

# MYSTERIOUS DOUBLE MURDER IN CAMDEN

## Mother and Daughter Shot Down by a Burglar Who Had Aroused Them From Their Slumbers.

### SON SAW HIS MOTHER KILLED

A Crime That Seems to Be as Unfathomable as the Wilson Murder—Mayor of Camden Offers a Reward of \$500.

In the quiet hour that precedes the dawn, in their own home in Camden, two weak, defenseless woman, mother and daughter, were cruelly slain by a burglar yesterday. The tragedy takes front rank in the history of crime in Camden and it is enshrouded in a mystery that parallels the Wilson murder. In fact there is a striking similarity in the two foul crimes. In both a burglar surprised at his work recklessly committed murder and escaped, leaving not the slightest clue to his identity.

The murdered women are: MRS. EMMA ZANE, a widow, aged 78 years.

MRS. SARAH M. SHAW, daughter of Mrs. Zane, also a widow, aged 46 years.

The third occupant of the house was Eli Shaw, aged 23 years, son of Mrs. Shaw, who saw his mother shot and summoned the police.

These and the unknown assassin or assassins were the actors in the fearful drama. The scene was the second-story of the dwelling house No. 242 Line street. The time of the double murder has been fixed at within five minutes of 4.30 o'clock yesterday morning.

The house where old Mrs. Zane, her daughter and her grandson lived is an old-fashioned, three-story frame dwelling, severely plain in front, its rooms small, with low ceilings, the hallways rather narrow and the stairways steep. There is a side alley, and a good sized yard in the rear. Mrs. Zane owned the house and had lived there many years. Her husband, formerly a sea captain, died about two years ago. The house is filled with old-fashioned, comfortable furniture, but contained nothing which would be likely to excite the cupidty of the ordinary house-breaker.

Mrs. Zane slept in the second-story front room. Her daughter and grandson occupied rooms on the third floor.

Young Eli Shaw, the grandson, is convalescing from a severe attack of typhoid fever, and had recently resumed his duties as head bookkeeper for Taylor Brothers, flour and grain dealers, of Front and Market streets,

respond were Charles Lane and his son, Alonzo, who reside at 646 South Third street. As they ran toward Line street they saw young Shaw in his shirt sleeves, frantically waving his arms and crying for help.

They were joined by Policeman Steen, who lives on Third street, near Line. The policeman was not on duty at the time, as he is on the sick list, but he heard the cries at his home and hurried to the scene.

Shaw led them in and said burglars were in the house, and they had shot his mother. Policeman Steen led the way, and the men went up stairs. They first entered the second-story front room. There they found Mrs. Zane in her night clothes, seated in an arm chair by the window, with her chin resting on her breast, apparently asleep. They spoke to her and received no response. Then it suddenly dawned upon the men that she was dead. A ghastly wound at the back of the head from which blood was oozing told of a dreadful crime.

#### MRS. SHAW FOUND.

Seeing that the old lady was beyond help, the search was continued. Directly back of the room occupied by Mrs. Zane is an unused bed room, which is opposite the head of the stairs. Doubled up in the corner of this room, next the door, lay the body of Mrs. Shaw. Blood was dripping from a bullet wound on the right side of her head, and had formed a pool on the carpet.

Mrs. Shaw was still alive, but unconscious. Her tongue was protruding and she was gasping for breath. Tenderly the policeman and the two neighbors raised her to a more comfortable position. Then one of the Lanes hurried out and summoned Dr. Marcus Mines, of Third and Pine streets, while Policeman Steen ran to the patrol box at Locust and Line streets, only half a square away, and turned in a call for the wagon. It was just 4.43 when the call was received at the city hall and a patrol wagon was soon on the scene.

Meanwhile Dr. Mines had arrived. He pronounced Mrs. Shaw's wound mortal, and had her removed at once to the Cooper Hospital. She reached that institution at 5 o'clock. She died at twenty minutes after 10 without regaining consciousness. While Policeman Steen and the patrol sergeant were placing the unconscious form of Mrs. Shaw on a stretcher they heard a dull thud in the front room. It was the body of old Mrs. Zane, that had slipped out of the chair, and fallen to the floor.

and he heard a sound of creaking boards from the floor below. He and his mother occupied rooms on the third floor of the house, while Mrs. Zane occupied the second-story front. Eli got out of bed and, going to his mother's room, asked: "Are you up, mother?"

"Why, no, Eli, what is the matter?" was the mother's response.

"There must be burglars in the house, then; I heard a noise down stairs."

Mrs. Shaw was up in an instant and Eli hurried to his room and slipped on his trousers.

They hurried down stairs with Mrs. Shaw in the lead. The third story stairs land in a hallway at the entrance of the second-story front room. The hallway runs back alongside of the second-story back room to the bathroom, which is a small addition recently built to the rear of the house. The door to the second-story back room opens on the hallway at the extreme southern end of the room, and the stairs that lead to the first floor are directly opposite.

When the two searchers reached the second floor the young man entered the front room, while his mother went to the back room. She lighted a match as she proceeded along the hallway, and as she peered into the side room the burglar was able to easily make out her outline by the dim light.

Mrs. Shaw had hastily opened the room door and stepped across the threshold when a shot rang out and she staggered backward in the corner of the room without uttering a cry and sank to the floor. Whether the burglar-murderer was on the steps or in the back room when he fired the second shot is unknown. If he was on the steps he made his escape before Eli Shaw came out of the front room. If he was in the back room he must have run down stairs when the young man went to summon help.

Evidence of the burglar's manner of gaining an entrance to the house was found in marks on the rear windows and doors. The mosquito netting had been torn off a window opening into the back shed and the window pushed down. Although a gasoline stove with pans on it stands directly under this window, they had apparently not been disturbed. The shutters of a window opening into the kitchen proper were next forced open and a small hole broken in the glass directly under the catch. It is presumed that a crooked piece of wire was inserted through this hole to turn the catch.

There was still another door to be opened before entrance could be gained to the dining-room. This door was bolted, and the catch which held the end of the bolt was forced off, apparently by pressure against the door. From this room the stairs ascend to the second floor. Some silverware was found wrapped in a napkin on the table. Whether it was placed there by the burglar ready for removal or had been put in that shape by one of the women after doing up the housework the night before could not be ascertained.

The burglar apparently made his escape by running out the back door, leaping a low fence into an adjoining yard and then gaining an alley leading into Pine street directly in the rear. The police are puzzled over the failure to discover any trace of the burglar or to find anyone who saw him, as several of the neighbors were astray at that hour.

#### MAYOR OFFERS REWARD

Prompt Action by Officials and Detectives Put Work.

Both the city and county officials took prompt action in the case. Prosecutor

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Camden. The shock of the tragedy has completely unnerved the young man and the police have had great difficulty in getting anything like a coherent story from him. He was in such a pitiable condition that a physician who was called in a few hours after the shooting ordered his removal to the home of his mother's cousin, at 316 Beckett street, and no one was allowed to see him.

### THE ALARM.

The woman and young Shaw retired at the usual hour Monday night and the first intimation the neighborhood had that there was anything wrong in the house was at 4.35 yesterday morning, when one of the second-story front windows was flung up and cries of "Murder!" "Help!" rang through the quiet air. The first persons to

Lieutenants Foster and Pettit and fully a dozen policemen, both from the night and day watch, arrived on the scene during the next half hour, but they are unable to unearth a clue that will lead to the solution of the mystery.

## YOUNG SHAW'S STORY

He Saw His Mother Killed by a Burglar.

For some time after the shooting it was impossible to get a connected story from Eli Shaw, owing to his condition of frantic terror and excitement. Policeman Harry Mines, one of his personal friends, got him to give his experience in detail, and with this and the evidence found in the house the police quickly arrived at the conclusion that the double murder was the work of a burglar. They went farther than this and agreed upon a theory that the burglar was recognized by the women and that he killed them so they would be unable to disclose his identity.

Eli Shaw says he was aroused from his slumbers about half past 4 o'clock

SHALL BOODLE  
RULE THIS TOWN?

# MYSTERIOUS MURDER

Continued From First Page.

Wilson H. Jenkins dispatched Assistant Prosecutor William H. Carson to the scene and the latter was at work on the case all day. He admitted last night that it was a deep mystery and he was greatly puzzled. Prosecutor Jenkins had a consultation with Superintendent Linden in Philadelphia and at his request Detective Crawford was permitted to go to Camden and work on the case.

Mayor Westcott assumed the responsibility of offering a reward of \$500 for information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of the murderer or murderers. At a meeting of the Finance Committee of City Council last night the Mayor's action was approved. A special meeting of City Council has been called for to-morrow evening to ratify the offer of a reward. Prosecutor Jenkins will go before the Board of Freeholders to-day and request that the county also offer a reward.

## FOLLOWING CLUES.

While the police are working on the burglar theory they are also following out clues which lead in other directions. Mrs. Zane owned several houses and had collected some of the rents on Monday. She had also been saving up money to pay for a monument over her husband's grave, but this money had been paid out a week or more ago. The police are confident that the man who shot the two women was acquainted with the fact of Mrs. Zane having money in the house and that he was in search of it when the old lady was aroused and recognized him. That the intruder deliberately murdered the old lady seems evident, for there was no sign of a struggle and no blood was found except under the chair where her body was found.

There was a story current yesterday of a distant relative of Mrs. Zane, against whom suspicion was directed. Assistant Prosecutor Carson said last evening that he knew nothing of such a person.

Late yesterday afternoon Mr. Carson and Detective Crawford visited Eli Shaw at the residence of his mother's cousin, Foster S. Zane, No. 321 Beckett street. Young Shaw was much calmer than during the earlier part of the day. After closely questioning him for awhile the officials requested him to accompany them to police headquarters. There Shaw was subjected to a rigid examination lasting an hour and a half. He stuck to his original story. He said he and his mother went down stairs together and he looked into his grandmother's room and saw her in bed. His mother passed into the back room and, just as she called his attention to some clothing lying on the floor, he says, he saw a flash and she fell almost at his feet. He then ran to his grandmother's room to warn her of her danger. He declares that he heard but one shot and saw no one in the house.

## POLICE BAFFLED.

Shaw was not detained. His statement seemed to deepen the mystery. Chief of Police Dodd frankly admitted after Shaw went away that he was completely non-plussed. He said theories had been destroyed as fast as they were formed and apparent important clues had proved valueless.

One suspect was arrested by the police yesterday afternoon. There is but little evidence, however, to implicate him in the tragedy and he will probably be released to-day. He was arrested by Policeman Myers at the Federal street ferry as he was about to leave for Philadelphia. He gives the name of T. S. Haugh.

## THE BULLETS FOUND

Both Women Were Shot in the Head

From Behind.

County Physician Jones and Coroner Lippincott had their hands full yesterday. In addition to assuming direction of the investigation they held an autopsy on both bodies. It was deemed advisable to do this at once. The post-mortem examination of Mrs. Shaw's body was held at the Cooper Hospital. It was found that a bullet had entered her head on the right side, about one inch above the ear. It had passed through the brain and lodged in the left orbit.

After the examination the body of Mrs. Shaw was removed to her late home. Then the doctors examined Mrs. Zane's body, which was laid out beside her daughter in the parlor of the Line street house. They found that she had been killed by a bullet which entered one inch above and three inches back of the left ear. The ball had passed through the skull and stopped after driving some of the splintered bone into the skull. No other wounds were found on either body except a slight gash over Mrs. Shaw's eye, due to her fall.

Both bullets were battered out of shape, but they were evidently of not less than 32 calibre. The police have two revolvers which were found in the house, but both are of 22 calibre and have evidently not been fired for some time. Eli Shaw carried one of these re-