

ANTHONY BRENNAN

ANTHONY BRENNAN SHOT AND KILLED BY NEIGHBOR *ENDS LONG STANDING FEUD*

Michael Nolan Brennan and Son Arrested for Crime

Murder ended a feud of many years standing at Lakeville Tuesday when Michael Brennan shot his neighbor, Anthony Brennan, aged 40 years, who died from a bullet wound in the abdomen at 5 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. The shooting occurred on the farm of the murdered man at 9 o'clock that morning over land boundary disputes.

Although both parties in the affray bear the same name, no relationship exists between them.

Michael Brennan and his father, Michal Nolan Brennan, who was on the scene of the murder and who is alleged, called to his son to take a hand in the quarrel which led to the murder, were taken to the Ramsey county jail in St. Paul Wednesday evening. They were driven overland from Lakeville to Farmington to meet the 9 o'clock train for St. Paul.

The record of the Michael Nolan Brennan family is a bad one, according to Dakota county court records, and in Lakeville, where they are well known, there was fear of lynching for a time after the arrest of the father and son.

Eight years ago the father of Anthony Brennan disposed of forty acres of his quarter-section farm to M.N. Brennan against the wishes of his sons, Anthony and Will.

This transaction more or less ill feeling and immediately following ...

(missing material)

... the cause of this death has been freely laid to the other Brennans, it being alleged that the elder Brennan was intoxicated at the time of the accident and that the M.N Brennan family were responsible for his condition

The two families came together many times in wordy battles. A year ago young Michael Brennan, who fired the fatal shot Tuesday, stabbed a young man by the name of Royce, who was on the Anthony Brennan place and was put under bonds to keep the peace, as was also his father.

The bonds expired in April of this year. During the time that the bonds were in force there was less friction than usual about the place.

Tuesday morning when Anthony Brennan started to plow around the edge of the Will Brennan forty the elder Mr. Brennan came out to have trouble with Anthony, telling him that he was trespassing on his land.

The dying statement of Anthony Brennan describes the trouble which led to the shooting.

Makes Dying Statement

Here is the dying statement Anthony Brennan swore to a few minutes before he expired.

“Lakeville, Minn – Sworn to before W.F. Roche, notary public.

“In the presence of W.C. Ackerman and John E. Brennan, I, Anthony Brennan make this sworn statement:

‘I was plowing down there. I had just made one round and the old man (Michael Nolan Brennan) came along and ordered me to keep off his land. I wasn’t on his land. He came toward me and took something out of his pocket and held it behind his back. I pulled out my knife and told him I would not be run off my own ground. He came toward me further and called me bad names. Every name you could think of.

‘I went on plowing about, another round. When I came back the old man was standing waiting for me. The old man ordered me off again I told him I would not go for either him or Mike; that I was on my own side of the line. We got to arguing then he said I was across the line. But I told him I wasn’t; that he had plowed up the line. I was standing with my back toward the team with the lines around my waist. I told him I knew the line. Young Mike called me a liar.

‘I held a wooden paddle in my hand. I hit him a slap across the jaw with it. Young Mike drew his gun and shot me through the stomach. He shot at me three times. The first time the revolver didn’t go off. The old man said that was enough; that he had done me up if they lost the whole farm.

‘I realize I am making this as my dying statement and that it is true on my oath.’”

Of the three shots fired but one took effect, that entering the abdomen on the left side through the groin, passing on to within an inch of the surface of the right thigh, slightly shattering the spinal bone.

Doctors T.J. Gaffney, of Lakeville, and W.M. Dodge of Farmington, were hurriedly called but could do little for the wounded man and he breathed his last at 5 o'clock. He was conscious to the last.

Michael Nolan Brennan went to Lakeville at once to telephone relatives abroad and it was during his walks about town that he was arrested. The son was later arrested at the farm.

No attempt was made to arrest Michael Nolan Brennan for some time after his arrival in town, but the news of the shooting had been spread and he was made the target for all eyes. But he was indifferent and when lodged in jail seemed dazed and unable to understand why was locked up.

The murderer was wholly indifferent and remarked at different times that he was glad he had shot his man. Upon learning of the death of Anthony Brennan he said he was glad of it.

Dr. Perry of Farmington located and extracted the bullet Thursday morning, which was a 38 caliber.

The funeral of Anthony Brennan took place Thursday at Lakeville and was conducted by Undertaker D.J. Gephart. It was largely attended, friend of the deceased coming from all parts of Dakota county.

William Brennan, an engineer, employed by L.L. May & Co., living at 461 Lafond Street, St. Paul, is a brother of the murdered man, Anthony Brennan, and came to Lakeville as soon as the news of the tragedy was communicated to him.

Three sisters, Margaret, Anna and Nellie Brennan, living ad 383 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, are also now in Lakeville.

PRELIMINARY TRIAL HELD

LAKEVILLE MURDERES GIVEN PRELIMINARY HEARING

BEFORE JUDGE M'CLINTOCK

Evidence of Witnesses For the State Given in Full

Before Judge McClintock at Lakeville, on Wednesday last, took place the preliminary hearing of Michael Nolan Brennan and his son, Michael Brennan, for the murder of Anthony Brennan, on the latters farm, two and one half miles north

of that city on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 1907. The case was called at 10:45 and the two prisoners brought into court looking well and self content. They had been brought from St. Paul where they had been placed immediately after the murder, the jail at Hastings being deemed not sufficiently secure to hold them. The city was swarming with friends of the murdered man, only a portion of whom were able to gain admission to the court room. The prisoners were in charge of sheriff Frank McDevitt and deputy H. Neuerfelt and were represented in court by attorneys Schaller of Hastings and Stan Donnelly of St. Paul. The prosecuting attorney, Wm. Hodgson, was assisted by H.J. Peck, both of Hastings. The prisoners were both dressed in blue serge suits and plainly showed the careful attention they had received at the hands of the Ramsey county sheriff. The first witness called was

Dr. W.M. Dodge

Of Farmington who testified as follows:

My occupation is that of physician and surgeon, commenced practice in Farmington in 1893. I did not know Anthony Brennan, was called to attend him Aug. 27 at his home in Lakeville twp., this county, I got there between two and three p.m. Dr. Gaffney was there when I arrived, made an examination and found in abdomen a gun shot wound on left side four and one-half inches above the Anterior Superior Spine of Icyale, four inches down and out from the Umbilicus, two and one-half inches up from pelvic arch, blood was flowing from wound, on pressure on abdomen more blood would flow. He was practically pulseless at wrists, his extremities cold and had the appearance of a man bleeding internally. He was conscious and so remained until three minutes of death, was very restless. Remained so until some think after four, 4:30 I think, died about 4, between that and 4:20, a little after 4. Did not talk with him except to ask if we hurt him when making examination. Saw corpse Aug. 28, made post mortem. Dr. Perry was with me, also Wm. Hickey and Wells Wescott. Found location as above, opened the body and found gun shot had perforated all the tissues and examined intestines and found one small perforation in intestines and two perforations of mesentery cutting of the mesenteric artery. Mr. Brennan hand complained of pains in right leg. We opened it below pouparts ligament but found nothing abnormal. Having found the cause of death we did not deem it necessary to locate the bullet and returned the viscera to the cavity. This was all I did, more than one artery was punctured. I satisfied myself death was due to hemorage caused by gun shot wound or missel through nusenterie arteries. The wound had appearance of being very recent. Wound was of necessity fatal. No cross examination.

Dr. Ralph St. J. Perry

Was the next witness called, and testified as follows:

I am a physician and surgeon practicing in the city of Farmington, where I have been for the past eleven years. Was called with Dr. Dodge at the post-mortem examination had never seen Anthony Brennan before, did not know him, made an examination and found the condition of the body just as described by Dr. Dodge. We opened abdominal cavity and found one perforation of small intestines, two perforations of mesentery and found inferior mesenteric artery was cut off, completely severed. About one gallon of clotted blood serum which we sponged out. Found cause of death, closed body, came to Lakeville to coroners inquest. Examined outside for other wounds, did not find any. There were present Wm. Hickey and Wells Westcott. After giving my testimony at the inquest I was ordered by the district attorney to get the bullet from the body which I did on Aug 29, at 5:00 a.m. I went to Anthony Brennan's, found his body where we had left it the day before and had it moved into the west front room, opened abdominal cavity again, removed all the intestines and about one gallon of clotted blood and cyrum, cleaned cavity out and packed it with absorbent cotton. In the muscles in the back of the abdominal walls over the first sacral vertebra and one inch to the right of medium line was opening of a wound. This wound was probed, found to be five inches deep extending through the sacrum and into the muscles beyond. Wound was enlarged and with my finger found a fracture and perforation of the sacrum in right side at the first foramen, also complete destruction of spinal nerves which issue from this. Made a mark on back of body about where we thought the bullet was, replaced intestines, sewed body up and turned over on face. Made an incision in the gluteal region and dissected in the muscles where I had marked and found the bullet, four and one-half inches below the crest of the ilium, four inches from medium line and one-half inch below the skin. Bullet was removed and is now in my possession. Besides myself, D.J. Gephart and Wm. Wescott were present. Bullet is in safety vault at Farmington, a 38 caliber, weights 139 ½ grains, blunted a little, also has marks showing where it passed through the bone. Can trace bullets course downward, inward and backward. Wound was only few hours old, could not possibly be twenty-four hours. Was discharged near the person, was near the body. Cause of death hemorage from inferior mesenteric artery, complicated with shock. The mesenteric artery was cut square off, wound must have been fatal. Person could only live with this wound few hours, not more than five or six.

Cross Examination

Bullet fired from a revolver has revolving motion. After it has passed through air any considerable distance it looses revolving motion. Marks on bullet show it was revolving when it struck body.

Dr. T.J. Gaffney

Was then called and testified to the following:

I reside at Lakeville, am physician and surgeon, was acquainted with Anthony Brennan for seven years. Saw him 27th of August at his home about 11:50 a.m., was called as attending physician. Was personally acquainted. Hi health was good. When I saw him he was lying on his porch at home, no pulse, very pale, extremely cold, clothes in center part of body saturated with blood. There was a wound in the lower left part of the abdomen which was bleeding quite profusely. Wound was small, about three-quarters inch, perhaps one-half inch, in diameter. Wound penetrated the abdominal wall, the abdomen was distended with blood. Pressure would cause blood to flow out. From the amount of blood that came it was evident there was some internal rupture of a blood vessel. Also that the stomach or intestines were ruptured as he vomited blood. I probed the wound just through the abdominal wall. I did not ascertain the extent of the wound. Stayed with him until his death at 4:20 p.m. Very weak from time I first saw him until his death. From my examination of his wound I think he could only live a few hours. About one o'clock p.m. I talked with Anthony Brennan; he asked me if he was going to die; I said yes, said I did not think he could live but a few hours; he said that he was glad that it would be soon if he had to die anyway; was suffering great pain. Was there when Dr. Dodge came about 2:30; was there when Roche, Brennan and Ackerman came to take his dying statement. Had on his clothes when I got there; did not notice his clothing; complained of pain in right leg when I first got there; asked me if he was shot there; made no other complaints except pains in stomach and leg; did not find any other wounds in body.

Cross Examination

About one o'clock p.m. he asked me if he could live, if there was any possible show; I told him no, could not live but a few hours;

Continued on sixth page (No additional material available)

(Would guess these articles were from Farmington MN paper, perhaps Dakota County Tribune.)