

John Henry Faulkner

(- 3 Jun 1868)

Evening Star, June 3, 1868

EXTRA

Terrible Homicide on Pennsylvania Avenue!

Difficulty Between White and Black

John H. Faulkner (White) Killed by an Unknown Colored Man!

Particulars of the Shocking Affair

An Altercation

Faulkner Follows the Colored Man with a Billy

The Colored Man Kills Faulkner with a Razor!

About fifteen minutes past twelve o'clock last night a terrible homicide was committed on Pennsylvania avenue between 4 1/2 and 6th streets, which today creates great excitement on the streets, from the fact that it was a conflict between white and black, and coming as it does at the time of heated feeling in regard to the election.

The deceased was a white man named John Henry Faulkner, son of Mr. W.H. Faulkner, residing on Massachusetts avenue, between 6th and 7th streets, and the perpetrator an unknown colored man, who had passed down the avenue to near the corner of Kimmell's alley ahead of the deceased.

The affair was observed by Mr. W.E. Dunn, a private watchman, on duty in the square between 6th and 7th streets, who makes the following statement, and testified to the facts this morning before Justice Harper, who held an inquest at the Fourth Ward station: The deceased and Albert Johnson were walking down the avenue, just east of the Metropolitan Hotel, when a colored man passed them, and Johnson made a remark to him, (which he (Mr. D.) did not understand), and the colored man stopped and approached them, but again turned and proceeded across 6th street and down the avenue. Johnson and the deceased crossed the street, when the former stopped, and Faulkner followed the man. Faulkner was observed to take something out of his pocket, supposed to be a billy. When he reached the mouth of the alley, the man suddenly turned and made a pass or a blow at the deceased and ran. Mr. Dunn immediately ran down and found that blood was running profusely out of the sleeve of the coat of the deceased, and he immediately started after the colored man, following him into Marble Alley, and losing sight of him in the cross alley running to 9th street, and as he crossed the avenue he blew his whistle for aid from the police. When he returned, he found Faulkner at the door of Clark's drug store, laying on the steps, and Officers Hill, Lawler, and Fox with him. The deceased had also made an attempt to pursue the colored man, and his track was marked by the blood across the avenue to the mouth of Marble alley and thence diagonally across the avenue to the corner of 4 1/2 street. Dr. Dexter was immediately called and the officers started with the wounded man for Dr. Dove's office a few doors above; in front of which Dr. Dexter met them, and found that he had just died (about 10 or 15 minutes after the wound was inflicted.) His body was immediately taken to the Fourth Ward Station house, and word was sent to the father of the deceased.

This morning Justice Harper summoned the following jury of the inquest Charles Thompson, Joseph Platz, Thomas McIntyre, Jacques Jotivenal, Frank Latta, David Reidy, Julius Fauth, William Gunton, Philip George, George Ferguson, Timothy Cunningham, and Joseph S Tucker.

Mr. Dunn was sworn and testified as above stated. Officers Hill and Lawler testified to finding the deceased at the door of the drug store, where he had apparently sunk from loss of blood; and also to finding near him a billy covered with blood. Dr. J.B. Dexter testified that the wound was at the juncture of the middle and upper third of the right fore arm, severing two arteries, and was made by a sharp

instrument, perhaps a razor. From the direction of the wound, obliquely transverse--he was of the opinion that the arm was at the time in a position of defence.

The coat of the deceased--the sleeve and right skirt of which was thoroughly saturated with blood--was exhibited, and on the under side of the sleeve a cut of six or eight inches was found, and also a cut on the brest and lappel, and some present from this formed the opinion, that the latter was the first cut made, and the deceased in consequence threw his arm up in front of his brest to protect himself, when he received the fatal wound. The jury deemed it important, before making up a verdict, to have the testimony of Mr. Johnson, who was not present, and therefore adjourned until this afternoon.

The deceased was about thirty-three years of age, and is well known throughout the city, having been formerly connected with the Fire Alarm Telegraph Department. He was by trade a carpenter, and at the time of his death was in the employ of Mr. Richard Gross. For some time during the winter he was employed at Platz's restaurant, on the avenue, near 6th street. He was unmarried, and had the reputation of being a quiet, inoffensive young man.

A great many exaggerated reports have been afloat today in regard to the homicide, causing intense feeling in the present excited condition of the community, but the above will serve to give the facts in the matter, so far as ascertained.

The Evening Star, June 4, 1868

**The Homicide of John H. Faulkner
Further Testimony—The Fatal Weapon—
The Verdict of the Jury of Inquest**

The jury empanelled on the inquest on the body of W.H. Faulkner, yesterday morning reassembled at the Fourth Ward stationhouse in the afternoon. The body of the deceased had in the meantime been removed to the residence of his father, on Massachusetts avenue between 6th and 7th streets, from which the funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon. There was quite a large number of persons present anxious to hear the evidence, among them one or two colored men. The inquest had been adjourned over yesterday morning for the purpose of hearing the evidence of Mr. Albert Johnson, and he being sworn by Justice Harper, acting coroner, testified that he had been with the deceased the night before. When they got to 6th street, another man joined them and this man and the deceased walked down the avenue, witness being behind them. Heard Faulkner say a man had cut him—a colored man he meant. He could not describe or recognize the man who was with him. Witness followed after the man in Marble Alley, but did not overtake him. When he came back he found the deceased at Clark's drug store. When they met the colored man, witness hurrahed for Given, and the colored man for Bowen. Witness did not see a "billy" taken out by the deceased, and did not know that he carried concealed weapons. When they left the corner of 6th street, deceased said he was going to bed.

The question was asked as to where Faulkner slept, when Mr. Platz answered that he would not go to his home until after 10 ½ o'clock and frequently slept at his (P's) house, Pennsylvania avenue, near 6th street, and when the house was full he would take a room at the United States Hotel.

Officer J.W. Hill was recalled and testified that when he reached the spot Johnson was holding Faulkner's hand in his hands. Johnson appeared to have been drinking, and he did not think that he had a clear idea of what passed. Mr. Dunn told witness that he saw the man strike down with his hand in which something glittered.

Witness here exhibited a razor which had been picked up near a pile of logs on 6th street, between Missouri avenue and the Canal. The blade of the razor is a small stout one in a homemade handle about 6 or 7 inches in length, and some marks of blood were on the handle and the blade, and the officer testified that when he first saw it some lint from the cloth was sticking to the blade. Witness, when he

found Faulkner, took off his coat and attempted to stop the flow of blood by tying his handkerchief around the arm, but life was then nearly extinct.

The jury were anxious as the testimony of Johnson conflicted with that of Officer Dunn, that the latter should be recalled, but he could not be found at the time.

Hon. Mr. Gravely, of Missouri, was summoned as a witness at the suggestion of one of the friends of the deceased, because he was heard to remark yesterday morning that the deed was not committed by a colored man, and on coming to the station he stated that he did make such a remark, as his opinion only.

The jury, after some time spent in deliberation, returned the following verdict: "That the death of the deceased, occurring on the morning of the 3d of June, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock, was the result of a wound or cut with a cutting weapon or some sharp instrument in the hands of a colored man unknown to this jury; that the wound received upon the person of deceased at the junction of the middle and upper third of the right forearm, in an obliquely transverse direction, completely severing the radial and uluvar arteries, thereby causing such a flow of blood as to result in death in a very few minutes.

The Evening Star, June 6, 1868

Funeral of Young Faulkner

The remains of Mr. John H. Faulkner, the young man who was killed by a cut with a razor on Tuesday night, on the avenue were interred in Congressional cemetery yesterday. Rev. W.V. Tudor, of the M street Methodist church, and Rev. E.J. Drinkhouse, on the Ninth street Methodist church, officiated in the burial services, and Messrs. L. Woodward, Aug. B. Coppes, C. Kaufman, Francis Fay, Francis C. Jardilla and Harry Gorbut acted as pall-bearers. The funeral was attended by a large concourse of friends and mourning relatives.