

# BLOOD FLOWED IN A CRIMSON STREAM DURING YEAR 1912

## Fifty-Five Murders and Kill- ings Occurred in Atlanta

### DEADLY PISTOL TO BLAME

Many of the Murders Are Still Mat-  
ters of Mystery---Complete List  
of the Crimes.

Tragedy stalked freely in Atlanta during 1912 and, in proportion to the alarming increase among the ranks of the pistol-toter, fifty-five homicides have occurred in the year, an unprecedented record since the war period.

Fifty-five deaths due to violence! This is an average of more than one a week—more than the city of London, with its millions of people.

Thirty-two of this number were shot. Seven were killed by policemen. Thirty-seven of the slain were negroes. This number includes the five negro women for whose deaths the police blame the uncaught "Jack-the-Ripper," who terrorized the negro section during the last of 1911 and early part of 1912.

The startling growth of "gunmen" is vividly shown in the figures of police court; 376 pistol toters were bound over by Recorder Broyles. Two hundred and sixty-three of the gun carriers were negroes. Forty per cent of those arrested for the crime were minors, and a deplorable number were under the age of 18. Fifty or more were women.

Six of the number killed by policemen were burglars, robbers and prisoners. The case of E. H. Parham, who shot and killed Henry B. Wright, the Bellwood avenue youth who fled when Parham attempted to arrest him for suspected larceny, is now pending in the courts. The other officers were exonerated by grand and coroner's juries.

Policeman J. W. Camp, who killed his roommate, Policeman S. A. Belding, in an altercation that occurred in their Central avenue apartments, was acquitted by the courts. His plea was self-defense. Later he was discharged from the department for drunkenness.

#### No Comparative Figures.

No definite comparison can be made with the homicide record of 1912 and previous years, owing to the laxity of record-keeping in the police department. The record for the outgoing year was compiled by Assistant Chief Jett and Night Clerk B. F. Hall on their own initiative.

The increase in killings has inspired police and court officials to express unanimous disapproval of the sale of firearms. Realizing that the effectual method of dealing with the man-killer is to deprive him of his weapon, judges, police authorities and criminologists have endeavored as a unit to devise means by which the pistol and similar weapons will be done away with.

The suggestion of Recorder Broyles has met with wide approval. His plan to impose a tax so heavy upon dealers in firearms that they will find weapons a profitless stock has been accepted as a good one. In a recent interview, Judge Broyles named \$10,000 annually as the proper figure.

#### State Law Is Suggested.

State statutes prohibiting the sale of firearms have also been suggested.

It is likely the next legislature will consider this idea. State-wide killings have been greater in 1912 than in history. Georgia has had conditions to deal with similar to those in Atlanta. Reports from all sections show rapid increase in gun-toting and handling of weapons of all character.

#### List of Killings.

The following is a list of homicides during the year in Atlanta, with a brief history of each:

January 12—Ida Slade, colored, alias Ida Ferguson, found dead, throat cut, on Marietta road near Louisville and Nashville tracks. Lucky Elliott, colored, tried for murder and sentenced to life.

January 8—W. L. Bankston shot by Miss Kate Moncrief at home of latter, 250 Fraser street. Slayer exonerated by coroner's jury.

January 20—Pearl Williams, colored, found with throat cut at Chestnut and West Fair streets. Murderer uncaught.

January 28—Son Johnson, colored, shot by Charles Mullins, colored, at 125 Decatur street. Mullins exonerated by coroner's jury.

February 16—Alice Owens, colored, found with throat cut near Bowen avenue. Charles Owens sentenced to life for murder.

February 17—Vashti Dumas, colored, shot in rear Atlanta Auto school on Ivy street. Jim Anderson, colored, sentenced to twenty years for murder.

March 21—Aaron Morris stabbed on Gilmer street, near Courtland. Ben Green, colored, sentenced to life for murder.

March 29—Leola Wilder, colored, shot at 61 State street. John Humbert, colored, bound over by recorder for murder.

April 3—Brooks Howell, white, found dead at foot of Cannon hotel with skull crushed. Death unsolved.

April 6—Mary Kate Sledge, octoroon, found with throat cut on Belt Line railroad tracks. Murderer uncaught.

April 23—Jim Anderson, colored, shot on Walton street. Murderer uncaught.

May 3—C. Richard Harper, white, stabbed to death by Kell Potts at 23 Mechanic street. Potts bound over by recorder. Case pending.

May 11—Marietta Logan, alias Mary South, colored, found with throat cut at Atlanta avenue and Fraser street. Murderer uncaught.

May 12—Mrs. Kate Hughes Clay shot by husband, Robert L. Clay, at home, 201 Lee street. Clay hanged Friday, December 13.

May 14—J. K. Arter, colored, shot at 61 West Hunter street by Jack Shepard. Shepard escaped and is still at large.

May 26.—Fletcher Jones, colored,

stabbed by Jim Berry. Berry sentenced to eight years.

May 25.—H. E. Daniel, colored, shot by Will Mitchell, colored. Mitchell shot by Daniel in pistol duel that followed. Both died.

June 1—Demp A. Smith, white, beaten to death by unknown negro at Decatur and Hilliard street.

June 2—Mrs. Maude Fowler Story shot by husband, B. H. Story, at home, 261 East Hunter street. Story in turn committed suicide.

June 24.—Corrinne Morris, colored, stabbed by Addie Williams, colored. Williams girl bound over on charge of murder. Case still pending.

June 25—Robert L. Stevens, white, stabbed by Frank McDonald, on Auburn avenue, near Pryor street. McDonald sentenced to eight years.

Charlie Connors, colored, beaten to death at 219 Butler street. Murderer uncaught.

July 11—Horace Dodson, white, stabbed at Decatur and Pratt streets. Oscar Hewberry bound over in recorder's court. Case still pending.

July 13—Unknown negro shot by Policeman J. T. Lassiter in self-defense. Lassiter exonerated by coroner's jury.

July 16—John Hardwick, colored, shot on Jackson street show grounds by unknown negro.

July 28—Frank Tedder shot by his wife, Mrs. Victoria Tedder, at home, 10 Pittman's alley. Mrs. Tedder was freed on plea of self-defense.

July 29—Maude Bell Dunlap, colored, shot by unknown negro in rear of 167 Pulliam street.

August 4—Emma Cantrell, white, shot by W. E. Lattimer in resort at 115½ Decatur street. Lattimer committed suicide with same pistol with which he had slain his victim.

August 11—Henry Gibson, colored, shot by J. A. Banks, a street car conductor, near 197 Houston street. Banks exonerated by coroner's jury.

August 20—John Odum, white, stabbed by Walter Ratteree in Atlanta Woolen mills. Ratteree arrested and indicted for murder.

August 30—Gertrude Hill, colored, stabbed by husband, Julius Hill, at Houston and Hill streets. Slayer uncaught.

September 10—Allen McLendon, colored, shot by Will Render, colored, at Martin and Crumley street. Render arrested and case still pending.

September 12—George Warner, colored, shot by Policeman Walter McWilliams in grocery store at Piedmont avenue and Currier street, when Warner, caught burglarizing the establishment, advanced upon McWilliams. McWilliams exonerated by coroner's jury.

#### Policeman Camp Killed.

September 21—Policeman S. V. Belding shot by Policeman J. W. Camp in rooms on Central avenue. Camp freed on self-defense plea.

September 28—Dillard Wright, colored, stabbed at Decatur and Courtland streets. Oliver Yancey, colored, arrested and charged with murder. Case still pending.

September 29—George Smith, colored, shot at Decatur and Courtland streets. Jim Thomas, colored, arrested for crime. Case still pending.

September 30—Artis Luke, colored, shot at McDaniel and Peters streets by Milton Williams, colored. Williams surrendered and later was freed.

October 1—Will Seals, white, shot by T. F. Gilstrap near West Ashby street and A. B. & A. railroad. Gilstrap freed on "unwritten law" plea.

October 10—Kid McCrary, colored, alias Clarence Casey, cut to death by unknown negro.

October 21—Clarence Jones, colored, shot while burglarizing a grocery store on Currier street by Policeman M. W. Wiley. Wiley exonerated by coroner's jury.

November 7—Annie Brown, colored, kicked to death by husband, Jerry Brown. Brown surrendered and case still pending.

November 9—Son Ross, colored, shot by Thomas Key, colored. Key arrested and case is still pending.

November 15—Roy B. Clark, white, shot by J. A. Copeland at 191 Whitehall street. Copeland's plea of self-defense did not avail exoneration. He was held for manslaughter and the case is still pending.

November 16—Morris Kidd, colored, shot by Ed Kennedy, 237 Windsor street. Kennedy arrested and case is still pending.

#### Beaten to Death.

November 27—William Franklin, white, beaten to death by robbers in his home at 224 Decatur street. R. L. Sloan and Frank Risley arrested on suspicion and bound over by Recorder Broyles on charge of murder.

December 7—Henry Giles, colored, stabbed to death by unknown highwayman near 159 Piedmont avenue.

December 14—Sing Kee, Chinese, shot in his laundry at 240 Houston street by unknown burglar.

December 15—Walter, alias Tut Smith, colored, shot in his home in basement of 49 Woodward avenue by unknown negro.

December 16—Mary Pope, colored, stabbed by Bertha Lark, colored, at 9 Butler street. Lark woman arrested and bound over on charge of murder.

December 18—Ben Daniels, colored, shot by Policeman M. C. Folds. Shooting declared by several eye-witnesses to have been in self-defense. Folds was exonerated.

December 20—Mrs. Mollie Rauzin, white, beaten to death at her home, 203 East Hunter street, by unknown burglar.

December 23—Charlie Greer, colored, shot by Ella Little, colored, in servant's house at rear of 708 Piedmont avenue. Slayer arrested, bound over on murder charge and case is still pending.

December 25—Bob Henderson, colored, shot by John Henry Perkins in rear of 30 Crew street. Perkins was arrested and case is still pending.

December 29—Bradford Garner, colored, killed by "Dixie" Pearson, colored, near 26 Hunnicutt street. Pearson surrendered and is being held by the police awaiting action of recorder.