Lebanon Express.

VOL VII | LEBANON, OREGON., MARCH 3, 1893. | NO. 1

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One year (If paid in advance, $1 50 per year.)	$2 00
Six months	1 00
Three months	50
Single copies	05

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A SAD AFFAIR.

Joe Grubb Instantly Killed.

Morgan Wassom was held to answer the charge.

[From Lebanon Express Extra, Feb. 28.]

The usual quiet that prevails in our little city was sadly shocked by the harsh report of a pistol about 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. Investigation disclosed that Joseph Grubb was lying dead at the front door of his saloon with his left breast pierced with a bullet. Life was gone and he never spoke after the shot. The following is the evidence before coroner, given in full.

J. Mossholder being called as a witness, testified as follows:

I live in Lebanon, am a tempster. Was sir I was in the back part of the saloon when the shooting occurred, about 3 o'clock this morning, Feb. 28, 1893. I and Mr. Carroll was then talking to Mr. Grubb. I was sitting by the stove when Morgan Wassom came in the front door and asked Mr. Grubb to take a drink. Mr. Carroll was standing at the desk at the end of the counter, when Wassom asked Grubb who that gentleman was. Grubb told him to ask Carroll to have a drink, and Grubb introduced them and told them to shake hands, and poured out liquor. Wassom slipped outside and Carroll went back to the stove. Wassom came back in and asked me to have a drink. I and him stood there and talked a while when he asked Grubb, "I would like to speak to you a few minutes." Grubb told him if he wanted to talk to him he could do it there and I could go back to the stove. I went back to the stove. Wassom said he had heard that he had told some of the boys that he had thrown him out of the house. Grubb told him he never told them anything of the kind, but that he once asked him to go out of the house and he went out like a gentleman. Wassom said Bill Elkins told him that Grubb said he had thrown him out of the house. Grubb told him that if Elkins would come and say that he did say it, he would own up. I didn't hear any more of the racket until he asked Grubb to come out of the house. They had some words that I didn't hear. Wassom kind of backed out of the door, and Grubb went around there. Wassom did not say anything but kind of pulled out his gun when Grubb came around the counter. I saw the gun when Grubb came around the counter, and when they went out of the door the gun went off. He carried it in his hand when he backed out of the door. Grubb did not strike or attempt to strike him. He reached down and tried to get the gun away from him. They are swinging doors and were open and they were right in the door when the shot went off. I saw the flash of the pistol. I saw Grubb and he was close to Wassom trying to get hold of the pistol, when the gun fired. I stood out behind them. I didn't think anyone was shot. I thought they had a fight. I did not see Grubb fall. I and the gentleman stepped out the back door. I heard someone making a noise like someone being choked. I saw Grubb lying there. He was outside and his head on the door step. Wassom was on the street walking up and down for some time, when we came back from after Dr. Lamberson he came across, started towards us, but did not speak to him. I saw him no more that night. Grubb was not angry, but asked Wassom to go out and behave himself like a gentleman. Wassom made no reply that I heard. He invited Grubb out shortly after this. Grubb was coming around the bar when he asked Wassom to go out. Wassom was standing about middle way of the bar when Grubb came out. I went to the saloon about 8 o'clock and Wassom came in about 3 o'clock this morning. Don't know where he had been before. He took two or three drinks while I was in there. He took drinks with me, Carroll and Grubb. I think Wassom was a little full. They did not clinch. Grubb was pretty close to him trying to get hold of the pistol. I did not see Grubb attempt to get anything out of his pocket when he went from behind the bar. He did not curse him neither did Wassom. It was about 10 or 15 minutes from this time I left by the back door until I returned to the front door. Grubb drew one or two breaths when I got back. Grubb was not drunk. Grubb was following up Wassom trying to get the revolver. Only one shot was fired.

W. H. Carroll being first duly sworn testified as follows:

I live in San Francisco and am a commercial traveler. I was in the house when the fuss occurred. I went in there a good deal in the afternoon. Had business with Grubb but he did not make his appearance. I went in there about 7:30 that evening and remained there until time of shooting. Wassom came in about 8 o'clock. I heard part of the conversation between him and Grubb. I heard Grubb say he did not intend to go out of his own house. Did not hear any reply. He came around the bar soon after, not immediately. I think Grubb came around the bar. He tried to get near enough to get that pistol, but did not seem to be angry. Wassom was drinking and showed it. I noticed it. Wassom walked in and I stepped up to the bar. I stood at a little desk, when Wassom asked Grubb to take a drink with him. He first excused himself—Grubb did, as he had just had a drink with me, and then said, "I will take a drink with you." He did take a drink. Mr. Grubb took some bitters, and Wassom took brandy. He first asked for whisky but changed to brandy. Grubb had taken two drinks with me before Wassom came in, and both times took bitters. He was not intoxicated at all. I saw them go out toward the door. I did not see flash of pistol. I was at stove when most of this thing happened. He was dead after we looked at him thoroughly. He breathed once or twice. It was about 15 minutes from the time I left and returned. It was within 15 minutes after I went to stove and returned. I only saw Wassom on the street on the next block. When we saw Wassom I think he, Wassom, was wanting to come back for his hat. A hat was picked up there. I was present when Doctor felt in his pockets but found no weapons on Grubb. I saw Grubb when he reached for Wassom's pistol—then they went out doors. I heard shot and thought he had shot down at the floor. I did not see Grubb have his hands on Wassom, but saw Grubb reach for him. Don't know if he got hands on Wassom. When he first came in I was not acquainted with Wassom but was introduced to him. When he invited us to drink and while the drinks were on the counter Wassom went outside and remained about a minute and a half or two minutes, and while he was out there Grubb told me this man had not been in this house for six months about; and when Wassom returned I had taken the drink, and then excused myself. Then Wassom came back and asked Mr. Mossholder to drink. I went back to stand in rear end of building.

David Gentry being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

I live here and do not follow any business particularly now. I saw and was with Wassom a part of last evening. I was at Guy & Mayer's house part of the evening. Wassom took drinks there—quite a few drinks. I never saw him exhibit a pistol. I did not know he had any. I never heard him that evening mention Grubb's name, but he mentioned parties and I told him I thought I knew who he was talking about. He said there was a dirty son-of-a-bitch in this town who had it in for him, but he could not down him. I told him I knew who he meant, and he inquired how I knew. I used to be at Grubb's a good deal. I knew they had a hardness some time, but I didn't know the source. I don't think Wassom mentioned his purpose to meet Grubb that evening. I left him about 3 o'clock this morning when Mayer closed up. We all came down street. We went on and Wassom stopped at Grubb's. He, Wassom, was full—what I call full. I never knew anything about the fuss till after daylight this morning. I never heard Grubb say anything much about Wassom. Heard him say he respected Wassom's brother more than Wassom. Never heard him say anything about his character. Mr. Grubb was not a quarrelsome fellow ordinarily. He did not have that reputation. Have known him about two years. Worked for him six months and got along with him all right. I saw Wassom first last evening about midnight, at Mr. Mayer's. I was not at Grubb's any time last night between 2 and 3 o'clock. I went home when we left Mayer's, and never knew anything about it until this morning. I was in Grubb's the last time about midnight, and went from there to Mayer's and child there till I went home.

J. C. Mayer, being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

I live in Lebanon and keep a saloon. I saw Morgan Wassom last evening—Feb. 27. I saw him first at my place about 10 o'clock and he remained there till I left, a little before 3 in the morning. He had not drank anything much till about 12 o'clock, but took a good many drinks after then. He took only two or three drinks from ten till twelve o'clock. He probably took fifteen or twenty drinks after 12 o'clock up to the time he left—brandy. I never saw him exhibit his pistol. Didn't know he had one in saloon. When we started home—Gentry, Wassom and I—Wassom wanted us to go to take a drink at Grubb's. I said "No," because he and Grubb had had trouble. "I don't want to be with you." He said "I will go in and set them up, and act the man, and we will all go home," and I said "I think you have enough anyway, and you had better go home now," and he said "All right, come on and let us go," and when we started I stepped between him and Gentry. When I stepped between the two I saw his pistol in his outside coat pocket. Saw the handle and I supposed it was a pistol. When we got to Grubb's door he said "Come on in." I said "No, let us go on," and he pulled away from us and went in the house and Gentry and I went on to Gentry's house. When Gentry went in the house he stumbled over a chair, and I stopped on the outside about 20 minutes to see whether Gentry would come back. During the time I was standing there I heard the pistol shot. After I left there I came up to Front St., and walked up this way, and met Wassom coming across the street by Bill Reed's. He said "Who are you? I am awful sick." I told him who I was, and I asked him if he wanted me to go home with him, and he said yes. While we were walking home he told me he had gotten into trouble with Grubb. He said "I think I have hurt him pretty bad," and several times he would stop, sit down and rest awhile, and I left him at his front gate, and I told him he was at home now, and to go on and go to bed. He walked into the house, and that was the last time I saw him. I did not ask him how he had hurt Grubb. He said "We got into trouble, and we got into a hell of a shooting scrape," and he thought he had hurt Grubb pretty bad. When we left him at Grubb's door he said "I am going into Grubb's anyway. I heard him talking to Gentry that evening but he talks so much anyway I didn't know what he had said. I came back up here and met Wassom. After I had gone home with Gentry and walked back with Wassom, when I came back Rice told me Wassom had shot and killed Grubb. Wassom acted like he was pretty full when I was taking him home. I did not see pistol or handle then. Wassom never asked me to go across the way and see some fun—he only asked me to go over and take a drink. I knew they had had trouble several months before. Mr. Wassom at times drank considerable. He had no hat on when I met him at Reed's, and took him home. He said he had lost his hat.

The following is the report of the examining physician:

I, J. A. Lamberson, do hereby certify that I am a practicing physician and surgeon of Lebanon, Oregon. I have this day made a careful examination of the body of A. W. Grubb, deceased, and find that his death was caused by a gun or pistol wound, said wound being located 2½ inches to the left of the sternum or breast bone, 2½ inches to the right of left nipple; said wound penetrating the interior of the chest or trunk of body to the depth of 7½ inches, severing the ascending aorta thereby causing instant death from internal hemorrhage.

J. A. LAMBERSON.

After hearing the above evidence the jury rendered the following verdict:

We the jury impanelled and sworn by the Coroner of Linn county, Or., to enquire into the cause of the death of A. W. Grubb find that he came to his death by a pistol shot fired by the hands of one M. Wassom, on the 28th day of February at 3 o'clock of the morning of said day.

P. M. SMITH,
G. W. CRUSON,
JOS. MAYER,
J. C. BILYEU,
S. H. MYERS,
D. ARDNEWS.

At 9 o'clock preliminary trial was held before Justice Rice. The state was represented by J. R. Wyatt and the defendant by J. K. Weatherford and S. M. Garland. The defendant waived examination and was sent on to the Grand Jury. Constable Morgan took Wassom to Albany this evening. One witness for the state was required to give bonds in $100 for his appearance before the Grand Jury.

The deceased was 38 years of age, and leaves a wife and two children. He will be buried to-morrow at 10 o'clock at the Masonic cemetery.

A. W. Grubb was born in Mo. in 1854, and was 38 years old last October. He was married to Miss Sarah McIntyre at Clay Center, Kansas, in 1878. He has been in the saloon business in Lebanon about a year and a half. He leaves a wife and two children, one little girl about 11 years old and a little boy about 9 to mourn his departure. He was elected by the council as marshal, which office he held until he went into the saloon business. Joe was well liked by all who knew him, and leaves a large circle of friends, which the EXPRESS joins in with the public in extending the sympaty to the bereaved family.

Rev. Waller, of the Christian church died at his home in Albany, last Saturday evening from heart failure, superinduced by an attack of asthma. He was over 70 years of age, and had retired from active work, living a very quiet and retired life, but was widely and favorably known. Very many will be pained to learn of his death. A good man gone to his reward.