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Henry Jackson Bright
(1829 – 4 Jun 1906)

The Evening Star, November 14, 1881

The Five Jurymen Chosen So Far
Who They Are

Mr. John P. Hamlin, the first juror selected is well known in connection with the Hamlin house on 6th street, near Louisiana avenue, where he is associated with his brother, Mr. Joseph H. Hamlin. Mr.

F.W. Brandenburg is of German nativity, but has resided in this country for over a quarter of a century, formerly being engaged in the carpet weaving business, but of late years in the tobacco and cigar business, nearly his entire life being spent on Pennsylvania avenue, above 17th street, Mr. Henry J. Bright, the third juror accepted, resides in East Washington, and for years was engaged in the boot and shoe business, but is now retired. He is a well-known member of the East Washington M.E. church. Mr. Stewart resides on Capitol Hill, where he is engaged in the feed business, and is of Scottish descent. Mr. Thomas H. Langley was formerly a well-known dealer in our markets, but has been in the grocery business in the neighborhood of 8th and P streets, of late years. The five selected thus far are men of settled years and families, and the opinion expressed today was that, the court was fortunate in selecting these with the hope that men of equal standing will be selected to complete the panel.

Bright. On Monday, June 4, at 1 a.m., Henry Jackson Bright in his 78th year. Funeral from his late residence, the Lambert, 131 A street northeast, Wednesday, June 6 at 2 p.m. Interment private.

The Washington Post, September 1, 1905, p. 2

Was On Guiteau Jury
Henry J. Bright, One of Four Surviving Members
Invalid With Heart Disease
Asserts Positive Conviction that Assassin of President Garfield
Was Not Only Sane, but Exceedingly Shrewd and Intelligent –
Gives His Impressions of Trial – Photographed Only Once

Henry J. Bright, one of the few remaining members of the famous jury which tried Guiteau for the killing of President Garfield, is lying seriously ill of heart trouble at his residence on the corner of A and Sixth street southeast. For over two years past Mr. Bright has been an invalid, and confined to his room of an affection of the cardiac region, although prior to that time he had always enjoyed excellent health, being a man of robust physique and strong constitution. Fears for the worst are entertained by his family, his condition having grown steadily worse for the past several days.

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Mr. Bright is a native of Washington, having been born in this city in 1829. He is now in his seventy-sixth year. Although in extremely delicate health, his mind is clear, and to a Post reporter who called at his residence last evening he talked interestingly of the Guiteau trial, and the assassination of President Garfield.

According to Mr. Bright, there are, aside from himself, only three survivors of the Guiteau jury. These are Lieutenant John Hammond, of the Capital police, stationed in the Senate wing of that building, and residing at 1432 N street northwest. Mr. Hammond was the foreman of the Guiteau jury. The other two are George Gates, an employe of the Navy Yard, residing on Eleventh street southeast, and William Brawner, employed at the District Building.

Thinks Guiteau Was Sane

Speaking of his impressions of this celebrated trial, Mr. Bright said very emphatically that of all popular fallacies, the notion that Guiteau was mentally deranged was the worst. He was, according to Mr. Bright, who was very emphatic on the subject, not only clear-headed and sane in a remarkable degree, but, what was more, he was shrewd and intelligent into the bargain.

At the time, he stated, that Guiteau's attorney was pressing the plea of insanity, one of the reporters of the Brooklyn Eagle discovered an article which Guiteau had written for that paper some years before he assassinated President Garfield. This the reporter showed to various persons about the courthouse who believed Guiteau insane, challenging them to find a single incoherent or ambiguous sentence in the article from start to finish. Mr. Bright entertains the notion that Guiteau's motive for assassinating Garfield was simply disappointment over his failure to obtain an appointment at his hands.

Photographed with the Jury

When the Post reporter sought to obtain a photograph of Mr. Bright, he replied humorously that he had never had one taken in his life, although during the trial the newspaper men managed to photograph both him and other members of the jury, so that, despite his reluctance to be photographed, his features became, at one time, familiar to every citizen of the United States through the medium of the press. His family are trying now to prevail upon him to be photographed.

Speaking of the long period of 90 days, during which this jury (which was composed of men drawn on the regular panel), were engaged on the Guiteau case, he stated that, while at the outset the matter was easy and interesting, it became toward the last a task from which every member was glad to be released.

Prior to his illness, Mr. Bright was for years an employe of the Navy Yard. He has a wife, a lady well advanced in years; a son, Henry Bright, a patent attorney, having an office in the Warder building, corner of Ninth and F street northwest, and an adopted daughter.

The Evening Star, June 5, 1906, p. 16

With Masonic Honors
Henry J. Bright's Funeral To Occur Tomorrow
Was Member of Jury Which Convicted Charles J. Guiteau
of Murdering President Garfield

Henry Jackson Bright, whose death was referred to in yesterday's Star, was one of the five surviving members of the famous jury which convicted Guiteau for the assassination of President Garfield. Funeral services over his remains will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late home, 131 A street northeast. Rev. Dr. France of Trinity Methodist Church, assisted by Rev. Arthur S. Johns of Christ Church southeast, will officiate. Interment will be private, at Congressional cemetery. Deceased was a

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member of Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M., and the funeral will be with Masonic honors. The pallbearers will be chosen from his lodge tomorrow morning.

Mr. Bright was born near Alexandria, Va., and was 77 years of age. He moved to Washington in his early youth and engaged in the shoe business, in which he prospered. About twenty years ago he gave up his business on account of failing health and deafness, and devoted his entire time to his family.

His whole life was marked by an unostentation, and he always objected to being brought before the public eye. He had always objected to being photographed, and the only picture of him in existence was taken at the time the Guiteau jury was empaneled.

He had adopted and reared four orphans and had always extended a benevolent hand when aid was required. His wife and one son, Henry T. Bright, a patent attorney, survive him.

The four surviving members of the Guiteau jury are: John P. Hamlin, clerk to Senator Morgan of Alabama; William H. Brawner of 1813 3d street northeast; George W. Gaites, a nephew of Mr. Bright and the youngest member of the jury, of 755 10th street southeast, and Ralph Wormley, colored, who was one of the owners of Wormley House, lately known as the Colonial Hotel.