

DEATH OF EX-SHERIFF DAVID KING

Struck Down with a Beer Glass and Billiard Cue in J. J. Tonellier's Saloon.

Testimony Before Coroner's Inquest

Post Mortem Examination - Opinion of Physicians.

Arrest of J. J. Tonellier and John Tonellier and Flight of Henry Tonellier- Bond \$5,000

Friday morning our citizens were shocked with the information that David King had been struck down the night before by J. J. Tonellier and his sons, had been taken home and since been in an unconscious condition. He remained in this comatose state until Monday afternoon, when he expired. When it was announced that King was in a dangerous condition, Henry, who struck him with the billiard cue, particulars of which appears in the testimony before the Coroner, left for parts unknown, Saturday morning, anticipating a fatal termination of his injuries. J. J. Tonellier and his son, J. Tonnellier were each arrested and held to bail in the sum of \$500 to await the final result of his injuries. On Monday afternoon, they were re-arrested and held in the sum of \$5,000. The preliminary examination is set for Wednesday, March 9th.

Following is the substance of the material portion of the testimony developed at the Coroner's inquest, also, the report of the post-mortem examination:

King came into the saloon and complained of loosing a five dollar gold piece and said he wanted it if anybody had found it. John Tonellier said he would give it to him if he found it. King was standing with his hands in his pocket, when Harmon Heiman, the butcher remarked, I butchered your cow today, when King replied you owe me two dollars on the cow yet, and said with an oath he was going to have it. The butcher said his boy, Weaver, had told me he had paid King the two dollars. King then demanded the two dollars and said he was going to have it or fight. J. J. Tonellier said to King, sit down and keep still, when King said, no sir, I will not do it; I am going to fight that butcher. Then King took off his overcoat and laid it on the billiard table, stepped back to the stove, saying he was going to fight that butcher, who then raised up from his chair and said he would not fight. J. J. Tonellier who was stirring up the fire with the poker, commanded King to keep still; laid down the poker, went to the door, opened it and told King to go out. King said I won't do it; I am going to have a fight with the butcher before I leave the house. Then J. J. Tonellier picked up the poker and said d--- you, we will see whether you will have a fuss in here. He drew the poker to strike King, who caught it, when they commenced struggling and King came near throwing Tonellier on the stove. While King and Tonellier were struggling, J. Tonellier stepped back behind the bar and got a beer glass, went up to King and seized him by the left arm and struck him with the beer glass twice on the left side of the head, then stepped away from King, who came near falling and seemed to be giving away as if stunned from the effects of the blows. Henry Tonellier then went to the cue rack, took down a cue and struck King a blow over the left side of the head with the butt (sic) end of the cue as King was giving away from the blows from the beer glass, which felled him to the floor. Frank Sylvester then stepped up and when King raised up and sat up he commenced feeling as if to find something to raise himself up by. Sylvester then helped him up and he and J. J. Tonellier helped him to put on his overcoat, when Sylvester took him home; King having several fainting spells on the way. Near the corner by Dr. Trout's, Sylvester asked him if he knew who was taking him home, he answered no, when he was told, King then remarked I am afraid I have got my last blow. He made a similar remark to his wife soon after reaching home, which was the last he spoke intelligently.

By request of the coroner, Dr. D. G. M. Trout held a post mortem examination, in the presence of Drs. W. H. Schrock, A. G. Holloway, B. R. Freeman, Jonas Coverdale, C. T. Dorwin, C. A. Jelleff and Wm. Trout.

His report is condensed as follows:

External appearance of the body revealed no marks of violence, except on head, which showed a contusion of one inch, about one inch to the left of the parietal suture, and one inch posterior to coronal suture. An incision was made over parietal suture from ear to ear, through integument, and dissected anteriorly and posteriorly, which revealed extravasation of blood on left side at a point corresponding with contusion of scalp. On right side there was two contusions; one at a point midway between parietal eminence and coronal suture, and one at a point two inches posterior to coronal suture, and on temporal edge, with extravasation of blood throughout the entire attachment and body of temporal muscle. On removal of periostum there was revealed a fracture, commencing at a point corresponding with articulation of the greater wing of sphenoid bone with parietal bone, and entering the right parietal bone at or near the anterior inferior angle passing upwards and backwards, crossing the parietal suture at a point an inch posterior to coronal suture, and extending into left parietal bone about two inches. On left side there was revealed two fractures. One of frontal and parietal bones, commencing at a point one and a half inches to the left of parietal suture, and two inches back of coronal suture and passing forward through the coronal suture into the left half of frontal bone one inch. The second commencing at the temporal ridge in left parietal bone half inch posterior to coronal suture, passing upward and slightly backward through left parietal bone about one and a half inches in length.

On removing calvaria and membranes there was found extravasation of blood from rupture of anterior branches of middle meningeal artery, on both sides, with most extravasation on right side at parietal and temporal sutures, with blood clots adhering to parietal bones.

Death was, in my opinion, caused by compression of the brain, from the effusion of blood from the arteries at the point of rupture of meningeal arteries above described, principally, however, from compression on right side.

Inspection of brain revealed no abnormal condition. Inspection of lungs, heart, liver, stomach, and spleen revealed no abnormal condition.

Dr. B. R. Freeman, at the request of the Coroner, made a special report of the case, which does not materially differ from that of Dr. Trout, which consequently is omitted.

STATE OF INDIANA

Adams County

I, John E. Smith, Coroner within and for said County and State, being called upon on the 27th day of February, 1882, to examine the dead body of one David King, to ascertain how, and in what manner he came to his death, did proceed to hold an inquest on said body, and after hearing the evidence, I do find that the deceased came to his death from blows received from a beer glass and a billiard cue, in the hands of John Tonellier and Henry Tonellier, sons of John J. Tonellier, while in an affray with and in the saloon of John J. Tonellier, the blows being given with such force as to cause death.

John E. Smith, Coroner

In cases of this kind it is impossible to ascertain all the facts growing out of and surrounding the sudden taking off of one of our citizens, but enough is furnished to form an intelligent opinion. The worst that can be said of the deceased is that in his later years he has from time to time indulged too freely in intoxicating liquors, and at such times was belligerent and aggressive and the greater the intoxication the more belligerent and helpless he became. On several occasions he has been severely punished, and in none of these cases did he injure anyone because of his practically helpless condition. This much is in justice to Tonnellier's. It was in this condition that he went into their saloon. The result is described in the testimony before the Coroner. It is simply this: Tonnellier and his two sons, and some five by-standers were present when the difficulty between King and the butcher took place. King quarreling with the butcher - threatening to whip him, but making no

particular effort to do so, except taking off his overcoat and threats, when J. J. Tonellier rushed at him with the iron poker, and while they were struggling, J. J. Tonellier struck him two heavy blows with a beer glass, then Henry finished the business with a billard cue. The wonder is that David King did not fall dead in his tracks, and had he not been a man of wonderful vitality, such would have been the case. In its worst form it was a cowardly murder. From a charitable point of view, it was a needless, causeless taking of human life, showing a remarkable lack of judgment as to cause and effect, but which is no excuse or justification of the crime. And with the number present, there was no necessity to use violence to expel any one man, such as would put a life in jeopardy.

The funeral services took place Tuesday at the Presbyterian Church, Rev. C. A. Kanouse officiating.

Notwithstanding the storm of rain, the church was crowded to the utmost capacity, showing an unusual excitement and interest in the sorrowful circumstances, the final act of sunsummation, being the committal to the ground of the earthly remains of a citizen, a husband and father. His remains were born to their last resting place by the following: Thos. Mallonee, Michael Wertzberger, B. H. Dent, Henry Cronister, Albright Christen, H. H. Meyers, Wm. Cully, Joseph Shady, T. F. Auten, A. J. Teeple, Peter Decker and A. J. Hill all of whom were his old comrades in the 89th Indiana. To those who had been with him in the strife and battle on contending armies, the survivors in the bloody fray of 1861-65, it was an occasion of sadness and sorrow. It aroused the tenderest of feelings, tightened the hand grasp, and moistened the eyes with tears, of those who remembered the alligned ranks as they stood shoulder to shoulder in those days. Then came the memory of past fatalities, of dwindling ranks, of the survivors, one of whose number, who had escaped all to meet death in so ignoble manner. It was inexpressibly sad.

David King was born in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, April 10th, 1836. In 1841 he came with his parents to Dectur, where he has since resided. August 14, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company I, 89th Indiana Volunteers, serving as a faithful soldier until the close of the war, when he was mustered out as a Commissary Sargeant of the regiment. On returning home he resumed his old trade, blacksmith, until 1870 when he was elected Sheriff and again re-elected in 1872. As an officer he was honest faithful and efecient, discharging his duties to the satisfaction of all parties. On retiring to private life he resumed his trade, which he followed until his deceased.