

MURDERER GLAD HE KILLED HIS WIFE

Samuel Vanstavern, in a Prison Cell, Manifests No Regret Over the Awful Crime Which He Committed in Camden Friday Night



SCENE OF THE CAMDEN MURDER

It was at Fourth and Chestnut streets where Vanstavern killed his wife. The picture shows the oil box behind which the defenseless woman tried to hide from her husband. The fireman in the foreground is Peter Carter, who picked up the woman after she was shot.

Apparently less concerned than anyone in the room, Samuel Vanstavern, who murdered his wife in Camden on Friday evening, was given a hearing by Justice Stackhouse yesterday and committed to await the action of the grand jury.

"I hope she is dead and I am willing to hang for it," was Vanstavern's expression shortly after his arrest, and his countenance at the hearing gave no indication that he regretted the deed.

When asked by Justice Stackhouse if he desired to say anything, Vanstavern gruffly mumbled: "I ain't got nothin' to say."

He made a statement, however, on Friday evening to Assistant Prosecutor Archer.

Separated Nine Years

He said he had been separated from his wife for nine years, although they had been friendly at times during that period. He had coaxed her frequently to return to him, but she always had some excuse. Four or five weeks ago he said she informed him that she had sold their household goods and all was over between them.

"I couldn't live without her," he said, and if she is dead I am glad and am willing to hang for it."

He said he had been drinking Friday. He had purchased the pistol several weeks ago and always kept it with him. "I didn't know whether I would have shot her if I hadn't been drinking," he concluded.

Young Griffiths' Story

Frederick S. Griffiths, a 14-year-old boy, saw the murder and testified at the hearing. He is employed in a grocery store in front of which the tragedy occurred. Griffiths said a woman passed him and Vanstavern at the same moment clutched him by the throat, pointed a pistol at his head and demanded to know the woman's name. The boy sank to his knees in



FREDERICK S. GRIFFITHS

He is the boy who witnessed the Vanstavern murder in Camden and whom the murderer threatened to kill before he shot his wife.

fright and denied that he knew her. The woman hearing the boy's cries turned and Vanstavern convinced that she was his wife, began firing. Mrs. Vanstavern sought shelter behind an oil box, but her husband followed her, firing four shots, each of them taking effect.

Married Seventeen Years

The Vanstaverns had been married seventeen years. They had one child, Walter, now 16 years old. Mrs. Vanstavern was always considered an estimable woman while her husband had a reputation for shiftlessness.

The Prosecutor has no doubt of his ability to prove premeditated murder.

Vanstavern, who is a skilled oilcloth worker, boarded at 702 Mt. Vernon street. Mrs. Vanstavern made her home with her father, former Councilman Daniel Lamb, at 330 Chestnut street.