

# HUSBAND SHOTS WIFE, SELF AND FATHER-IN-LAW

## Bloody Deed In Upper Story of the Old Wilhelm Tell House Which Startled Citizens At Early Hour Saturday Morning.

# MARITAL WARFARE ENDS IN MURDER

## Slaughter Scene Resembles Shambles—Desperate Man's Revenge on Woman He Claims Wronged Him—Her Side of Story As Told to Attorney Who Drew Her Will

"For God's sake, don't!"  
These were the last words uttered by Joseph D. Maxwell before the shot rang out that may put an end to his life.

Then followed two other shots by which the lives of two were snuffed out almost instantaneously.

William W. Henderson lies cold in death, the fatal shot supposedly fired by his own hand. Mrs. Martha E. Henderson, his wife, is also dead, her husband firing the bullet that ended her career.

The triple tragedy took place at the Wilhelm Tell house, corner of Sixth and Main streets, this morning at half past eight. Ed. Willoughby was standing in his room when a bullet came through the wall from the next room and whizzed past his face, missing him only by a few inches. He rushed down stairs and out on the street calling "Murder!"

Chief of Police Burns and a representative from the Star were passing at the time and immediately hurried into the house and up the stairs. It was a fearful scene that met them.

Lying on the bed in Maxwell's room with his brains spattered over the wall behind him was Henderson. Partly on the bed and partly on the floor lay Maxwell, in a widening pool of blood. Behind the door and wedged against it so that entrance was gained with difficulty lay the woman who is said to be the cause of the tragedy, with a fearful gash in her forehead and the blood streaming from a wound in her breast.

All three were alive when found, but Henderson and his wife expired in a few minutes, without gaining consciousness. The woman died first, a few low moans signifying her passing. A minute afterwards Henderson also passed out amid fearful groans. Maxwell, although terribly injured, was not unconscious, and was removed to the next room where Dr. C. A. Stuart is battling for his life.

A 41-caliber Colts was the weapon used, and was found on the bed by the side of Henderson. Five of the six chambers were empty, but whether more than three shots were fired is uncertain. A 38-caliber Harrington-Richards revolver was found lying under the pillow of Maxwell's bed with all the chambers full.

The bullet struck Maxwell back of the left ear at the base of the mastoid process, passing downwards and came out at the angle of the jaw. The wound in itself, according to Dr. Stuart, will not necessarily prove fatal, but the mental shock and the loss of blood may result in death. Soon after Maxwell had been shot a committee of Odd Fellows consisting of Harry M. Shaw, Elmer Veteto, H. W. Trembath, William Shannon, J. W.

Cooke and Mr. Brown too charge, on behalf of the lodge, of which Maxwell was a past grand, will do all that can be done for him in saving his life.

Mrs. Henderson was killed by a bullet piercing her right breast. She also had a contusion on the forehead, but whether this is from a bullet or from contact with a piece of furniture when she fell will never be known. Henderson was shot through the head, the bullet entering his throat and passing through the back of the head.

Willoughby Hears Conversation.  
There were no witnesses to the event, but Ed. Willoughby, who occupied the room adjoining that of Maxwell where the shooting occurred overheard a conversation that took place among the three victims of the tragedy just before the shooting.

According to Willoughby, Henderson, together with his wife and his wife's father, came into Maxwell's room about five minutes before the first shot was fired. There was much earnest conversation, and Henderson seemed to be pleading with his wife to come back to him. She replied scornfully and said, "Why don't you talk sense?"

Henderson fell to sobbing and moaning, and continued his pleading. The woman taunted him with abusing her when she was with him. "Pa, can't you do something?" asked Henderson, and Maxwell replied, "No, I can't." The next words that Willoughby heard were "For God's sake, don't!" and then a bullet sped past his nose and buried itself in the opposite wall.

Maxwell Incriminates Henderson.  
It seems to be very clear that Henderson did the shooting, for Maxwell made a statement to the Star representative as he was lying helpless when found.

In answer to a question as to who fired the shots, he said between moans, "Henderson did."

"Whom did he shoot first?" was asked.  
With difficulty Maxwell replied, "The woman first, then me."

After that he lapsed into a state of semi-unconsciousness, and could talk no more.  
Fred Griessen, proprietor of the Wilhelm Tell house, stated to the Star that Maxwell and his daughter came to Oregon City for the first time on March 2, and secured rooms with him. They were there together till Friday afternoon, when the woman left, saying that she was going to Portland for her baggage, and would go on to Grants Pass. Her father said he would stay on at the place. Friday night Mrs. Henderson returned and took a room for the night.

Griessen said that the couple were quiet and spent most of the time in

the sitting room of the hotel, occasionally going out for a walk. Henderson came to the hotel for the first time this morning. It is known, however, that he came to Oregon City last night on the 11 o'clock car from Portland. He had been drinking heavily, and a bottle of whisky was found in his pocket after the tragedy.

Detective James Stuart, of the detective firm of Stuart & Vaughan, was in the city yesterday looking for the Henderson woman and her father. Stuart had been retained by Henderson to look up the woman's record, and it is said that Henderson alleges that his wife deserted him when they were living at Latrobe, California, going away with another man. He has been bitter against her, and has stated that she was a swindler, and was at this time mixed up in a mining swindle. He has a letter in the post-office here that is said to throw light upon this phase of the case, but it cannot be gotten out according to the postoffice regulations, except by a relative or administrator.

Henderson had a note in one of his pockets that gave instructions to notify his brother, G. M. Henderson, of Rutledge, Tennessee, in case of death. Coroner Holman this morning sent a message to this address, asking instructions as to the disposal of the body, but has as yet received no reply. The brother was at one time an attorney general of Tennessee.

Nothing further is known of Henderson or his people except that according to papers found on his clothes he has been employed at Seattle on the street car line. Papers show that he has been a railroad man. He had on his vest and coat emblems of the Masons, Elks, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Odd Fellows, but no cards were found in his pockets to show that he was in good standing.

Maxwell has not been in a condition to talk of his family, and it is not known whether he has relatives at his home in Latrobe or not.

# MADE HER WILL DAY BEFORE HER DEATH

## Local Attorney Drew Up Testament—Her Story of Her Trouble.

Less than 24 hours before she met her fate from a revolver bullet fired by her husband, Mrs. Henderson made her will. In company with her father, Joseph D. Maxwell, she visited the office of Judge G. E. Hayes in the Stevens block, Friday, and had him draw up the papers in which she disposed of her property.

Judge Hayes said Saturday morning after the tragedy that the woman anticipated trouble, that she said her husband was in Portland making threats to kill her but she was not afraid. Her father also said he was not fearful of Henderson.

She claims that they were living in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake, in which she lost much property. Her first husband's name was Odell. He died, leaving no children. She claims to own 160 acres of land at Kirby, Josephine County, Oregon. Mr. Maxwell's residence was at Latrobe, Eldorado County, Cal. He was a widower, and Mrs. Henderson was his only child. She was 38 years of age and her father was 65. In her conversation in Judge Hayes' office, she told of her husband's cruel and inhuman treatment, which she said was because she had \$2900 which he was desirous of securing from her.

The will drawn up Friday evening will be filed for record in Josephine county, where her real estate is situated. Professional ethics, aside from law, prevents the contents of the will becoming public before filing, but it is surmised as she had no other near relatives she willed her property to her father. There is a heavy creditor of the estate and he will probably ask for letters of administration in Josephine county.

Mr. Maxwell and Mrs. Henderson had been in Oregon City about ten days, staying at the Wm. Tell house. Her business presumably was her divorce suit. She could have secured that by default anytime since March 11, the last day in which Henderson could answer.

Mrs. Henderson claimed in Judge Hayes' office that she was going to Lake county to work as a cook in a mining camp, and read a part of a telegram from Grants Pass to that effect.

# SCENE OF MURDER.

The old Wilhelm Tell house, the scene of Saturday morning's awful tragedy, is one of the most historic buildings in Oregon. It was erected over 60 years ago, and at one time was the meeting place of the Oregon territorial legislature.

After many vicissitudes the building is now used as a cheap lodging house, the first story being occupied by a saloon and the two upper stories used as a hotel, under the management of Fred Griessen.

# DIVORCE SUIT FILED BY MRS. HENDERSON

## Cruel and Inhuman Treatment and Threats to Kill Are Charged.

Mrs. Henderson, through her attorney, A. R. Mendenhall, filed a suit for divorce from her husband in the Clackamas circuit court on January 8 last.

The complaint cites that she and defendant were married in San Francisco, March 30, 1906, and the cause of action is given as cruel and inhuman treatment and personal indignities, rendering her life burdensome. She alleges that beginning one week after their marriage he began importuning her for money and upon his not receiving the amount demanded he applied to her the most vulgar, low and scurrilous language—the same being too vile to set forth in the complaint.

In the presence of their friends he is charged by her with using such expressions as "you are a d—m old whore," and accusing her of "sustaining unlawful relations with individuals to her unknown, thereby causing her to suffer great mental anguish."

On two occasions, she says, he flourished his revolver over her head in a threatening manner, and while so doing informed her that he would kill her, and that in September, 1906, while angry he struck plaintiff with his fists, knocking her to the floor, when he informed her that he intended to kill her, and she avers that if it had not been for the intervention of her father that he would have carried his threat into execution.

Finally, she says, in treatment was through no cause of hers but solely because she refused to satisfy his repeated demands for money.

# MRS. HENDERSON MUCH MARRIED

## Thought to Have Had Five Husbands and An Unenviable Record in Court.

From testimony given at the inquest by Detectives Stuart and Vaughn and from newspaper clippings found in Henderson's possession it appears that his wife has borne a shady reputation for some time.

Part of her game, it is alleged, was to advertise in marriage papers for a young unmarried woman with \$80,000, and wanting a husband with a few thousands to invest who could take care of her fortune. She is known to have caught one man whose name was O'Dell, this way before she married Henderson. Her father is said to have worked with her, and one rumor has it that he killed one of her husbands.

She married Henderson in San Francisco in April, 1906. At the time she was on trial in an Oakland court for running a marriage bureau to lure men, and Henderson was the star witness against her. She is said to have married him so that he might not have to testify against her. Deprived of the witness' testimony she was acquitted of the charge on which she was held.

Henderson told his detectives that she had secured some \$3000 from him on her representations of the "Ogalla" mines, which, it appears, are worthless. She and her husband did not

live happily together, and from the conversation heard by Ed. Willoughby before the shooting it would seem that he had ill treated her.

Up to the time when Henderson met the woman who ruined his life he had borne a good reputation and was well liked, but after falling into her clutches he became infatuated and could not keep away from her. She seemed to have an influence over him that could not be broken even by herself.

# INQUEST THROWS LIGHT ON MURDER

The coroner's inquest over the bodies of William W. Henderson and his wife Martha E. Henderson held Saturday night, resulted in a verdict in accordance with the facts of the case. The jury found that Mrs. Henderson came to her death by a bullet wound inflicted by her husband, and that William Henderson died by a self-inflicted bullet wound.

In the testimony the scene that met the gaze of those who first entered the room was gone over, and although Joseph Maxwell, the father of the woman was unable to be present on account of his wound, the statement he made to Chief of Police Burns and to the Star was taken as evidence, and from this the guilt was placed on Henderson.

From the evidence it developed that five shots were fired, two of which struck the woman, one in the forehead and one in the right breast, one hit Maxwell in the back of the head, one pierced Henderson's hat falling to injure him, and the other entered the brain.

# Maxwell Describes Positions.

Maxwell made a later statement to the Star while he was lying in the room adjoining to which he was taken after the shooting in regard to the positions occupied by the three when Henderson fired the fatal shots. According to Maxwell, he was standing by the bed, the woman was standing at the foot of the bed, and Henderson was on the bed. The room was small, with merely room for the bed and a washstand. From the bullet marks in the walls and the floor Henderson must have been standing on the bed when he fired. One bullet went through the wall, and one went through the floor. This latter was likely the one which struck the old man.

Among the personal effects left by Henderson was found nothing that would show to what lodges he belonged, or whether he was in good standing or not. He is said to have stated to men around town that he was in good standing, however. His effects will be sent to his brother, G. M. Henderson, of Rutledge, Tennessee. He had a bank book showing a deposit of \$825 in a Seattle bank, and papers showed that he was working for the Puget Sound Electric Co., at the time of his death. He had also been employed in St. Louis and other cities on the street car lines.

# Henderson to be Buried Here.

Coroner Holman yesterday received a message from the brother giving instructions that the body be buried here. Earlier in the day a telegram was received directing the coroner to ship the body to Tennessee, but after consultation with the other relatives it was decided to have Henderson buried at Oregon City. The funeral will be held Tuesday morning from Holman's undertaking rooms.

Last night a man claiming to be a cousin of Henderson came up from Portland and identified him. He left no instructions with the coroner for the disposal of the body, and the instructions from the brother in Tennessee will be followed out. The arrangements for the funeral have not yet been completed.

The body of the woman will be held until her father becomes well enough to give directions for the burial.

# TAKEN TO PORTLAND HOSPITAL.

Joseph D. Maxwell, shot by his son-in-law W. W. Henderson, Saturday morning and seriously wounded was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital in Portland on the Southern Pacific Saturday night. He had been removed previously from the room to which he had been carried in the Wilhelm Tell house after the shooting to the Electric hotel, where he received all the surgical aid that the limited appliances of Oregon City would permit.

After the wound was dressed Saturday morning, Maxwell appeared to be resting easily, but about half past ten he seemed to be growing worse and Dr. Stuart was hurriedly summoned. He worked with him for several hours before he was thought to be out of danger, and Dr. Carl was summoned in the early afternoon.

Towards evening he was removed to the Electric hotel, as a quieter and more convenient place to care for him, but it was thought that the hospital was a better place for him, and he was removed there in the late afternoon. It is stated that he has a good chance of recovery, and if he survives the shock the bullet would not necessarily prove fatal.

At last reports he was resting easily.

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Both telephones.  
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# Private Money to Loan

I have private parties with the following amounts to loan on real estate:

Parties	Amount	Time
1	\$3000.00	5 to 10 years
1	\$4500.00	3 to 5 years
2	\$3500.00	1 to 3 years
5	\$1500.00	5 years
8	\$500.00	1 to 3 years
15	\$200.00	2 to 4 years
25	\$100.00	
	to	
	\$200.00	1 to 5 years

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