# Cape Girardeau Democrat.

DEMOCRAT PRINTING CO., Publishers. CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1900. Vol. XXV--No. 2


# A SHOCKING TRAGEDY.

## George Dell, a Young Lad, is Fatally Shot in the Breast.

## IT APPEARED MYSTERIOUS.

### Later all Made Clear and Those Responsible for the affair make a clean breast to the Jury--The story serves as a fair illustration of the danger of the Pistol Carrying Habit.

Coroner Blomeyer held an inquest today to endeavor to ascertain the circumstances of the mysterious shooting of George Dell about 5:30 yesterday afternoon in the hallway on Main street just south of the First National Bank.

People in the vicinity were startled at the time designated by the report of a gun or pistol. They flocked to the place where the report occurred and found Geo. Dell, the fourteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dell, lying on the floor with a gaping wound in his breast, and breathing his last. A few moments before the shot was fired, George Dell and Albert Williams had been playing ball in the street just opposite where the sad tragedy took place. George was on the sidewalk in front of the entrance to the hall, and Albert was on the other side of the street in front of Wilson's drug store where he is employed. At the same time a negro boy named Lawrence McGuire, and Charley Sutton, a Western Union Messenger boy, were standing in the door of the hallway talking. The other two boys stopped their game, Williams being called to the store to wait on a customer. Dell walked into the hall and had not disappeared from view until the persons on the outside heard the report of a pistol. Dell was seen to stagger and fall, and McGuire caught him. From all the information which can be obtained, there were but three persons in the hall, Dell, Sutton and McGuire. It would seem to be an easy matter to locate the person who did the shooting, but the coroner's jury has not found it so. Poor George Dell who yesterday afternoon was alive and enjoying himself with his young friends is a corpse, and the only persons who were present when he was shot either can't tell or won't tell just how it happened.

There is a mysterious atmosphere surrounding the case, and the atmosphere is so thick and dense that the most careful and painstaking investigation by the authorities will be necessary to unfathom the mystery. Who fired the fatal shot? What were the circumstances under which it was fired? The Coroner is endeavoring to reach a satisfactory solution of these two questions. The people who heard the evidence given this morning at the inquest, can form but one conclusion, and that is that McGuire and Sutton could clear up the mystery if they would. There is only one reasonable solution of the trouble and that is that the boys in the hall were playing with a pistol which was carried by one of them, it went off accidentally and killed Geo. Dell. Seeing how matters stand, and being fearful of consequences, the boys fear to come out and tell the whole truth. This supposition may be an entirely erroneous one, but it is the only one a reasoning person of ordinary intelligence can reach. But, some of the evidence in the case will prove of interest. The evidence of the witnesses quoted is not given verbatim, only the substance of it. The examination was continued until 12 o'clock today when an adjournment was taken until 1:30. Here is what the witnesses say.

Thomas Clark: Was standing on Main street talking to a man, and watching Albert Williams and Geo. Dell, the boy who was killed, playing ball. Sam Williams threw the ball across the street to Dell, it missed him, struck the door at the entrance to the telegraph office and rolled in the gutter. Dell picked up the ball and started to throw it back to Williams, but Miss McCleary drove up in a buggy just then, stopped in front of Wilson's store and Dell did not throw the ball back. Dell walked toward the office door and stood there. Just then a pistol went off, may have been a gun, but an explosion took place. The doors were double doors and one of them closed. Dell was standing in the door looking inside. He was leaning against north part of door. He had been there but a minute when I heard a report of a gun or a revolver. Saw the boy stagger back toward the pavement and then he seemed to rush into the hall. I told Chas. Haman I thought some one was hurt and ran over. When I got in the hall I found Lawrence McGuire standing there with Dell in his arms. Took him out of McGuire's arms, and as he was dying and sinking to the floor I gently laid him down. Noticed Chas. Sutton standing there and told him to go for a doctor. Shortly after this Dr. Porterfield came and pronounced life extinct. Dell lived probably lived 3 or 4 minutes after I arrived. He did not speak, a rubber ball rolled out of his hand as I laid him down. Saw no one in the hall but the two boys. Mr. Steck came in and asked where the pistol was and I didn't know, told him one of the boys might know. He asked McGuire where the pistol was and he said it was in the cellar. Mr. Steck then told McGuire to go down and get it. He went down but said it was so dark he could not see. Steck then got a lantern and found the pistol. The pistol was here shown to the witness by the coroner and he recognized it as the one Steck had found. The weapon was a 38 caliber and contained one blank or exploded cartridge. Did not know how pistol got into the cellar. Never saw the weapon before When I went into the hall, McGuire said "he's shot." Never saw Dell or the other boys with pistols in their possession. Dell was between the steps and door when he (witness) arrived and was positive the boy could not have shot himself. Dell was in my sight all the time, and he went no further into the hall than he was at the time he fell. The pistol could not have been throwe from the front door into the cellar entrance.

Fred Steck: Saw a crowd on Main street at First National Bank and walked down there. Found Tom Clark who told me a boy was shot, and said it was the Dell boy. He did not know who did it. In the meantime a colored boy came in (McGuire) and Clark asked "what did you boys do with that gun." He said it was in the cellar and I told him to go and get it. He stayed in the cellar a minute or two and I called to him to know if he could find the gun. He did not answer me. McGuire came up stairs, I asked him if he had found the gun and he said it was too dark. I then went and got a lantern and making a search found the pistol on a small platform at the head of the cellar stairs. Had seen none of the boys with a gun at any time. Don't know who owns the revolvers. The pistol could not have been thrown from the front to where it was found.

Lawrence McGuire: We were down there talking, standing in front of Western Union office when Dell joined Sutton and me. Dell said he had to walk back to the rear. He had hardly reached there when I heard a report of a pistol. Was standing right at the edge of the door in front. Dell came up staggering with his hands across his breast. I asked what was the matter and he did not reply. I grabbed him and jerked him back and he groaned but did not speak. Mr. Clark came over and said to lay Dell down which was done, and sent me after the doctor. I got Dr. Porterfield as quick as I could. Never saw the revolver before. Have seen Dell have a pistol a number of times, but did not see him with one yesterday. There was no one in the rear end of the hall, and no one in the front end but me and Sutton. Have no idea how the shooting occurred or who did it. Don't know how pistol came there unless Dell had it. Dell carried a pistol all the time but I never saw Sutton with one.

Dr. J. D. Porterfield: Testified to having been called to see the boy. Found him on the floor in the hall Shirt was open at breast and wound was parallel to the fourth interspace at left edge of sternum. Made no close examination of wound, merely looked at it casually. The boy was dying and I did not probe the wound. He lived about a minute after I got there. The wound was an entrance wound and was caused by a missle. The boy died by internal hemorrhge. The wound seemed to be a direct one, and do not think it could have been self-inflicted. There were no powder burns, no discoloration of the clothing no shreds of clothing in the wound. Do not think the shot was fired in close contact with the body. The bullet evidently went through the aorta or severed the upper portion of the heart, and in this event the boy could have walked only a few feet, and in all probability would have fallen at once.

Jno. D. Wilson: Know nothing of the affair of my own personal knowledge. Was in the back part of the store and heard a shot fired. That is all I know.

#### The Mystery Explained

The above was put in type shortly after the morning session adjourned. The afternoon session brought some interesting developments and cleared up the mystery completely. Chas. J. Haman, Albert Williams and W. M. Stone testified this morning but in the light of testimony brought out this afternoon it is not necessary to publish it. The first thing on the docket this afternoon was a statement made to the jury by J. D Wilson. He stated that late yesterday afternoon Chas. Sutton came into the store and admitted to him that McGuire had accidentally shot Dell.

Chas Sutton was placed on the stand and made the following statement: McGuire, Geo. Dell and I were standing in the door. Dell had been trying to get some loads out of his pistol and couldn't do it. He handed the pistol to McGuire and while the latter was trying to extract the load the pistol went off and shot George. McGuire was standing back near the steps, and George was standing near the door, the two were about three feet apart. McGuire asked George if he was hit, but got no answer. He started to weaken, dropping to his knees. When I found that George was shot I ran over to Wilson's drug store intending to get Dr. Howard, but did not see him and got Dr. Porterfield. McGuire ran up the street with me to the doctor's office. Do not know what became of the pistol. Knew George for 7 or 8 years. He was in the habit of carrying a pistol. Don't know why he wanted to take the loads out of the pistol.

Lawrence McGuire: Made the same statement as above with regard to the killing. Said that when he found George was shot he threw the pistol back in the hall and when he returned from his trip after the doctor he went back and gave the pistol a kick but could not tell where it went. He added that he made his statement this morning under excitement and was badly scared. He decided later to tell the truth.

J. H. Clodfelter: This witness stood diagonally across the street, heard the shot and saw the boy fall out of the door backward, he acted as if he had been shoved out. He fell down and threw his hands back as if to keep his head from striking the floor. Witness went into the hall, took hold of the boys hand and saw that he was dying.

John Dell, father of George, was called to the stand by request of Juror Nunn to see if he could recognize the pistol which did the fatal work. Mr. Dell did not remember to have ever seen it before.

The jurors in the case were: W. A. Summers, G. W. Cross, J. T. Nunn, H. S. Dean, Henry Meysteadt, Jr., C. Stehr.

The following verdict was returned: We the jury find that the deceased came to his death by the accidental discharge of a revolver in the hands of one Lawrence McGuire.

## A WORD ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS.

### An Insufficient Number of Teachers a Drawback to Their Usefulness.

The DEMOCRAT has always been a friend to education, and it desires to see the public schools in this city perfected and made as efficient as possible. There is one thing which the DEMOCRAT considers impairs the efficiency of these schools at the present time, and that is that the teaching force has not kept pace with the increase in the number of pupils. The increase in the attendance in the schools during the past few years, has been largely out of proportion to the increase in the teaching force, and the present force of teachers, no matter how competent these teachers may be, cannot do justice to the great number of pupils that are crowded into the lower grades, nor can a teacher do justice to herself when she has from 60 to 90 pupils to look after.

The opinion of the best teachers in our cities, those who have had a long and varied experience in the schoolroom; is that 40 pupils in a room are as many as one teacher can properly handle in the lower grades of school work, and yet some of our teachers have double that number under them.

The DEMOCRAT believes it would be wise policy on the part of the school board to employ at least two more teachers for next year, for there are plenty of pupils to make two more elementary departments, give each teacher enough work to do, and at the same time enable these teachers to do better work

The DEMOCRAT has no disposition to dictate to the school board, but it hopes it will take this suggestion under advisement and give it due consideration. We firmly believe it is the honest desire of the board to do what is best for the schools, and we are also of the opinion that the citizens here do not want the usefulness of the schools crippled for lack of sufficient teaching force.

Below is given some figures in regard to the inadequate force of teachers:

| Rooms | Pupils March | Pupils April |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 72 | 80 |
| 2 | 63 | 61 |
| 3 | 66 | 66 |
| 4 | 70 | 64 |
| 5 | 63 | 64 |
| 6 | 42 | 41 |
| 7 | 28 | 26 |
| 8 | 24 | 24 |
| 9 | 24 | 24 |
| | 452 | 450 |

The list for March comprises 236 boys and 216 girls. That for April, 231 boys and 219 girls.

### Walbridge For Governor.

We notice that some of our republican exchanges are talking up various men as candidates for the republican nomination for Governor. These men may be all right, and some of them may not. But be this as it may, the DEMOCRAT has a man in mind as its candidate about whose standing in the party there is not even a shadow of suspicion, he is known to be 18 carat gold. This man is C. P. Walbridge of St. Louis. He is a staunch republican, is a fine business man, is admired generally for his honor and integrity, and is the man above all others in this state who deserves the nomination. His record as Mayor of St. Louis shows what sort of an executive officer he is, and proves what he could do for Missouri were he to be placed in the Governor's chair. He is pre-eminently the man the republicans would like to see nominated. Such a man as Walbridge would soon knock out this ring rule which has proven such a curse to the state, he could give the people a square, honest administration. He would not be governor alone of a few political bums and ward heelers but would be governor of the whole people of this great state. Missouri needs Walbridge at the helm of the state for a few years, and if placed there he would inaugurate some wonderful changes. Mr. Walbridge made the best and cleanest mayor St. Louis ever had, and he would do all right as governor. Missouri is a great state and it needs a great governor, a man who would not use the office merely as one of the rounds in the ladder of his political ambition, but would give us an honest, patriotic, business-like administration, and C. P. Walbridge is the man to do it.


### Croup and Whooping Cough.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup will promptly relieve Croup and Whooping Cough. It will cure the worst Cough or Cold It never disappoints. Try


## SIZED HIM UP WRONG.

### Cairo Paper Has an Entirely Erroneous Idea Concerning Norman A. Mozley.

The Cairo Argus has heard that the republicans of this congressional district have nominated N. A. Mozley as their candidate for Congress, and gets off the following:

"Congressman Vandiver of the Southeast Missouri district, is conceded nomination for re-election by nearly a unanimous vote of his party convention. He is worthy of this support, for he has proven an able Representative, having secured rank with the foremost members of Congress. The republicans have nominated as his opponent Hon. N. A. Mozley. He was formerly a school teacher in Johnson county, this State. He went to Missouri to teach school, and when the republican nomination for Congress over there was seeking somebody to accept it, he took it for the honor of being nominee and awoke the morning after election day to find himself elected. He was the most surprised man in the district. He was never heard of or from during his term in Congress, but being the only republican ever elected in the district, his party will test his luck again."

The Argus would have it appear that the only thing which can be urged in favor of Mr Mozley's candidacy is that he is the only republican ever elected to Congress from this district. This is a great deal, but it is not all. Mr. Mozley is a lawyer of ability, he is recognized as a man of weight in the district, and he has an excellant chance to be elected.

It is not absolutely certain that Mr. Vandiver will be the opponent of Mr. Mozley in this race, but if he is he will have a hard fight on his hands. The Argus is evidently not aware that many of Vandiver's former friends have turned against him and that they will not tear any of their clothing in order to elect him even if he should receive the nomination. As to Mr. Mozley never having been heard of while in Congress, the people of his district regard his record there as quite creditable, and they are probably as well informed on this point as the Cairo Argus.

### The Boers and the British.

Months have elapsed since the opening of the South African war and still those 300,000 troops which Great Britain has massed in this period from her different colonies have not as yet succeeded in making the Boers bow in recognition to the British lion. The public opinion in America as to the right and wrong varies so that it has at last become a very muddled affair, in fact, it has reached such a stage that it bids fair to become a political issue in the coming campaign. If we were to listen to some of our Democratic friends we would at once plunge ourselves into that South African affair regardless of the results that might follow. Not only the Democrats, but many patriotic Republicans, bear malice toward President McKinley for not making a forcible intervention in behalf of the Boers. If these will ponder for a moment and carefully weigh in their own minds the responsibility of such a course, they will cease this clamor. Has not President McKinley proven with satisfaction to the American people that he is a man capable of standing at the helm and directing the course of this country to its own welfare, financially and otherwise? Did he not show his discretion and sound judgment in our trouble with Spain? Has he not proven himself one of the greatest rulers since the time of Washington or Lincon? Verily, we say that he has, and ultimately it will be proven to the American people.

No matter what our private opinions may be we must use discretion in all such matters. Whether the Boers are in the right or wrong, it must be admitted that their bravery in bidding defiance to the most powerful of nations, has won the sympathy and admiration of the entire world. For months have they bravely kept the field, throwing every barrier possible in front of the British advance. They say it is for home and country, and above all, that priceless treasure, liberty, which cause them to take up arms against Great Britian. Whatever be the cause they have at least won the admiration of almost every nation, and their struggle for home, country and independence, will go down in history second only to the Siege of the Alamo, when those brave Texans, Crocket, Bowie, Travis and others, laid down their lives for a similar cause.


### Glad Tidings to Asthma Sufferers'

Foley's Honey and Tar gives quick and positive relief in llacases.


## THE ADMIRAL HESITATES.

### His Friends Think He Should Come Out and Make a Political statement to the Public

Admiral Dewey is hesitating about issuing his political statement. Men close to the Admiral are urging him to speak, and to speak promptly, while others are impressing upon him the value of the rule—"Silence is golden."

Admiral Dewey is inclined to regard this rule with favor and to believe this is not the time for him to talk. His mail and his callers assure him that his candidacy is progressing favorably. What is there for him to gain, he asks himself, by issuing a statement? Admiral Dewey rather favors the policy of drifting. He thinks the time to act is when an emergency arises.

The Admiral is particularly interested in Georgia and Texas. If the delegates in these States can be sent to Kansas City without instructions or with instructions to vote for the Admiral, the latter believes the Bryan South will be transformed into the Dewey South.

Admiral Dewey's friends are somewhat disappointed over the failure of former President Cleveland to mention him, either directly or indirectly, in his letter of regret to the Thomas Jefferson dinner of the Brooklyn Democratic Club. Mr. Cleveland is recognized as favorable to the Admiral's candidacy, and some of the Dewey men think he might have given impetus to the Dewey boom by inserting some reference to the Admiral's candidacy in his letter.

### Another Candidate.

The announcement of Judge Alex. Ross as a candidate for Judge of the of Common Pleas Court appears in this issue of the DEMOCRAT. Judge Ross has been a citizen of this county since 1866, over thirty years, and is connected by marriage with some of the best German families in the county. He is the oldest member of the bar of Cape Girardeau county, and has served as Register in Bankruptcy from 1867 to 1879, with jurisdiction over twenty-eight counties in Southeast Missouri, and is now serving as Referee in Bankruptcy for the U. S. District Court.

He stands high as a man and a citizen with all who enjoy his acquaintance. The Judge has already served on the bench of the Common Pleas Court and is no stranger to the duties of the position. Should he be nominated and elected he can bring to his aid the experience already gained in that position, and the exacting practical knowledge acquired in the Federal Courts.

Aside from the fact that Judge Ross is a staunch Republican, he is a practical business man and has a character above reproach. He is strictly conscientious in all his dealings, is a student and thinker, possesses a natural judicial mind, and is amply equipped for the office to which he aspires.

### Card of Thanks.

The undersigned desire to express their heartfelt thanks to the kind friends who aided them so much by their tender sympathy during the occasion of the recent illness and death of their beloved daughter and sister.

FREDERICKE SCHEPPELMANN.
ALBERT SCHEPPELMANN.
EDWARD SCHEPPELMANN.
WILLIAM SCHEPPELMANN.
HENRY SCHEPPELMANN.
BERTHA SCHEPPELMANN.
MRS. EDWARD WILLER.

### Let Us Put a Stop to Pistol Carrying.

The carrying of a pistol is premeditated murder—the idea is to shoot somebody, otherwise the lugging around of several pounds of metal is useless. The dangerous dog is killed, but the municipal law provides that the pistol bearing man and boy shall only be put in jail. Let this law be enforced. There are hundreds here wearing guns; jerk up an average crowd and ten per cent will found armed. Give the officers a tip that a certain party is vio ating the law against carrying concealed weapons, let them investigate and when sure that the offender has a weapon on his person, swoop down on him, in the middle of the street or any public place, disarm him and march him off to jail. Make no distinction further than to go for the intelligent offender first and wind up with the more ignorant. Let us stamp out this kind of cowardice right now. If there had been lugging around of pistols that innocent boyish life would have been saved yesterday.