

## William M. Mackey

(24 Dec 1847 – 19 Apr 1870)

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**Mackey.** The funeral of William M. Mackey will take place from his mother's residence, northeast corner of 4th and I streets on Thursday, April 21 at 10 o'clock a.m. The friends of the family are invited to attend.

*The Evening Star, April 19, 1870*

### **Terrible Homicide**

#### **Wm. Mackey Shot by George Henault**

#### **The Wounded Man Lives Only Ten Minutes**

About 4 o'clock this morning, a homicide took place on E street, between 10th and 11th, a young man named William Mackey having been shot by George Henault, son of a liquor merchant in that locality. The death of the wounded man followed in about ten minutes after the fatal shot was fired. From the statements made in reference to the affair, it appears that the deceased, with his brother Samuel, James Dougherty, J.M. Parson, and Christopher McDermott left the liquor dealers' ball a short time before the homicide, and were near the alley running alongside of Henault's house, and William Mackey went into the alley, when young Henault came up and asked him what he was doing. Some words passed, and deceased asked Henault where he was going, to which the latter replied "home," when deceased said he "could get away with him," (Henault,) and it is alleged, struck him, knocking the skin from his nose. Henault then drew his pistol--a small Sharp's four-barrelled weapon--and fired, (as alleged,) when Mackey was coming toward him, and Mackey fell. Officer Aldridge having been attracted by the loud talking from 10th street, came up just as the shot was fired) and seized Henault, who still clinched the pistol. Officers Duvall, Mardin, Markwood, O'Hare, and others were soon on the spot, and the deceased was carried into the residence of Mr. Henault; and Dr. Walter, who boards in the house, having been awakened by the report of the pistol shot was soon at the side of the dying man, but could do nothing for him and he expired in less than ten minutes after the shot was fired. Officer Aldridge took Henault to the fifth precinct station and Officer Duvall took the witnesses to the same place, while Officer Dardin remained with the deceased, and after his death took the body to the station house. As soon as the facts became known, a very large number of persons gathered about the station house, anxious to learn the particulars, and to see the corpse. Coroner Potter was soon at the station, and gave directions to have a jury summoned for 11 o'clock this morning.

The deceased was a young man about 23 years of age, and resided at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and I streets. He was a bricklayer by trade, and this season has been in the employment of Mr. Thomas D. Lewis. He was a member of the Bricklayers' Union, a committee of which have employed Mr. J.W. Plant to take charge of the body, and have called a meeting tonight to make arrangements for the funeral. The accused is about 18 years old and has been acting as a clerk for his father. Both parties are well known in the city and the fatal affair is much regretted.

#### *The Post Mortem Examination*

Dr. Potter, the Coroner, arrived at the Central Guardhouse at 11 o'clock, with Dr. Hartigan, and proceeded to make a post mortem examination. The examination showed that the ball entered about two inches below the top of the breastbone, passing through it, perforating the aorta and passing directly backwards, lodging against the third dorsal vertebrae, whence it was removed by the examining

physicians. The ball was conical in shape and in passing through the breast bone was somewhat flattened on one side and disfigured. The weapon used was one of Sharp's four-barreled pocket pistols.

### *The Coroner's Inquest*

After the post mortem examination was over the jury were summoned as follows: Michael R. Coombs, Adam Geitz, Amon Duvall, John G. Adams, James H. Robinson, J.F. King, Robert Waters, John W. Reynolds, Daniel McLaughlin, Joseph C. Marks, Henry N. Hemming, and Benjamin F. Oliphant. Mr. Coombs was chosen foreman. The jury viewed the body and were sworn in.

The jury retired to the front room of the Central Guard-house and the prisoner was brought in.

Mr. S.H. Phillips appeared for the prisoner and addressed the jury briefly, asking a patient and impartial investigation of the case. The father of the young man is a Frenchman, who is unable to speak the English language. The young man had been on an entertainment and on returning home, late at night discovered the deceased in the alley and accosted him as a suspicious person, and on being accosted him as a suspicious person, and on being accosted he attacked the prisoner, who had, in his surprise, drawn his pistol and fired upon his assailant. It was an unfortunate homicide, but it would be shown that it was an act of self-defense.

Dr. Hartigan was the first witness examined, and testified to the facts developed by the post mortem examination of the deceased, as above. It was a mortal wound. The pistol was here produced and shown to contain three loads.

Dr. Walter sworn, and stated that he was called to visit the deceased, arrived about two minutes before he expired. He was present at the post mortem examination, and believed the wound was the cause of death. Deceased did not speak after he saw him, but expired a few minutes afterwards.

Wm. F. Davis sworn; and stated that he lived in Georgetown; knew Wm. Mackey, the deceased. Was in company with him last night at the Liquor Dealer's ball. Left there about half past three o'clock. On arriving at the corner of 10th and E streets he saw the flash and heard the report of the pistol, and went to the spot and found deceased laying on the pavement; assisted in getting him into the house. He could not say whether the deceased had been drinking.

Samuel B. Mackey sworn: Lives at corner of 4th and I streets. Am brother of the deceased. Deceased was younger. They were at the ball together. Did not go together; but saw his brother there. Did not think his brother had been drinking to hurt. Saw him drinking only once that night. He left the ball room about 4 o'clock, in company with some young men. His brother was ahead, and on going up E street his brother turned into the alley and witness passed on to the corner of 10th and E streets, when he heard the report of the pistol. He turned back as soon as possible; saw his brother stagger and witness caught him as he was falling.

Christopher McDermott sworn: Lives on Pennsylvania avenue, between 9th and 10th streets. Knew Mr. Mackey. Was with him last night at the ball. Left about ten o'clock. He was not intoxicated. When they left the ball they went up F street to 10th street and down towards 8th. He lost sight of deceased on the way and after they arrived at the corner of 11th and E streets heard some words, and, on looking around saw the flash of the pistol. When they were back saw deceased laying down on the pavement, and it was not ten minutes before he was dead. The talking he heard was not distinct, unable to understand what was said, but it sounded like the persons were quarrelling. The night was cloudy.

James Dorrity, printer, who left the ball with deceased, corroborated the above.

Albert M. Parsons, employed at the Government Printing Office, was sworn, but nothing new was elicited.

Charles G. Page sworn: Lives on I street, is an Assistant Examiner at the Patent Office. In walking with prisoner along E street, and crossing by the alley, saw some one in the alley, and George Henault called out to him, when the deceased replied, "Do you take me for a damned thief?" He (Henault) replied "No". The next he heard was, "What do you take me for?" "What is your business with me?"

Henault replied, "I live here." Deceased then said, "Do you?" Henault replied again, "I do." Witness then turned around, thinking the deceased would pass by. Deceased then said, "You ---- ----." Thinking there would be trouble witness turned around and in the act of turning saw a blow passed from deceased to Henault, who staggered back. Witness then went towards them, when he saw deceased about to deal George another blow. He then saw the flash of a pistol and deceased said "shoot again; you ---- ----." Witness endeavored to quiet them, but they were at once surrounded by some parties who approached them from the corner of fifth and E street. George Henault was near the west corner of the alley when the affray occurred. The Police came up and arrested all the parties present. When George first called to deceased he was up the alley. Witness and George had been at an entertainment together, but neither were intoxicated.

Thomas Aldridge, policeman, was sworn, but no new facts were elicited.

Officer G.J. Duvall gave his testimony and the case was submitted to the jury, and after a few minutes, they rendered the following verdict:

#### *The Verdict*

That Wm. N. Mackey came to his death at about four o'clock a.m. on the 10th day of April, 1870, in the house, No. 1011 E street northwest in the city and county of Washington. They further find that the said William M. Mackey came to his death by reason of a wound in the breast caused by a pistol discharged by the hands of George Henault, at 1011 E street.

On the rendition of the verdict, the Coroner committed the prisoner to jail.

*The Evening Star, May 14, 1870*

#### **The Henault-Mackey Homicide**

##### **Criminal Court, Judge Fisher**

Yesterday after our report in the case of G.W. Henault, indicted for the murder of William Mackey on the 19th of April, Mr. Phillips, for defense, admitted the killing.

Charles Grafton Page testified as on the Coroner's jury, with the addition that when Mackey struck, Henault the staggering of the latter brought him to the edge of the cellar door.

The District Attorney asked the witness whether on the road to the station house after the homicide, the accused made any remark, and what that remark was, his purpose being to prove the fact proved by Officer Aldrich on the impact that the accused, after his arrest, when vexed by the brother of the deceased, said to the officer, "Give me the pistol, and I will shoot him too."

This was objected to by the defense, on the ground that this declaration was no part of the vox geste--was made after the homicide, and in relation to another party.

Judge Fisher held the question improper, because its answer would throw no light on the issue, which was simply whether the accused could have retreated safely further than he did, before firing the fatal shot.

The District Attorney, announced that he did not intend to press for a verdict of murder; and the court allowed the jury to separate, charging them to hold no conversation on the subject of the trial.

The case was resumed this morning and a number of witnesses were examined whose testimony did not materially differ from that given on the Coroner's inquest, and the defense offered evidence as to good character. At two o'clock the counsel commenced to argue the case to the jury, and will close this afternoon.