

## Charles B. Teiling

( - 20 Apr 1888)

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*The Evening Star, April 20, 1888*

### **Shot By A Special Officer**

### **The Sad Death of Young Teiling**

### **Killed By a Bullet Fired From a Pistol at an Escaping Prisoner**

Charles B. Teiling, the young man who was shot through the body and seriously injured last Sunday morning by Special Officer Klopfer, as published in Monday's Star, died at his home, No. 821 D street southwest, about 1:45 o'clock this morning. As stated in Monday's Star the shooting took place on Ohio avenue, between 12th and 13th streets northwest. The officer was passing the house of Bessie Smith, No. 1214 C street, when the latter called to him to arrest a man who was very noisy in house. As the officer approached the house he was met by a man whom he recognized as Timothy Hurley. "You can't arrest me," said Hurley, as he made a motion as though to draw a weapon or assault the officer. Klopfer started to place Hurley under arrest when the latter attempted to escape. They had not gone far when the fugitive turned upon the officer and attempted to strike him with a bottle. Klopfer dodged the bottle, which fell to the sidewalk and broke. This gave Hurley an opportunity to escape, which he took advantage of, and when the officer recovered himself Hurley was some distance from him. Klopfer called to him to stop and threatened to shoot. Hurley did not halt as called upon to do, and Klopfer drew his revolver and fired two shots, as he says, to frighten Hurley. Hurley turned the corner of 12th street and escaped. The bullets from the officer's revolver went in the direction of the lumber yard on the opposite side of Ohio avenue.

### *Shot While Going Home From a Hop*

Teiling was walking with Mr. Jesse Varnell. They had attended a hop given at the W.L.I. Armory and started home about 12 o'clock. Two of their companions, Frank Baur and Frank Skinner, had gone through C street. When the prisoner attempted to escape Teiling and Varnell heard the officer blow his whistle, which was followed by a pistol shot. The young men looked around, and an instant later the officer came around the corner of 13th street pursuing Hurley. As the officer turned the corner he fired the second shot. Teiling fell beside his companion fatally injured. As he fell he asked:

"Is this you, Jess?"

Varnell replied: "Yes."

"I am shot through the heart."

"Don't tell me that," said Varnell.

"What did they shoot me for?" asked Teiling. "I have done nothing."

Just then a young man named Codrick appeared and took charge of the injured man, while Varnell called his other companions, Baur and Skinner, and a few minutes later several policemen arrived and conveyed the injured man to the station, where he was attended by Dr. McKone. The young man was unconscious for a while, but when his father arrived at the station he had regained consciousness.

### *Unconscious of the Cause of His Death*

About 5 o'clock Monday morning he was taken to his home, where he has since been attended by Drs. McKone and Stafford. The bullet, the physicians thought, entered the left breast and came out under his arm, but Varnell, who was with him, says the bullet entered his back. From time to time the patient showed signs of getting better, but last evening he began to grow weaker. After the patient fully recovered consciousness he did not realize that he had been shot, and until he died he imagined that a

severe cold had settled on his lungs. Shortly after the news of the young man's death reached the police Special Officer Klopfer, who was out on bail, went to the first precinct station and gave himself up.

The facts were reported to the coroner, who decided to hold an inquest at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning at the first precinct station.

*The Evening Star, April 21, 1888*

### **The Shooting Unnecessary**

#### **What the Coroner's Jury Decided in the Case of Young Teiling**

#### **The Testimony at the Inquest Today--Statements of Teiling's**

#### **Companions and of Special Officer Klopfer--**

#### **How the Officer Came to Fire the Shot--**

#### **Klopfer Held to Answer for the Fatal Result**

Coroner Patterson held an inquest today at the first precinct police station, in the case of Chas. B. Teiling, the young man who was fatally wounded Saturday night on Ohio avenue, near 13th street, by a shot fired by Special Policeman Benj. Klopfer, who was at the time in pursuit of a prisoner who had escaped from him. Young Teiling as stated in *The Star*, died early yesterday morning at his home, 821 D street southwest. The jury of inquest was composed of Thos. Somerville, Wm. H. Douglass, Frank H. Belt, Robert Leitch, sr., Allison Nailor, and Warren M. Whyte.

#### *The Testimony*

The first witness was Jesse M. Varnell, who was with Teiling when he was shot.

Varnell told the story of the shooting. He and his three companions, Frank Skinner, Frank Bauer, and Teiling, were on their way home and separated at the corner of 13th and C streets. Skinner and Bauer going down C toward 12th and Teiling and witness going down Ohio avenue. They had gone a little distance from 13th street when they heard a police whistle and a pistol shot. A little later he saw Klopfer come around the corner of 13th street. "I saw his hand go up," said witness, "and the flash of a pistol. That was the second shot. A few seconds after this shot Teiling fell."

The witness said he did not see any one running, and did not see what became of Klopfer after the shot was fired. Witness called for assistance, but he did not know whether Klopfer heard his call or not.

Frank Bauer, the next witness, one of Teiling's three companions, who were going home from a hop at the W.L.I. Armony, testified to seeing a crowd of people on the south side of C street. They saw some one running and heard something smash on the pavement. Witness heard a shot, saw the flash and heard a police whistle blow. Then he saw two or three men run to the corner of 13th street and turn the corner. Witness and Skinner then continued on down C street to 12th. Before they reached the corner of 12th they were hailed by Varnell, who told them Teiling was shot, and they ran around as quickly as they could to where Teiling lay.

Frank M. Skinner, the other of Teiling's companions, gave testimony substantially the same as Bauer's.

Wm. A. Codrick testified to hearing the shots. He ran around from C street to Ohio avenue, and came near, in the dark, running over Teiling's body. There he was asked by Varnell to stay by the body until Varnell called his friends. Witness saw the flash of the second shot. It was fired on Ohio avenue, and the man that fired it was going toward 12th street.

Dr. Lachlan Tler, who made a post mortem examination of Teiling's body, testified to finding a wound on the left side of the spinal column. The ball passed through the body fracturing two ribs and penetrating the upper lobe of the left lung, and making a slight opening on the integument. The bullet

was found buried in the muscles. Death was due to hemorrhage and exhaustion, the result of the wound.

Andrew G. Connolly, of the United States