

## Clinton Wells

### ( - 31 Aug 1925)

---

*The Evening Star, September 1, 1925, p. 2*

#### **Albert Collins Up On Slaying Charge Southwest Washington Resident in Arrest, Accused of Shooting Clinton Wells**

Albert Collins, 55 years old, of 722 H street southwest, is under arrest at the fourth precinct police station today, charged with shooting to death Clinton Wells, 39 years old, of the same address, during a quarrel late yesterday.

The fight is said to have had its inception about six weeks ago, when Mrs. Wells complained that Collins had insulted her. Her husband, Mrs. Wells said, severely beat Collins a the time and had since refused to renew their friendship.

The two men met again yesterday when Wells, who rented part of the H street home from mCollins, stopped him in a hallway to pay the rent. Mrs. Wells said she heard the old argument renewed, followed a minute later by a shot.

#### *Statement Corroborated*

Collins corroborated this statement in his cell today. He said he fled to his room from the infuriated Wells. The latter followed him, declaring he intended beating him again. In self-defense, Collins declared, he reached under his pillow, got his revolver and fired a single shot.

Wells, driver of an ice wagon and three times the size of Collins, dropped dead in his tracks. The bullet had severed his spinal column at the base of the brain. Collins left the house, sought an attorney and surrendered himself at the fourth precinct an hour or two later.

#### *Mrs. Wells' Statement*

Mrs. Wells said Collins had attempted to force his attentions upon her three times. Since the fight six weeks ago, however, she stated he had made no advances and she had thought the trouble ended permanently.

Besides his wife, Wells leaves three daughters, Vivian, Theda and Gladys; his father, Thomas Wells, and three brothers, Lieut. Charles A. Wells of No. 7 Engine Company, Lieut. George L. Wells of the Fireboat and Thomas Wells of Congress Heights, Md.

*The Evening Star, November 13, 1925, p. 1*

#### **Police Are Freed In Deegan's Death**

...

An indictment charging manslaughter was reported against Albert E. Collins, an employe of the District Government, for the killing of Clinton Wells, a roomer in his home at 722 H street southwest, August 31 last.

The men are said to have quarreled over the attentions of Collins to Mrs. Eva S. Wells, wife of the slain man. The wife said she had told her husband of the attentions of Collins and that the husband had beaten him. Later Collins renewed his attentions and she heard her husband say he was going to beat him again. Wells went to Collins' room, where the tragedy occurred.

*The Evening Star, January 26, 1926, p. 3*

**Collins Acquitted In Landlord's Death  
Man Who Shot Husband of Woman Who Claimed  
He Insulted Her Is Exonerated**

A jury in Criminal Division 1, before Justice Bailey, this afternoon acquitted Albert E. Collins, 56 years old, on the charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Clinton Wells August 31. Collins is a clerk in the office of the District water registrar and lived in the same house with the deceased, at 722 H street southwest

Mrs. Eva Wells, widow of the victim, testified that her husband had beaten Collins on a previous occasion, and when she complained that Collins had insulted her Wells went to the room of the accused on the second floor. Shots were fired and the husband was killed. Collins claimed self-defense and declared he had complained to Wells about payment of rent and about tapping the gas-meter. He asserted that Wells attacked him, and he shot to defend himself.

Attorneys James A. O'Shea and John H. Brnett represented the accused while the prosecution was conducted by Assistant United States Attorneys Fihelly and Burkinshaw.