

[Burdick, Edwin L.]

BUFFALO'S MURDER MYSTERY
Facts Supporting the Theory That Edwin L. Burdick Was Killed by a Woman

BUFFALO, March 1.—District Attorney Coatsworth did not leave his house to-day, but Assistant District Attorney Abbott conferred with him by telephone several times in regard to the murder of Edwin L. Burdick, who was killed in his home in Ashland Avenue on Thursday night.

Superintendent Bull and Chief Cusack conferred at Police Headquarters at various times in the course of the day. They had nothing to give out.

The finding of the steel-tipped golf stick with which it is almost certain that Mr. Burdick was killed, and the fact that the bone in Burdick's skull was found by the medical examiner to be remarkably thin, make it more reasonable to suppose that the crushing blows upon Burdick's head could have been delivered by a woman.

The clue furnished by Policeman Meyers also strengthens the theory that the midnight visitor at the Burdick home was a woman. He first saw the woman when he turned the corner of Bryant Street and Ashland Avenue at 1:10 o'clock. She was walking on the east side of Ashland Avenue toward Bryant Street. Her way led her from or past the Burdick home. As she neared the corner of Bryant Street, where she could see Meyers standing, she turned out into the middle of the street, and continued to walk up the middle of the road until she had reached a point some distance past the policeman.

It was unusual to meet a woman unaccompanied at so late an hour in that section of the city, and the officer's attention was attracted by her peculiar actions, so that he got a good idea of her appearance. At the time he thought she had not noticed his uniform and had turned out into the street to avoid meeting a man. The policeman's story is implicitly believed by the authorities. It shows that a woman came from or past the Burdick house at about the time the murder was supposed to have been committed, and the authorities have taken up the clue as being of the first importance.

The stains on the golf stick, or "putter," as it is technically called, are not of a bright red. Whether they are bold or rust can only be determined by a microscopic examination. The thinness of the stains, the authorities say, may be due to the putter having been wiped off after it was used to strike Burdick down.

Mr. Burdick's body was to-day taken to his former home, in Canastota, near Syracuse, for burial. It was accompanied by Mrs. Burdick, her three children, and two close personal friends.

The body was taken to Koch & Drullard's undertaking rooms late last evening, after a brief funeral service had been held at the house. The Rev. L. H. Powers, pastor of the First Universalist Church, where Mr. Burdick had a pew, and two relatives of the dead man were the only persons present outside the immediate family.

Mrs. Burdick and the children left the house in a closed carriage early to-day, and were driven to the New York Central station. The body was brought from the undertaking rooms and placed in the baggage car of the Syracuse train.

Everything was done as quietly as possible. Mrs. Burdick has been much annoyed by the large number of morbid curiosity seekers who have passed and re-passed her home in Ashland Avenue. For that reason it was deemed best to remove the body to the undertaking rooms last night and to take it from there to the train to-day.

New York Times, New York NY, 2 Mar 1903

[Burdick, Edwin L.]

INQUEST IS ENDED
BURDICK CLEARED

**Dead Man's Character is Placed in Beautiful
Light by Evidence of Nearly All of the Witnesses.**

Buffalo, March 26.— The inquest into the death of Edwin L. Burdick, who was murdered just a month ago in his home on Ashland avenue, ended at 3 o'clock this afternoon...

The Burdick inquest has served to develop several theories relative to the crime that had been suggested many days ago, but it would be hardly correct to say that the investigation has added anything more than an appearance of reasonability to any of these theories.

Aside from the failure of the authorities to secure evidence bearing directly upon the commission of the crime, or to establish the identity of the murderer, there is a feeling of satisfaction that the name of Mr. Burdick has been lifted from the mire in which it was first dragged, and his character shown in its true light.

The evidence brought out under the skillful examination of witnesses by District Attorney Coatsworth has shown Burdick to have been a loving father, always willing to sacrifice his own happiness and pride for the sake of his children; that he was the victim of false friendship, broken pledges, and, in face of it all, a forgiving, indulgent husband.

An Unsolved Mystery.

The efforts of the authorities to fix the crime upon someone, of course, will not end with the inquest. At the same time there is now little hope of fastening the crime upon anyone, and the murder probably will go down in criminal history as one of the great unsolved mysteries.

Judge Murphy stated, after court adjourned this afternoon, that his judgment in the case will not be handed down until Monday, or, perhaps later next week. It is possible that he may issue warrants for the arrest of "John Doe" and "Jane Doe."

If Judge Murphy sees fit to take such action the District-Attorney will be obliged to submit the whole case to the Grand Jury.

Three new witnesses appeared on the stand to-day. They were Rev. L. M. Powers, pastor of the Church of the Messiah [Universalist], where the Burdick family and Mrs. Hull [Edwin Burdick's mother-in-law] were regular attendants, and Detectives Cornish and Coughlin, who were the first police officials to arrive at the Burdick home when the crime was discovered... The first witness called was Rev. L. M. Powers, of the Church of the Messiah, Mrs. Hull's pastor... Mr. Powers was decidedly ill at ease while on the stand. He said that Mrs. Hull and the Burdicks were members of his church congregation... Mr. Powers, after having proved that he had no evidence..., was excused.

Democrat and Chronicle, Rochester NY, Fri. 27 Mar 1903
[excerpts]