

Harry G. Frankland

(1859 – 26 Dec 1900)

1880 Census:

Henry is living with his parents, George W. Frankland and Sarah Elizabeth (nee Ager) Frankland at 1829 12th St. N.W. He is listed as a plumber.

The Washington Post, March 13, 1888, p. 8

The District Courts – Equity Court – Justice Cox

Frankland vs. Frankland; testimony before W.L. Wallack, examiner, ordered taken.

The Washington Post, June 8, 1888, p. 8

The District Courts

A divorce was granted to Eliza E. Frankland from H.G. Frankland on a petition filed in October last by James P. Tustin. She charged him with cruelty, drunkenness and failure to support.

The Evening Star, March 3, 1890, p. 3

A Murderous Lover

He Fires Six Shots From a Revolver at His Sweetheart

Harry G. Franklin Causes a Sunday Morning Sensation By Trying to Kill Miss Lillian Moore – Narrow Escape of the Young Lady From Instant Death

Harry G. Frankland was enjoying a nap on an iron bed in the second precinct police station this morning when called upon by a Star reporter. He was there on a charge of attempting to murder Miss Lillian Moore, the seventeen-year-old daughter of Mr. James Moore, the paper hanger, who resides at No. 1842 8th street northwest. Frankland, it is alleged, fired six shots at Miss Moore and tried to send the seventh bullet into her body, but the weapon missed fire. The pistol was a small 22-caliber revolver and had not enough force to send the bullet through the intended victim's skull. Frankland is thirty-two years old. Last October he went to work for Mr. Moore and was given a home at his house.

From Chicago

He formerly lived in Chicago, where it is alleged he deserted his wife and three children. That was in 1886, and he afterward came back here. His mother resides in this city at No. 724 7th street southwest. While living at Mr. Moore's house Frankland fell in love with the daughter and was so steady and persistent in his intentions that her parents decided to get rid of him and so Mrs. Moore sent him a note telling him that he was no longer wanted there. Much against his wishes Frankland left the house and found a home elsewhere. Since leaving the home of the Moore family six weeks ago he had only seen Miss Lillian once before the eventful encounter yesterday.

The Shooting

Frankland met the young lady yesterday and wished to converse with her, but she refused to have anything to say to him, and he fired six shots at her. The shooting occurred at Columbia street and Rhode Island avenue. Two shots entered her head and another bullet penetrated her shoulder.

Frankland Arrested

Frankland threw away his revolver and attempted to escape. There were several young men standing not far away. The shooting caused considerable excitement and the young men seemed afraid to touch him. Mr. Samuel Hershey, an elderly gentleman who understood what was the matter, was determined in his efforts to capture the would-be murderer and picking up a brick he threw it with considerable force at the fugitive. The missile struck its mark and left its print on Frankland's face. Then Policeman Asher picked up the wounded man and locked him up.

The Wounded Girl

While Mr. Hershey was acting the part of a good citizen his wife was doing what she could to relieve the wounded girl, who was taken into the house of her aunt, No. 931 Rhode Island avenue, where Drs. Poole and Janney attended her. Dr. Henderson, Mr. Moore's family physician, soon arrived and took charge of the patient. The wounds are not likely to prove fatal. The injured girl was unconscious for a short while.

Miss Moore's Story of The Encounter

She soon recovered and told the story of the shooting. She was on her way to the house of an old lady to whom she had been in the habit of reading the Bible. Frankland stopped her and wanted her to accompany him. She refused and attempted to run, but he grabbed her and said he would shoot her if she did not go with him. She broke away and started to run, when he began firing.

Frankland's Story

Frankland told a Star reporter: "I first started going with her one Sunday evening when the mother sent us out to mail a letter. Since that time I have attended church with her every Sunday and went out with her during the week. Yesterday I met her near 9th and S streets and asked her if I could walk down the street with her. She objected and said she had promised her mother never to go with me again. We were engaged to be married, and I asked her to tell me her mother's reason. She refused to tell me the reason and I repeated the question several times. Still she refused to give me an answer. When we reached the corner of Rhode Island avenue and Columbia street I was on the right side of her. I had the pistol in my overcoat pocket and it was then that I began firing. I was nervous and don't know how many shots I fired."

Frankland In The Police Court

Policeman Asher obtained a warrant for assault and battery with intent to kill and the prisoner was taken to the Police Court this afternoon. The case was continued to await the result of Miss Moore's injuries.

The Washington Post, March 3, 1890, p. 1

The Mad Act Of A Lover

Harry Frankland Makes an Attempt to Kill Miss Lillian Moore

A Sunday Morning Sensation

The Young Man, Being Forbidden by the Lady's Parents to Pay Her Attention, Endeavors to Murder Her on the Street – He Shoots Five Bullets at Her

While the church bells were ringing yesterday at 11 o'clock, Harry G. Frankland, thirty-two years old, met Miss Lillian Moore on Rhode Island avenue and attempted to kill her by firing five shots at her, three of which took effect.

The attempted murder created the greatest excitement in the northwestern section of the city, where the young lady and her parents are well known, and if the shots had resulted fatally, Frankland would no doubt have been very roughly used before he could have been taken to the station house.

The shooting occurred on Rhode Island avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets, and from those in a position to know it is evident that Frankland had availed himself of the first chance to attempt the young lady's life. She had started to Mrs. Pate's, on Columbia street, to take dinner, and when near Tenth street Frankland walked up and clutched her by the left arm, saying:

"I want you to go down town with me, Miss Lillian."

The young lady was not expecting to meet Frankland, and his catching her by the arm frightened her, but she said:

"I have promised not to have anything more to do with you."

"You won't go?"

"No, I will not."

"Then I will kill you."

And he drew a small seven-shooter and began firing. The first shot took effect in the left temple. The young lady screamed, and threw her hands up to her head just in time to let the second shot go into the left wrist. Three other shots were fired, one of which entered the fleshy part of the left arm and the others missing.

Frankland snapped the pistol repeatedly, but the other cartridges failed to explode. He had released his hold on her arm, and she ran across the street and fell into the arms of Mrs. Samuel Hersey, saying: "He has killed me; he has killed me!"

Her assailant had started to run off when Mr. Hersey, who was coming down the avenue some distance behind his wife, ran up and threw a brick at Frankland, which hit him on the head and felled him to the ground. Mr. Hersey then held him down until Officer Asher came up, when it was discovered that the blow had rendered the man unconscious. He was carried to the Second precinct station, and the bleeding young lady was taken into the house of her aunt, Mrs. Harry Stevens, 931 Rhode Island avenue.

Doctors Poole and January were summoned and made an examination of the wounds. The one which entered the side of the head had ranged upward and had not penetrated the skull bone, the one in the wrist was only slight, while the one in the arm was thought to be the most serious, the ball having taken an upward course toward the armpit.

The young lady told her aunt and the physicians substantially the same statement as given above. Doctor Henderson, Mr. Moore's family physician was afterwards called in, and the patient is resting comfortably.

Frankland was seen in his cell by a Post reporter, and at first declined to talk of the shooting, but finally said: "I guess I might as well say that I did it."

When asked if he had an engagement to meet the young lady he replied that he had not, that it was purely accidental.

"What caused you to shoot her?"

"I loved her. We were engaged, but her parents did not know it. I will not say what passed between us this morning before I shot her. No, I am not in the habit of carrying a pistol. I just happened to have one this morning when I met her. Yes, I am a divorced man. I went to Chicago and remained there in order to give my wife sufficient ground to sue for a divorce for desertion. This was in 1886, I think. We had three children, but I do not know whether they are dead or living.

"My wife was a good woman, but I didn't like her, and so I thought the best thing was to let her get a divorce. She was a Miss Parker. I know that Mr. Moore kept his daughter locked up so that she could not see me. I worked for Mr. Moore several weeks, and it was while there I learned to love Lillian. My

intentions have always been the most honorable, and any reports to the contrary are untrue. She reciprocated my affections.”

Frankland is a young man who is well connected, but he has failed to conduct himself in a manner to be held in high esteem by his acquaintances, the manner in which he deserted his wife verifying this fact. He does not appear to realize that he is guilty of a very grave offense, and says he supposes it will not go hard with him.

For some time past Frankland has been a regular attendant at the Avenue Mission, and when asked if he was a church member, replied that he was not, and if he had been he would never have shot the young lady. His mother lives at 724 Seventh street southwest, and she called at the station last night to see him.

The young lady’s father was found at his home, 1836 Eighth street, only a short distance from where his daughter was shot. Mr. Moore conducts a paper-hanging establishment on Ninth street, and is a good, solid citizen.

“I, of course, have too much sense to request that nothing be printed about this unfortunate occurrence, and am glad that you have called,” said Mr. Moore, as he beckoned the reporter to a chair in his cozy parlor.

“This young man was introduced to me several months ago. His sister, Mrs. Amiss, is an intimate friend of my wife, and by some means, not necessary to say, Harry was forced to hunt another home. I took him in here, and even shared my own bed with him. He was made one of the family, and assisted me in some of my work. I saw that he was smitten with Lillian, my eldest daughter, and I told him he must hunt another home.

“Since then he has been here on two occasions, and we have reasons to believe he would have shot Lillian if he could have seen her. Doctor Henderson and others have seen him hanging around the house after dark, and on more than one occasion he has turned down the street lamps. I am satisfied he has had it in his mind and heart to kill her. While he was with me I did a good deal for him, and this is the way I am repaid for my kindness.”

“Frankland says he was engaged to the young lady.”

“That is untrue, I am sure. Lillian would have told us about it. He simply wanted to kill her. His people are our intimate friends, and they regret this as much as we do.”

The pistol used by Frankland was of a cheap character, and it is believed that if the pistol had been a good one the first shot would have resulted fatally.

The Washington Post, March 4, 1890, p. 7

Why Frankland Shot Her

He Loved Miss Lillian Moore – Her Wounds Not Serious

Miss Lillian Moore, the young lady who was shot by Harry Frankland on Sunday morning, is getting along nicely, and it is believed that the wounds are by no means serious. The attending physicians believe that her recovery will be rapid, as she possesses a fine constitution.

Frankland will probably have a preliminary examination in police court today. He talks freely, and says he scarcely remembers firing the shots as he was angry and excited. His first statement that he was engaged to the young lady he adheres to, and says her parents are to blame for the trouble that he has brought upon them and himself.

“I loved her devotedly,” he said “and I suppose that is why I shot her. The story that I have been waiting a chance to kill her is untrue, and I have never hung around the house in order to get a chance to shoot her. That story has been manufactured by my enemies.”

“How did you come to have the pistol?”

“Oh, I just had it, but I am not in the habit of carrying one.”

Frankland's head is paining him a great deal, as the blow inflicted with the brick by Mr. Hersey was a severe one.

The Evening Star, March 5, 1890, p. 5

Will Plead Insanity

The Shooting of Lillian Moore by Harry Frankland – She Will Recover

Miss Lillian Moore, the young lady who was shot three times by Harry G. Frankland last Sunday near the corner of Columbia street and Rhode Island avenue, as published in Monday's Star, is much improved and will probably recover under her physician's treatment.

Frankland is still confined in jail, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill.

This morning Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood appeared at the Police Court as Frankland's counsel and said that the plea in the case will be insanity.

Clerk Clagett informed counsel that she would have to waive an examination if she wanted to get the prisoner out on bail, but Frankland's mother said she did not want her son to get out, but she wanted him sent to the insane asylum.

Mrs. Lockwood said that the prisoner's father, who was an old sailor, became insane and was sent to the insane asylum, where he afterward died, leaving his wife with four children.

Mrs. Lockwood said she would waive an examination in the case in order to have the matter disposed of as early as possible and have the prisoner sent to the asylum.

The Evening Star, March 6, 1890, p. 3

The Shooting of Miss Moore

Harry G. Frankland's Bail Fixed at \$5,000

Harry G. Frankland, the young man who shot Miss Lillian Moore last Sunday near Columbia street and Rhode Island avenue, was brought up to the Police Court today. His counsel, Mrs. Lockwood, and his mother were in court awaiting his arrival. An affecting scene followed the meeting between mother and son. The distressed mother, after repeatedly kissing her boy's cheek, took out his handkerchief and smoothed the wounds on his face that were made by the brick used by Mr. Hershey to prevent the attempted murderer's escape. After a consultation with Mrs. Lockwood the prisoner stepped forward and Clerk Clagett arraigned him on a charge of assault and battery with intent to kill.

"I plead not guilty," responded Mrs. Lockwood, "and waive an examination."

The plea of insanity was not mentioned, but Mr. Armes asked the court to fix the bail at \$5,000, saying that counsel for the prisoner had no objection to that amount.

Mrs. Lockwood said she had no objection to bail being fixed at that amount.

The court thereupon held the prisoner for the action of the grand jury and fixed the bail at the amount suggested. Frankland was given a package of cigarettes and was returned to the jail.

The Evening Star, March 7, 1890, p. 5

Miss Lillian Moore's Wound

The Bullet Extracted From Her Head by Dr. Henderson

Dr. Henderson yesterday located the bullet in Miss Lillian Moore's head and removed it. It was found under the left ear in the upper part of the neck. She endured the operation heroically. Miss Moore, it will be remembered, was shot in the street by Harry Frankland last Sunday. Frankland is in jail.

The Evening Star, June 27, 1890, p. 5

Was Frankland Insane?

Trial of the Young Man Who Shot Miss Lillie Moore

In the Criminal Court, Chief Justice Bingham, this morning Harry J. Frankland, the young white man who on March 2d last shot Miss Lillie Moore on Rhode Island avenue between 9th and 10th streets, was placed on trial – Mrs. Lockwood appearing for the accused.

Mr. James A.K. Moore testified that he had had the defendant in his employment and he lived at his house till he discovered that he was paying attentions to his daughter, when he sent him away.

Miss Moore's Story

Miss Moore testified that on the morning of Sunday, March 2, the defendant met her on 9th street near Rhode Island avenue and asked her to go with him, but she declined, and he then shot her, firing five shots, four of them taking effect. He had lived at her father's house and she went to church sometimes with him. She denied that she was engaged to him, but said he had asked if she loved him. She replied "no" and he threatened, if she went against him, he would kill her.

She had never seen anything to indicate that he was insane, but did not think that he was very smart.

Thomas F. Hersey, who saw the shooting and chased and knocked Frankland down, and Policeman Asher, who arrested Frankland, testified to the facts of the shooting.

Ernest D. Frasier testified that he heard the young lady say that she was afraid she would meet him. At the station Frankland said: "Hereafter you will find out what I did it for."

The Defense

This closed the government's case. For the defense Frankland's mother testified that the defendant was a very bright boy up to ten years of age. At that time he had the scarlet fever, and a short time after he was gored by a bull. Since then, she said, he was not as bright and had shown delusions. He had gone away from home, she said, to Baltimore, then to Buffalo in 1888, where in August of that year, he was injured by slipping off a roof a distance of 20 to 25 feet. She testified that her husband died of melancholia and her father went insane some years ago. She thought that her son had delusions at times and had noticed it for some time.

Sarah B. Kimball, sister of the accused, and W.C. McMichale testified to peculiar conduct on the part of Frankland.

Frankland Testifies

The defendant took the stand and appeared very deaf. Finally he said he knew Lilly Moore, and added: "I shot her, for I had to shoot her." Something told me to shoot her."

When questioned by Mrs. Lockwood as to who told him he said a woman with black eyes whom he met at the Smithsonian grounds. This woman told him that he had to kill himself and to shoot her too; to go out on Sunday and he would meet her on 9th street.

This woman, he said, came to him sometimes and he had to do what she told him.

On cross-examination witness said he loved Lillian Moore.

The Evening Star, June 28, 1890, p. 6

Not In A Condition To Be Tried

In the Criminal Court, Chief Justice Bingham, yesterday afternoon the case of Harry J. Frankland, indicted for assault and battery by shooting Lillian Moore March 2, was concluded by the court directing

the withdrawal of a juror and continuing the case. After the testimony of Drs. W.W. Godding and J.W. Bayne as to the mental condition of the prisoner the court said he was satisfied that the prisoner was not in condition to be tried and took the action stated.

The Evening Star, July 8, 1890, p. 8

From Jail to the Insane Asylum

In the case of Harry J. Frankland, tried June 27 on the charge of assault with intent to kill Miss Lillian Moore, Chief Justice Bingham ordered a juror to be withdrawn and the cause continued, and certified his finding that the defendant was insane and indigent to the Secretary of the Interior. The latter has issued the necessary permit and this morning the chief justice made an order directing the marshal to cause Frankland's release from jail and removal to the insane asylum.

The Evening Star, November 27, 1900, p. 10

Death of Henry Frankland

Fugitive From Asylum for Insane Commits Suicide in Illinois

Information was received here last night of the death at Springfield, Ill., of Harry G. Frankland, a former resident of this city, who escaped from St. Elizabeth's Asylum for the Insane in August. Frankland left here soon after he got away from the asylum, and although every effort was made to find him the authorities were unable to locate him. Mr. William H. Kimball, brother-in-law of the deceased, received a message last night telling of his death.

Mr. Kimball called at police headquarters and had Sergeant Carter ask the Springfield authorities about the circumstances attending Frankland's death. This afternoon a response was received from the chief of the Springfield police department, giving the information that he had committed suicide by shooting himself. Relatives will telegraph instructions later in the day respecting the disposition of the body.

The Washington Post, December 28, 1900, p. 10

Suicide of Fugitive from Asylum

Investigation of the death at Springfield, Ill., of Harry G. Frankland, a former resident of this city, who escaped from St. Elizabeth's Insane Asylum last August, shows that the deceased committed suicide by shooting himself. William H. Kimball, of this city, a brother-in-law of the dead man, has been informed of the suicide, and has telegraphed instructions respecting the disposition of the body.