

## **Elsie Sacrey** **( - 14 Sep 1916)**

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**Sacrey.** Suddenly on Thursday, September 14, 1916, Elsie May, the beloved granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Young. Funeral from her late residence, 938 Virginia avenue southwest, Monday, September 18 at 1 o'clock. Interment at Congressional Cemetery. Friends and relatives invited to attend.

*The Evening Star, September 14, 1916*

### **Edward Grinder Held For Intent To Kill Grand Jury Has Case -- Elsie Sacrey Expected to Die -- Charges Deliberate Act**

Edward Grinder, seventeen years old, who is under arrest, charged with the shooting of Elsie Sacrey, sixteen years old, at 7th and D streets southwest Tuesday night, was taken to Police Court this morning.

A charge of assault and battery with intent to kill was lodged against him. He was committed to jail.

Witnesses in the case were summoned before the grand jury today to tell their versions of the affair. It is probable that the grand jury will not report for several days.

### *Small Hope for Victim*

Miss Sacrey, under treatment at Emergency Hospital, spent a comfortable night. This morning it was said that her condition was unchanged. No hope for her recovery is held out by her attending surgeons.

Yesterday afternoon the patient, full realizing the seriousness of her condition, made an ante-mortem statement to Assistant United States Attorney William E. Leahy. The patient said she knew of no reason for the shooting other than her refusal to take a walk to the Mall with Grinder.

Two months ago, she stated, "Grinder threatened to blow my brains out." Miss Sacrey told her grandmother of the threats. She also said he threatened her life on numerous occasions.

Tuesday night, she said, when they met at 7<sup>th</sup> and D streets and she offered him a piece of candy he refused to accept it. When she refused to accompany him to the park, she said, he deliberately shot her.

### *Charges Deliberate Act*

He first took the pistol from his pocket and exhibited it, the patient stated, and said: "Do you see this?" following with the question: "Now will you go with me?" Miss Sacrey said that her negative answer was followed by the shooting.

While behind the bars at the first precinct police station yesterday the youthful prisoner did not hesitate to tell stories of his past experiences with the police. He recited how he had fooled Juvenile Court officers and the police when they searched him for a pistol he had in his pocket, explaining the weapon was in a long pocket of his coat, which he manipulated in a way that prevented finding the weapon.

*The Evening Star, September 15, 1916*

### **Grinder Is Held By Coroner's Jury Sent to Jail While Grand Jury Investigates**

**Death of Elsie Sacrey Yesterday  
Eye Witnesses Tell How Girl Was Shot  
Hospital Surgeon Rehearses Dying Statement of  
Victim About Her Meeting With Youth**

Edward Grinder, seventeen years old, was held by a coroner's jury this afternoon as responsible for the death of Miss Elsie Sacrey, sixteen years old, who was shot Tuesday night. He was sent to jail to await the action of the grand jury.

The inquest was held at the District morgue, under the direction of Coroner Nevitt. Long before the proceedings began the little courtroom of the morgue was filled with friends of the dead girl and the young man and the usual curious gathering.

Grinder did not arrive at the District morgue until after 12 o'clock, delaying the opening of the inquest more than a half hour. He apparently took but little interest in the testimony, most of the time keeping his eyes set on the work of the stenographer.

*Repeats Dying Girl's Statement*

Dr. William McG. McDonald of the Emergency Hospital was the first witness. He testified that the girl had been brought to the hospital between 7:30 and 7:45 o'clock Tuesday evening and that she died at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

The witness told of a statement first made to him alone, and later repeated to him in the presence of Assistant United States Attorney William F. Leahy, by the girl. He said Miss Sacrey stated that she was at 7th and D streets southwest with two girl friends when Grinder came up. She offered him some candy, the witness said she stated, but he refused it and asked her to take a walk. This she refused. He stated the girl said that Grinder remarked. "You use to." The girl said she replied, "Use to, but not now." She is said to have stated the young man drew a revolver out of his pocket and putting it close up to her, fired.

Attorney James O'Shea, representing the young man, asked the witness if he had seen any powder marks and as to what course the bullet took. The witness said he did not remember seeing any powder marks, and that the bullet took a diagonal course. He was unable to state whether or not the bullet went upward or downward.

*Result of the Autopsy*

Dr. William Carr, deputy coroner, testified as to having performed an autopsy on the body. In answer to a question by Mr. O'Shea, the physician said he did not see any powder marks, as an incision made at the hospital in performing an operation had been cut over the bullet hole.

Manila White of 618 D street southwest, one of the eye-witnesses to the shooting, was the next witness. She said Elsie came to her home and asked her to take a walk. Accompanied by a Filipino girl, the trio were walking up 7th street, and as they reached the corner of D street southwest Grinder approached. The witness said Elsie offered him some candy; he refused. "He pulled a revolver from his pocket and showed it to us. The Filipino girl called me aside. Eddie and Elsie started down the street." Miss White said she was talking to the Filipino girl when she saw a flash, but could not see the pistol when it was fired.

The witness said Elsie put her hand to her side and fell to the sidewalk. She said Grinder remained there.

Attorney O'Shea asked the witness if Grinder appeared excited, and she said that he did not, and also that he and Elsie appeared to be friendly.

### *Witness Sees a Flash*

Miss White testified that while she and the Filipino girl were standing talking apart from Elsie and Grinder she saw a flash and heard Elsie say, "Oh!" and that she and the girl ran to her.

Fortunata Vico of 811 D street southwest, the Filipino girl, told of being with Elsie and Miss White when Grinder met them. She testified she was talking to Miss White when she saw the flash and stated, in answer to a question of Attorney O'Shea, that Grinder was holding the revolver near her.

Detective Embrey of police headquarters testified he saw Elsie at the hospital, and she told him Grinder had shot her. He told of the arrest of the young man, and said that the defendant stated Elsie slapped at the pistol and it went off.

### *Father of Defendant on Stand*

Adam Grinder, father of the young man, who sat with him at the inquest, stated today that the boy's mother is an inmate of the Government Hospital for the Insane, where she has been for seven years.

Attorney O'Shea stated his defense is that the shooting was accidental. He gave no intimation as to whether or not he would enter a defense on the grounds of insanity.

The only near relative of the young girl in court was William Young, her grandfather, who sat directly behind the defendant.

### *Death of Miss Sacrey*

Miss Sacrey died at 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, after a heroic fight for life. The aged grandmother of the young girl, Mrs. William J. Young, with whom she made her home, was at the hospital. Miss Clara Young Sacrey, a sister, spent practically all day at the bedside of her stricken sister.

A short time before she died, the young girl told her nurse: "Tell grandmother I am ready to die, and that I'll meet her in heaven."