

Mary Lola Naylor

(- 10 Jul 1914)

Naylor. On Friday, July 10, 1914, Mary L. Naylor, beloved daughter of Thomas A. and Minnie K. Mitchell and wife of J.C. Naylor. Funeral (private) from her parent's residence 713 F street s.w., Monday, July 13 at 2 p.m.

The Evening Star, July 10, 1914, p. 1

Woman Dies; Man, Also Shot, Held

William Poland Accused by Police of Being Slayer of Mrs. Lola Naylor

Tragedy Follows Boat Trip Down The River

Painter Denies Firing Pistol in Room With Fellow-Boarder, Husband Also Arrested

Mrs. Lola Naylor twenty-five years old, who had been separated from her husband, John Naylor, since Christmas, died at Casualty Hospital this morning at 2:30 o'clock as a result of two bullet wounds in her chest. She was shot about 1 o'clock this morning while in the room of William Poland, a boarder at 1525 23d street, Randle Highlands.

William Poland, who is a painter, about thirty-eight years old, is a patient at Casualty Hospital suffering from one bullet wound in his left chest, and the police have preferred a charge of murder against him. It was stated at the hospital today that Poland is seriously wounded, although he may recover.

John Naylor, husband of the dead woman, was taken into custody by the police this morning and held for investigation. Several persons told the police that Naylor had threatened the couple, but Naylor denies this. He said that if his wife did not want to live with him she was at liberty to go where she pleased.

The tragedy followed a trip to Marshall Hall last night on an excursion given by an organization composed of employees of a local business house where Mrs. Naylor was employed. Poland and Mrs. Naylor were apparently in the best of humor when they returned home about midnight and were seen on a Randle Highlands car by Motorman Hutchinson.

Were Chatting and Laughing

"They were chatting and laughing," said the motorman, "and I heard Mrs. Naylor say she would 'bet a dollar.' The man said he would 'bet ten,' but I did not hear what they were talking about."

Mrs. W.L. Wilkins in whose home the couple boarded and occupied separate rooms, heard one of her boarders moving about the house about midnight, a few minutes after the couple reached the house, and nothing more was heard until she was awakened to the reports of the pistol shots.

Following the sounds of the shots, Mrs. Wilkins states, Mrs. Naylor called. "May, he's shot me." Mrs. Wilkins ran to Poland's room, a large front room on the second floor and saw the wounded pair lying side by side. The smoking revolver was on the bed near Poland's hand.

Mrs. Naylor was unconscious and unable to speak, Mrs. Wilkins said, and Poland refused to speak. Mr. Wilkins carried Mrs. Naylor to a small hall room, the room she occupied and placed her on her bed. He then ran from the house to find a policeman, his wife following him.

Policeman Heard Shots

Policeman J.R. Harrover of the eleventh precinct heard the reports of two of the four shots that were fired and was on his way to the house when he met Wilkins. Hurrying to the house the policeman

and Mrs. Wilkins saw the wounded couple, and the policeman summoned an ambulance and patrol wagon.

"I spoke to Mrs. Naylor and pushed back an eyelid" said the policeman, "but she was too far gone to be able to speak or give any sign of recognition."

"I've finished both of us," is what Mrs. Wilkins says Poland told her, and he added, "I've finished the pair of us, and am not going to live long, bring me some ice."

Mrs. Wilkins chided Poland, but when he said he was not going to live long she procured ice for him and remained there until the arrival of the ambulance.

At the hospital, it is stated, the wounded man blamed first one person and then another for the shooting. He was questioned by Detectives Vermillion and Armstrong soon after he reached the hospital and to them he denied that he had done the shooting.

Lieut. Plemmons Investigates

Lieut. Plemmons of the 11th precinct was the first officer to reach the house in response to the call sent in by Policeman Harrover, and he took a hand in the investigation. Mrs. Wilkins and her husband talked freely of the tragedy and told what they knew of the boarders.

Mrs. Naylor, the police were told, was a daughter of Thomas Mitchell, 713 P street southwest.

"And," stated Mrs. Wilkins "she has been with me off and on since she was ten years old. She called me 'mother' and called my husband 'daddy.' Mr. Poland always seemed to be a very gentlemanly man, although my husband had known him only about three months. He had boarded with us only since the latter part of last month."

John Naylor, husband of the dead woman, is a bartender and resides at 1311 C street southwest. It was not until after 7 o'clock this morning that the husband learned of the shooting and hurried to the hospital. He had previously told the police that he suspected something wrong and asked them to watch her movements about the Randle Highlands house.

Planned Trip Down River

Mrs. Wilkins said Mrs. Naylor told her she was going to Marshall Hall last night, and dressed for the excursion yesterday morning before she went to work. Poland came home about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, she stated, said he was in a hurry, that he had to go to a Mr. Buckley's on business and asked her to iron an outing shirt for him. She complied with his request, she stated and he tossed her a quarter.

"I'm in too big a hurry to stop for dinner," Mrs. Wilkins says her boarder told her, "and I asked him if he were going to Marshall Hall with Lola. He told me he was not, and declared he was going to see about work."

The shooting created absolutely no excitement in the vicinity of the Wilkins home, and practically none of the neighbors knew what had happened until they read of the shooting in the morning papers.

Detectives Vermillion and Armstrong spent some time about the house early this morning seeking testimony to convince them of the identity of the individual who had done the shooting and to ascertain the motive.

Two Pistols in Room

They learned from Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins what they knew of the affair, and two pistols found in the room were taken charge of by them. Before leaving the room in charge of the police and a physician from Casualty Hospital, Poland said he had forty cartridges in his closet, indicating the part of the closet in which he kept them. The cartridges were found at the place indicated by the wounded man.

One of the four bullets fired from the weapon, the only one that went wild, crashed through the transom and was imbedded in the ceiling of the room occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins.

"Whether the bullet was intended to kill one of us when Poland heard us getting out of bed or whether it was fired into our room accidentally," said Mrs. Wilkins, "I do not know."

"It may be," she added, "that he heard us responding to Lola's call for help and tried to shoot us."

Bullet Passed Through Body

When the body of Mrs. Naylor was examined at the morgue today it was found that one bullet had passed entirely through her body, while the second one was found imbedded just under the skin. The bullet that passed through her body, it is thought, the floor near the bed, although the police say that bullet may have passed through the transom over the door between the rooms of Poland and Wilkins and his wife.

The police were told that when Mrs. Naylor and her husband separated the wife went to her parents' home. She remained there until less than a month ago, when she went to the Wilkins home to live. She left home against the wishes of her parents, it is said, and the latter kept her furniture at their home in South Washington.

Interviewed at the hospital today, the wounded man repeated the assertion that he did not know who did the shooting, although he admitted ownership of the weapon with which the shooting was done.

Denies Alleged Admission

Sergt. Weber of the eleventh precinct saw Poland at the hospital later and questioned him as to the statement Mrs. Wilkins made of his alleged admission. He denied he had made the statement. "I have finished both of us," which was attributed to him by Mrs. Wilkins.

Mr. Naylor, husband of the dead woman, was questioned by the police as to his whereabouts last night, his name having been mentioned in the affair by Poland. He explained that he retired about 10:30 o'clock last night and said the first he knew of the affair was when his father-in-law called at his house early this morning and told him of it. He was still in bed when his father-in-law called.

Assistant United States Attorney Harvey Given took a hand in the investigation this afternoon and sent for the witnesses to obtain their statements.

Poland's father, Thomas C. Poland, 11 15th street southeast, a motorman in the employ of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, and Attorney Philip Lee Scantling saw the wounded man at the hospital today. The police were told that an inquest will be held at the morgue tomorrow morning.

The Evening Star, July 11, 1914, p. 2

Poland in Quarrel With Mrs. Naylor

Police Say They Have Found Witnesses Who Know of Controversy

Inquest into Death of Woman in Double Tragedy Conducted by Coroner

Continuing their investigation of the double tragedy enacted early yesterday morning in the house of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Wilkins, 1525 23d street, Randle Highlands, the police say they found witnesses who stated that William Poland and Mrs. Lola Naylor engaged in a quarrel while on the excursion to Marshall Hall Thursday night.

These witnesses and all others who were found by the police were summoned to appear at the inquest, which was scheduled for today, Coroner Nevitt was on hand at the morgue at 11:30 o'clock this morning ready to proceed with the hearing, and the detectives and policemen who conducted the investigation were also there.

In a room adjoining that in which the jury and spectators assembled was the body of Mrs. Naylor, the young woman who separated from her husband about Christmas, while her husband, John C.

Naylor, who had been detained over night at the Anacostia police station as a material witness, was in attendance to tell of his domestic woes.

Poland Still At Hospital

Poland, who is accused of the killing of Mrs. Naylor and is alleged to have attempted suicide, is still in Casualty Hospital. He was unable to attend the inquest, although physicians at the hospital said he probably will be able to leave there next week.

The wounded man still denies that he fired the four shots in the room in which he and Mrs. Naylor were found wounded. His statement is that he returned from the excursion with Mrs. Naylor, and that he was still awake when the shots were fired, but by whom, he says, he does not know.

It is charged by the police that Poland shot Mrs. Naylor and himself, and in support of their theory they point to the nature of the wound Poland received. The bullet that passed through his body and probably imbedded itself in the washboard, it is stated, entered near the second rib on the right side, took a downward glancing course and found exit near the seventh rib on the left side.

The police claim it is just such a wound as would ordinarily be inflicted by a person attempting suicide by shooting himself through the body.

Not Done by Outsider, They Say

Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins claim that an outsider could not possibly have done the shooting, the police say, declaring the doors were locked and the windows closed when they started for assistance, following the shooting.

Had a person from the outside followed the couple or been secreted in the house, the police say, a door or window would have been found open by Mr. Wilkins, who was first to leave the house.

Arrangements for the funeral of Mrs. Naylor have not been completed. Her husband stated that her life was insured for a small amount and that as soon as the inquest is concluded he will arrange for the funeral. It is possible that the body will be taken to the home of Mrs. Naylor's parents in South Washington and that the funeral will take place Monday.

Relatives of both the dead woman and the wounded man were at the morgue to attend the inquest and counsel for Poland were also on hand.

The Evening Star, July 11, 1914, p. 2

Her Murder Laid To Wounded Man

Coroner's Jury Accuses William Poland of Killing Mrs. Naylor

William Poland, who is lying on a cot at Casualty Hospital with a bullet wound in his breast, was held today by a coroner's jury for the action of the grand jury on a charge of being responsible for the death of Mrs. Lola Naylor, who was shot to death at 1525 23d street, Randle Highlands early yesterday morning.

The inquest over the body of Mrs. Naylor was held at the District morgue at noon today and the testimony was listened to by a score of friends of Poland and Mrs. Naylor. Poland's injuries were such that he could not attend the inquest, but he was represented by counsel. Assistant United States Attorney S. McComas Hawken represented the government.

Tell of Woman's Death

Physicians at Casualty Hospital testified as to the death of Mrs. Naylor at that institution half an hour after she had been taken there in the ambulance early yesterday morning. Two bullet holes in her chest and one in the back where one of the bullets from the front had gone through, were described by the

physicians. They also told of a bullet wound in Poland's chest and stated that his condition today is improved.

Detective Sergt. Howard Vermillion, of police headquarters, who with Detective Armstrong investigated the shooting, testified that he went to Casualty Hospital after Mrs. Naylor and Poland had been removed there. He stated Poland told him that he was at Marshall Hall Thursday night, as was Mrs. Naylor, but said that he did not accompany her there. He also said that Poland told of having been on friendly terms with Mrs. Naylor.

The witness stated that Poland said that he and Mrs. Naylor were lying in his (Poland's) bed early Friday morning and that neither of them was asleep. He said that about twenty minutes after they had been lying there he heard a shot and discovered that Mrs. Naylor had been shot and that as he turned over toward her he was shot. The detective said that Poland said he did not see any one in the room.

Bought Two Revolvers

The witness testified also as to a statement of Poland's that he had purchased two revolvers at a store on 9th street northwest. Detective Vermillion identified photographs of the interior of the room in which the shooting occurred and pointed out to the jury places about the room where bullets had struck. He also said that one of the bullets had passed through the mattress of the bed on the side on which Mrs. Naylor had been lying.

Lieut. C.L. Plemmons of the eleventh precinct was the next witness. He told of going to the scene of the shooting early Friday morning, but said that Mrs. Naylor and Poland had been taken to the hospital when he arrived at the house.

William Wilkins and his wife, Mrs. May Wilkins, were the principal witnesses. Both of them testified that they were in bed in another part of the house when they heard shots fired. They jumped out of bed and the husband ran into the room in which the shooting took place, they testified. The wife followed.

Mrs. Wilkins said that almost immediately following the shooting she heard Mrs. Naylor cry in a faint voice, "May, May, he shot me!" The two witnesses testified to having gone into the room and also of the husband carrying Mrs. Naylor from that room into another room.

Mrs. Wilkins said Poland asked for a drink of water, but that she said: "No. Why did you shoot her?" She said that Poland made no statement as to the shooting to her.

Poland Still at Hospital

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