

MURDER AND SUICIDE

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HORRIBLE TRAGEDY AT COLLAMER – A MAN KILLED BY HIS SON-IN-LAW, WHO THEN COMMITS SUICIDE – THE RESULT OF FAMILY QUARRELS.

At five o'clock Friday evening last a terrible tragedy was enacted at Collamer, in the town of DeWitt, about six miles from this city. That it was a result of family jars [*wars*] there is little reason to doubt. The parties were James C. Tallman, a man of sixty-five years, and Lorenzo R. Garrett, aged thirty-two years, the latter having married the former's daughter some fourteen years ago.

The first years of Garrett's married life seem to have been quiet and ordinarily pleasant. In the early period of the war of the rebellion he went to the defence [*sic*] of the country, his wife (and children) remaining with her parents. Garrett was an industrious man, and a temperate man; and when he returned from the war resumed his labors on the farm.

But the time came when, for some reason, there seems to have been a desire and determination to get [*sic*] the title of his property from him. In 1867 a quarrel arose between Garrett and his wife and she threatened to sue for a divorce. The wife and her father said he was crazy, and Garrett was arrested – the story goes for the purpose of having a guardian appointed. The result was that Garrett gave the title deed for his farm of 84 acres to his wife, and the mother-in-law testifies, on the coming coroner's inquest, that "after the transfer everything

went along smoothly with them." Precedent to this movement the father-in-law had presented a bill of \$600 or \$700 for boarding his daughter and her children while Garret was gone to the war. Since this transfer it seems by the testimony of the mother-in-law that Garrett and his wife have had occasional quarrels, and at such times G. wanted the title deeds back, but the wife would not give them to him.

Early in 1869 Mrs. Tallman let Garret have \$200, taking a chattel mortgage on his horses, cows, wagon, sheep, &c., worth nearly \$500. This mortgage was transferred to Tallman, who about a year ago went to Garrett's barn (their farms joined) and before his face and eyes untied one of the horses and took it away "on the mortgage." Garrett asked Tallman not to do so, as he wanted to use the horse to go to town, but the father-in-law was inexorable, and a quarrel ensued, as it has between them on several occasions. Previous to this difficulty of a year ago, the mother-in-law testifies that Garret was an industrious and hard working man, often working late into the night, and his wife says, some times all night.

Mrs. Tallman says she never liked Garrett. She also testified to a quarrel two years ago between herself and her daughter, Mrs. G., in which the latter threw a tea-kettle and flat

iron at her, injuring her hip. It was all about property.

No wonder that these transactions resulted in frequent misunderstanding, between Garrett and the others, and finally he became, what before he had been charged as being, insane at times; and no wonder that at such times he threatened the life of his father-in-law, as he did

THE MURDER.

On Friday Mrs. Garrett had been to Fayetteville. When she returned about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Garrett "did not act as a rational man." He started for the barn to kill some turkeys, but came back with some bags, saying he would not kill the turkeys, but would kill his father-in-law. Mrs. Garrett went and told her father, who said he would take care of himself. When she returned, Garrett had gone to a neighbor's. From there he went to Tallman's found him in the barn yard, and there struck him with a club or ax helvo [handle]. Mr. T. yelled murder, when his wife ran out and saw Garrett strike Tallman again, knocking him down, and striking him after down. She stepped back in the house, took a revolver, and went out again, and tried to shoot Garrett as he got over the gate and was leaving, though she did not then think that her husband was killed; but the revolver was only at half-cock, and she could not shot. When Garrett had gone Mrs. Tallman went to her husband, and soon found that he was dead, and then she screamed many minutes before bringing the neighbors to the scene.

THE SUICIDE.

Garrett walked from the place of murder direct to his own place, being seen by members of his own family to pass the house and go to the barn. After the first excitement of the murder, the neighbors began to look for Garrett. On going to his barn they found that he had already committed suicide by hanging. The cross beams on either side of what is termed the barn floor, are thirteen feet above the floor. From these was thrown across a pole. Garrett had climbed on to one of the beams, evidently pulled the pole along endwise, fastened one end of the rope to it and the other around his neck, pushed the pole back to near the extent of the slack in the rope, which was about six feet, then jumped for a hang; and accomplished his purpose; but the neck was not broken.

Both bodies were taken to their respective residences. Knowledge of the tragic deed spread and the locality was visited by many people.

Corner Didama held an inquest Saturday afternoon. The mother-in-law and wife were the principal witness. Dr. Stevenson testified to the skull of Tallman being fractured very extensively six or eight inches, from which death must have resulted immediately. Verdict of jury accordingly.

One witness testified that when Mrs. Garrett came from her father's he told her of her husband's suicide, when she said "Thank God, I'm glad of it." When undertaker Sherwood went for the body of Garrett, yesterday, to take it to his parent's home at Green Point, the wife exhibited a heartless indifference.

There is much feeling in the neighborhood, and the sympathy seems to be wholly with the deceased murderer and suicide.

father's residence, near Malloy's, Greenpoint, and at the Taft Settlement Church at eleven o'clock.

The funeral of Garrett will be attended Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, at his

Corrections & Additions:

The parents of Lorenzo R. Garrett were Jonathan and Betsey Garrett of the town of Salina. Their farm was on Malloy Road (sometimes known as Richmond Road) two farms west of Patrick Malloy's farm. The family did not live in Greenpoint as stated in the article – that was James Garrett family, of Buckley Road, just north of 7th North Street, descended from the Garrett family of Pompey, NY.

Dr. Stevenson was Dr. Archibald Stevenson of Collamer, my gg=grandfather on my mother's side.