her. Inspector Grant, chief of detectives, directed that she be taken to the morgue to be present at the inquest.

Funeral services for Mrs. Faithful will be held in Congress Heights Baptist Church at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Mrs. Faithful is survived by her husband, William A. Faithful, and a son, James A. Faithful.