

John Abel Tucker

(- 8 May 1873)

Tucker. On Thursday, May 8, at 4 o'clock p.m., John A., beloved husband of Mary V. and eldest son of John H. Tucker, aged 42 years. Friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, from the residence of his father, No. 1004 B street southwest, tomorrow (Saturday) afternoon, at 3:20 o'clock.

The Evening Star, May 2, 1873

A Young Man Knocked Senseless By A Burglar A Fatal Results Feared

About 8 o'clock last night a bold attempt was made by two colored burglars to enter the house of Mr. W.S. Tucker, 1004 B street southwest, opposite the Smithsonian Institute. A son of Mr. Tucker, hearing a noise in the hall, stepped out, and seeing the thieves seized one by the collar and jerked him into the street. At this moment the other drew a billy and struck the young man on the forehead, knocking him senseless. Both the thieves then ran off, and Mr. Ford, who was visiting at the house, appeared upon the scene, and fired two pistol shots after the retreating scoundrels. One of them was heard to cry out "I'm shot." after the last round was fired, but both managed to escape. Dr. Leach was at once called in to dress the wound of Mr. Tucker, and found it of quite a serious nature. Officers Aldridge and Lewis soon afterwards arrested two colored men, well known to the police, named Sam Rainey and Bowie Williams, on suspicion of being the parties and locked them up for a hearing. Williams and Rainey have been held for a hearing tomorrow. One of the parties has owned up to the job, and implicates the other, and said another not yet arrested. Mr. Tucker is very seriously injured, his skull being fractured, and it will be some time, if ever, before he will be able to identify the parties. The blow was struck by a heavy stone, weighing about four pounds. Rainey when arrested had a portion of a walking cane, with the silver head on it, which it is supposed he had stolen; also, a felt hat under his arm. He is well known to the police, as is also Williams. Chief Clarvoe has turned the case over to Detectives McDevitt, Coomes and Miller, and all concerned in it will be arrested, and brought before the court tomorrow.

The Evening Star, May 3, 1873

The Burglars' Assault on Mr. Tucker Attempt of One of the Prisoners to Escape

Last evening the detectives arrested of being engaged in the burglary and assault at the house of Mr. Wm. S. Tucker, on south B street, on Thursday evening, making five now under arrest. The two last arrested are Monk Moldin and Pete Parker, who, the officers say, are, with Sam Rainey, the guilty parties. They were locked up in separate cells last night at the central guardhouse, and soon afterwards Mr. August Voss, the station-keeper, heard a strange kind of sound coming from one of the cells, and after listening he found it proceeded from the cell occupied by Sam Rainey. Procuring a light he discovered the prisoner at work removing the bricks from the wall surrounding the iron door. He had smashed up the wooden bench, and with small fragments of it had scraped away the mortar between the bricks, and was in a fair way to escape. Mr. Voss put on him a pair of iron bracelets and removed him to another cell. Mr. Tucker's condition is represented by his physicians to be very critical.

In the Police Court today Mr. Closs stated that an information had been filed with him by Detective Coomes, charging Samuel Mason, alias Sam Rainey, with assault and battery with intent to kill John A. Tucker on Thursday night last, at his residence on south B street; that Mr. Tucker was in a very critical condition from the wounds received, and from representations made he asked that Rainey be committed to await the results of the injuries, and that Bowie Williams be held in the sum of \$500 bonds as a witness; so ordered.

The Evening Star, May 7, 1873

Not Expected to Live

Mr. John A. Tucker, who was badly injured on Thursday night last, in an encounter with a colored burglar at his father's residence, is no better, and is supposed to be dying. A large portion of his body is entirely paralyzed.

The Evening Star, May 5, 1873

The Burglar's Victim

Mr. John Abel Tucker, who was badly injured by a colored burglar one night last week by receiving a blow on the head from a stone, is, we regret to learn, worse than he has yet been.

The Evening Star, May 9, 1873

The Fatal Blow of a Burglar

Death of Mr. John A. Tucker

The Coroner's Inquest Today

Mr. John Abel Tucker, who, it will be remembered, was struck with a stone by a colored burglar on the night of the 1st inst., died yesterday afternoon at his father's residence, No. 1004 11th street south (directly south of the Smithsonian Institute), from the effects of the wound. The deceased on the night in question hearing a noise in the hall of the house, went to see what it was, and discovering the thieves seized one by the throat. A scuffle ensued between them, during which they got from the house into the street. Mr. W.S. Tucker, the aged father of the deceased, came to his son's assistance, and at this time a pal of the thief went to his assistance and one of them struck the deceased with a large piece of blue rock. The parties made off, but Mr. Wm. T. Ford fired two shots at them as they ran towards the Smithsonian lot. About two hours after the occurrence Officers Aldridge and Lewis arrested Sam Rainey, Bowie Williams, and Ed. Howard, three well-known colored roughs, on the charge of having committed the deed. Other arrests followed, but the detectives, feeling assured that Rainey was the guilty party, he was committed to jail, as also Bowie Williams, in default of \$500 bail as a witness, and the others were released. Drs. Fenwick and Leach were immediately summoned, and Dr. N.S. Lincoln was afterwards called in, and Mr. Tucker's skull was trepanned; but on the third day after he was struck, convulsions took place and they occurred periodically until death ensued.

The deceased was the eldest son of Mr. W.S. Tucker, formerly and for many years a "penny post." The deceased was by trade a carpenter, about 40 years old, and was of a kind disposition. He leaves a wife but no children.

The Coroner's Inquest

This morning at 10 o'clock, Coroner Patterson, assisted by Dr. Hartigan, held an inquest at the house of the deceased, Officer Reese summoned a jury as follows: Robert Mahoney, A. Hutton, G. Wooster,

B.R. Gray, H. Drury, James Magee, T.W. Riley, H. Johnson, C.M. Farris, Lewis Lepreux, M. Shughrue, and Edward Hammersley.

John H. Tucker, the father of deceased, was the first witness. He testified that his son received the injury at 7:30 p.m., on last Thursday night; witness was sitting in the front room reading the paper, his son in a rocking chair in the same room; they were conversing about renting a house, when Mrs. Tucker remarked that there was some one in the alley and she thought it was some one after the clothes. His son opened the door and crept out easily, when he saw some one going out of the alley; when the man went out he pulled the door to and witness' son grabbed him and asked what he wanted; he replied that he wanted Johnson; witness remarked that he wanted some old clothes, that he had been there before. Here the man commenced pulling and hauling so as to get away; his son told him he could not go until the police came, at the same time holding him; they had got to the mouth of the alley when another fellow came out behind and struck witness' son; witness then grabbed him by the back of the neck, but the fellow got away from him; the new comer then stuck witness' son twice and ran out into the street, witness following by this time his son was in the gutter with the other, who picked up a stone and smashed it down on his son's head, both the men then ran away, and witness' son never moved afterward; witness did not see but two men; witness picked the stone up afterwards; both men ran across the street through the mud and went along towards 12th street; witness had seen the men before at the oyster wharf; had seen the men since and recognized both of them.

By a Juror: The one his son was scuffling with was not the one who struck him.

Bowie Williams one of the party of colored men, was the next witness, and testified that Sam Rainey was the one who ran up and struck Mr. Tucker with his fist, and he saw that that did not hurt him, then he ran out in the gutter for a stone and struck him, and knocked him down.

Mr. Coomes (detective officer) said that Rainey's right name was Mason.

Detective Coomes testified that he worked up the case, and after the arrest of Williams and the other parties, Williams made a confession, and told all about it; Rainey afterwards said that a man named Pete Parker was the man who struck the blow. They had also arrested Howard and Moulton, and they had them all in a room together with Williams, when he asked the latter if there was any other one corrected with them, and he said there was not; that Rainey was the only man. Rainey did not make any denial.

After taking this testimony the coroner ordered that Williams be committed as a witness.

Mr. Tucker was recalled, and recognized Williams as the man his son was scuffling with when he was struck by the other man.

Anna Bell Taylor, a colored servant in the family of Mr. Tucker, corroborated the testimony of Mr. Tucker sr.

Dr. J.F. Hartigan testified as to the postmortem examination. The cause of death was an inflammation of the organs of the brain, consequent upon the injuries received.

Dr. H.E. Leach, corroborated this statement as to the cause of death.

The testimony here closed, and the jury afterwards rendered.

A Verdict

that the said John A. Tucker came to his death on the 8th day of May 1873, about the hour of 4 o'clock p.m., by reason of wounds of the head inflicted by one Samuel Mason, alias Samuel Rainey with a stone, on the first day of May, 1873, and the jury further say that Bowie Williams was accessory.

The funeral of Mr. Tucker will take place from the residence of his father on B street, tomorrow at 3 o'clock p.m.