

Ezekiel Lockwood

(- 25 Apr 1877)

The Evening Star, January 29, 1872, p. 4

Dr. Lockwood Arrested

Dr. Lockwood was this morning arrested on a warrant issued on complaint of 27 persons, mostly men doing business in the neighborhood of Union League Hall, charging him with keeping a disorderly house. It seems that there is an organization of colored people, calling themselves "Good Samaritans," who meet there on every Thursday night, and that the premises of most of the persons doing business in that vicinity are invaded during the time the meeting is in progress by persons who commit nuisances of the most offensive character. Dr. Lockwood appeared this morning at the police court to answer, and the case was postponed until Thursday next.

The Evening Star, February 1, 1872, p. 4

The Case of Dr. Lockwood

"Noise And Confusion" At Union League Hall –

Mrs. Lockwood As Counsel For Her Husband

The case of Dr. E. Lockwood, charged with keeping a disorderly house – Union League Hall – which was postponed from last week, came up this morning in the police court. Dr. Lockwood came into court in company with Mrs. Lockwood, who appeared as his counsel. They were also accompanied by Mrs. Dr. Walker, Miss Laura McNall, Miss Kelsey and Mrs. Johnson, the latter the wife of an ex-member of Congress. These females all took seats inside the bar, and during the morning business Mrs. Lockwood and the Doctor were engaged in reviewing a stack of law books laying on the floor beside them, and making notes. Mr. Dawson, the clerk, read off the charge in form, and the Doctor pleaded not guilty. Some sixteen witnesses were present and sworn, among them six policemen. Mr. H.E. Brooks was the first witness, and testified that he keeps a store on 9th street, and has frequently seen disorderly parties about the door of Union League Hall. Dr. Lockwood raised the point that the witness should confine himself to the house, and not to scenes on the street. The Court sustained the point raised and cautioned the witness to confine himself to the charge. Witness continued, saying that he had frequently heard loud and boisterous talking and cursing in and about the doors. Parties are frequently noisy there, and disturb the whole neighborhood, making it a source of general complaint. The jarring from the confusion and dancing often shook the glasses and goods in his store underneath. Had seen drunken people there often.

Mrs. Lockwood – Please state, Mr. Brooks, whether you ever attended meetings in Union League Hall.

Mr. Brooks – Only once.

Mr. L – Mr. Brooks, do you or do you not sell liquor in your store?

Witness – I do.

Mr. L – Did you every know liquor to be sold in the premises known as Union League Hall?

Witness – I never did.

Mr. L – Did you not know that no liquor has ever been sold there?

Witness – I do not.

Justice Jos. T.K. Plant testified that he had heard a great deal of drum beating and brass band there at all hours of the night; as much as two or three times a week. Dr. Lockwood is the manager of the hall, and the noise proceeding from the hall is a source of general complaint.

Mr. L – Mr. Plant, are you in the habit of frequenting the hall.

Justice Plant – I have often been there.

Mrs. L – Did you ever hear any unseemly noises ore than is usual in public halls?

Justice P – I have. I have heard the noise of a large iron ball rolling over the floor above.

Mrs. L – Are you not a member of the republican committee?

Justice P – I am.

Mr. L – Does that committee not often talk loud enough to drown the music played there?

Justice P – I have never heard them.

Mr. L – I have then—often heard their voices above the brass bands, and if I am not mistaken have heard your own.

W.R. Riley testified that he lives on the corner of E and 9th streets, and had often heard music and dancing from the hall, but not loud enough to disturb his family.

Mr. Harrington, a storekeeper on 9th street, testified the had been disturbed often at as late an hour as 3 o'clock in the morning, particularly in the summer time.

Andrew Kirk testified that he had often been awaked at nights by the music at the hall, and his little child had often been waked up, giving them a great deal of trouble.

Mr. Crisbaner testified that the noise and confusion from that hall shook the whole neighborhood sometimes as late as four o'clock in the morning.

Mrs. Lockwood – Please state how many nights since you have slept.

Mr. C – I sleep a little every night; but if you only sleep as little as I do you would know how it is yourself.

Mr. George Willner testified that he had often been disturbed at all hours of the night, and his boarders had left his premises on account of the disturbance from this place.

Mr. Drury, a grocer on 9th street, corroborated what had been said by others.

George E. Kirk testified that he lives on E street, between 9th and 10th, and had often heard music and dancing late at nights and had been awake by it.

Sergeant Fainter, officers Madigan, Harding and Boyle testified as to the noises.

Witnesses for defence were called.

Mrs. Johnson testified that she was often present at meetings there and had never seen any disturbance or disorder.

Mrs. Kelsey testified that she had been living in Dr. Lockwood's family for some time past, and had never been disturbed nor awake at nights by the noise.

Miss Laura McNall testified that she had been living there the last five years, and had slept as much as persons generally sleep without any annoyance whatever.

Dr. Mary Walker testified that she had lectured in halls in both Europe and this country. A large cannon ball was used in a form of initiation of the "Sons and Daughters of Moses," but it was not loud in its noise when rolling. Dr. Lockwood's infant child, when living, was a good sleeper, and it was not disturbed by the noise. President Grant, Speaker Colfax, Gen. Chipman, Generals Banks, Logan, and other distinguished gentlemen had attended meetings here, and took part in them.

Geo. Summers Townsend and Herbert Bartley testified that they had heard no unusual noises there.

Mr. Browne, gasfitter, testified that he had been doing business for some time next door to the hall, and the only annoyance he ever experienced was from crowds standing about outside.

Mrs. Lockwood here availed herself of the knowledge of the reporters – the representatives of The Star, Patriot and Chronicle – who testified that they had been present at political meetings, and had never heard more disturbances of disorder than in the churches and other halls where political meetings have been held. Evidence to the same effect was given by E.S. Atkinson, and others.

The judge said the only question with him was as to the late hours at which the disturbance is alleged to have occurred. He would not dispose of the case today, and would give counsel an opportunity to be heard.

Mrs. Lockwood then commenced her address to the court, citing the law and decisions in similar cases from a large stock of authorities.

Dr. Lockwood spoke in his own behalf.

The Court then said he regarded the old maxim that "we should use our own rights in a manner as not to infringe upon the rights of others," in this as in all other cases. He would give the matter a careful consideration and make his decision on next Monday. His decision would be simply upon the law and evidence, and no political or religious consideration would influence him.

Lockwood. At 12 m., Wednesday, April 25, 1877 at the family residence, No. 619 F street n.w., Dr. Ezekiel Lockwood in the 75th year of his age.

The Evening Star, April 26, 1877

Dr. Ezekiel Lockwood, the former well-known dentist, died yesterday at the family residence, on F street, in the 75th year of his age. Dr. Lockwood was a native of New York and came here during the war, and was for a long time in charge of Union League Hall, on 9th street, between D and E streets. At the same time, Mrs. Belva A. McNall was keeping a school in one of the rooms of the hall, and before their friends were aware of it a wedding took place. Mrs. Lockwood, as is well known, is now one of the most industrious members of our bar, and Dr. Lockwood having a commission as a notary public gave up dentistry. Dr. L. had some peculiar traits of character, but he made and retained the friendship of many of our citizens. His funeral will take place at 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The Evening Star, April 28, 1877

Condensed Locals

The funeral of Dr. Ezekiel Lockwood took place yesterday from the family residence on F street, between 6th and 7th, and was largely attended by the many personal friends of the deceased, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Dr. Parker, pastor of the E street Baptist Church. The remains were deposited in a vault of the Congressional Cemetery.

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