

# MRS. ANNIS' STORY OF HAINES' CRIME

## Widow of Murdered Man Makes Case Look Black for Thornton Hains.

### PRISONER'S HOPE FADES

#### Says Thornton Led Way to Scene of Crime, Beckoned to Brother and Prevented Interference With Drawn Revolver.

FLUSHING, N. Y., Dec. 21.—The trial of Thornton J. Hains reached a climax of dramatic intensity today, when Mrs. Helen E. Annis, widow of William E. Annis, in a deliberate recital lasting for nearly three hours pictured the killing of her husband, as he sat at the tiller of his boat, by Captain Peter C. Hains, Jr. Mrs. Annis nearly fainted a few minutes before her examination concluded but quickly recovered.

It was a hard day for the defense and cross-examination, which was directed toward the state's witnesses in an effort to shake their testimony. Thornton Hains has much of the "easy nonchalance" that characterized his manner in previous sessions. When led from the court by two Deputy Sheriffs the prisoner appeared dejected and careworn.

#### Thornton Beckoned to Brother.

Mrs. Annis made an impressive figure on the witness stand as she told in quiet tones her story of August 15 at the Bay-side Yacht Club. Several new points added dramatic interest in the trial. When Annis' boat came alongside the float, the witness testified, Thornton Hains beckoned to his brother and led the way down the runway. The shooting followed within a few minutes.

Mr. McIntyre sought to discredit the "beckoning episode," which the state asserts proves that the author induced the Army officer to the crime, and kept Mrs. Annis on this point under cross-examination for nearly half an hour. Hains' counsel developed that Mrs. Annis had not until last week told District Attorney Darrin that the defendant had beckoned to his brother.

#### Threat to Shoot Mrs. Annis.

"I ran down the runway and Thornton Hains pointed his revolver at me. I turned to go back and he pressed the weapon against my back, saying: 'You get out of here or you'll get the same as my husband.' I ran up the runway, and looking back saw my husband falling into the water."

So said Mrs. Annis, relating her story, and this new evidence the lawyers for Hains struggled to get out of her.

That Thornton Hains was armed in the manner of the plainman was shown today when a leather holster which is strapped around the waist and enabled the owner to make a quick play, was identified by Roberts as the one taken from Hains after the shooting.

Mr. Darrin informed the court at recess that it would take about five days to present the rest of the state's case. Justice Crane then announced that night sessions will be held commencing tomorrow night.

#### Will Not Call Mrs. Hains.

Mr. Darrin has, at this time, no intention of using Mrs. Claudia Hains, wife of Captain Hains, as a witness for the prosecution.

Mr. Darrin, angered at the comments made on his conduct at the trial and tendered his resignation from the office last Saturday, but was persuaded to continue the prosecution and not resign.

#### Roberts' Story of Shooting.

When the trial opened today, Charles H. Roberts, a member of the Bay-side Yacht Club, took the stand. He said he went to the club with Mrs. Annis in the afternoon of August 15. Mr. Roberts said he saw the defendant and his brother, Captain Hains, at the club together with the club members who were on the dock and float when Annis was killed.

Mr. Roberts said that the two Annises were on their boats at the float when the shooting took place. He did not see the Hains brothers before the first shot was fired.

"I was standing near the gangway when I observed Annis and his boat coming toward the dock. The boat was coming alongside the float when I heard a shot and Mrs. Annis scream: 'Look out, Will.' I started across the float toward Captain Hains, who was in a crouching position. It was then that Thornton Hains stepped in between us and pointing a revolver in my face, said: 'Keep off, keep off, or I will kill you.'"

Mr. Roberts said that Captain Hains was about three feet from Annis.

"I dropped when Hains pointed the gun in my face and saw Annis stagger and fall into the water. I pulled him out of the water. Annis was placed on the float and the defendant was six or seven feet away. After this first shot I started across the dock and the pistol was then pointed in my face and I stood there until the firing was over."

#### Thornton Guilty as Brother.

After the shooting, the Hains brothers moved over to the other side of the float, said Roberts, and defendant lighted a cigarette and I lighted a pipe. Captain Hains opened a card case and handed out a card.

Roberts said: "I said to Captain Hains: 'The Army must be proud of officers like you.' The defendant said he wanted to explain, and I told him I did not want any explanations. I told Thornton Hains: 'You are as guilty as your brother. You prevented us from stopping the shooting, and the defendant replied: 'What could I do? He is my brother.'"

The witness said that Thornton Hains took his brother's wrist as if feeling his pulse.

"There was a conversation on the float and Mr. Stephens said to the defendant that it should have been settled with Hains and Hains said: 'It is evident that you were not born in this country.' I asked the Hains brothers if they wanted to commit some crimes, why they didn't settle some place where women and children would not see it, and the defendant replied: 'I am as sorry as you are. I have been trying to keep him from doing it for some time.'"

#### Revolver Used by Thornton.

District Attorney Darrin drew from a watchman's table a large steel-blue revolver, which Mr. Roberts identified as the weapon which Thornton Hains surrendered after the shooting.

## PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE HAINES MURDER TRIAL.



T. J. HAINES TAKEN TO COURT. JUDGE CRANE AND CHIEF CLERK, HAINES TRIAL.

"Is it not a fact that Thornton Hains said to you: 'I saved your life. This is what I get for it. This is the kind of gratitude. Had you touched him (the Captain), he would have shot you to death?'"

"No, he did not."

On redirect examination, Mr. Roberts said that when Thornton Hains said: "Keep back, keep back, or I will kill you," he did not hear anything else."

**Hainses Followed Mrs. Annis.**

Helen E. Annis, widow of William E. Annis, was recalled. Mrs. Annis said she had left Long Island City on that afternoon with her two little boys, ages 7 and 8, and the Hainses a year old. Her testimony continued:

"When did you meet at the Bay-side Station?"

"I met Mr. Rockwell and Mr. Andrews. There were others there, but I don't remember them."

"Did you see a cab driving along while you were on your way to the clubhouse?"

"Yes, it was behind the stage."

"What happened?"

"When the stage reached Mr. Burton's house, the cab drove near and I recognized Captain Peter C. Hains. There was a man next to him. The cab proceeded to the stage until near the shore road, and then fell behind the stage."

"How far behind the stage did the cab drive?"

"It drove directly behind the stage. As the stage stopped at the clubhouse, the two occupants of the cab stepped out."

"What did you do?"

"Brothers Wait for Annis."

"I went into the club with my two boys. I saw the two men enter and the colored waiter walked up to them and engaged in a conversation. I went to the dock immediately, looking for my husband. I was about a minute when I noticed that Thornton Hains and Captain Hains followed me down. I was standing on the right-hand side of the dock when they came down. Captain Hains stood near a gasoline house on the right side and Thornton Hains talked with some club members on the left side of the dock."

"Where was your husband when you reached the end of the dock?"

"Half way out on the bay, sailing a race. I could not see his face."

"How long before his boat came in?"

"A full 20 minutes."

"What was the position of the sail with reference to the persons in the boat?"

"Thornton Held Back Crowd."

"It was on the side so I could not see his face. Mr. Birchfield, who was talking to Thornton Hains on the dock, ran down to the boat and went to the bow, so it would not hit against the float. As Birchfield followed Thornton Hains, I beckoned his brother and made some explanation. They followed Birchfield down the gangplank. Captain Hains ran down to the corner of the float, took a crouching position and drew a revolver and pointed it under the sail. Thornton Hains went to the edge of the float and turned his back to the water and faced the people."

"When Captain Hains had his hand upon the boat, what did he have in his right hand?"

"He had a revolver which he drew. He was aiming at the boat. He was on the first and second shots, then I ran in the direction of my husband. Thornton Hains pointed the pistol at me and I turned until he placed the revolver at my back. He said: 'You move and you will get the same.'"

"Did the shooting occur while all this was going on?"

"Yes."

"What did you do then?"

"I ran up the gangplank and then started to run back again, but Mr. Andrews took my arm and led me back up."

"What did your husband do?"

"He was standing in the bow of the boat when he was first shot. He rose to his feet and walked around the mast when his leg gave way. I saw him fall into the water."

#### GASPIPE THUG IS CAUGHT

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 21.—Sigmund Hartig, a jeweler of the Mission district, is lying in the hospital with a fractured skull tonight as a result of the attempted robbery of his place of business in broad daylight, the crime being very similar to the gaspipe outrages which terrorized this city two years ago.

Hartig's establishment was entered this afternoon by Louis Schultz, an ex-convict, who pretended that he desired to purchase a \$50 diamond. When the dealer displayed the gem, Schultz attempted to grab and struck Hartig with a section of gaspipe rolled up in a piece of paper. Hartig saw the action and dodged back, but did not entirely avoid the blow, which struck him on the side of the head. He did not lose his hold on the jewel, however, and retained consciousness long enough to give the alarm, which resulted in the capture of his assailant after a short chase.

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## WATER PUT ON LAND

Government Progress in Irrigation of Oregon.

## SETTLEMENT ON ARID LAND

Growth of Crops on Umatilla Land Delayed by Cold Spring—Slow Progress on Klamath Tract Because Too Isolated.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 19.—The seventh annual report of the reclamation service, recently sent to Congress, briefly describes the progress of work on irrigation projects of the Northwest. Of the two projects in Oregon, the Umatilla is much farther advanced than the Klamath, though it is laid out on a much smaller scale and embraces only 29,440 acres of irrigable land, while the Klamath embraces 165,000 acres. The report only covers to June 30, 1908, and contains no account of progress since that date. It will be recalled that the formal opening of the Umatilla project was announced about a month ago.

In reference to the Umatilla project the report says: "Of the 6638 acres opened by public notice of June 21, 1907, 3487 acres are in public ownership and 3151 in private ownership. Thirteen water-right applications, covering 102 acres, have been made for public land, and 83 water-right applications covering 3885 acres for private land. The excess of land in private ownership for which water-right applications have been made over the total area in private ownership is due to relinquishments. The land in the Herndon tract for which water-right applications have not been filed is held in private ownership mostly by one company. This company is under contract with the United States to sell its holdings within one year from the date of the secretary's notice to purchasers capable of perfecting water rights."

#### Cold Spring Checked Growth.

On March 8, 1908, water was turned into the distribution system for the purpose of priming the canals. The first water for irrigation was turned out on the land March 23. Over the greater portion of the Herndon tract service has since that date been regularly maintained, except for a day or two during and just after each of the more violent dust storms. Thirty miles of canals and main laterals are now in use, through which 6500 acre-feet of water have passed. "Usually high water has been running this spring and lasted until late in June, greatly interfering with farm operations. The land has been planted mainly to alfalfa, fruit trees and vegetables. On account of the cold spring and prolonged and violent wind storms, the results have not been all that could be desired, however, the favorable showing made in the growth of certain varieties of fruit trees and vines under the unusual and extremely adverse weather conditions indicates that the project will ultimately develop into a successful fruit-growing region."

#### Progress at Klamath.

Progress on the Klamath project has



CLAUDIA HAINES, WIFE OF THORNTON HAINES.

been reported from time to time both from the local office and the reclamation office here, and later information than that contained in the report has already been printed. The report states, however, that general investigations have been made to determine the best method of draining the marsh lands proposed to be reclaimed under this project and plans have been completed and work started on an experimental farm located on marsh lands. The report continues:

"The land in the Klamath Basin is practically all in private ownership and held

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generally in large tracts. The entire basin covers about 200,000 acres, about 30,000 of which are tule marshes. Development under the best conditions has been slow, owing to the character of agriculture practiced. Much land was necessary for handling cattle and horses, and land subdivision under such conditions progressed very little. The population of the district a few years ago was but a few hundred and has grown during the past four years to about 3500.

**Two Districts Under Water.**  
At present water for irrigation is distributed to two districts about 20 miles apart. The Klamath district, lying near the town of Klamath Falls, is supplied with water from the main project canal, having a capacity of 1500 second-feet. In this district



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