

W. Howard Keyworth

(- 12 Jul 1898)

Keyworth. On July 12, 1898, at 10:05 p.m., W. Howard beloved husband of Catherine Keyworth (nee Coldenstroth). Funeral on Friday, from his late residence, Bladensburg, Md., at 3 p.m. Interment at Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, July 7, 1898

Shot Passed Through Him

Dangerous Pistol Wound Inflicted Upon Howard Keyworth at Bladensburg Guy Barron Alleged to Have Done the Shooting--Committed to Marlboro Jail

Hyattsville, Md., July 7, 1898

Guy Barron aged 22 years and a resident of this place, last evening shot and seriously wounded W. Howard Keyworth, proprietor of the Pan Electric Hotel in Bladensburg. The shooting occurred about 5:40 o'clock in the bar room of Keyworth's place, and is said to have been the result of a quarrel over a game of cards. Only two or three persons appear to know anything concerning the affair, and these do not seem inclined to tell any connected story of the trouble. It appears however, that Keyworth and Barron were together for several hours prior to the shooting. They were apparently upon the best of terms. Both men were drinking, but, according to the statements of several persons who were with them just before the shot was fired, neither was intoxicated. In the course of the afternoon a game of cards was proposed, and in company with one "Stump" Brooks, Keyworth and Barron repaired to a room immediately in the rear of the saloon and a number of games were played. Some dispute arose between Keyworth and Barron, the exact nature of which is not determined, but having reference, it is alleged, to some point in the game. One story is that Keyworth accused Barron of cheating, which accusation the latter resented.

A violent quarrel ensued in the course of which Keyworth, it is alleged, roundly scored Barron and ordered him from the place. Barron went out and was absent probably fifteen or twenty minutes. During this time he visited the saloon of Edward Penn, where he had a glass of beer with Edward Parker. He left Penn's establishment and returned to Keyworth's.

Confused Accounts

Meanwhile Keyworth had left the back room and was behind the bar. It is not known whether the quarrel was renewed between the men, nor is there any one who claims to have seen the shooting. On version of the encounter is that Keyworth, seeing Barron enter, secured a wooden mallet and advanced saying, "You --- --- ---; you've come back for something else, have you?" Barron immediately fired.

These statements however have not been substantiated. Joe Koch, the young man who was attending in the bar, had just left the room. Hearing the report he hurried back. Koch's statement is that as he entered Keyworth was trying to steady himself against the counter. In front of the bar, several feet away stood Barron, with a smoking revolver in his hand. Fearing that he would fire again. Koch sprang forward and seized Barron's arm, where upon Barron wheeled about and, in company with Ed. Parker, who must have returned about the time the shot was fired walked from the saloon. Meanwhile Keyworth, it is alleged had picked up a pistol from the shelf behind the bar and was starting forward when his wife, attracted by the pistol shot, entered and took the revolver from him. He came from behind the bar with blood streaming from his side. His mother, frantic with fear ran to him and attempted to stop the flow of blood by placing her hand over the wound. He removed her hand from

his side, saying that the pressure hurt him. Refusing to be carried, Keyworth walked from the saloon through the hall and mounted the stairs leading to his bed room. Dr. G.O. Richards of Hyattsville was hurriedly summoned and succeeded in staunching the flow of blood. The bullet entered the right breast just above the nipple and passed entirely through the body, coming out just beneath the left shoulder blade. It was afterwards picked up upon the floor of the bar room.

Barron Surrenders

Barron walked from the saloon across the street to the rear of William Casey's blacksmith shop and threw the revolver in the branch. He then gave himself up to Constable R.H. Vincent and was brought to Hyattsville, where he waived preliminary hearing and was committed by A.H. Bailey, justice of the peace, to Marlboro jail. A Star reporter visited the prisoner just before he left. He seemed in a half dazed condition. When asked if he had any statement to make his reply was: "I know nothing about it; nothing whatever." Later on he begged several friends to keep the knowledge of the affair from his mother, who was in Washington.

Keyworth was resting quietly this morning and his physicians, Drs. Richardson and Wells, are hopeful of his recover. "Dumps" Keyworth, as he is called, is widely known in this locality and in Washington. He is the youngest son of the late John H. Keyworth, whose place of business was for a number of years at the corner of 9th and D streets northwest, Washington. He married Miss Katie Coldenstrath, sister of George W. Coldenstrath, the former proprietor of the Pan Electric House.

Guy Barron, the young man who did the shooting was born and raised in this locality. He comes of a good family. His grandfather, Daniel Barron, was a lifelong resident of Bladensburg. His mother is a widow and a resident of Hyattsville, where she is greatly esteemed. She is the sister-in-law of Dr. Frank Hyatt of Washington.

Although of an idle disposition, young Barron has never before been in any difficulty. His case will probably be tried at the next term of the circuit court, which will be held in October.

The Evening Star, July 8, 1898

Keyworth's Condition

Hotel Proprietor at Bladensburg Believed to Be Fatally Injured

Hyattsville, Md., July 8, 1898

The condition of W. Howard Keyworth, who was shot through the breast by Guy Barron at Bladensburg Wednesday afternoon, as reported in The Star was extremely critical during last night. One of his physicians remained with him from early in the evening until daybreak. Today he is somewhat improved and his chances of living are a shade better, but the physicians admit that he is dangerously ill. The injured man has as yet made no anti-mortem statement regarding the shooting.

There are many versions of the trouble now circulating. No one has yet been found, however, who actually witnessed the shooting. Ed Parker, who accompanied Barron from the Pan-Electric House after the quarrel, and who followed him back to the bar room and was by his side when the shot was fired, was locked up in the cell in Marlboro jail with young Barron. Parker went of his own volition and it was at his request that he was incarcerated with Barron. No motive is ascribed to this action on the part of Parker, unless it be his friendship for Barron.

In case of Keyworth's death today or during the night a preliminary hearing touching the circumstances of the shooting will be held here tomorrow. Sheriff B.F. Robey arrived in town this morning and is understood to be looking after the interest of the state. Attorney James C. Rogers has been retained to assist the state in the prosecution.

The Evening Star, July 12, 1898

**Howard Keyworth Dead
Succumbs to Pistol Wound Inflicted July 6
Hyattsville, Md., July 12, 1898**

W. Howard Keyworth, the proprietor of the Pan-Electric House in Bladensburg, who was shot by Guy Barron the afternoon of July 6, and whose serious condition was mentioned in The Evening Star of yesterday, died last night at 10:05 o'clock from the effects of the wound. From the first the attendant physicians had little hopes of the injured man's recovery, but it was believed if he could hold out for a few days he would have a fighting chance for his life. Monday evening there was a change for the worse, and ever since the patient had been gradually sinking. Yesterday Dr. Ford Thompson of Washington was called into consultation, but it was manifest that the case was beyond medical skill.

Howard Keyworth, or "Dumps," as he was called, spent all his life in Washington or this vicinity. He was widely known and had a large circle of friends. He was the son of the late John H. Keyworth, one of the oldest and best known residents of Washington, and a grandson of John T. Towers, a former mayor of Washington.

For a long while young Keyworth was employed at his father's store, corner of 9th and D streets northwest, and after the latter's death he carried on the business for his mother. About six months ago he succeeded George W. Coldenstroth in the management of the Pan-Electric House in Bladensburg, and moved to that village, where he has since resided.

The difficulty in which the fatal wound was received took place in the bar room of the hotel. Some fifteen or twenty minutes previously Barron and Keyworth had quarreled over a game of cards, and Keyworth had ordered Barron from the premises. The latter departed, but returned later, and while Keyworth was behind the bar rolling a cigarette, it is alleged, Barron fired the fatal shot. The bullet passed through Keyworth's body, penetrating the right lung and falling upon the floor, but whether it entered the breast and made its exit just above the shoulder blade, or vice versa, is a question which will be of vital importance in the trial that will follow.

A jury was summoned this morning. It was composed of Arthur Carr, foreman; Wm. P. Magruder, John F. Hickey, Henry Constantine, Nathan R. Summers, Milton J. Payne, J.W. Kelly, L.T. Sutton, Wm. Foulk, Moses Smith, L.A. Wissman and Charles A. Manning. The jury repaired to Bladensburg at 9 o'clock and viewed the remains. An adjournment was taken until this afternoon at 5 o'clock, when the inquest will be held. Sheriff B.F. Robey was notified by telegraph this morning to bring Barron, the man accused of the shooting, from Marlboro so that he may be present at the inquest.

No funeral arrangements have yet been made, but the interment will be at the Congressional cemetery, Washington. The deceased was 31 years of age. He leaves a widow, the sister of George W. Coldenstroth, and one child about four years of age. His brother, Richard Keyworth, is employed in the Washington gas works.

The Evening Star, July 14, 1898

**Guy Barron Held
Regarded as Responsible for Howard Keyworth's Death
Verdict of the Coroner's Jury
Outcome of a Quarrel July 6 Over a Game
The Evidence Submitted
Hyattsville, Md., July 14, 1898**

The coroner's inquest over the death of W. Howard Keyworth, late proprietor of the Pan-Electric House in Bladensburg, who was shot by Guy Barron the evening of July 6, was resumed at 5 o'clock

yesterday evening. The two large offices of Mr. Arthur Carr were thronged with people, and outside a large crowd, unable to gain entrance, lingered about the doorway.

Mr. Alfred D. Bailey, justice of the peace, acted as coroner. The accused was represented by Attorney R.E. Brant, and Messrs. Wm. Brooke and James C. Rogers appeared in behalf of the state. Shortly after 5 o'clock there was a stir in the crowd without, and a moment later Guy Barron, the prisoner accompanied by Deputy Sheriff James R. Tighe, entered the room. Barron's face bore unmistakable signs of suffering. As he passed into the rear room he spoke, in a voice quivering with emotion, to several friends who were present.

After hearing the testimony the jury held a consultation which lasted for some time, and then rendered the verdict that W. Howard Keyworth came to his death from a wound inflicted by a pistol ball fired from a pistol held by Guy C. Barron in the said W. Howard Keyworth's place of business in the town of Bladensburg, Prince George's county, Maryland, the 6th day of July, 1898. The jurymen were Arthur Carr, foreman: Wm. P. Magruder, John F. Hickey, Henry Constantine, Nathan Summers, Milton J. Payne, J.W. Kelly, L.T. Sutton, Wm. Foulk, Moses Smith, L.O. Wissman and Charles A. Manning.

Immediately after the verdict was rendered Guy Barron was committed to the Marlboro jail to await the action of the grand jury, which meets in October.

The First Witness

Dr. George A. Richardson was the first witness called. He testified that the immediate cause of Keyworth's death was a gunshot wound in the breast.

One of the jurymen wished to know where the bullet entered. That's a question I do not care to answer now," said the witness.

Upon being informed that the jury wished to have all the facts, witness stated that when he examined the wound the day of the shooting it was his impression that the bullet had first entered the breast. From the character of the wound when he examined it yesterday morning, however, witness judged that the bullet entered from the back. Upon this last examination the wound in front was a little more ragged in front than immediately after the shooting. In answer to questions witness stated that the wound in the back was about 1 1/2 inch higher than the wound in the breast.

Barron Borrows a Gun

The next witness was Edwin B. Garges, the proprietor of the Palo Alto House, in Bladensburg. He testified that the afternoon of July 6 he was sitting on his porch when Guy Barron came up. After a time Barron asked witness if he had a "gun." Witness replied jokingly, "Yes, all kinds of 'guns'. What kind of a 'gun' do you want?" Whereupon Barron said he and Ed. Parker were going to Landover to a colored picnic, where they intended to "open a game," and asked witness to loan him a "gun" stating that they were going at 7 o'clock, and that he would return the weapon at 11 o'clock that evening. Witness told him to come back and Johnson (the bartender) would give it to him. Witness, who had gone into the bar room, then returned to the porch, leaving Barron inside. He heard Barron tell Johnson that he believed he would take the "gun" along then, as it would save him the trouble of coming back for it later. Witness did not know of his own knowledge that Barron actually took the pistol, but fifteen or twenty minutes later Barron returned and the pistol was left, not with witness, but was thrown upon the counter.

J.H. Johnson, the barkeeper mentioned, was then called. His testimony agreed with that of Garges. He stated that when Barron said, "I believe I'll take it now," referring to the pistol he, witness, handed it to him. Could not swear positively that the pistol which Barron returned about an hour afterward was the pistol he loaned Barron. The pistol was produced, but witness could not positively identify it.

Heard the Shot

Joe Koch testified that immediately previous to the shooting he, the witness, started toward the back room, leaving Keyworth behind the bar, near the fee box, rolling a cigarette. At this juncture also Barron, who was crying, and Ed Parker entered the bar room. Witness went into the back room and had just served the beer he was carrying, when he heard the shot. He rushed back and grappled with Barron, who held a pistol, pointing over the counter. Witness forced Barron from the bar room and told him he should not have shot Keyworth. Barron replied that he "didn't give a d-- if he had to have his neck stretched for it."

A stir of interest was caused when the name of Edward Parker, the man who was with Barron when the shooting took place, was called.

The Fatal Encounter

Sometime in the afternoon of July 6, witness said, he and Barron came to Keyworth's, where Barron entered a game of "auction pitch" with Keyworth and "Stump" Brooks. After playing some time Barron seemed to be the winner. Suddenly Keyworth began to abuse Barron and told him he could stop playing if he wanted to. Barron made no reply. Keyworth then called him a thief, a scoundrel, a rogue and a --- ---, adding some obscene language. Still Barron did not reply, but arose, and in company with witness walked out. They went into the bar, had a drink, went on the porch and returned to the bar. Keyworth renewed the quarrel by asking Barron if he wasn't satisfied with what he had told him. Barron did not reply, but went out with witness. They went up the street to Penn's, where Barron left witness, but returned shortly. They both came back to Keyworth's, Barron entering the place two minutes before witness. Barron asked witness to have a drink as Keyworth came behind the bar. Witness saw Keyworth stoop down and pick up something that looked like a beer mallet, and heard him say:

"You --- ---, ain't you satisfied with what I've said to you?"

Smoke Over the Counter

Then the shot was fired. Witness did not see who fired it, but saw smoke just over the counter. Did not look to see who fired, but turned and went out. He was about four feet from Barron when the shot was fired. The men were facing each other.

For answer to a juror's question, witness said he saw Koch forcing Barron from the room, but did not see the pistol in Barron's hand. Witness was asked why he did not prevent the shooting, and replied that he was not anticipating any trouble. He was asked if it were possible for Keyworth to have been shot in the back. The reply was that the men were facing each other, as near as he (witness) could tell.

It was thought unnecessary to examine any other witnesses.