

The Evening Times

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1893.

TAYLOR HELD FOR THE GRAND JURY

Inquest Results in a Verdict Against Passau's Slayer.

Prisoner Admits Complicity in the Boyd's Murder.

Implicates His Uncle in the Mary-
land Crime—Did Not Know His
Victim Was a Policeman.

A coroner's jury found today that Sergt. Frederick M. Passau met his death yesterday by a gunshot wound inflicted by Armistead Taylor, alias Humphrey Brown. The prisoner was removed to the District jail to await the action of the grand jury. Taylor has admitted his connection with the murder of Louis Rosenstein and the murderous assault on Mrs. Rosenstein, and has declared that his uncle, John Brown, who

lives near Boyds, was a party to the crime. Taylor has said that he struck Mrs. Rosenstein, while his uncle attacked the woman's husband and plundered the house.

It was brought out in evidence today that the policemen who surrounded and forced an entrance to the house in which Sergeant Passau was killed were not in uniform. It was not shown that they told Taylor that they wanted to arrest him in the name of the law. They broke in the outside door of the house, shattering the lock, pursued the fugitive upstairs, and from a point of vantage were fired on by Taylor. Two shots struck Sergeant Passau, and one struck Policeman Gow. Policeman Gow is the only witness to the tragedy.

The story of the tragedy was rehearsed at the coroner's inquest into the death of Sergeant Passau, which was held at Police Station No. 7 at noon today. The following were impanelled as a jury: Frank Thomas, William A. Marceron, A. Thomas Davis, Benjamin Sinsheimer, John Keady, and John M. Brawner. When the jury had viewed the body of the dead officer they returned to the station. The prisoner was brought in. He wore no manacles but was closely guarded. He wore no shoes, but walked in soiled gray yarn socks. He was dressed in a complete suit of blue jeans. He carried in his hands a newspaper in which the plate containing his breakfast had been wrapped. He was very still and appeared cowed. There was a set expression about his eyes, and although everybody stared at him he looked at no one. His left eye was badly blood-shot.

Taylor is a young, muscular man. His height is five feet eight inches, and his weight 165 pounds. The bones in his face and hands are prominent. His color is very dark. His hair is kinky and short-cropped. His face is smooth. Taylor gives his age as twenty years, but he is probably older.

The first witness sworn at the inquest was Deputy Coroner Glazebrook. He testified that he performed an autopsy on the body of Sergeant Passau at Georgetown Hospital last night. The dead sergeant, he said, was six feet tall, weighed 200 pounds, and was in perfect health at the time he received his wounds. Blood and foam were apparent at the mouth and nostrils of the dead man. In the front of the body, low down in the chest, were two dark spots which proved to be bullets that rested directly under the skin. On turning the body over, he found two entrance wounds. The first passed through a lung and shattered a rib. This wound was inflicted by someone who was above the victim and was serious, but not necessarily fatal.

The second wound was on the right side, had passed through a lung, coursed upward, and severed the large artery near the heart. This shot had evidently been fired while the victim was stooping or falling. It was a necessarily instantaneous fatal wound. He had removed the bullets from the body and produced them for the inspection of the jury. One was clean and bright, but that which had shattered the rib was rough, misshapen, and bloody. The prisoner listened to this testimony without once casting his eyes on the witness or manifesting any movement of body or expression of face.

The second witness was policeman A. K. Gow, who was with Sergeant Passau when the fatal shot was fired, and who was himself wounded. He testified that word was brought to the station that the fugitive wanted by the Maryland authorities was living in a house near Fowler's Hill. Sergeant Passau called together a squad of five men and they approached the house from different directions. They did not wear their uniforms. When the party received the signal from a colored man that the suspect was at home, the police closed in on the house. The witness and Sergeant Passau went to the front door. They heard footsteps inside and demanded that the door be opened.

Receiving no response, the sergeant commanded Gow to break in the door which was done. On the left of the entrance, a wooden stairway leads to the floor above. They heard footsteps on this stairway and followed up, the sergeant in the lead. When they reached the second story of the house, they saw a man scrambling through a scuttle-hole in the ceiling. They covered him with their guns and told him to come down. He said that he wanted to get his shoes. Gow said that he command-

ed the negro to come down without his shoes and at that instant shots came from the man in the attic. One bullet struck his shield and glanced downward and another struck his hand.

Sergeant Passau turned to leave and at the top of the stairway sat down. Gow asked the sergeant if he was shot, but received no reply. Then calling to Policeman Trussel they carried the sergeant down stairs, noticed that blood was flowing from him and found that he was dead. He was put in the patrol wagon and taken to the hospital. The witness testified that he was in citizen's clothes and that he did not tell the fugitive that he was a policeman, but simply called to him to open the door. Neither did the sergeant tell the fugitive that he was an officer. He was the only witness to the shooting. It was his belief that Frank Burroughs, precinct detective, was in the house on the first floor.

Precinct Detective Burroughs was the next witness. He testified that Henry Hebron, colored, who occupies the south half of the house in which the tragedy occurred, told him yesterday morning at 8 o'clock that there was a suspicious man living next to him. This strange man had plenty of money and had made a number of unusual statements about his wealth and exemption from work. From the description of the suspect, Mr. Burroughs testified, he was satisfied that the man reported to be in the house at Fowler's Hill was the one who was wanted on the charge of murder at Boyds, Md.

He had agreed with Hebron that as the police approached he should wave his hat as a signal that the suspect was in. When this signal was given the police closed in. Within a few seconds after Passau and Gow ascended the stairway he heard ten or twelve shots in quick succession. He ran upstairs, and through the smoke in the room saw Sergeant Passau sink to the floor. Then he ran downstairs, mounted his wheel, and brought up the wagon.

The witness was asked if he knew the name of the prisoner and replied that the man who did the shooting had told him that his name was Armistead Taylor, but that he was variously called Humphrey Brown and Buck Brown. He testified that the prisoner had admitted that he struck Mrs. Rosenstein, but had said that his uncle, John Brown, struck Louis Rosenstein. Mr. Burroughs testified that the prisoner had been identified by several persons from Montgomery county as the man who was wanted there on the charge of murder.

At this point Coroner Carr said to the prisoner: "Taylor do you want to make any statement?"

The prisoner replied: "No, sir, nothing more than what I've said about the shooting."

"Then you do not want to make any statement?"

"No, sir."

"You know you do not have to make a statement unless you want to."

"Yes, sir."

The prisoner was then led back to his cell while the jury considered its verdict, which was as has been already stated.

Taylor spent a restful night in cell No. 1 at police station No. 7. One policeman stood guard at the grated door all night, and another stood guard at the entrance from the stationhouse proper to the cell room. Taylor was awakened early, and during the morning talked with a number of policemen and police officers.

He expressed regret that he had killed a police sergeant and maintained stoutly that he did not know at the time of the shooting that the man he fired on was an officer of the law. He conveyed the inference that had he known that he was being pursued by a police sergeant he would not have fired, but he did not say this. He was served with breakfast at 10 o'clock and ate heartily of beefsteak, bread, butter, potatoes, and coffee.

Taylor, if looked at critically, is not brutal in appearance. The fact that he has committed a brutal crime makes nine out of ten men who look at him pronounce him brutal or cruel looking. A large number of persons also trace a strong resemblance between Taylor and Irwin Ford, the slayer of Elsie Kreglo. The prisoner seems to be dull-brained and ignorant, and does not differ materially in his physical make-up from the average colored farm hand.