

Thomas Jefferson Pitchlynn

(12 Apr 1855 – 28 Sep 1893)

The Evening Star, November 8, 1876

Fatal Shooting Yesterday Afternoon **Three Men and One Woman**

A shooting affair took place at house No. 617 Maryland avenue about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, which will probably result in the death of a young man named Behlinge, at the hands of one Thomas Pitchlyn. The difficulty arose about a woman. Pitchlyn, Behlinge, Ed. Wirley and two women were in the house, and the men were all more or less intoxicated, and it seems all were paying their addresses to the same female, the mistress of the house. An altercation arose, blows followed, and a desperate struggle ensued on the stairway leading to the second floor, in which Behlinge and Wirley took sides against Pitchlyn. Wirley was armed with a hatchet, but, fortunately, did no injury with it. Pitchlyn being closely pressed drew a seven-shooter, which he placed close to Behlinge's person and fired three times. The three balls took effect in the abdomen and lungs.

Behlinge Fell and Pitchlyn Fled

through the back window of the second story over the roof of a shed to the ground, running to 6th street, and across the reservation between 4 ½ and 6th streets, towards Louisiana avenue. An outcry was made and several men followed in pursuit. The two officers stationed at the Baltimore and Potomac depot were immediately apprised of the act, and started across the reservation to intercept the fugitive. They overhauled him, and when they came near, Pitchlyn halted and turned towards them with the pistol in his hand, and it was at first thought that he would resist, but Officer Amiss approached and he gave himself up, handing his pistol to the officer. He at once stated to the officer that he was on his way to give himself up, to police headquarters. Officer Hobbs, of the 1st precinct, arrested Wirley soon afterwards. One of the balls fired by Pitchlyn took effect in the breast and two in the abdomen of the unfortunate man.

Bad Company

The house in which the affray occurred is kept by James Lomax and his wife, and the two women present at the shooting were Mrs. Lomax and a mulatto woman named Mary Bell. Lomax is employed in a grocery store, but the females named bear rather bad names, and it is charged that Mrs. Lomax was the cause of the trouble. The house is a small frame structure, poorly furnished, and some of the rooms are unoccupied.

Behlinge, after the shooting, was placed on a bed made on the floor, and Dr. H.E. Leach and Drs. Ford and Brookheimer were called in to attend him. They pronounce his condition critical. The wounded man was conscious and turning once to Mrs. Lomax charged her with being the cause of his dying in such a place.

The Victim

is from New York, 24 years of age, and a stair-builder by trade, and has been engaged at work on the Corcoran building. Soon after the occurrence a telegram was sent to his brother, No. 225 28th street, notifying him that his brother could not live.

Pitchlyn

claimed from the first that the shooting was in self-defense, having been attacked by the two men. He is about the same age of the wounded man, and is a son of Col. Pitchlyn, former chief of the Choctaw Indians. He is an educated man, and is well known and generally respected in the community. His son Thomas has been rather a wild youth,, and is pretty well known in police circles.

In the Police Court This Morning

Thomas Pitchlyn was charged with assault and battery with intent to kill Mr. J.H. Behlinge. Mr. Birney stated that the wounded man was still living, but was not expected to recover, and he asked that a hearing be postponed to await the result of his injuries. The court so ordered. Pitchlyn, who was present in the audience room, was ordered to be placed in the dock, and was committed to jail. His countenance showed a serious and regretful look. Behlinge, it is thought, cannot possibly recover.

Condition of the Wounded Man Today

Mr. Connell, of the sanitary police, removed Mr. Joseph H. Belenge, who was shot by Thomas Pitchlyn, to Providence hospital at 11 o'clock today. His condition is critical, and the physicians say he cannot recover, although he appears easy today under opiates.

The Evening Star, November 9, 1876

The Pitchlyn-Behlinge Shooting Affair

We have received a communication from Mr. James Lomax, at whose residence the young man Behlinge was shot Tuesday afternoon, denying that the men engaged in the affray fought about Mrs. Lomax, or that his house is in any way disreputable, as can be proved by Mr. Wirley, who boards in the house.

Officer Amiss this morning brought to the Police Court Isabella J. Bella and Virginia Lomax as witnesses in the shooting case which took place on the evening of the 7th inst. The latter is the wife of the proprietor of the house where the affray occurred. They were held in \$200 bonds each to testify at the hearing. The condition of Belenge this morning is about the same as yesterday. The balls have not been extracted.

Pitchlynn. On Thursday, September 28, 1893 at 8:35 a.m., Thomas Pitchlynn, eldest son of Caroline M. and the late Col. P.P. Pitchlynn in the 38th year of his age. Funeral from the residence of his mother, 1104 6th street n.w., Saturday 4 p.m.