

## **Gustav VonGerber**

### **( – 14 Nov 1861)**

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*The Evening Star, November 15, 1861*

#### **Murderous Assault**

Last night about 12 o'clock, after the concerts at Coomb's building were over, a crowd of half a dozen fellows behaved in a very improper manner towards two of the female attendants, and two of the company present (officers of volunteers) with one of the proprietors took the females under their protection to carry them to their homes. They were followed by the rowdies, who were urging each other to attack the officers. Finally one of them ran up behind one of the lieutenants and dealt him a very heavy blow with a slung shot or billy that laid him out. The rowdies ran. The officer was dangerously if not fatally wounded, and his companions took him to a surgeon, who ordered his removal to a hospital. The wound was on the back of the head, and the flow of blood from it was very great. Efforts are now being made to arrest the parties, who can be identified. The information was given to Justice Thompson, but the informant did not know the officer's name or the regiment he belongs to, he being a stranger in the city.

*The Evening Star, November 18, 1861*

#### **Arrested**

The attack upon Lt. Col. Gerboe, which was noticed in the Star last week, has attracted the attention of the Metropolitan Police and several county officers. Saturday, Emma Myers, one of the witnesses, who first testified at the Guard house, relative to the affair, was put under security for her appearance by Justice Down. This morning, Michael Young, Peter Strong and James Powers, were arrested by officer, J.F. King and were committed for further hearing by Justice Down. Lt. Col. Gerboe was in company with several gentlemen, conducting two of the female attendants at Coomb's Hall, who had been assaulted by rowdies there, to a hack to send them home. The rowdies followed and one of them struck Col. Gerboe with a billy or slung-shot on the back of the head, inflicting a wound that endangered his life. He still lies in a very precarious condition.

*The Evening Star, November 20, 1861*

#### **The Homicide of Lieutenant Colonel Von Gerber**

##### **Preliminary Examination**

On Monday afternoon Justice Down examined the witnesses in the case of James Powers, Michael Young and Peter Strang, who was arrested by officer King and charged with the assault and batter upon Lieut. Col. Gustav Von Gerber of the Cameron Rifles on Thursday night.

J.F. King testified that on the night the Lieut. Col. was struck, witness was engaged at the 'Concert Hall.' Coombe's building, about 12 o'clock the Hall was closed; witness saw

*The Evening Star, November 22, 1861*

#### **Funeral of an Officer**

The funeral of Lieut. Col. Gerber, who died of the injuries inflicted upon him by the hands of a band of rowdies a few nights since, took place from near the corner of 4 1/2 street and Pennsylvania avenue yesterday afternoon. His remains were followed by the Cameron Rifles, with a full band of music,

marching with reversed arms, and by a great many officers of other regiments, mounted and in carriages.

*The Evening Star, November 22, 1861*

**Arrived**

George Henderson, who was arrested in Baltimore on suspicion of being connected with the killing of Lieut. Col. von Gerber, was brought to this city last night and delivered into the custody of the Provost Guard, and confined in the 13th street prison. He will no doubt be turned over to the civil authorities.