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## KENNEWICK

### CONFESS TO HORRIBLE CRIME

#### MRS. DE LARTIGUE TELLS OF KILLING HER HUSBAND.

The Pomeroy Crime is at Last Brought to Light—Evidence During Her Trial Was too Conclusive and She Told Why the Deed Was Committed—He Was Trying to Kill Her.

Pomeroy, Wash., June 21.—Baffled, foiled, confronted by the accumulated evidence of over 50 witnesses, and emmeshed in a web of circumstantial evidence from which there was no possible avenue of escape, Amanda J. De Lartigue went upon the witness stand Saturday and confessed to the killing of her husband, Henry De Lartigue, on the night of September 23 last; that she killed him, not with a gun, but with an axe, and that she did the deed to save her own life. It was her last card and she played it against great odds. A human life, her own, was the stake. Whether she has won or lost is problematical.

That this course was inevitable for the defense was obvious when Judge Chadwick denied their request to take from the jury the consideration of the question of the guilt of the defendant in the first degree.

The judge had scarcely finished the last sentence of his ruling, when the jury was listening to the words of Attorney Gose:

"Gentlemen of the jury, our defense is this: That on the night of the 23d of September, 1902, in Garfield county, state of Washington, the defendant killed Henry De Lartigue; that she did not kill him with a gun; that she did not kill him in the bedroom or in the house, and that she did not murder him."

A few moments later the death like hush that had fallen upon the courtroom was penetrated by the faltering, tremulous tones of the defendant herself as she told her story of the dark and mysterious crime to the jury, upon whose mercies she had thrown herself, while the vast crowd of spectators, sitting, standing, perched in windows, remained like statues, with necks craned and ears spread to drink in every word of the bloody story that had remained so long locked in the woman's breast. After a few preliminaries as to her birth and childhood, in which it developed that she was 55 years of age, she said:

"I was married to Henry De Lartigue in 1899 and removed from the Grande Ronde to the old Estes ranch on the Deadman. I was living there on the 23rd of September, 1902, and was there on the night of the 23rd of September."

"What time did you go to bed that night?" "Between 8 and 9 o'clock."

"Was Henry there at the time you went to bed?" "He was not. I had been asleep some time when I was awakened by something. There stood Henry in his night clothes, with a lantern in his hand. He said: 'I am going to sleep with you.' I replied, 'You are not.' He said, 'I will sleep with you or I will kill you,' and with that he struck me. I said, 'If you ever strike me again I will expose you about the mare you stole on the Grande Ronde.'"

"I jumped out of the bed and he after me. I ran out of the kitchen door across the porch and down the sidewalk. He shot at me once. I did not look back for I knew he was after me. When I got further down the walk I heard something fall. I looked around. He was down on one knee getting ready to shoot, and he said: 'You ———, I will kill you.' With that he fired again. He was four or five feet from me. The flash went into my face.

"I had stopped at a poplar tree, the root of which we had used as a chopping block. There was an ax there. I reached and got it and went back and struck him."

"Did you kill him?" "Yes, sir, I did."

"Did you use any gun?" "No."

"Did you use anything in killing him except this ax?" "No, I did not."

"What did you do with the body?" "I dragged it, or carried it, I don't know how, to a potato hole and buried it. When I went to get a shovel to throw in the dirt I saw his saddle and blanket. I threw them in, too."

"Was it dark?" "Not very dark—starlight."

"Did you see any moon?" "I didn't notice any."

"Do you know what time of night it was?" "No."

The defendant then told how she went back to bed and arose in the

morning and washed the blood from the ax and returned the rifle to the house. She also admitted all the subterfuges she had made use of subsequent to the killing to conceal the deed, including the letter to her sister, Josephine, the burning of the rawhide rope, the removal of the pistol to her own room and various and conflicting explanations to neighbors and detectives. All this she did for concealment and said the reason she did not disclose the facts sooner was that she was afraid to, as she feared an unfair trial and had no one to advise her.

The woman went into a recital of De Lartigue's alleged cruelty to her. She disclaimed any malice against her husband, but said she could not bring herself to give herself up to the authorities, although she felt justified in the act, and she had pursued all the methods she had of diverting suspicion to conceal a crime of which she felt justified in committing.

A bitter contest is now being waged over the question of whether the deceased was killed by bullets from a firearm in the hands of the defendant or by an ax, as she has stated. The theory of a blunt weapon is the only one consistent with the plea of self defense, for if killed by gun shots, as alleged by the state, De Lartigue was shot from behind, which fact disposes of the idea of self defense.

The defense has demanded that the court order the body of the deceased exhumed, and that the skull be examined by disinterested physicians to determine the exact character of the wounds.

### OREGON NOTES.

The Willamette, Columbia and Snake rivers are either at a stand or are falling.

M. V. Leasia was found guilty of murder in the second degree by the jury at Portland. The maximum penalty for the crime is life imprisonment. Leasia is the man who on May 24 went to the home of his divorced wife's father and shot the father, after which he compelled his former wife to flee with him.

Edward Dixon, a special agent of the interior department, is now in eastern Washington, warning cattlemen and others who have fenced in government lands to tear down the obstructions.

### Major James Pond Is Dead.

New York, June 23.—Major James B. Pond, the well-known manager of lecturers and singers, is dead at his home at Jersey City as the result of an operation on June 17, in which his right leg was amputated.

Major Pond, who had been ill for a month, two weeks ago underwent a slight operation, but the wound failed to heal satisfactorily and it finally became necessary to remove the leg. It was announced that the patient had withstood the shock well and that the surgeons were hopeful of his recovery. Major Pond was born at Cuba, N. Y., in 1838.

### She Drank Deadly Acid.

Scranton, Pa., June 23.—Jennie Brennan drank carbolic acid here and will die and Ernest Schlich shot himself in the heart. They were lovers, but another woman sought to hold Schlich to an alleged engagement to her. Friends had noticed the actions of the couple and when they came in sight Miss Brennan drained a bottle of acid. As she did so Schlich started to run and fired three shots at the crowd that followed. Finally he stopped and shot himself.

### Charged With Forgery.

Denver, June 22.—George C. Jones, president of the Jones Investment company of this city, is under arrest at police headquarters charged with forgery. The charge is made by Miss Frances A. Higinbotham that Jones forged her name to a mortgage for \$3000.

### MONTANA NEWS ITEMS.

The sneak thieves were busy in Bozeman last week.

Dr. Fred Tracey has been appointed meat and milk inspector for Fergus county.

T. H. Deckert, who owns a barber shop in Billings, committed suicide recently.

W. H. Raymond has been appointed a state fair director for Madison county.

The twenty-third annual convocation of the Episcopal church of Montana was held in Butte this week.

The United Irish societies of Butte and Anaconda are making plans for a big picnic to be given at Deer Lodge on Sunday, July 19.

### PROFESSIONAL CARDS.

**Daniel Boyd,**  
Attorney at Law,  
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