

STRANGLED BY BURGLARS.

AN ITALIAN STREET SWEEPER MURDERED WHILE SLEEPING.

Tragedy in a Williamsburg Tenement House
—Andrew Casagane Choked to Death, and His Savings, \$500, Taken—His Wife Dead, Who Was Strangled by Two Men
Andrew Casagane and his wife Loretta, an Italian couple, who had saved about \$500, and who intended to use the money for the purpose of paying their expenses in visiting their native home, were asleep in their apartments at 253 North Sixth street, Williamsburg, early yesterday morning, when the house was entered by three men, who intended to get possession of the old couple's money.

Casagane, hearing the burglars in his apartments, jumped out of bed and was attacked by the burglars, one of whom strangled him to death. His wife escaped being murdered by pretending that she was asleep, and was left in a dying condition, as a second burglar had clutched her throat and was choking her to death when she decided to remain quiet for the purpose of saving her life.

The Williamsburg police learned of the Casagane murder immediately after it had occurred, and lost no time in getting to work on the case. They arrested Michael Reigel of 10 Stagg street, and James Thomas of 94 North Sixth street, Williamsburg.

These men were found leaving the house immediately after the murder and were held on suspicion of having committed the crime. They denied all knowledge of the murder and said they had been attracted to the house by the excitement which followed.

The Italian couple lived in apartments on the top floor of a three-story house. Seven other families reside there. The Casaganes had a small kitchen, a bathroom, a kitchen with windows overlooking North Sixth street and a bedroom adjoining with two other rooms, one of which was a rear room which had been occupied by Antonio Fario, who is employed as a street sweeper by the Brooklyn street cleaning bureau. Casagane was also a street sweeper employed by the same contractors.

At 9 o'clock on Monday night Casagane and his wife retired. They slept in the little bedroom behind the kitchen. Before retiring Casagane took his savings, \$500, and placed them in a box under the bed. Fario was then to go to bed about 11:30 o'clock. He slept soundly, and did not hear any one enter Casagane's rooms.

Shortly after midnight Mrs. Casagane was aroused from her slumbers by hearing a noise in the room. She sat up and saw a man struggling with her husband. Just then, a second man appeared and attacked her. One of them caught her by the throat and gripped her with his hands so tightly that she was unable to scream.

She pretended that she had become unconscious and threw herself back upon the pillow. The man who held her by the throat released his grip. He then searched beneath the pillow while his companions were ransacking the apartments.

As the burglars went away after being in the house for ten or fifteen minutes. When they had gone Mrs. Casagane rushed from the bed, and looking over the footboard saw her husband lying on the floor, apparently murdered. She then called for help, and a policeman and an ambulance.

The ambulance came from the Eastern District Hospital, and the police arrived. They examined Casagane's body and said that he had been strangled to death. The imprints of the stranglers' fingers were found on the dead man's throat. The condition in which the furniture was found showed that there had been a fierce struggle.

It was evident that the burglars must have entered the room through the door, which the Casaganes had gone to bed without locking. Mrs. Casagane believed that she had locked the door and that the men who had appeared in the room had broken in by force. She said that she had called for help, but that the door had not been opened.

A policeman who made an examination of the body of Casagane found a bruise over the left eye and had evidence been made by a blunt instrument.

The news of the murder soon reached the Bedford avenue police station. Patrolman Martin Short with six of his men lost no time in getting to the scene. About the time the police arrived, the door of the room was broken down by force. The men who had been in the room were found lying on the floor, apparently murdered. The condition in which the furniture was found showed that there had been a fierce struggle.

Mrs. Casagane said that they looked like the men whom she had seen in the room. The station house also made the following statement:

There was about half past 9 o'clock when my husband and myself went to bed. He was 54 years old. I suppose he had been asleep about an hour when he was awakened by a noise. I was choking. Upon awakening I saw my husband lying on the floor. Another man leaned over the bed and caught me by the throat. This man was also a criminal. He was wearing a dark coat and a hat. He was holding a knife in his hand. I was screaming, but no one came. I was lying on the floor for some time before I was released.

The police questioned the two men whom they had arrested. They found no money on them. They also found a small box containing a watch and a ring. The police also found a small box containing a watch and a ring. The police also found a small box containing a watch and a ring.

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GEORGE GOULD'S LAKWOOD FARM.

State Board of Taxation Refuses to Increase County Assessments.

TAXATION, N. J., Sept. 20.—The State Board of Taxation to-day, by a vote of three to one, dismissed the complaint of the Somerset County Freeholders that the Ocean County assessors assessed property at Lakewood, Ocean county, at less than its face value. The complaint was directed against George Gould and other wealthy men who reside at Lakewood. The State Board decided that the assessments are fairly and substantially at true valuations.

President Henry J. West, Charles C. Black and Joseph Thompson reported that they find that the assessments are as fair as those made in any other part of the State. The board is in a minority report says the assessments should be higher, particularly in Lakewood township.

The Ocean county case was investigated on Aug. 22 at Toms River, when all of the assessors of the county were present and testified to their methods for reaching the valuation of property. The State Board was apparently satisfied with the results, as were the representatives of Somerset county, who had until today to produce further evidence of undervaluation.

The Goulds own property at Lakewood, which is valued at \$5,000,000, for real property and \$1,500,000 for personal property, which is valued at \$1,500,000. The Goulds own property at Lakewood, which is valued at \$5,000,000, for real property and \$1,500,000 for personal property, which is valued at \$1,500,000.

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