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J. H. HAMILTON WAS MURDERED

All the Facts Brought Out Lead to That Conclusion.

MRS. HAMILTON IS SUSPECTED

She Will Probably Be In Custody This Evening.

TESTIMONY AT THE INQUEST

The Wife's Written Confession of Criminal Intimacy With C. W. Pavey—Her Quarrel With Her Husband Immediately Preceding the Shooting—Mr. Pavey's Statement—Interesting Experiments Conducted by The Herald—Talk With W. C. Hall, Hamilton's Attorney.

The question which is agitating the minds of the police authorities and in fact everybody in the city who has read of the tragedy, is who killed John Hamilton?

That he died from the effects of a pistol shot is not disputed, and then the only thing which remains to determine is, who fired it?

There are three theories advanced. The first is that he committed suicide; the second that his wife shot him; the third that the killing was done by a third party, and if the latter be true, the time elapsing between the moment she saw him alive for the last time, and the firing of the weapon, was so brief that she must have seen the assassin approach on his errand of death.

Now as to suicide.

It seems highly improbable that the man took his own life. True, there are men who would resort to felo de se, when they discovered the partner of their affections was guilty of criminal intimacy with other men. But from all information to be derived in the case, it is apparent that Hamilton was not that kind of man. The statements made by his friends, as will be seen later on, do not bear out the idea.

Hamilton was found lying dead with a bullet through his heart. It was fired, beyond doubt, from the pistol which laid by his side, with every chamber exploded. Neighbors declare they heard six shots; so it cannot be denied that every chamber of that revolver was emptied that fatal evening.

The wound was inflicted on the left side, as indicated in the cut in this issue. That it was fired when the muzzle of the revolver was close to the garment is evident, as also shown. Hamilton was a right handed man. He could not have placed himself in position to discharge the weapon so the bullet would have ranged upward through his heart unless he held the gun in his left hand. It would have been a physical impossibility to have done so. To have held the pistol in his left hand and discharged it in the manner it was discharged is also well nigh impossible.

Examination developed the fact that one bullet hit Hamilton, one the house (which was fired from an angle showing the shooter was inside the yard), while the other struck the fence on the west side at an angle, also showing the shooter to be standing in the yard. The ball which struck the house was fired, from all appearances, by a person in an incumbent position. The one which struck the fence was fired while the person who held the weapon was on his, or her, feet.

As stated, every chamber in the weapon was empty. Now no man who attempts hari kari by shooting fires all but the last bullet and then makes a gymnast of himself in inflicting the fatal wound. If Hamilton committed suicide he, if this theory be true, must have first shot all his ammunition away save one bullet, and then, doubling himself around like a human snake, fired the remaining one into himself and trusted to luck for instant death. On the other hand if he shot himself first and then fired the remaining shots he had more vitality than any man who ever lived, for, with a bullet through his heart, the man who could execute a yard and shoot a pistol five times must indeed have been a human wonder.

One witness to the shooting says he heard some one cry "Oh." Mrs. Hamilton, who declares she was close to him when the first shot was fired, that her right ear was made deaf, says she heard nothing of the sort. One was away across an alley, up stairs, behind a window, the other was, according to her sworn statement, not fifteen feet away. Ten feet would be a better statement.

Everything points to the fact that the bullets were all of the same calibre. The one dug out of the house by the police was a 32; the one taken from the fence by a Herald man was of the same calibre. The wound inflicted upon the person of the dead man indicates that it, too, was fired from the same weapon.

So much for the theory of suicide. It is as improbable as to say the man died with the measles.

Now as to the theory that a third party did the killing. What was the motive?

Hamilton had no enemies, that any one knows of. He had never, so far as can be learned, wronged any one who should attempt revenge by murdering him. Money could not have been the object, for he had none worth taking at the time the crime was committed. He was not engaged in the commission of an unlawful act, either.

Hamilton was killed after a struggle, in which he did not deem it necessary to call for help. The pistol was held against him by a hand which was at right angles to his body and the bullet did its work. He fell and his hands were away above his head, just as a man throws up his arms in his death agony. The pistol was found lying close to his side. If he was on the walk from the house to the gate when that shot was fired, he staggered three or four steps and in so doing he would have dropped the gun away from the place where it was found, neatly reposing in quiet by his side, just where his hand came after other kind hands placed it by his side.

Who killed him? Let the testimony adduced today at the inquiry answer the question.

But if Mrs. Hamilton did not fire that fatal shot, she of all women should be able to tell who did. Why did she not open the door, if she was inside when the shooting began? There isn't another woman in all the millions which inhabit the country who had just completed an evening as pleasant as she describes the one she spent with him, who would not have opened the door to see what was going on. If a third party came there, he must have entered the yard not a second after she closed that door, if she did close it ere the shooting commenced.

THE INQUEST.

The Testimony Clearly Indicates That Hamilton Was Murdered.

But two conclusions can be arrived at from the testimony given at the coroner's inquest, which was begun yesterday afternoon. One is that Hamilton and his wife had a quarrel and he struck her in the mouth, whereupon she shot him; the other is that a third party did the killing. The theory of suicide is in no way borne out by the evidence adduced. There wasn't a scintilla of statement tending to create even a remote impression in that direction.

A peculiar condition was manifest in the statements of the wife of the dead man, her sister and her sister's husband. Although the man was killed right in front of their door, it appears they were not interested enough to even ask any questions concerning it. Although his wife was the last person who ever saw him alive, neither her sister nor her brother-in-law asked her any questions concerning him. All agreed on that point, although on others they differed. She manifested an indifference to his fate which was almost brutal. According to her statements she did not go out to see if she could be of any service, made no inquiry touching his condition and, later when informed he was dead, displayed no concern whatever. To say the least, it was not what the average person would look for in the conduct of a wife toward a husband, even though they had become estranged.

The theory that Hamilton was shot by a third party, was not sustained satisfactorily either. One witness testified that he saw a man run from the gate to the corner of First West and disappear in the yard in the rear of the corner. He gave a partial description of the man and that was all. He was not supported by any other witness, although he may be today, and neither did the evidence given by any of the members of the family corroborate his statements.

LARGE CROWD IN ATTENDANCE.

The inquisition was "holden," according to the legal terms of the blank documents provided for the jury to fill in, in the coroner's room of the undertaking establishment of Joseph William Taylor. The little room was crowded to suffocation, while a gaping crowd stood outside on the stairway in the rain, straining their eyes and ears in an effort to catch something of the proceedings.

The jurors summoned to hear and determine were John Montgomery, former deputy sheriff, Harry T. Ball, manager of the Noble Mercantile company, and George H. Ingram.

At the request of Justice Sommers, Assistant Attorney Van Cott was present to conduct the examination. He was accompanied by Joseph P. Richards, who represented the dead man's relatives. Fred McGurrin and Edward McGurrin were on hand, in the interests of Mrs. Hamilton, and the cross firing between attorneys at times was somewhat brisk and, it might be added, tedious to those in attendance. Justice Sommers checked the outbreaks of counsel from time to time and gave notice that he was conducting the affair and wished everyone to so understand it.

After the jury had viewed the remains, the taking of testimony was begun. Thomas P. Seddon was the first witness called. He is a brother-in-law of Mrs. Hamilton, the two men having married sisters. Seddon's testimony was somewhat remarkable, not alone when taken into consideration with that of his wife and Mrs. Hamilton, but as a statement standing upon its merits. The anarchronisms will be noted as the reader progresses.

Questioned by counsel, he stated that Hamilton came to the house on Monday evening, he should judge between 7:30 and 8 o'clock. He and Hamilton had a conversation outside in rear of the house by the gate in the alley. The topic was the divorce of the latter, who was seeking to rid himself of his wife. Hamilton said he wanted to "get the thing fixed up." After discussing this matter for a short time Hamilton came inside the house, got a drink of water and then went on into the front room, where his wife was. The witness heard them laughing and joking, but could not distinguish what was said, although the statements he made showed that all there was between him and the pair was a curtain drawn over the place where folding doors were contemplated when the house was built. Seddon said he was tired and went to bed also in the dining room. He had just dozed off when he heard the shooting. He awoke to hear his wife exclaim "Oh, my God, some one is shot." He jumped out of bed and rushed out and found Hamilton lying on the lawn. The pistol was by his side. "That's all I know about it" he concluded.

But it wasn't. Not by any means. Mr. Richards took the witness a few moments and discovered he knew a whole lot more. Under adroit questioning Seddon said the only people who were there at the time were Mrs. Hamilton, himself and wife and little boy, not counting Hamilton, of course. Mrs. Hamilton had been there over a week. Hamilton wanted to "fix the thing up," meaning the divorce.

"He told me," said the witness, "several days ago the matter was preying upon his mind and he wanted to get it off." He was there in the afternoon of the same day; came some time in the afternoon; the witness did not remember just what time, but believed it was about 4 o'clock. At that time he said he wanted his wife to meet him the next day at 2 o'clock at an attorney's office. There was no one in the front room save Hamilton and his wife. They were alone. According to a computation by the witness the two were in the apartment about 30 minutes from the time he entered until the shooting was done, although he didn't want to be certain, as he was asleep most of the time and couldn't say. His wife was just going to bed when the shooting began. The witness didn't know how many shots were fired, but thought there were five or six. When he (the witness) went out he found Hamilton lying face down with the gun at his right side, with the barrel pointing in the direction of his feet. He could not say whether the gun was close to his hand or not. He picked the pistol up and someone told him he had better leave it alone, and he laid it down again.

"Did you ever see this gun before?" asked Justice Sommer.

"Yes."

"Where?"

"Well, it was down to my wife's mother's. Hamilton asked me to get it for him and I told him I would. I went there and got it and brought it up and

GAVE IT TO HIS WIFE.

"I brought it up a week ago Wednesday. The last time I saw it, it was not loaded and didn't have a shell in it, either empty or otherwise."

Seddon identified the weapon as being the one he obtained from the home of his wife's mother, as near as he could recollect. It was a pistol like it identically, anyway. Florrie Priday had the gun in her possession when he went after it. She had it in her trunk he "guessed."

Continuing on the testimony preceding the killing, Seddon averred that when Hamilton came into the kitchen on Monday evening his wife was in the dining-room. As he entered the dining-room she went into the front room and he followed her. He could hear them talk, but could not hear what they were saying—in fact, he paid no attention to their conversation, but being tired, went to bed. Later his wife went to bed in her bedroom off the dining-room.

Then came a most remarkable statement. After the shooting he rushed into the hall and found Mrs. Hamilton standing in the hall. She was just inside the doorway. According to the best recollection of the witness the front door was open or ajar. He declared he

HELD NO CONVERSATION

with Mrs. Hamilton and that no words whatever passed between them. He was pressed on this matter and averred that he did not ask her what the matter was, or anything of the sort. Nothing took place between them, according to his statement. He didn't say anything to Mrs. Hamilton or she to him.

The witness continued that he went outside to the lawn and saw Hamilton there, and then came back after a lamp. At this time Mrs. Hamilton was in the dining room and

WAS SITTING ON A CHAIR.

It was then he found time to ask her a question, and she replied that Hamilton had shot himself. "That was all she said," continued the witness. "I had no further conversation with her on the subject."

"Was there anything the matter with her face?" asked Mr. Richards.

"Yes, I believe her lip was cut and bleeding a little."

"Did you notice anything else?"

"No."

Juror Montgomery took a hand in the business at this juncture and asked witness if Hamilton ever told him where he got the pistol. The reply was in the negative.

"Didn't you have a conversation with Hamilton about the gun?"

"No."

"Didn't he come with the intention of getting his gun and a ring?"

"He told me nothing about the gun. He said there was a little thing he would like to get and that was what 'bound us together.' I suppose he meant the wedding ring. I was to give the gun to her to give to him; that was the arrangement."

The coroner then asked a few questions.

"Did Mrs. Hamilton come out to look at the body?"

"I don't recollect; I didn't see her there."

"She didn't come out to inquire about him?" (This with a rising inflection.)

"No."

At this point Edward McGurrin arose and stated that he and the younger McGurrin, Fred, represented Mrs. Hamilton, and would like to ask a question.

To this the court replied that he was uncertain as to whether he would permit the attorneys represented to ask questions in the case or not; that the prosecuting attorney was conducting the case.

Mr. Van Cott objected to interference by outside counsel who might be interested in a case which might arise in the courts, and declared he would rather conduct the examination in his own way.

"Well," said Mr. McGurrin, "we want to throw all the light we can on this homicide—this killing—and if we can assist we shall be perfectly willing to do so. We notice that other counsel are asking questions and we believe we have as good a right as any."

But the coroner objected, and as he was master of the situation the counsel for Mrs. Hamilton subsided for the time being; assumed the role of silence pro tempore.

The witness then said Mrs. Hamilton didn't seem to be excited or agitated.

"Didn't she tell you her husband slapped her in the mouth?"

"Well, she may have done so, but if so I don't remember it."

This concluded the examination of Seddon, and the next witness called was

MRS. EMILY SEDDON,

a sister of Mrs. Hamilton. She said Hamilton came about 8 o'clock and talked with her for a few minutes and went in the house. Seddon said in his examination Hamilton talked with him. Then he went in the house and with her sister, his wife, walked into the front room. He stopped and got a drink on the way. The two were in the front room about half an hour, as near as she could determine. When Hamilton came in he said: "Where's Lou?" Witness indicated she was in the front room and Hamilton went in there. Then witness and her husband went and sat on the back steps. They were there for quite a while. Seddon omitted this statement in his examination. Hamilton assigned no reason for wanting to see his wife; just asked for her. He made no statement to the effect that he wanted to "fix" matters. This statement was in reply to a question asked the witness. It will be remembered that Seddon stated that he did make such a statement. Witness and her husband sat on the steps for a long time, she couldn't say how long, and then she went to and put the boy to bed.

"What did you do next?"

"I guess I sat down."

"Well, what next?"

"My husband went to bed and then I went to bed. I didn't hear Hamilton and his wife talking. Heard him laugh. Heard both laugh. It was 9 o'clock ere I went to bed. I was sitting in the chair when I heard them laugh."

"Did you hear the pistol shot?"

"I HEARD THE SECOND ONE."

"How did you know it was the second one?" asked Attorney Van Cott.

"Well, they told me it was the second one."

Mrs. Seddon stated that she talked to no one about the matter, not even to her sister. How "they" could have told her, no one knows. Who "they" were the attorneys didn't attempt to discover. Neither did they attempt to learn how "they" could have indicated that it was the second, or the third, or the fourth shot. They simply contented themselves by asking:

"How many shots in all did you hear?"

"Only two"

"Heard no hollering?"

"No."

Pursuing the testimony the witness said she was just getting into bed when she heard the shot. "I exclaimed, 'Oh my God, who's shooting outside?'" The witness then went into the hall and

THERE WAS LOU.

"She was standing by the dresser I have in the hall. I spoke to her and she could not answer me. I went out and came back. She came in and sat down. I spoke to her again; asked her what was the matter and she made no reply. I spoke to her again and still she made no reply. Then I dressed and went out and when I came back I again spoke to her and she made no answer."

The remarkable part of the testimony of Seddon and his wife is that while one never spoke to Mrs. Hamilton at all, the other asked her repeated questions and received no reply.

MRS. HAMILTON'S MOVEMENTS.

Witness continued that after dressing she went out and when she came back she found her sister sitting in a chair still. She was evidently "thinking," so she said. She asked her again what was the matter; what had happened and received no reply.

At this point counsel attempted to get some information from the woman concerning the position of the body. Mrs. Seddon got stubborn and declined to answer, saying she didn't know which was north, east or west, and declined to give any reply to a question as to how long she had lived in the city, although she has lived here since infancy.

She maintained that her sister didn't appear in the least excited, didn't say her husband was shot; didn't look paler than usual, didn't ask any questions, didn't answer any. "She was just thinking."

Witness made another trip out and looked at the body, and when she came back her sister was still sitting in the chair. She didn't say anything at all and witness didn' ask any questions.

Questioned concerning the matter of the divorce and the causes which led up to it, Mrs. Seddon said her sister had never mentioned it to her at all. Hamilton said there was going to be trouble which would lead up to a divorce, but never told her the cause. Witness declared she never asked her sister the causes of the estrangement, which by the way seems strange too. Perhaps she can be stoical at times. Most sisters usually interest themselves in domestic difficulties.

THEN CAME THE PISTOL.

Mrs. Seddon couldn't identify the pistol and wouldn't, although she said it lay on the table in the house a whole day. It was brought there five or six days ago and was given Hamilton the day after it was brought there. She admitted she had looked at it long enough to see it had a black handle, but otherwise did not examine it. She gave the pistol to her sister. She gave it to Hamilton.

"How do you know she did?"

"Well, I am sure she did."

"Did you see her give it to him?"

"No, but it was not on the table."

"Didn't she put it somewhere else?"

"No, there was no place to put it." Then Mrs. Seddon qualified this statement by saying there was no place she could have put it without her, the witness, knowing of it.

HER SISTER'S LIP WAS BLEEDING.

The witness said her sister's lip was bleeding when she came in the house.

"Didn't you ask her how it happened?" said Attorney Richards.

"Didn't ask her."

"Didn't you ask her how it happened, and didn't she tell you that John had struck her?"

"I don't remember as to that."

Again did McGurrin the elder arise to his feet with a request for permission to ask a question.

"You may ask it," quoth Sommers, "but the witness will refrain from answering until I have ruled on it."

"Did you notice," said McGurrin, "that there was a whole lot of confusion around the house about the time of the shooting?"

The witness returned an affirmative answer.

Mr. Richards then asked if witness ever held any conversations at all with her sister upon the subject of the trouble and the causes which led up to it, and received a negative answer. He received the same kind of reply when he asked if she had ever heard her sister make any threats against her husband.

ANOTHER THEORY.

The examination on this line was broken at this moment by the introduction of J. H. Clark, a witness who lives in the Whittemore row, diagonally across the street. Clark is of the opinion that the murder was committed by a third party and that he saw the man when he was escaping from the vicinity. He says he was at the rear of his home when he heard three shots across the street. He rushed into the house, through the hall, obtained his hat and coat, and as he came out he heard a fourth shot. There might have been others while he was inside which he did not hear. As he came into the street he saw a man come from near the gate of the Seddon home and run in a crouching position until he came to the glare of the light on the corner, when he arose and ran down First West street. He was attired in a suit of grey clothes and wore no hat. Witness declared he was about to follow him, but he changed his mind and did not. Beyond the description given he could add nothing which would identify the man, and while the fellow had no hat he might have had on a cap. The witness was a half way across the street when a man came out and called to another person "I will stop that man," but he didn't stop him.

He went over to the body and found it lying with the hands together over the head. The reason why the hands were down when the officers arrived was because people had been feeling the pulses and had disarranged them, and then some one laid the hands by the side. The fingers of the hands were not joined when he arrived there; they were merely close together.

This was the gist of the testimony given by Clark. There was nothing adduced to corroborate it, and the attorneys for the state, after a consultation, decided they would have Mrs. Hamilton examined.

It was at this juncture that the younger Mr. McGurrin arose and made a protest against having his client brought into that close room for an examination. He declared she was tired and had been without sleep since the event of her husband's death, and he considered it an outrage to have anything of the kind take place. Mr. McGurrin said he did not have the ear of the county attorney, as did the eminent counsel for the state—the assistant counsel for the state—but he was as much interested in determining the mystery surrounding the death of Hamilton as any one. He was counsel for his wife, who had as many rights as did the others. As a matter of fact, the county attorney had no business at the inquest at all. It was a matter purely for the coroner and the jury to determine, and the business of having any counsel was all wrong. The attorneys have two stenographers present for the sole purpose of getting some ex parte statements to be used in some legal proceedings later on, which might besmirch the reputation of some one. That was all.

Mr. Van Cott was about to deny this impeachment when the acting coroner said he was the man who decided to have the county attorney present, and had sent for him to come. There was no one responsible but him. He was there for the purpose of determining the manner of Hamilton's death, and proposed to do it, whether it suited counsel or not. As to the stenographers the law provided for a short hand report of the evidence, and he had the stenographers there, and that was his business.

HE CALLED MRS. HAMILTON.

Mrs. Hamilton came into the room accompanied by one of her sisters. She was attired in a dark red costume, with a fur trimmed cloak, and wore a mourning veil. Mrs. Hamilton didn't show signs of being excessively weary, although her replies to questions were not as audible at times as could be wished, owing to the fact that she naturally speaks in a modulated tone. Her story did not agree with that told by the Seddons in many respects, although it may have been she didn't see matters as they did.

She said she first saw her husband last evening through the window when he came to the house. She at that time was in the front room. He spoke to her brother-in-law first, and Mrs. Seddon was not present. This statement didn't agree with that lady's tale. Mrs. Hamilton said she could not hear what the two men were talking about. They were in conversation for a half or three-quarters of an hour. She didn't see Mrs. Seddon in the yard at all. After the two men left the front yard Hamilton came in and got a drink. On the point of Hamilton getting a drink all seem to agree.

Then he came in where witness was. She knew he was coming for he had been down that afternoon and told her he was coming. She didn't ask him what his errand was, and said nothing about it.

Here was another evidence that none of the family are th cleanst bit inquisitive.

A moment later she said her husband told her in the afternoon that he wanted her to meet him yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock on Main street at the corner of McCornick's. "He told me that I would find out then what he wanted. I didn't ask him why I should meet him."

"Didn't you know?" queried Van Cott.

"Yes," she answered, after some hesitation. "He wanted me to plead for a divorce on the grounds of desertion and non-support; otherwise he said it would take a year."

"How long have you been living at your sister's?"

"It will be two weeks Friday."

"How long have you and your husband lived apart?"

"About seven weeks."

"There has been considerable trouble between you?"

"Yes, trouble."

"You have quarreled?"

"Yes."

"Have you lived at your sister's all this time?"

"No, not all of the time."

"When he came in the room, what did he say?"

"Do I have to tell all?"

"Tell it all," said Justice Sommers.

"Well, he came in and sat down on a chair beside me and put his arms around my neck and asked me how I was. Then he asked me what I knew, and I told him nothing. He then asked me what we should talk about and I told him I did not know, and he said: 'Let's talk about the weather,' and I remarked that was as good a subject as anything." We then sat there about five minutes and talked about the divorce. He asked me whether I would ask for one on the grounds of desertion and non-support or whether I would wait a year."

At this point the attorneys for the witness took occasion to criticise the method of conducting the examination, and a tiff ensued in which neither side scored any great amount of credit to themselves. The justice checked the flow of eloquence on both sides.

"Then he asked me," said Mrs. Hamilton, "if I would go with him and see his attorney, and see if the grounds of desertion and non-support would go in court, and also remarked that there were hopes of us drawing together again."

"How long was he there?" asked Van Cott, as the witness paused in her statement.

"I should say it was 10 or 15 minutes after 9 when he left. When we got in the hall he kissed me and asked me if I would see him tomorrow, that is, today. I told him yes. Then we went outside and as he stood on the steps he pulled a paper of cigarettes from his pocket and lit one. A lady across the street was playing the piano and singing and he made some remarks on that. Then he asked me if I would get him a scarf pin of his which I had and I told him yes. I got it, and as I handed it to him he hit me on the mouth and cut my lip against my teeth. I was angry at once, but he said it was an accident, and was only a 'love tap,' and I forgave him. I excused him."

"How did he hit you—with his open hand or with his fist?"

"I suppose it was with his fist."

"Did it hurt?"

"Yes."

"Then did he leave you?"

"No. He stood on the step and smoked a part of his cigarette."

It was here that the witness indicated by action that Hamilton was smoking that same cigarette when she last saw him.

"He then turned around on the step and said 'Good-bye, Lou,' and turned to go away."

"The last time I saw him was when I turned to close the door. He was in the center of the board walk which leads to the gate. I was shutting the door when I heard the report of the pistol. The door was about half closed and the report deafened me in my right ear. I walked in through the doorway to the dining room. I could not tell from which direction the report came. I saw no flash, heard no fall of a body, heard no footsteps and no voices, except my sister's voice, saying, 'Lou, Lou, what is the matter?' I said I don't know. She took me by the arm and led me into the dining room and I said no more."

The last series of answers were made in response to questions by counsel, which are omitted from the narrative. It will be observed that she and her sister differ as to her going into the dining room.

Replying to another question she said she did not go out and look at her husband, although she did not state the reasons which prompted her to remain inside the house.

SHE IDENTIFIED THE PISTOL.

She was shown the revolver and identified it as the one she had had in her possession. She had not had it, however, for five days. On last Thursday she was notified by W. C. Hall, the attorney for her husband, that he wanted to see her and when she went there he told her she had her husband's revolver and it would be best for her to return it, which she did. "I told him I would return it and did so. He assigned no reason for wanting it returned except that it would be best for me to do so." The witness said this was a week ago Monday. Hamilton came down to see her on the following Thursday and she declared she had the pistol on the table. Asked if she saw him take it she replied first that she saw him lift it and finally reluctantly averred she saw him place it in his pocket. He also spent Sunday afternoon and evening there and never mentioned the divorce.

Then in reply to questions by Mr. Richards, the witness denied that she sat down upon a chair, but stated that all the time Mrs. Seddon was in and out of the house, she was walking to and fro in the dining room. This was a contradiction of her sister's evidence.

Edward McGurrin, at this time, interposed an alliterative objection to the manner of questioning which was being indulged in and another war of words ensued. The coroner checked the same ere any damage was done.

"No, did you at any time to any one, ask what the matter was?" asked Van Cott.

"Not a word," was the reply.

Juror Ball took a hand right here. Juror Ball is a good questioner himself. He said:

"Did you make any inquiries as to who was shot?"

"I asked my brother-in-law and he told me it was John."

"You did not go out?"

"No."

"And you were his wife at the time?"

"I was his wife."

"And you never went out?"

"No."

There was disgust in Ball's tones as he remarked: "That's all."

This concluded the examination for the day. Justice Sommer announced that he would continue the inquest till this morning at 10 o'clock, at which time he hoped to secure the federal court room.

Then Mr. Van Cott created a sensation by moving that the witness be held to appear in such bonds as the court might determine.

Fred McGurrin protested. He made a mighty protest. It was to the effect that the police authorities had detained the woman all night and were satisfied there was nothing against her and turned her loose and now to ask that she be held in bonds was too much.

RELEASED WITHOUT BONDS.

Justice Sommer remarked that he didn't care a snap for all the police in the country; that he was conducting that inquest and proposed to hold her if it was deemed necessary. That what the police thought cut no figure with him.

Then Van Cott withdrew the motion if the McGurrins would agree that she should appear this morning and the inquest adjourned until 10 o'clock today, after Van Cott had stated that there would be larger quarters, so counsel for the defense would have a chance to swell, a remark which counsel designated as a "hot one," and greeted with derisive laughter.

The Herald Investigates.

Many theories have been and will be advanced regarding the death of John H. Hamilton, who died from the effect of a gun shot wound at 225 First South street in this city on Monday night. Whether it was a murder most foul or the reckless act of a man determined to die by his own hand, is a question yet to be decided.

The story of the murder or suicide has already been told, and the evidence given at the coroner's inquest speaks for itself.

The scene of the shooting was visited by a Herald reporter early yesterday morning and a bullet hole was discovered in the weather-boarding near the northwest corner of the house, about ten feet from the ground. This bullet and the mark it made will be an important factor in the investigation of the case. With the aid of an officer the bullet was extracted and by means of a piece of twine the policeman and The Herald man demonstrated that this shot was fired from inside the yard fence. A string drawn through the hole made by the bullet and following the angle made by it, struck the ground inside the yard fence, which proves with reasonable certainty that it was fired by a person standing inside the fence. This is important for the reason that it disproves the allegation made by several who saw the flash of the shots fired Monday night that they were all outside of the house.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. C. H. Malin and a Herald reporter discovered another bullet in the bottom rail of the front yard fence a few feet west of the gate. This second bullet is also important, because it is the same size as the one found in the house. It proves that shots were fired in at least two directions, one almost directly opposite the other, and last, but by no means least, it accounts for shot No. three of the six fired.

Was it murder or suicide? is an important question. If murder, who did it; and if suicide, how can that fact be established beyond a reasonable doubt?

THE SUICIDE THEORY.

In regard to the suicide theory the circumstances of the case do not tend to establish it with any degree of certainty—in fact, a careful investigation raises a very grave doubt concerning it. On examination of the body, the location of the wound, the apparent direction of the bullet as near as it can be judged from the surface indications, does not lead one to put much credence in the suicide theory. The location of the wound is such that the deceased could not have held the pistol in his right hand and have inflicted it, and those who knew him well say he was right-handed. It was possible to have held the pistol in the left hand and have fired the shot. The proximity of the pistol that inflicted the fatal wound is another important matter.

INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS.

An examination of the clothing of the deceased and a series of experiments conducted by Mr. M. S. Browning for The Herald demonstration beyond the reason of a doubt that the muzzle of the pistol was pressed against the body. Mr. Browning fired a number of shots from a 32-calibre revolver into a piece of woolen cloth so padded as to offer as near as possible the same resistance as a human body.

AT SIX INCHES.

The first shot was fired at a distance of six inches, which made a hole about three-quarters of an inch in diameter and powder-blown the cloth about one and one-half inches around the hole. The second shot was fired at a

MRS. LOU HAMILTON.

SCENE AT THE INQUEST, MRS. HAMILTON, HEAVILY VEILED, ON THE STAND.

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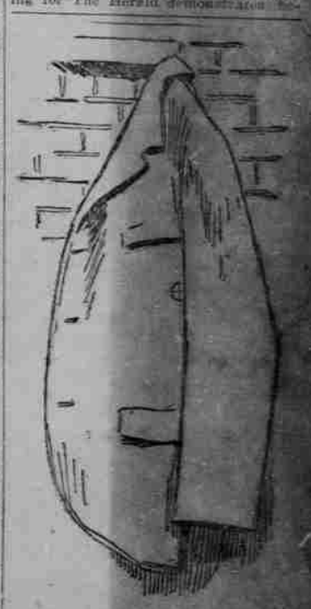
Showing Where a Bullet Was Extracted From the Fence by C. H. Malin and a Herald Reporter Yesterday Afternoon.



The Coat Worn by Hamilton When He Was Shot, Showing Where the Bullet Entered—From a Photo by The Herald.