

## George P. Rawlett ( - 24 Sep 1887)

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*The Evening Star, September 26, 1887*

### **Shooting to Kill**

### **Unprovoked Murder of George Rawlett, a Young White Man, by a Drunken Negro The Remains of the Murdered Man Brought From Suitland, Md., Where He Was Killed, To His Home In This City**

Last Saturday evening Suitland, a small village in Prince George's County, Md., was the scene of a murder. The victim was George Rawlett, a young man eighteen years of age, who has been learning the trade of blacksmithing in the shop in the village, owned by a Mr. Gray. Rawlett's home was in this city, where he had a widowed mother, whose only support he was. Shortly before the event Rawlett and his employer, Gray, left the blacksmith shop and went across the street to the little village store. While there four negroes entered, all evidently under the influence of liquor and in a quarrelsome mood. In a few minutes one of them named Sims, drew a revolver from his pocket and began flourishing it around his head. His companions undertook to disarm him, but he escaped them by running a short distance from the store. When about fifty feet away he turned and, facing the store, shouted:

*"I'm Going to Shoot to Kill*

and I don't care who goes under." He took deliberate aim at the crowd who were endeavoring to escape from the dangerous locality and fired. The bullet struck young Rawlett (who was watching the fracas from the store) squarely in the left temple and he fell without a groan, against his employer Gray, who was standing beside him, and then dropped to the floor, where he died almost instantly. Mr Gray secured a revolver and started to capture the murderer, who had made his escape after firing the fatal shot. After a long chase the murderer was found hiding in a farm yard and

*Captured By Mr. Gray,*

after a sharp struggle. He was taken to Marlborough and lodged in the jail along with two others of the party he was with. The fourth negro escaped. The body of the murdered man was brought to his home at the corner of 6th and H streets southwest. The deceased bore a good reputation among those who knew him.

*The Evening Star, September 28, 1887*

### **The Suitland Murder**

### **The Rural of the Victim and the Arrest of a Colored Man Named Patrick Addison**

The funeral of Geo. Rawlett, the young man who was shot and instantly killed by a negro in Suitland, Prince George's County, Md., last Saturday evening, took place yesterday afternoon from his mother's residence, corner of 6th and H streets southwest. Sheriff Robey, of that county, brought Simms, the colored man charged with the murder, and locked him up in the Marlboro jail. Last evening Officer Slack, of the Metropolitan police force of this District, arrested a colored man named Patrick Addison, who, it is charged, was engaged in the fight when Simms fired the fatal shot. Addison was surrendered to Sheriff Robey.

*The Evening Star, September 30, 1887*

### **Burial of a Newsboy**

#### **Touching Scene at the Funeral of George Rawlett Who Was Murdered At Suitland**

A sad and touching scene occurred on Tuesday last at the humble home of Geo. Rawlett, the boy who was murdered at Suitland last Saturday. The service of the Episcopal Church, of which his mother was a member, was read by Rev. Mr. Lee and a delegation of boys from the Newsboy's and Children's Aid Society, of which the deceased was a member, placed a cross of white flowers on the coffin, and then bore their dead comrade to his last resting place followed by his widowed mother.

After the death of his father, nine years ago, George helped his mother by selling *The Evening Star* until large enough to do other work. A year ago he was placed, by the Newsboy's and Children's Aid Society, with Mr. Walters, to learn blacksmithing, but was found to be too small, and so waited another year. He bore a good name, and his recommendations registered him in high terms.

At a meeting of the newsboys the following drawn up by a committee consisting of Benjamin Carrigo, Geo. R. Burns, Alfred Fauth, Edward Kelley, Arthur Thomas and John Plunkett, was unanimously adopted:

"At a meeting of the boys held at the house of Bennie Carrigo, 4 Essex court, it was resolved that we tender to the mother and little sister of our dead friend, Geo. Rawlett, our heartfelt sympathy for their loss."

*The Evening Star, September 30, 1887*

### **Locals**

The whole party of five colored men charged with shooting Geo. Rawlett at Suitland, Md., last Saturday night, have been arrested and are in jail.

*The Evening Star, September 30, 1887*

### **For the Relief of Geo. Rawlett's Family To the Editor of The Evening Star:**

Your repeated kindness in distressful cases encourages me to ask a little space to make an appeal in behalf of the widowed mother and little sister of the late George Rawlett, who was murdered in Suitland lately. When I first came to this city his family occupied a small house in the rear of one in which I was living, and their good qualities were especially noticeable and commendable. George was then about ten years old, and ever on the alert to put in coals, split kindlings, clear off snow, or do anything else he could get to do, giving every cent he earned to his mother. When the family moved to another house I saw but little of them, except George, whom I used to meet selling papers. Then he drove a hill-horse, and at last went to learn the blacksmith's trade. Just two weeks before he was killed I chanced to meet him on a 7th street car, and he told me with much satisfaction of his progress and how he hoped soon to be able to entirely support his mother. Not long ago, Mrs. Rawlett got a severe fall from a street car, from the effects of which she is still suffering. If you will kindly take charge of the contributions, which I hope will be sent you, I will start the paper with \$2.

Yours respectfully,

David S.L. Johnson

719 19th street northwest

*The Evening Star, October 3, 1887*

**The Shooting of Young Rawlett  
Spriggs, The Colored Prisoner, Says He Did Not Fire The Shot**

Benj. Spriggs, the young colored man charged with the murder of Geo. Rawlett, the blacksmith's apprentice, near Suitland, about a week ago, is confined in the jail at Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, Md., to await the result of the investigation by the grand jury. The prisoner's sister has retained Messrs. Earle and Pugh, of this city, and Mr. Merrick, brother of Judge Merrick, to look after her brother's interests. Mr. Pugh paid a visit to his client Saturday morning, and was informed by the latter that he was not guilty of the murder charged against him. Spriggs denied that he had a pistol in his possession on the day of the shooting. He said he left Washington about 7:30 o'clock Saturday evening to attend a concert given by his uncle in the country; that he drank some beer in the city; on his way to Maryland he drank beer at two places, and when he arrived at Suitland he met four men, with whom he went into the store. While in the store they got into a discussion about dancing. The discussion lasted about ten minutes and they left the store. The men wanted him to go with them. Two of them started ahead and he stayed behind. A minute or two later the firing commenced, but he did not know who did it. After the shooting was over and he was walking down the road he was arrested by two men and turned over to a special officer, and he was afterward taken to jail.

*The Evening Star, October 20, 1887*

**Convicted of Murder in the Second Degree**

The trial of Benjamin Spriggs, colored, for the murder of Geo. Rawlett, was concluded at Upper Marlboro, Md., last evening with a verdict of murder in the second degree. The prisoner was sentenced to the penitentiary for seventeen years and six months. Spriggs killed Geo. Rawlett, seventeen years old, at Suitland, September 24, it will be remembered.