

Charles A. Stockett

(1 Aug 1848 – 1 Dec 1913)

The Evening Star, April 10, 1909

Succeeds Mr. Herrell

Mr. Repetti Treasurer of the Eastern Building Association



At a meeting yesterday of the board of directors of the Eastern Building and Loan Association the president, James W. Whelpley, made a fitting allusion to the death of the treasurer, John E. Herrell, who had occupied that position for twenty years, and appointed a committee, consisting of George R. Repetti, Henry K. Simpson and James E. Hutchinson, to prepare suitable resolutions. The committee subsequently reported the resolutions, which were adopted and were ordered to be spread on the minutes.

George R. Repetti, vice president, was elected treasurer and Charles A. Stockett was elected vice president. Maurice Otterback, cashier of the Anacostia Bank, a member of the association, was elected a director to fill the vacancy on the board.

The Evening Star, November 26, 1913, p. 1

Struck With An Ax Then Robbed

Charles A. Stockett, Attacked in His 18th Street Store

Condition is Critical As Skull is Fractured

Negro Assailant Hunted by Police, Who Have a Good Description

Charles A. Stockett, sixty-five years old, residing at 500 B street southeast, and in business at 2010 18th street northwest was assaulted with an ax and robbed of his pocketbook containing about \$50 in cash, and his gold watch this morning about 8:30 o'clock, shortly after he had opened his store. His skull was fractured and he is in a critical condition.

A colored man employed in the vicinity of the store found the unconscious form of the merchant on the floor of the store. He was attacked only a few minutes before he was found, the police believe, as a colored woman had made a small purchase soon after the store was opened.

Mr. Stockett regained consciousness and was able to tell of the attack and furnish a description of the robber. He was taken to Emergency Hospital, where he repeated the story of the attack to Detectives Pratt and Fortney.

Assailant's Description

"He was a man about six feet tall," said a pedestrian, who saw the assailant leave the store, "and was about thirty-five or forty years old. He had a light smooth face and wore a dark suit and light hat."

At the hospital the opinion was expressed that the blow had been delivered with the broad side of the ax, although the scalp was cut. Surgeons deemed it necessary to perform an operation.

Called at Another Store

The police this afternoon learned that a man answering the description of the assailant has been seen in the neighborhood of 18th and U streets on several mornings recently. Frequently, it is stated, he

visited the store of Mrs. Rebecca L. Wakefield, 1780 Florida avenue, and asked for articles that are not usually kept in such stores.

Mrs. Wakefield, suspecting something wrong, usually called out as if there was a man in a rear room of the store, and her ruse generally caused the colored man to leave without attempting robbery.

Should the assailant be found, it is stated, he can easily be identified. The colored man, Chandler, is positive he will be able to recognize him and several other persons also obtained a good look at him.

The story of the murderous attack recalled to the police the murder of William H. Mickle, tobacconist, near 7th and L streets northwest, two years ago, although in that case it was thought the crime was committed by a white man and the weapon used as a wrench. That mystery remains unsolved.

When Mr. Stockett reached his store, a colored man who later assaulted and robbed him, entered and asked to be shown an ax. The merchant showed him one, and the prospective customer was examining the instrument, it is stated, when a colored woman was seen walking in the direction of the store.

Leaves to Get Money

It is believed that the woman's approach prevented the attack at that time. The man quickly remarked that he wanted to see his employer and get the 50 cents for the ax, and he left the store.

Shortly after the woman entered and purchased a small quantity of oil. There had been nothing about the conduct of the man to suggest anything wrong. It frequently happens that persons inspect goods, go away, and return for them, and when the colored man did so this morning it did not arouse the merchant's suspicions.

Returning to the store shortly before 8:30 o'clock, an hour when many persons were passing along the street going to their places of employment, the colored man said, "I've come back to get the ax." And the merchant picked it up and handed it to him.

Mr. Stockett was able to recall nothing more of what happened. The force of the blow on the right side of his head back of his ear had fractured his skull and rendered him unconscious. He remained in that condition on the floor until he was found by James A. Chandler, colored, of 2323 Champlain avenue northwest.

Chandler was working at the corner below the store, and he came in to purchase supplies. When near the door he saw the merchant's assailant hurry out at the door and start away. As soon as he entered and saw the prostrate form of the dealer on the floor he sounded an alarm. Soon a crowd of curious persons were about the place.

Several persons saw the assailant about the time he left the store, and they were able to furnish good descriptions of him.

Here Resident for Years

Mr. Stockett, who has many relatives in the vicinity of Annapolis, Md., has been a resident of this city many years. He formerly was a member of the firm of Stockett & Fiske, blank book manufacturers, stationers and printers. He is a widower and resides with his brother, George Stockett, who is employed in the navy yard.

Two other brothers of the wounded man are Edward Stockett, member of a stationery firm, and John Stockett, clerk in the War Department. A sister, Miss Mary E. Stockett is principal of the Maury Public School in Northeast Washington.

Mr. Stockett is prominent in Masonic circles. He is a member of Orient Commandery, K.T., and Naval Lodge, F.A.A.M.

During the investigation of the case the police were told that the robbery and assault probably was the work of some person who was familiar with the store and its surroundings. They were told that the

hardware merchant usually carried a large sum of money in his wallet and that the wallet was carried in his inside vest pocket.

"Mr. Stockett probably had displayed his wallet while making change," said one of his friends to the police, "'and the sight of the money proved the temptation to which the colored assailant yielded."

The Washington Post, November 27, 1913

Thief's Blow Deadly

C.A. Stockett, Victim of Negro, Is Dying, Say Doctors

Great Dragnet is Spread

Police Make Effort to Capture Man Who Struck Down Elderly Merchant--

Two Suspects Prove Innocence--

Old Man's Skull Fractured by Ax Handle Assault Lies Unconscious in Hospital

In the far-reaching search for the negro, who yesterday morning used an ax in assaulting and robbing Charles A. Stockett, 65 years old, in his store at 2010 Eighteenth street northwest, two men were arrested late in the day by policemen of the Fifth and Ninth precincts, but both suspects finally convinced the authorities of their innocence.

Maj. Sylvester at noon had 10,000 circulars printed, containing a description of Mr. Stockett's assailant and an offer of a reward of \$100 for his capture. Nearly all of the circulars were in the mail by nightfall, several hundred of them addressed to nearby points, going under special delivery. In addition, telegrams were dispatched to the police of cities in the South and East.

Struck Frightful Blow

Mr. Stockett, whose skull was fractured by a blow with the back of the ax, is expected to die within 24 hours, it was said last night in Emergency Hospital. An operation, performed at noon, revealed a depressed fracture of unusually large extent, just above the right ear. Before the operation he was able to give the police a description of his assailant. While they expect him to die, the surgeons say he has a slight chance; it depends upon his vitality.

Stockett was alone when the negro entered and asked to be shown an ax. The kind Mr. Stockett handed him did not suit, he said, and the storekeeper had turned around to get another ax when the negro struck him. A heavy felt slouch had probably prevented Mr. Stockett from being killed instantly. When they examined the hat the police found that the brim had curled up under the blow, making a double thickness of felt where the blunt ax "pole" struck.

Workman Sees Escape

As the storekeeper fell unconscious, the negro rolled him over and went through his pockets, extracting a leather wallet containing about \$50, and a gold watch and chain. The negro was fumbling at the front door, evidently bent on locking it, when another negro, James A. Chandler, a cement workman, of 2321 Champlain avenue northwest, stepped up from the sidewalk, intending to make a purchase.

Realizing he would be discovered, Stockett's assailant opened the door, pushed Chandler aside, and walked away, leisurely at first, but, as he reached the corner, breaking into a run.

Stockett, Chandler, and others who saw the storekeeper's assailant, said he was about 5 feet 11 inches, or 6 feet tall, weighing about 175 to 185 pounds, of a very dark color, with full, smooth face and broad shoulders. He wore a dark suit, light slouch hat, and black shoes with low heels.

The Evening Star, November 27, 1913

**Stockett Still Alive; Assailant Uncaptured
Hardware Dealer Reported to Have Slight Chance for Recovery
All Suspects Prove Alibis and Are Released--Detectives Find But Few Clues**

In spite of the efforts of the police department to locate and arrest the assailant of Charles A. Stockett, hardware dealer, 2010 18th street northwest, and the offer of a reward of \$100 for information, leading to the apprehension of the colored man who assaulted Stockett with an ax and then robbed him of \$45 and a valuable watch, no trace of the man has been found.

It was reported at Emergency Hospital today that the condition of the injured man is extremely critical and that his chance for recovery is slight.

Half a dozen suspects, arrested yesterday and last night, were able to prove complete alibis, and the men arrested have all been released.

In the police circular offering the \$100 reward Stockett's assailant is described as "a very dark, brown-skinned negro, thirty-five to forty years old, 5 feet 11 inches or 6 feet tall, weight 175 to 185 pounds, full, smooth face, broad shoulders, wore dark suit, light slouch hat, and black shoes with low heels."

Few Clues Are Found

Detectives Pfaff and Forteney, with Precinct Detective Weber of the tenth precinct, spent the greater part of yesterday and last night running down clues and looking for traces of the colored man. The detectives today declared they are completely at sea in regard to identification of the assailant of Stockett or definite clues as to the man's whereabouts.

A minute examination of the hardware store where the assault and robbery occurred failed to disclose any fingerprints or other clues which might possibly lead to the capture and identification of the colored man.

The detectives found the short-handled ax which was the weapon used by the colored man. The hands of the ax bore a bloodstain, but careful scrutiny of the ax and handle failed to disclose any fingerprints or other marks that might have been made by the hand of the man who wielded the murderous implement.

The ax, a bit of chain broken from the watch when the timepiece was torn from Mr. Stockett's pocket and the injured man's hat, bearing the imprint of the blade of the ax, were taken to police headquarters, where they are held, to be used as evidence in case the police are successful in locating and arresting the hardware merchant's assailant.

Stockett's Survival Remarkable

It was stated at Emergency Hospital today that the physical condition of Mr. Stockett makes the fact of his having survived the assault this long remarkable. The injured man, it was stated, has for years suffered from heart trouble, asthma, dropsy and partial paralysis, and this complication of diseases, the surgeons say, ordinarily would have militated against the man's survival even for a few hours.

Dr. Harry Lewis, superintendent of Emergency Hospital, operated on the injured man yesterday, and stated today that Mr. Stockett stood the operation astonishingly well. Under the influence of the anesthetic. Dr. Lewis said, Mr. Stockett's weak heart appeared to be more nearly normal in its action than it has been for several years, according to statements made after the operation by Mr. Stockett.

Several pieces of the shattered skull were removed, Dr. Lewis said, one of the fragments of bone being the size of a silver dollar. The nature of the injury, the surgeon said, also made it necessary to remove several small particles of the brain tissue itself.

This afternoon the police photographer visited the scene of the assault and took several photographs. Maj. Sylvester directed the taking of the photographs for use in court in event of the capture of the merchant's assailant.

The Washington Post, November 28, 1913

Victim of Thief Sinks

C.A. Stockett Unconscious and Can't Help Detectives

Wish to Show Him Picture

Rogues' Gallery Photograph Probably Never Will Be Seen by Old Merchant.

Police Baffled in Hunt for Man Who Swung Ax Pole on Storekeeper

May Have Been Nonresident

Charles A. Stockett, the aged hardware dealer, assaulted with an ax and robbed Wednesday morning in his store at 2010 Eighteenth street northwest, sank into unconsciousness yesterday in Emergency Hospital, and his condition last night was such that the surgeons expressed no hope for his recovery.

Detective Disappointed

Detective Sergt. Charles A. Evans, one of the headquarters men who are working on the case, found in the rogues' gallery a picture of a negro, who, he thought, might be of the man who assaulted Mr. Stockett. Evans took the picture to the hospital, hoping to find the injured man conscious for at least a brief interval, but was disappointed.

Although Mr. Stockett was semiconscious most of the time Wednesday, and wholly conscious at frequent intervals, he relapsed into complete insensibility early yesterday, and the doctors do not expect him to come out of that state.

Police Are Baffled

The police seem baffled in their search for Mr. Stockett's assailant. Ten thousand circulars containing a description of the negro, have been mailed and many telegrams dispatched, so far to no avail. Detectives on the case have concluded that the man is a stranger in Washington.

The Washington Post, December 1, 1913, p. 1

Blow Gives Hearing

Stockett's Deaf Ear Is Restored to Natural Function

Tells Of Attack By Negro

Hardware Merchant, Regaining Consciousness in Hospital,

Gives Detectives New Clew to Assailant –

Surgeons Astounded at Vitality of Aged Man,

Whose Skull Was Fractured by Ax

Regaining consciousness yesterday, Charles A. Stockett, the aged hardware dealer whom a negro assaulted with an ax in his store at 2010 Eighteenth street northwest Wednesday morning, discovered that the blow had restored his hearing in one ear. Before the assault Mr. Stockett was deaf in the right ear and partially deaf in the left one; yesterday his left ear was deaf as a result of the paralysis of the entire left side of his body, while his right ear was in perfect working order.

As the result of the unexpected improvement in Mr. Stockett's condition the police yesterday learned important facts bearing on the case which may lead them to the capture of the storekeeper's assailant. Instead of looking for a strange negro, as they have been doing, they are now looking for one who lives or works in the neighborhood of the hardware store. They are trying to find somebody who sent a negro out to purchase an ax, or hatchet, Wednesday morning.

Describes His Assailant

Mr. Stockett, relating the story of the assault to Detective Sergts. Evans and Pratt, in Emergency Hospital yesterday, said that the negro was light colored, instead of dark skinned, and at least 6 feet tall. Having selected the ax he desired he handed Mr. Stockett a dollar, from which to take 50 cents. It was when the storekeeper drew out a wallet bulging with currency that the negro attacked him.

Surgeons in Emergency Hospital and others who have been observing the case are astounded by Mr. Stockett's vitality. He was expected to die within a few hours after the assault, in which his skull was fractured over the right ear; last night he was still "holding his own," with a slight chance to recover.

Working on New Clew

Last night, evidently weakened by the strain of conversation with the detectives, Stockett relapsed into unconsciousness again. But his condition was not necessarily worse, the surgeons said, and added that he might "pull through."

Scores of policemen, in plain clothes, were set to work in the neighborhood of Stockett's store yesterday afternoon as a consequence of the detectives' talk with the aged hardware dealer, and the police are confident that his assailant will be found within 24 hours.

The Evening Star, December 1, 1913, p. 3

Stockett Stronger; May Survive Blow

Police Still Without Clue to Identity of Hardware Merchant's Assailant

Charles A. Stockett, hardware merchant at 2010 18th street northwest, who was assaulted with an ax last Wednesday morning by a negro, has partly regained his hearing as a result of the terrific blow dealt him. He has not lost consciousness since Thursday morning, surgeons at Emergency Hospital stated this morning, and the case is not now regarded as an utterly hopeless one.

"The patient is a little stronger," was the word the police received from the hospital this morning.

Yesterday afternoon the patient surprised hospital attendants by recalling that his name was in the wallet taken from his pocket. Dr. Harry Lewis, superintendent of the hospital, questioned the patient for the police yesterday afternoon. The merchant's hearing was nothing like as bad as it was before he was assaulted.

Mr. Stockett was able to tell more clearly the story of the assault than he had at any time since he reached the hospital. His mind is absolutely clear, his physician stated this morning, and he may recover.

Telephoned to Hospital

Detectives working on the case are trying to ascertain the identity of a supposed colored man who, twelve hours after the assault was committed, telephoned the hospital and asked: "Is dat man Stockett dead yet?"

"Who is this speaking?" inquired the one who received the message.

The man at the telephone hung up the receiver. At the office of the telephone company the employes were unable to locate the telephone from which the call was received.

Detective Evans, Forteney, Warren, Grant, Armstrong and Pratt yesterday canvassed the neighborhood of the hardware store in an effort to find some trace of the merchant's assailant, and they were surprised to find some persons who had not heard of the assault.

It is believed by the detectives that the assault was not premeditated, but that it was committed by a man who saw Mr. Stockett's money and was unable to resist the temptation to get it. The negro had not been seen by Mr. Stockett before the morning of the assault, the wounded man stated yesterday, and his two visits to the store were only a few minutes apart.

Temptation Too Strong

Mr. Stockett thinks the man really came to the store for the purpose of making a purchase, and not to assault and rob him. He recalled that the customer gave him a dollar bill, but he does not remember what he did with it.

The detectives investigating the case think Mr. Stockett put the bill in his wallet, and that the sight of the money in the book proved an irresistible temptation to the customer. Many apartment houses and private residences in the vicinity of the 18th street store were visited by the six detectives yesterday, but no definite information was obtained, and this morning it was said the affair was still as much a mystery as ever.

Suspect Under Arrest

Thomas Lynch, colored, was arrested in Burlington, N.J., this morning on suspicion of being the assailant of Mr. Stockett, according to a message received from that city today by Inspector Boardman, chief of detective.

The man under arrest, Inspector Boardman was told, is from this city and has been in Burlington only a few days. A detective will go to Burlington to see the prisoner.

The Washington Post, December 2, 1913

Dead of Thief's Blow

C.A. Stockett, Aged Merchant Succumbs in Hospital

Clews To Assailant Fade

Detectives, After Talk With Mr. Stockett, Suspect That the Deed Was Committed by a Washington Negro, Probably One Employee Near the Store--

New Jersey Negro Freed

C.A. Stockett, the aged hardware dealer who was assaulted with an ax, Wednesday morning in his store at 2010 Eighteenth street northwest, by a negro thief, and who astonished the surgeons of his remarkable vitality, died at ... His end was expected at nightfall.

Assailant Still at Large

The negro who fractured Stockett's skull with an ax is still at large, although the police have been bending every effort to find him. A suspect was arrested in Burlington, N.J., yesterday morning, but Inspector Boardman by long-distance telephone satisfied himself that the wrong man had been taken into custody.

Suspect a Washington Negro

Detectives working on the case have picked up two or three clews leading out of the city. Since their talk with the victim in the hospital on Sunday, however, they are convinced that it was a Washington negro who perpetrated the crime and probably a man who lived or worked in the vicinity of Stockett's store.

The Evening Star, December 4, 1913, p. 4

Charles A. Stockett Buried This Afternoon

Services Held at Trinity M.E. Church by Masonic Order. Police Hunt Slayer

Funeral services for Charles A. Stockett, hardware merchant, victim of an unidentified negro slayer, were conducted this afternoon at Trinity M.E. church, Seward square and 5th street southeast, Rev.

Henry S. France, pastor, officiating. The body was escorted from the late home of Mr. Stockett, 5th and B streets southeast, to the church by members of the three Masonic organizations with which he was affiliated.

E.P. Hazelton, eminent commander of Orient Commandery No. 5, K.T., assisted by Prelate Richard P. Evans, conducted the Masonic ceremonies at the church, members of Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, R.A.M., J. Frank Campbell, high priest, and Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M., being in attendance

The pallbearers, selected from the Masonic Order, were: from Naval Lodge, John C. Bunn and Francis Hildebrand; from Washington Naval Chapter, J.C. Cross and C.F. Wood; from Orient Commandery, Elmer E. Wilkinson and B.A. Grist.

Members of the three organizations assembled at Naval Hall, Pennsylvania avenue and 4th street southeast, at 1 o'clock and attended the funeral in a body, Orient Commandery being in uniform, and members of the uniformed body acted as escort on the way to Congressional cemetery.

Frank H. Kramer, worshipful master of Naval Lodge, had charge of the ceremonies at the grave. Mr. Stockett was past commander of Orient Commandery, having served in that capacity in 1899.

While funeral services for the dead man were being conducted this afternoon members of the so-called murder squad of detectives were exerting themselves to bring about the capture of the slayer. They had several suspects under surveillance yesterday, but it was stated this afternoon that an early solution of the mystery is not expected.

The Washington Post, December 5, 1913

Mason's Pay Him Respect

Three Lodges Attend Funeral Service for Charles A. Stockett

Police Still Without a Tangible Clue to Identity of Negro Assailant of Hardware Dealer

Members of three Masonic lodges yesterday attended the funeral of Charles A. Stockett, the aged hardware dealer who was struck down by a negro with an ax Wednesday morning a week ago, in his store at 2010 Eighteenth street northwest. Mr. Stockett was a member of Orient Commandery, No. 5, K.T.; Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, R.A.M., and Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M.

The services were conducted by the Rev. Henry S. France, pastor of Trinity M.E. Church, and were held in the church, wither the body was escorted by the Masons from Mr. Stockett's home, at Fifth and B streets southeast. The pallbearers were J.C. Bunn and Francis Hildebrand, from Naval Lodge; J.C. Ross and C.F. Wood, Naval Lodge, and E.E. Wilkinson and B.A. Grist, Orient Commandery.

The police are no nearer to finding Stockett's slayer than they were when the assault was committed. Although a score of detectives and policemen are working on nothing but the case, not one clue to the identity of the slayer has been picked up. Many suspects have been arrested, but they were all released.

The Washington Post, December 8, 1913, p. 4

Hot Hunt On Clews

Police Making Every Effort To Unravel Murder Mysteries

Urged By Stockett Case

Several Recent Tragedies Similar to Killing of Hardware Dealer

Iron Implement Used in Assault on Morris Bennett, and

Monkey Wrench Caused Death of Tobacconist Mickle

Ax Employed in Present Case, and the Chinaman Jan Lee Was

Slain With Heavy Bar of Metal

There is a good deal of similarity between the case of Charles A. Stockett, the aged hardware dealer, who was slain with an ax in his store at 2010 Eighteenth street northwest, Wednesday A week ago, and that of William H. Mickle, who was murdered on November 16, two years ago, as well as that of Jan Lee, the Chinese laundryman, who was beaten to death three months after the Mickle murder.

The police are hopeful that they will find the negro who killed Stockett, but they have even less to work on in respect to clues than they had in the Mickle case, and no more than they had in the case of the Chinaman, in which there was no clue at all. James Smith, who almost killed Morris Bennett, a Fairmont Heights, Md., storekeeper, four days after Mickle was murdered, is doing 30 years in prison for that crime, and the authorities think he is the man who may have assaulted Mickle. But the evidence was only circumstantial, and so much doubt remains that they are still looking for Mickle's murderer.

Three Cases Similar

All three cases are startlingly similar, both in the absence of tangible clues which might lead to the capture of the murderers and the manner in which the crimes were committed. Mickle was killed with a monkey wrench; Jan Lee was slain with an iron bar; Stockett's skull was crushed with an ax. But perhaps the most interest was occasioned by the Mickle case. It is the one local crime of recent years which is most commonly referred to as involving deep mystery.

Mickle, who was 64 years old, kept a little tobacco store at 1004 Seventh street northwest. He was murdered about 6 o'clock in the evening, a time when that busy thoroughfare was thronged with people and any of his many friends and customers might be expected to drop in. Seldom was he alone; usually there were two or three there to play cards with him to while away the time when he was not busy at the counter.

Went Swiftly to Death

But he was alone this time when the murderer found him in his little back room, crushed his head with a large monkey wrench and departed unseen with a gold watch and something less than \$100. Only a few minutes elapsed before somebody came in and discovered the crime. Mickle was still alive, but he breathed only a few minutes longer. The only clue was the monkey wrench which the murderer had left behind. The watch and money were never found.

Four days later Morris Bennett, who had a store at Fairmont Heights, Md., was driving to Washington before dawn when a man who had asked for a ride attacked him with a hatchet, inflicting terrible wounds, from which it was thought Bennett would surely die. But so high was Bennett's vitality that he sustained four distinct fractures of the skull as well as fractures of a cheek and jawbone, and he lived to identify his assailant, James, alias Kabuster, Smith, who had already murdered two men in Chicago and shot a tramp in Maryland. Smith is in the penitentiary sentenced for 30 years.

The similarity between the methods of attack on Mickle and Bennett made the police think Smith might be guilty of both. They did find out that he was seen on a street corner near Mickle's store a short time before the murder, and that a monkey wrench like the one used on Mickle disappeared from a woodyard in the Southwest at the time Smith, who had been hanging around the yard, went away from there. But they were never able to fasten the crime upon him, and they are still trying to find the guilty man.

Killing of Jan Lee

It was purely luck that brought about the arrest of the murderers of Jan Lee, the Chinese who was killed in his laundry, at Fourteenth and Monroe streets northwest, early in February 1912. The murderers entered Lee's place, found him alone, locked the door, and beat his skull in with an iron bar.

Then they left by the back way taking all the valuables they could find and leaving nothing for the police to work with. There was not a vestige of a clew.

A year had elapsed, when Detective Stringfellow of the Third precinct, arrested a negro for larceny, and the negro, anxious to obtain the policeman's good will, told of having overhears a quarrel between a negro and his wife, in which the woman told her husband that he'd better behave or he would tell the police about his "killin' that Chinaman." The police moved quickly. The man and woman were arrested the same night; the man confessed, revealed the name of his accomplice, and the latter was promptly locked up. The prisoners pleaded guilty to murder in the second degree, and got off with a sentence of twenty years each.

Luck Not a Dependable Factor

Maybe luck will be a potent factor in the Stockett case; but the police don't like to depend on it for a solution of the mysteries that come their way. It isn't a dependable factor. So with this in mind, six of the detectives attached to headquarters are doing nothing but working on the Stockett case. In addition, a score of precinct men are working on it. So far nothing has developed to lead to the belief that they are any nearer to catching the murderer than they were on the day the crime was committed. Stockett lived for several days after he was attacked, and was conscious long enough to describe his assailant; at least two other persons saw the man. Thus, a good description was obtained, and it looked like an easy matter at first.

But it has grown harder day by day. Dozens of suspects have been arrested only to be soon released. They fitted the description – some of them perfectly – but they all were able to establish alibis. The only hope, it seems, is that the man will attempt to dispose of the watch which he took along with Mr. Stockett's wallet. If he does he's likely to be caught. On the other, he may be hundreds of miles from here, and the disposal of the watch will attract no attention in the locality which has never heard of Stockett's murder.

Crime Unpremeditated

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The sight of the wallet, the police theorize, was too great a temptation, and he acted on the spur of the moment.

It may be, however, that the man proffered the dollar with the idea of learning where the hardware dealer kept his cash. But the motive matters not, or whether the crime was premeditated. Stockett is dead, and his murderer is being sought high and low by trained and experienced men, under the guidance of the major and superintendent. And it is quite likely that the culprit soon will be in the meshes of the law, if vigor and determination on the part of the police count for anything.

The Washington Post, December 9, 1913, p. 2

Accused Of Hold-Ups

Police Say Merchants Identify Negro As Masked Bandit

Prisoner Is A Chauffeur

Detectives Apparently Are No Nearer Arrest In Stockett Murder Case, Though Many Clews Have Been Run Down –

Sylvester Takes Personal Charge Of Men Seeking The Murderer

The masked negro bandit who held up with a pistol and robbed Samuel T. McDevitt in his grocery store at 1021 Girard street northwest last Thursday night and Solomon Deskin in his store at Eighth and L streets northeast Saturday night, escaping in the first instance on a bicycle and the second time on a

motorcycle, was arrested last night and identified by his victims, the police say, thus leaving the officers freer to work on the baffling Stockett case.

Following closely upon the killing of Stockett, whose murderer is still uncaptured, and, judging from the way scores of clues have been exploded, is like to remain so for a while longer, the two daring hold-ups were particularly annoying to the police, and the capture of their alleged perpetrator was the occasion of many expressions of satisfaction around police headquarters last night.

Sought Colored Chauffeur

The man whom Sergt. Bean and Privates Sweeney, Holmes, and James O'Day, of the Eighth precinct, arrested on mere suspicion says he is George Davis, a chauffeur, 22 years old, of 2218-1/2 Eleventh street northwest.

The negro's use of a motorcycle and his evident familiarity with its mechanism convinced the police that he must have been a chauffeur. So they went looking for colored chauffeurs, and suddenly found one, they say, that answered the description of the man who robbed McDevitt and Deskin. He was Davis, and both storekeepers identified him as soon as they saw him in the station house.

Supt. Sylvester Takes Hand

The six detectives who are engaged solely in the Stockett case area reporting directly to Maj. Sylvester, the major having decided that success is more likely to result if he takes a personal hand in the matter. Additional clues have been discovered, but little hope is held that they will lead further than other clues which have been quickly run down.

Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M., of which Stockett was a member, has offered a reward of \$100 for the murderer's capture. In addition, the police department's offer of a reward of \$100 is still standing.

The Evening Star, December 15, 1913, p. 15

Not Stockett's Slayer; Admits Shooting Man

Negro Arrested Near Fredericksburg, Va., for One Crime, Confesses to Another

Lewis Carrington, colored, arrested near Fredericksburg, Va., yesterday on suspicion of being the slayer of Charles A. Stockett, told the police that he had shot a man named Samuel Dawson in Mount Airy, Md., last Friday night.

Detective Pratt yesterday went to Fredericksburg with James Chandler, the important witness in the Stockett murder case, but the latter declared Carrington was not the one he met at the door of the hardware store at 2010 18th street northwest shortly after the murderous assault was committed.

Secured Employment on Farm

Carrington reached Fredericksburg Saturday and rode with a mail carrier into Spotsylvania county. When the carrier reached a point several miles from the city his colored passenger left and found employment on a farm.

Reaching Spotsylvania Court House, the carrier saw a circular offering a reward for the slayer of the hardware merchant. The description of the slayer tallied with that of his recent passenger, he stated, and he notified the Fredericksburg authorities of the incident. Carrington's arrest followed.

Admits Mount Airy Shooting

Yesterday while under examination the prisoner seemed excited and worried over something. He denied having assaulted the merchant in this city, and when pressed to explain what worried him, it is stated, he admitted having shot Dawson at Mount Airy. He had a loaded revolver in his possession when arrested. The Maryland authorities said they would send for the prisoner.

The police last night received word from Port Jervis, N.Y., that a colored man was under arrest there as a suspect in the Stockett murder case. According to the message received from the Port Jervis police the prisoner answers the description of the slayer. He denies that he committed the crime, however, and says it has been fourteen years since he was last in this city. Inspector Boardman has asked for a photograph of the prisoner.

The Evening Star, December 17, 1913, p. 13

Not Wanted For Stockett Murder

Maj. Sylvester superintendent of police, has notified the Port Jervis, N.Y., police that William Sulley, colored, under arrest in that city as a suspect in the case of Charles A. Stockett, hardware merchant at 2010 18th street northwest, who was slain and robbed, is not the man wanted for the crime. Witnesses saw a photograph of the prisoner and said they were sure it was not a likeness of the slayer.

The Evening Star, March 10, 1914, p. 14

Murder Suspect Released

George Louney, colored, of 334 Oakdale street northwest, who was arrested on suspicion of being the murderer of Charles A. Stockett, has been released. Louney was arrested on complaint of James Chandler, colored, who is regarded by the police as being the most important witness in the murder case. The authorities learned that Louney was at work the day Stockett was murdered, and concluded that Chandler was mistaken in his identification of him.

History of the Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M.

Charles A. Stockett, Worshipful Master during the years 1886 and 1887, was born at Birdsville, Anne Arundel Co., Md., August 1, 1848; removed to Washington, D.C., in the spring of 1849, and was educated in the public schools and Spencerian Business College of this city; was initiated in Naval Lodge, No. 4, April 1, 1871; passed May 5, 1871, and raised June 7, 1871; has filled all the offices except that of Treasurer, and is now one of the Trustees of the Lodge; was chairman of the Committee which selected the site on which the present hall is located; chairman of Committee on Certificates of Indebtedness, floated to raise funds to purchase site for hall; vice-chairman of Building Committee under whose direction the building was erected; chairman of Committee on Ceremonies for Laying Cornerstone of Building, and chairman of Board of Control of Fair held by the Lodge during April 1899; was exalted in Washington Naval R.A. Chapter, No. 6, Oct. 21, 1873; filled all the offices in the Chapter except that of Treasurer, being High Priest during the year 1900, and is now one of its Trustees; was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K.T., April 12, 1876, and continued a member of that Commandery until Oct. 19, 1895, when he became a charter member of Orient Commandery, No. 5, K.T., of this jurisdiction, of which he was elected its first Senior Warden and filled all the succeeding offices, being Eminent Commander during the year 1900, and is now one of the Trustees of the Commandery; is also a member of Almas Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S.

p. 114-115: A tragic event occurred in December, 1913, which stirred the membership to the boiling point. Past Master Charles A. Stockett was murdered and the murderer was still at large. He was assaulted and robbed in his store early in the morning of November 26, 1913 by an unknown colored man. He died in Emergency Hospital on the evening of December 1, and on the afternoon of December 4, his remains were interred with Masonic honors in Congressional Cemetery. On the evening of that day the Lodge passed a resolution supplementing the one hundred dollars reward offered by the Major

and Superintendent of Police by an additional one hundred dollars for the arrest and conviction of the assassin. This action was brought to the attention of the Superintendent of Police and was published in every daily paper in the District of Columbia. The reward remains unpaid today. In 1917 a communication was received from Brother Raymond W. Pullman, Major and Superintendent of Police, advising the Lodge of the arrest of ----, colored, whom they had every reason to believe was the murderer of Past Master Charles A. Stockett. The charge of murder in the first degree against ---- was ignored by the Grand Jury on August 24, 1917.