

Agnes Levi (- 1 Aug 1904)

The Washington Times, August 2, 1904

Mrs. Agnes Levi's Supposed Slayer Attempts Suicide Henry Heuth, Trailed by Police, Cuts Wrist and Throat Wounds Are Not Fatal Believed to Have Procured Clothes at Mother's Home Visited A Barroom

Henry Heuth, believed to be the murderer of Mrs. Agnes Levi, whose throat was cut from ear to ear at 1217 E Street northwest, at 10 o'clock last night, attempted suicide in an alley between L and M and Four-and-a-half and Sixth Streets southwest, shortly after 10 o'clock this morning.

He was taken to the Emergency Hospital, where it is thought he will recover. The weapon with which Heuth sought to end his own life was a case knife, with which he cut his throat and wrist. The detectives were hot on his trail, and his attempt at suicide was due to fear of immediate arrest.

Screams of Murder

Persons passing along E Street, between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets northwest about 10 o'clock last night were startled by screams of "murder." Mrs. Roth, who lives in the house where the tragedy occurred, also heard the screams. Policemen Lewis and Williams and E. Martin, an employee of a nearby lunch room, ran to the scene.

On the floor in the hall on the third story of the house they found an elderly woman lying in a pool of blood. The Emergency ambulance was called. The woman died on the way to the hospital. Investigation proved her to be a Mrs. Levi, who, with a man named Henry Leuth, many years her junior, occupied apartments in the house.

Escaped in Underclothes

When Martin who was passing the house heard the screams, he stopped and then heard the sounds of a scuffle. Looking up toward the window, he saw a man, clad in his underclothing, step up in the window and pause, preparatory to jumping. When the man saw persons gathering in the street he fell back into the room. Martin rushed upstairs and as he got to the second floor he saw a man escaping at the back of the house.

The two policemen then joined in the chase. The fugitive, however, escaped and eluded pursuit until this morning. Detectives were immediately put on the trail. About 9 o'clock this morning it was learned that Heuth had visited a barroom on First Street, between C and D Streets southwest, last night and again shortly after 5 o'clock this morning. He told the bartender that he was in trouble.

It turned out afterwards that he had been to the home of his mother on D Street southwest. There, it is presumed he procured clothing, as he was fully dressed when at the barroom last night and this morning.

Found in an Alley

Inspector Hartigan was on his way to Mrs. Heuth's house when the news reached him that Heuth had been taken. His attempt at suicide was made in an alley back of the house of a Mr. Bleber, for whom he worked. Officers Farquhar and Lester, who were the first to reach him had a struggle with him before they could get him into the ambulance.

When Heuth reached the Emergency Hospital his wounds were dressed. Although suffering and weak from loss of blood he was found in no immediate danger. Heuth would make no statement.

One of the cuts was across his wrist and the other across his windpipe. Had the cut on his throat been an inch further to the right or left it would have resulted fatally. The hospital physicians say, however, that unless complications develop Heuth will recover.

Mother and Himself

Heauth, a carpenter by trade, and between thirty and thirty-five years of age, came to the E Street house about a month ago and rented three rooms for "his mother and himself." Mrs. Levi, who came to live there with him was a large woman, considerably older than he.

The couple quarreled all the time, and frequently fought. Heuth drank often. He had been drinking before the murder occurred.

Mrs. Roth, who lived on the floor above them, became acquainted with the ill-mated couple. She wrote letters for Mrs. Levi, who was uneducated and could not write. The letters went to her two sons, George Murphy, who is a merchant at Summit, Idaho, and William Murphy, a seaman on board the U.S.S. Columbia, which is now at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The police have heard nothing from these men. Mrs. Levi would never explain why her sons were named Murphy while she went by the name of Levi. She drew a pension of \$12 a month.

Heuth's father lives at 631 Tenth Street northeast. His mother is separated from her husband.

His haunts were in the southwest section of the city for the most part where he drank a great deal, it is said, and was frequently seen about the barrooms in that section.

The Evening Star, August 3, 1904, p. 3

Huth Anxious to Die

Makes Repeated Efforts to End His Life

Alleged Murderer of Agnes Levy in Hospital --

The Inquest Necessarily Deferred

Henry Huth, the alleged murderer of Mrs. Agnes Levy, is still under treatment at the Emergency Hospital. He will be held there a prisoner until tomorrow morning, when he will be taken to the morgue, to be present at the inquest over the body of his victim. When he entered Locust court yesterday morning a few minutes before he attempted suicide he was seen by several residents of that locality, who recognized him. Before entering the court he met an acquaintance and told him to tell a friend that he would be found in the court in the rear of the friend's stable. Upon reaching the court he went to work on his throat and wrists with the dull knife. The sight of the blood gushing from his throat frightened some of the colored women who saw him. They called "Police!" and "Murder!" and a crowd soon assembled. Huth fought desperately when an effort was made to disarm him and prevent the accomplishment of his purpose. The knife was finally taken from him and thrown upon a shed. Huth fell to the pavement from exhaustion and later tore the surgeons' bandages from his wrists.

The Emergency Hospital ambulance reached the scene in a short time and Huth was soon upon the operating table in the hospital. Close watch was kept upon him lest he would make another effort to undo the work of the surgeons. Yesterday afternoon and last night he was violent and gave the surgeons and attendants considerable trouble. While in Locust court he beat his head against the sewer trap and tried to repeat the performance after reaching the hospital. Then he tried to bite his arm and tear off the bandage. It was found necessary to render him powerless to accomplish anything and he spent a comparatively restful night. This morning his condition was somewhat improved, but it will probably be several days before the surgeons will consent to his leaving the hospital.

Refuses to Discuss Crime

The prisoner patient refuses to discuss the crime charged against him. He will sometimes answer a question by nodding his head, but at other times he will say his throat is too sore to do any talking. A cousin of his, it is stated, was the only relative who called at the hospital last night, but he was not permitted to see the patient.

At the morgue this morning, it was stated that nobody had called to make arrangements about the disposition of the body of Mrs. Levy. Should no one call to claim the body some local undertaker will probably see to its interment. She received a pension of \$12 a month and two months' pension, \$24, was due her at the time of her death. This amount is sufficient to defray the expenses of a burial.

Those who are to act as jurors in the case have been sworn and the hearing, as stated, will be held tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Mrs. Levy's Former Home Life

A well-known citizen who was acquainted with Mrs. Agnes Levy about eight years ago, stated to a Star reporter today that she then lived with her second husband, William E.B. Levy, and together they conducted a little cigar and tobacco store on 4 1/2 street between D and E streets southwest, their residence apartments being in the same building. The couple lived happily together, the income from the store and the husband's pension being sufficient to keep them in comfortable circumstances. Mrs. Levy's two boys by a former husband named Murphy lived with her.

The gentleman who gave this information showed the reporter photographs of Mr. and Mrs. Levy and her sons. The husband, a veteran soldier, was a fine looking man, apparently about sixty-five years of age. He was somewhat deaf. Mrs. Levy was what the world would call a well preserved, comely woman of about thirty-five or forty years. Both were neatly attired, as were the boys. The eldest son was minus his left leg, which he lost by falling from the rigging of a training ship while an apprentice in the navy. For this injury he, too, received a pension. They were nice looking lads and apparently above the average in intelligence.

On the reverse side of the photograph of William E.B. Levy, who died several years ago, it is said, is the following autograph inscription, which refers to himself:

"The only 1st Dragoon living who was with the late Gen. P.H. Sheridan, U.S.A., when he was a lieutenant in 1855 and 1856 in Oregon and California. Also one of the few soldiers living who crossed the plains with the Central Pacific railroad survey in 1853."

The Star's informant said he lost trace of Mrs. Levy after she gave up the little cigar shop. He says her name was Levy and not Levi, as entered on the police records. He knew nothing of her acquaintance with Huth, but said she was respected by all her neighbors when she lived on 4 1/2 street, and her husband and the boys were popular in the neighborhood in which they resided.

Captain Boardman was called upon today and told that Huth is not a married man, as the police reported yesterday. People living at 1355 E street southeast denied today that any relatives of the alleged murderer live there.

The Washington Times, August 3, 1904

Huth's Case Postponed Before the Coroner

Condition of Accused Man Not Such as to Permit of His Leaving Hospital

The condition of Henry Huth, the supposed murderer of Mrs. Agnes Levi, who was killed at 1217 E Street northwest, Monday night, caused the postponement of the Coroner's inquest, which was set for 10 o'clock this morning. Huth is now at the Emergency Hospital recovering from the wounds he inflicted upon himself with a case knife yesterday morning in his attempt at suicide. He is steadily improving, as

neither the cuts in his throat nor those on his wrist were serious, but he was not able to leave the hospital this morning. The body of his alleged victim is still at the morgue.

Captain Boardman's men have been hard at work on the case, and as a result of their investigations a number of witnesses have been summoned. Among them there are some, who, it is said, will tell of threats Huth made against the woman he was living with, and one, at least, it is alleged, who heard him say yesterday morning, before he was found lying bleeding in the alley where he attempted to kill himself, that he was a murderer.

Relations of Huth called at the hospital last night, but were not allowed to see him. Huth is reported as doing very well.

The Evening Star, August 4, 1904

Huth is Held for Mrs. Levi's Murder

Coroner's Jury Charges Him With Crime

Prisoner Starts to Make Statement, Witness Swears at Him

"We find that Mrs. Agnes Levi came to her death from a series of wounds on her throat inflicted by Henry Huth." This was the sense of the verdict rendered today by the Coroner's jury in the inquest into the death of the woman killed, supposedly by Huth, in a jealous rage, in their apartments at 1213 E Street northwest, August 1.

The inquest was held this morning in the new morgue building at Seventh Street and the river front. It was conducted by Acting Coroner Larkin W. Glazebrook.

Witnesses of the murder, and several who were present at the capture of Huth, gave testimony. A crowd of the curious was present.

Prisoner Smiles

The prisoner, handcuffed, and guarded by several detective and policemen, watched the proceedings smilingly.

At the conclusion of the testimony, Huth attempted to make a statement, but could not or would not talk loud enough to be heard. When the Acting Coroner asked him to speak louder he replied with a profane request that the Acting Coroner go to a place warmer than Washington on its hottest day.

Another dramatic incident occurred when Louis Blackeye and Ralph McKee identified Huth. Blackeye told of the killing of the woman, and McKee of the attempts of Huth to kill himself, when he found himself surrounded by the police and cut off from escape.

Swears at Prisoner

Blackeye is an Italian. He could not withhold his wrath and swore at the smiling prisoner as he identified him in broken English as the man who he said had committed the murder.

The first witness was Mrs. E.M. Roth, who lives on the floor above the apartments Huth occupied with the woman. She told of Mrs. Levi bringing up to her rooms a few pieces of broken bread and bacon, asking Mrs. Rother to save them for her. Mrs. Roth also told of frequent quarrels, and of threats made by the prisoner.

She was followed by Mrs. Mary Dunbar, who had been visiting Mrs. Roth at the time of the murder. Mrs. Dunbar told of the killing. She had heard the screams, the struggle, and the fall of a body, and opening a window shouted for the police. She knew little of the troubles of Huth and the woman.

Policeman Lewis' Testimony

Policeman Percival Lewis, one of the first to reach the dying woman, said he had been standing in front of T.H. Connors' saloon, when he heard the screams. He ran in the direction of the sound, and saw Huth standing on the sill of a window, looking as though he intended to jump into the street.

"The man," continued Lewis, "I later recognized as Huth. He wore only a pair of trousers, and an undershirt. He shouted that he had done it, and that the woman had compelled him to kill her."

Lewis said he ran upstairs and found the woman dying, in a pool of blood. About this time Mrs. Dunbar began to scream for the police. Huth dropped back into the room from the window sill, said the witness, crying as he disappeared:

"I was driven to this by a person from Philadelphia."

The policeman told of the summoning of the ambulance and the removal of the woman. He displayed the razor with which the murder was committed and described how he found it beside Mrs. Levi. He testified that Huth jumped over the back fence and escaped before the policeman could catch him.

Special policeman Mosley Williams, who was with Lewis, corroborated the latter.

Frank A. Winter, a painter, who lives in the house adjoining that in which the murder took place, was reading in his room when he heard the death struggle. He also saw Huth at the window but could not reach him.

He told of frequent fights between the couple; said that there had been a quarrel on the morning of the murder and another two weeks ago, when Huth had threatened to knock the woman on the head. Louis Blackeye followed, telling of seeing Huth and of having heard him confess the killing. Later he found Huth in the rear alley, where Huth jumped over the fence and for the time escaped. He said he had cursed Huth, and had tried to capture him, but failed. Blackeye said Mrs. Levi had lived in the house two months, and had made friends.

It was at this point that he was unable to restrain himself and he went at the prisoner in torrid language. His abuse created an uproar, and the Acting Coroner threatened to clear the court room. Huth simply smiled.

The facts as given by the preceding witnesses were corroborated by W.A. Pearson, Michael F. Morrissey, Jeremiah McCarthy, E. Martin, and Ralph McKee.

Dr. R.W. Baker, acting deputy coroner, described the wounds on the body. There were no less than half a dozen deep gashes, any one of which would have caused death.

After hearing the last witness the Acting Coroner said to Huth: "Do you want to make any statement? If you do, you may. But remember that it will probably be used against you at your trial."

Huth mumbled a few unintelligible words, adjusted the bandages that hid the wounds he had inflicted on himself, rose slowly from the chair beside a stalwart policeman, and making his way to the witness stand attempted to speak.

Huth Starts to Speak

"The women were drinking with two men," he mumbled so low that he could scarcely be heard. "Speak louder," ordered the Acting Coroner. "I can't," whispered the murderer. "You must. Try it," insisted Glazebrook.

"If I'm not talking loud enough youse can go to h--" shouted the prisoner in a broken wheeze. "I can't do no better."

The prisoner refused to talk further. He was taken back to the hospital. Throughout he displayed callous indifference.

The last witness was Ralph McKee, who told of the finding of the prisoner in Locust Alley, weak from loss of blood, with his throat cut, lying on his elbow and picking at the arteries in his wrists with a dull table knife.

All of the witnesses agreed in their stories of finding the unfortunate woman lying with her throat cut, in a pool of blood on the stair landing of the second floor of the dwelling, and all embellished their stories of the struggle with descriptions of the gurgling and heavy breathing, which told of the woman being choked and of the knocking over of chairs and tables in her final struggle against death, in the dark, and at the time that Huth was sitting in the window.

In connection with this murder, it has been published that Huth went to the home of his mother, 310 D Street southwest, that his mother and father were separated, and that he obtained clothing from his mother.

Huth's mother never lived at that address; he obtained no clothing there; he did not call there at any time, and his mother has been dead for several years, and was never separated from his father.

The Evening Star, August 5, 1904, p. 16

Huth's Condition Improves

Body of Woman He Killed Interred This Afternoon

Considerable interest was shown by the prisoners at the jail yesterday afternoon when Henry Huth, the slayer of Mrs. Agnes Levy, reached the prison. He was taken to jail in the patrol wagon of the first precinct, and his handcuffs were removed as soon as he entered the prison. He was kept handcuffed yesterday because it was feared he would make an effort to reopen the wounds made when he attempted to take his life. The prisoner went through the usual routine of new members of the big family of prisoners and was then placed in one of the big cells in the south wing, where prisoners charged with the more serious crimes are confined. The iron bracelets were removed from his wrists after the jail was reached, but the guards were careful to see that he was kept under observation.

His first night in the prison was a quiet one and he seemed to be in better condition this morning than he did yesterday when he appeared before the coroner's jury. It is believed by those who witnessed his actions at the inquest yesterday that he is trying to feign insanity. Some of his friends have already come forward with the plea that he is insane, and say he has not been right for a long time, but policemen and others in official life who have come in contact with him are of a different opinion.

When Dr. Hudson, the resident physician at the jail, went to dress his wounds this morning he found the prisoner apparently as sane as the others who occupied the prison cells. Considering the patient's generally bad physical state his wounds were in splendid condition.

The body of Mrs. Levy was laid to rest in Congressional cemetery this afternoon. Former friends of hers called at the morgue yesterday morning and took a last look at the body. There were several charitable women among the callers, and before they became aware that the woman's life was insured they took up a collection to be used in defraying the funeral expenses. Later the money was returned to those who had donated it.

Late in the afternoon the body was removed to Perry's undertaking establishment, from where the funeral took place.

The Evening Star, Dec. 3, 1904

Huth is Convicted of Second Degree Murder

Jury Out Less Than Half an Hour,

Prisoner's Story of His Crime

Henry Huth, who killed his mistress, Agnes Levy, August 1, last, was yesterday convicted of murder in the second degree.

The verdict is practically a sentence of life imprisonment in the penitentiary. Huth was put on trial last Monday in Criminal Court No. 2, before Justice Gould and a jury. It was not, however, until Wednesday that a special panel was chosen to pass upon the innocence or guilt of the accused.

Huth said in his own defense he left his rooms early in the day on Saturday, July 30, in search of work. He was unsuccessful. When he returned in the afternoon Agnes Levy refused to give him anything to eat, telling him to go "get your eating where you spent the day."

On the day following, Sunday, Huth said he remained in the house and discussed their relations with the woman. However, he said, they did not quarrel.

On Monday, August 1, the day of the homicide, Huth said he again went to look for work. Failing to find employment, he returned to 1217 E Street in the afternoon. Again, Agnes Levy, he said, refused give him anything to eat.

He went out, and returned about 9:30 p.m. He again asked the woman for something to eat, he said, and she not only declined to prepare food for him, but also refused to allow him to do so.

A quarrel followed, which Huth said resulted in a struggle between them, in which he was kicked and painfully hurt by Agnes Levy. He suffered excruciating pain as the result of the kick. Huth testified, and in his agony he picked up an old "corn razor" from a box near him, and slashed the woman across her throat. She died in a few moments, and he left her there upon the floor.

The testimony in the case was closed yesterday about noon. After the arguments of counsel and the charge by Justice Gould, the case was submitted to the jury about 5 p.m. After remaining in the consultation room for less than an hour, a verdict of "Guilty of murder in the second degree" was returned.

The Government was represented by Assistant District Attorneys Charles H. Turner and James M. Proctor, and the accused by E. Scott Douglass and C.L. Baker.