

Mena Utermehle (- 11 Jan 1854)

The Evening Star, January 7, 1854

Murder

Just as we were going to press, we learn that a man named Utermuele, living in the Northern Liberties, murdered his wife this morning. We shall give our readers the particulars on Monday.

We learn that the woman murdered by Utermuele, was his mistress, Emeline Lackey. He is now undergoing an examination before Justice Smith.

The Evening Star, January 9, 1854

Inquest

On Saturday last, Coroner Woodward summoned a jury, to inquire into the cause of the death of Mrs. Emmeline Lackey. After examining all the witnesses that could be obtained, the jury returned the following as their verdict:

That the deceased had been for several months past, a woman of very dissipated habits; that she lived with Mena Uttermuhle, and that said Uttermuhle had been in the habit of ill treating her; that about two months since, he cut her head with an axe, and subsequently struck her over the head with a pair of tongs; that the deceased and said Uttermuhle had been in the habit of fighting, and that the neighbor had often heard blows and the cry of murder in the house occupied by them; and, in the absence of a physician to make a postmortem examination, (not withstanding every effort was made by the Coroner to obtain one) the jury believe from the evidence, that the deceased came to her death from intemperance, ill treatment and cruelty at the hands of said Uttermuhle.

The evidence before Justice Smith, at the examination of Mena Uttermuhle, who was suspected of being connected with the murder of this woman, elicited nothing very positive concurring the case. The Justice, however, did not feel at liberty to release the prisoner upon such evidence, and committed him to jail, to await the action of the grand jury.

It will be noticed, in the verdict of the Coroner's jury, that a physician could not be obtained to make a post mortem examination. No one need wonder at this, as it is an unpleasant job, for which the surgeon receives no pay.

The Evening Star, January 12, 1854

Died in Prison—

Mena Uttermuhle, who was sent to jail on suspicion of being concerned with the murder of Emeline Lackey, died in jail about 12 o'clock, last night. We understand that the Grand Jury had dismissed his case, but he was sick and unable to leave the prison. It is said he died of mania-a-potu.

The Evening Star, January 13, 1854

Inquest.

The coroner yesterday held an inquest in the county jail over the body of Uttermuehle. The evidence proved death by mania-a-portu and the verdict was rendered accordingly.