

## Louis Leddon

### ( - 2 May 1907)

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*The Evening Star, May 3, 1907, p. 1*

#### **Washington Man Killed**

#### **Louis Ledden Shot By George Garrett, Colored Deed Believed by Officials to Have Been Deliberate -- Story of Alleged Joint**

*Alexandria, Va., May 3, 1907*

Louis Ledden, a Washington paperhanger, thirty-four years of age, was shot and killed yesterday afternoon about 4:30 o'clock in an alleged "dope" joint at Rosslyn, Alexandria county, by George Garrett, colored, who resides at 1832 11th street northwest, Washington. Immediately after the shooting Garrett gave himself up to Deputy Sheriffs Howard Field and J.H. Collins, and is a prisoner in the Alexandria county jail charged with murder. The remains of Ledden were this afternoon turned over to Undertaker McCarthy of Washington and prepared for burial.

Coroner Ashton of Alexandria county held an inquest at 7 o'clock last night, and after the examination of three witnesses the jury gave a verdict to the effect that Ledden came to his death from a gunshot wound from a pistol in the hands of George Garrett. The pistol was of a .32-caliber pattern, and the bullet entered to the right of the median line and shattered a portion of the breastbone. Ledden lived about five minutes after the fatal shot had been fired.

The inquest was held at the house where the tragedy occurred, and the first witness to testify was Hillman Hemphill, colored. He claimed that the two men were playing "soldier," when the pistol is supposed to have gone off accidentally.

Margaret Burnstein, alias Margaret Langdon, of Washington, stated that she did not witness the shooting, but heard the report of the gun, when Claude Evans came in and said: "Beat it." After which she secured her coat and left the premises.

The substance of the testimony of Claude Evans was that the men were friends.

#### *Interview Denied*

A Star reporter called at the county jail this morning for the purpose of seeing the alleged murderer, but was informed that strict orders had been left to allow no one to see Garrett. It is supposed that the object of this is to prevent any one giving cocaine to the accused. It is stated that Garrett claims the killing of Ledden was purely accidental.

The inquest developed but little information, but the county authorities are firm in their belief that the murder was a deliberate one. In less than two hours after the murder the following persons were taken into custody and are being held as witnesses: Margaret Burnstein, alias Margaret Langdon, twenty-four years of age, who resides at 2021 Sherman avenue northwest; Bessie Kemper, colored, forty-two Rummage court southeast; Hillman Hemphill, colored, 13th and C streets northwest; John Sedgwick, colored, 2730 P street northwest; Dr. William Phillips, 152 W street northwest.

#### *Scene of the Killing*

The establishment where the murder took place was formerly operated as a saloon, and is within a short distance of Aqueduct bridge. There has been considerable talk, it is said, concerning the place of late, which is alleged to be frequented largely by Washingtonians. The utmost secrecy is said to have been observed, and patrons were required to push a bell on the gate and afterward give a countersign, which is said to have been "G."

It is also asserted that patrons after being admitted and who asked for cocaine were promptly ejected, as the word of the house is said to have been "junk." For this reason, it is claimed, it has been utterly impossible for the county officials to get any information against the alleged "joint."

A short time ago the grand jury of Alexandria county investigated an article published in a county paper concerning the place, but failed to return any presentments owing to insufficient evidence.

The weapon with which the murder was committed was found today under the rear of the house where the deed was committed.