

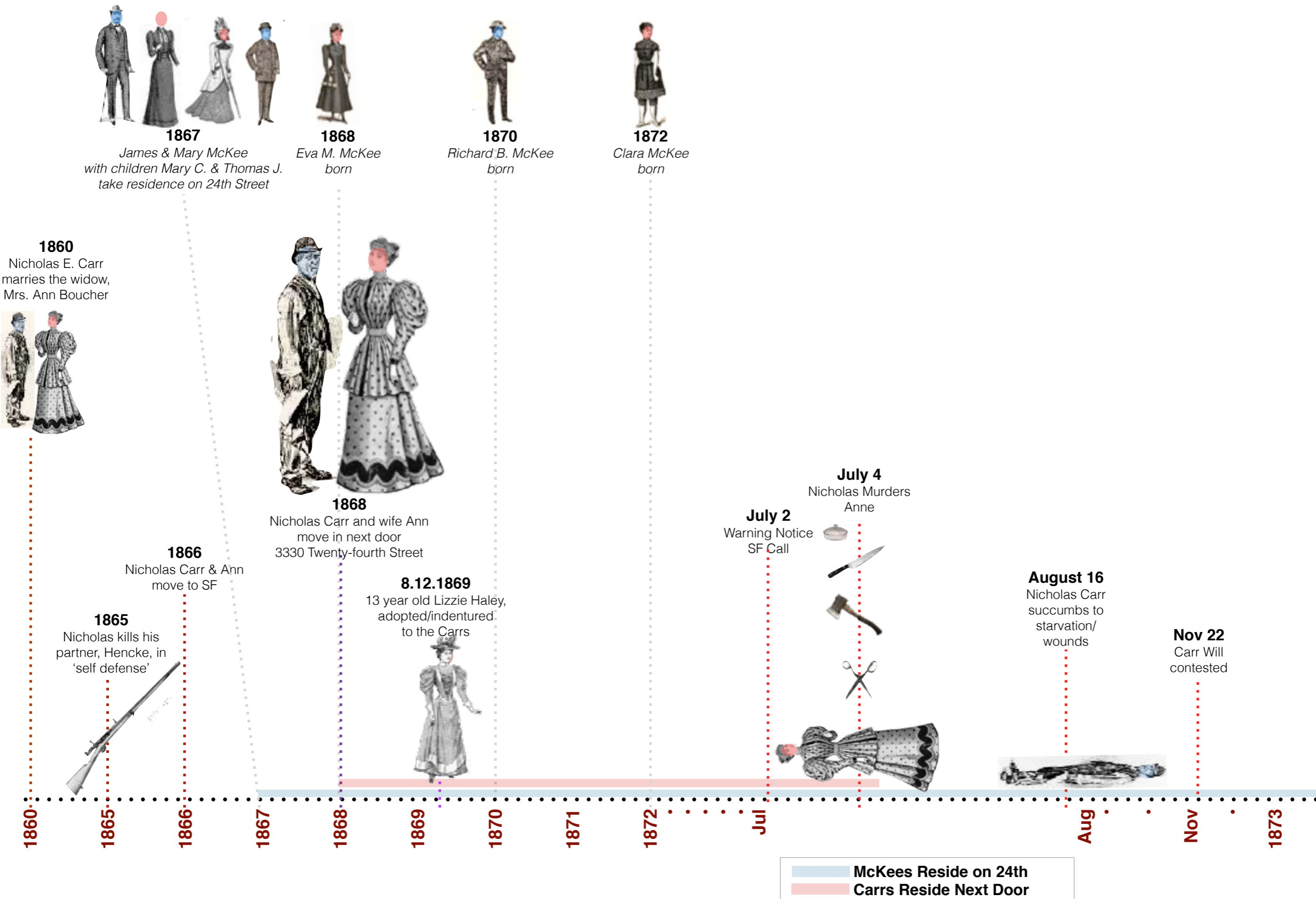
# The Murder Next Door

3330 24th Street • San Francisco, CA

Home of Tailor Nicholas E. Carr with wife Ann Boucher and adopted daughter Lizzie Haley



# Timeline 1860 - 1875 - Nicholas Carr Murder(s)



# Timeline Links to News Clippings - July 1872



**July 4**

Ann Carr Stabbed/ Expires



**July 10**

Lizzie Haley testifies

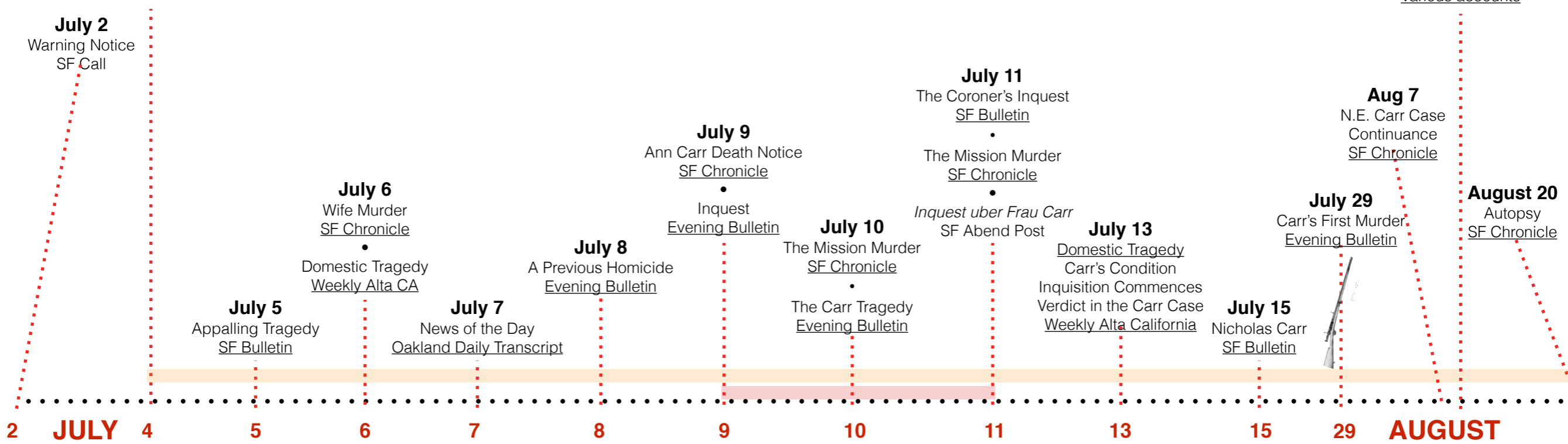
**July 11**

McKees testify



**July 4- August 16**

Carr starves himself in jail  
Various accounts



Murder → Suicide  
 Trial



# Appalling Tragedy - July 5, 1872 - SF Bulletin

San Francisco Bulletin - July 5, 1872 - Appalling Tragedy

## APPALLING TRAGEDY

A handsome two-story house on 24th Street, between Bartlett and Mission, was last evening the scene of a tragedy, the culmination apparently of years of domestic unhappiness, though one of the parties being dead, and the other (the only witness) in a weak condition, the full facts have not yet been clearly ascertained. This house was owned and occupied by Nicolas E. Carr, a man about 59 years of age, a Tailor by trade, and his wife Ann, aged about 50 years, formerly a Mrs. Ann Boucher, of Marysville, where she married Carr twelve years ago. A girl named Elizabeth Frances Haley, about 16 years of age, who was indentured to Carr three years ago by the Managers of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, has also resided with the couple, but was absent yesterday, having been sent by Carr to the house of Mrs. Swain, one of the managers of the asylum, to see if another home could not be found. This girl and a young woman named Eager (or Yager) worked with Carr at the tailor business in a back room of the family residence. Both were absent on Independence Day, but this morning they went in company to the house, and, finding the door locked, rang the bell. After some delay, Carr put his head out of the front chamber window and told them to go for a policeman, saying he had taken laudanum and

### APPALLING TRAGEDY.

A handsome two-story house on Twenty-fourth street, between Bartlett and Mission, was last evening the scene of a tragedy, the culmination apparently of years of domestic unhappiness, though one of the parties being dead, and the other (the only witness) in a weak condition, the full facts have not yet been clearly ascertained. This house was owned and occupied by Nicolas E. Carr, a man about 59 years of age, a tailor by trade, and his wife Ann, aged about 50 years, formerly a Mrs. Ann Boucher, of Marysville, where she married Carr twelve years ago. A girl named Elizabeth Frances Haley, about 16 years of age, who was indentured to Carr three years ago by the Managers of the Protestant Orphan Asylum, has also resided with the couple, but was absent yesterday, having been sent by Carr to the house of Mrs. Swain, one of the managers of the Asylum, to see if another home could not be found. This girl and a young woman named Eager (or Yager) worked with Carr at the tailor business in a back room of the family residence. Both were absent on Independence Day, but this morning they went in company to the house, and, finding the door locked, rang the bell. After some delay, Carr put his head out of the front chamber window and told them to go for a policeman, saying he had taken laudanum and

POISONED HIMSELF.  
The girls found Officer Fennel, who, on being informed that a man had taken poison, hurried to the Marine Hospital on Valencia street, and with the Assistant Physician, Dr. Coleman, went to the house. The officer went around to the back door, and entering, let in the physician, and both passed up to the front room, where they found Carr, dressed in a bloody undershirt, and over clothing over it. He was perfectly cool, and not apparently much under the influence of any narcotic, although an ounce bottle of laudanum which stood on the table had been nearly drained of its contents. Carr said he thought nothing could be done for him, as he had made up his mind to die, and had not only taken laudanum, but had stabbed himself, and he did not think there was any use in doing anything for him. The officer, having, on a previous occasion, been called to the house in consequence of a difficulty between Carr and his wife, knew that he was married, and, seeing no one but the man there, asked

"WHERE IS YOUR WIFE?"  
Carr replied, "She is in the other room, dead; I killed her, and tried to kill myself." Going into the back chamber, they found the woman lying dead and stiff on the floor, the evidently having been killed the day before. Officer Fennel then went to the Coroner, and also to the Police Office, and Dr. Coleman, and made arrangements for removing the wounded man to the Hospital. It being thought best not to send him into town, less bleeding might recommence, and the man die. He was accordingly taken to the Hospital, only one block distant. The coroner's deputy soon arrived and shortly after Dr. Stillman himself and a *Bulletin* reporter. Very few of the neighbors knew that anything unusual had occurred, and only a few boys stood at the door. On entering the room, where the bloody deed was committed, and some marks of a previous struggle in the first chamber, the house was in perfect order; every thing being clean and neat, the rooms handsomely carpeted, the furniture new and of good quality, everything indicative of plenty, and so far as such things go, of comfort.

CARR'S STATEMENT.  
Our reporter was able to gather but a disconnected statement from the wounded man, he being engaged in making a will and transacting other business affairs with his lawyer, W. C. Barnett, who was sent for by Carr, soon after he returned to the Hospital. It was ascertained, however, that Carr has never lived happily with his wife. He says he detected her in an intemperate character; that soon after their marriage he ascertained that she bore scars of some venereal disease, and he had good reasons to believe, also, that her former husband was not still living. He found her also to be a very unreasonable woman; she would get drunk and act like a wild woman for weeks at a time, during which she tried to kill him. She was unreasonable in her demands for furniture, etc., and would get trusted for whatever she wanted. Only a few weeks ago she tried to destroy a carpet which he paid \$25 for, because he would not also purchase chamber-set which she wished. Finally on Tuesday morning he put in my notice in the *Call*, as follows:

PERSONAL — NOTICE — ALL PERSONS ARE HEREBY CAUTIONED AGAINST TRUSTING MY WIFE, ANN CARR AS I WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DEBTS CONTRACTED BY HER.  
N. E. CARR.  
Being angry about this notice, she got drunk and began to destroy things about the house, breaking all the latches off the doors, etc. She went and tried about the house and tried, on the 4th, and then went into her room—the back chamber—and lay down. She took an iron bar, pried open the door, and rushed at him with a butcher knife, he wrenched the knife from her and pushed her back into her own room. She then got a hatchet, and in the struggle he saw one-half of a pair of shears lying on the table, and taking it up, in a moment of phrenzy, he stabbed her with it.

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Being angry about this notice, she got drunk and began to destroy things about the house, breaking all the latches off the doors, etc. She swore and tore about the house until tired, on the 4th, and then went into her room — the back chamber—and lay down. He went in and tried to pacify her but she became more violent, and screamed murder, (as was her custom at such times) when he offered her No violence at all. Finding he could do nothing with her, he went into the front room and fastened to the door by putting a board against the panel facade.

### THE DEATH STRUGGLE.

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City Intelligence.

SATURDAY, July 6th.

DOMESTIC TRAGEDY.

An Intemperate Wife Stabbed to Death - The Husband Attempts Suicide by Taking Poison and Stabbing Himself.

Twelve years ago, Nicholas E. Carr, then forty-seven years of age, married, in the city of Marysville, Mrs. Ann Boucher, and, according to the husband's statement, the last few years they have not lived as a happy couple, which he attributes to the wife's habits of intemperance. Carr is a tailor by trade, and has been living in this city for some years past. By his industry he amassed a handsome competence, which enabled him to purchase a lot on Twenty-fourth street, between Mission and Bartlett, and enabled him to build thereon a neat two-story residence which the family has occupied for some time. They had no offspring, and three years since they had indentured to them Elizabeth Francis Haley from the Protestant Orphan Asylum. This girl is now sixteen years old and has been living with the family.

Carr states that his wife was in the habit of drinking very freely, and would remain under the influence of liquor for days at a time. On such occasions she would make demands for articles which he did not deem entirely necessary, when she would start off and purchase them on credit. This went too far for him and, in order to put a stop to it, he caused to be inserted an advertisement in some of the papers last week, cautioning all persons not to trust his wife, as he would not be responsible for any debts contracted by her. At this she became incensed, lost control of her temper, broke some of the furniture and commenced drinking liquor until Thursday, when she retired to her room. The young girl living with them was out spending the day with some friends and was not at home to witness the terrible tragedy that followed. During the day Carr states that he went to his wife's room to reason with her, but finding his efforts unavailing, he went to the front room of the house, bolted the door and placed a board against the panel to keep it tight. He had been in the room but a short time when his wife came to the door and endeavored to push it open, in which she failed. She then procured an iron bar, with which she forced open the door and with a cleaver in hand rushed at her husband, who thwarted her blows, took the knife from her and sent her back to her room. She was determined to inflict a bodily injury on him and came toward him with a hatchet, when he, in a moment of passion, picked up from the table half of a pair of scissors, with which he struck her several fatal blows on the neck and body. She fell to the floor and in a few minutes she was a lifeless corpse. Gazing upon his wife, whose lifeless form was lying in a pool of blood shed by his own hand, Carr, in a fit of desperation, and probably fearful of the consequences that would follow, resolved to end his own existence, and thus he became guilty of the crime of double murder. With the cleaver with which he had dealt the fatal blows on his wife he stabbed himself twice in the breast, and then cut himself with a pocket-knife in the left arm, and laid down at the side of his dead wife. His rash act failed to accomplish his desire, and for several hours he must have suffered the most intense agony, and during the night he managed to crawl from the chamber of death to their bed, where he lay meditating and anxious for the break of day. At an early hour yesterday morning, Carr dressed himself as well as he could and walked to a drug store corner of Twenty-second and Mission streets, where he purchased and ounce of laudanum, returned home and swallowed nearly the whole dose, but the drug failed to accomplish its work as soon as desired. During the forenoon the girl, who had been away the day and night previous, returned home in company with one of the girls employed in the house, rang the door bell for a few minutes, there was no response to her call. The girls were shocked by Carr looking out of the window, telling them to go for a policeman - that he had taken poison. They at once ran in search of a policeman, and found Officer Fennel, who called upon Dr. Coleman, of the Marine Hospital, and proceeded to the house. Carr was found in his room, his clothing saturated with blood, and told the doctor that it was no use to do anything for him, as he was determined to die. An inquiry was made where his wife was, to which he replied, "She is in the other room dead; I killed her and tried to kill myself." The officer went into an adjoining room and found the woman on the floor. Carr's wounds were dressed, and then he was brought to the Marine Hospital. He was conscious most of the time, and during the forenoon sent for his attorney, W. C. Burnett, and made his will. During the evening he was removed to the County Hospital. A charge of murder has been entered against him on the prison register, but it is doubtful whether he will answer to the charge before the tribunals of this world.

Weekly Alta - July 13, 1872 - Weekly Alta California: Page 2

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# Wife Murder - July 6, 1872



Wife Murder - July 6, 1872 - San Francisco Chronicle: Page 3

## WIFE MURDER

**A Tailor Cut his Wife to Pieces With his Shears  
Then Stabs Himself and Swallows Laudanum**

**Twenty-Three Ghastly Wounds on the Woman's Mangled Corpse**

**The Murderer Driven to Desperation by his Wife's Intemperance  
- Scene of the Tragedy - Etc.**

While thousands were enjoying themselves on Thursday in the celebration of the nation's birthday a tragedy was enacted at the Mission which brought to an end 12 years of matrimonial unhappiness.

### THE SCENE OF THE TRAGEDY

on Twenty-fourth street, 2 doors from Mission, stands and neat cottage. In the front is a small garden neatly arranged and speaking of taste in the occupants of the house. The house is furnished neatly within, and tells plainly that Nicolas E. Carr and his wife, although not rich, were well to do in the world, as they owned the place we have mentioned. Carr is a tailor, 59 years of age, and has always worked in the rear of his residence. Several years ago he adopted a young girl named Lizzie Haley, from the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and she lived with him until Thursday, when he gave her leave to go for the day. She remained away until this morning when she returned with her Mrs. Yeager who worked at tailoring with Carr, and they rang the doorbell sometime before they were answered.

### A STRANGE ANNOUNCEMENT,

while they were knocking and ringing, a window in the house is raised Carr looked out. As soon as he saw the two girls he told them to run for a physician as

### HE HAD TAKEN POISON,

and was dying. The two girls ran off and finding Officer Fennell told him what Carr had said. He hurried to the Marine Hospital on Valencia Street and secure the services of Dr. Coleman who went with him to the house of Carr. Both entered, and in the front room they found Carr lying on a lounge, and near him on a table an ounce laudanum bottle partially empty. Carr received his visitors very calmly, and told them that he had taken poison, stabbed himself in four places, and was determined to die. While they were talking, Officer Fennell asked Carr where his wife was, and was horrified at the coolness of Carr who said:

**"SHE IS IN THE OTHER ROOM, DEAD."**

And then he added. "I killed her, and, as you see, I've tried to kill myself." The officer ran into the room, followed by the doctor, and on the floor lay the dead body of Mrs. Carr. The body was cold, and had evidently been dead for a number of hours, has afterwards proved to be the case. On the floor near the corpse was a small pool of blood, and about 2 feet further off with a larger pool. The room bore marks of a fearful struggle, and there was

### BLOOD, BLOOD EVERYWHERE.

On the walls there was blood; on the bedding there was more, as if the murdered woman had endeavored to crawl into it after the fatal wounds were given; on the doorknob of the room were bloody finger marks from the hand of Carr, as he afterward stated.

### CARR'S STORY OF THE TRAGEDY.

Carr was immediately removed, by order of Dr. Coleman, to the Marine Hospital, and there he made a statement to the effect that his wife first met him in Marysville 12 years ago. She pretended to be a widow, and said that her name was Mrs. Anne Boucher. They married, and after marriage he learned that she had once been an improper character and her first husband was still living. This was

### THE BEGINNING OF THEIR TROUBLE,

and once it begun it never ended. She was intemperate, and at times continue drunk for weeks, during which time she would try to kill him, and would another ways act in a very aggravating manner. She was always buying furniture, etc., on credit, and he found it hard trouble to keep track of her. A few weeks ago she was in one of her drunken fits and

vented her spleen by tearing up a new carpet because he would not buy a certain chamber-set she desired. She also went to stores and made credit purchases ad libitum until he was forced to advertise her in the following card:

Personal. — Notice — All persons are hereby cautioned against trusting my wife, Ann Carr as I will not be responsible for any debts contracted by her. N. E. Carr.

This notice was published last Tuesday morning, and as soon as his wife saw it she commenced abusing him, and wound up by getting drunk and

### SMASHING UP THE FURNITURE.

She continued this on Wednesday, and began again on Thursday morning, the Fourth. During the day she became quieted somewhat, and lay down in their bed-chamber. He went into the room to reason with her upon the folly of her conduct, when she immediately

### CALLED HIM A MURDERER,

and became very violent. He tried to pacify her, but she would not be quiet, and he left her in the room. Determining to keep her from any further chance of getting liquor, he fastened to chamber door quite securely, and sat down to his work. While he was so engaged, he heard her working at the door, which she opened and then rushed at him with what he supposed was a knife. He closed with her, and during the struggle found that she had hold of a pair of large shears. Both got hold of the shears, and in the struggle they broke. He snatched one blade and with it

### STABBED HER IN THE BREAST AND THROAT

several times she fell to the floor, and lay there without moving or speaking again. He raised her head, placed a pillow under it, and begged her to speak to him. No word escaped her lips and he realized the fact that she was dead. Then he felt remorse for what he had done, and determined to end his own life. He took the blade of the scissors and

### STABBED HIMSELF IN THE BREAST

four or five times. He then cut his arm open with a pen knife and lay down by the side of his wife, with her in his arms. He gradually became insensible and remained so until daylight yesterday morning, when he arose and went to the bed. He remained there until about 6 o'clock, when he got up and went to a drugstore at Mission and 22nd streets to buy some laudanum. He got an ounce bottle and went home where he drank nearly all of it. He then

### TRIED TO SHOOT HIMSELF,

and for that purpose took a pistol from a drawer, where it had lain for years. It was an old-fashioned four barrel affair, and when he cocked and pointed it at his head it would not go off, being rusty or damp. He says that his troubles have weighed upon him for years and that he several times was on the verge of suicide, but believing that a change would come over his wife he desisted from violence. After he had made his statement to the coroner he desired to see W. O. Burnett, his attorney, and that gentleman was sent for.

### CARR'S WILL

he then made a will, in which he leaves all his personal property, except clothing to Elizabeth Francis Healy, the young girl who he had taken from the Orphan Asylum. His wearing apparel etc. he bequeath to James Stockton, now in the Custom-house. The estate comprises the house and lot where the murder was committed and \$500 in one of the banks. A. Hemme and George L. Morell or appointed executors.

### HIS CONDITION

Last night Carr was in an easy condition, and there appeared to be a fair chance for his recovery. There are several deep wounds in his breast and on his left arm is a severe gash, which has closed. The body of his wife is at the morgue, and was yesterday "viewed" by a jury, who will hold an inquest and an early date. There are 23 wounds on the body and neck. Of these there were four wounds either of which was sufficient to cause death. Carr is spoken of by all who know him as a hard-working, honest man, which is verified by the fact that out of his hard earnings he has become the possessor of the property above named.

The news of the murder spread over the Mission during the day, and the premises reviewed by hundreds of the horrified neighbors.



# A Mill Kills His Wife - That Fearful Murder - July 6, 1872

## SAN FRANCISCO.

**A Man Kills His Wife and Attempts Suicide—Prospect of His Recovery.**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 3.—Nicholas E. Carr, residing on 24th street, near the Mission, who has been living unhappily with his wife for a long time, says his wife attacked him yesterday, and that, in defending himself with a pair of shears, he stabbed her dead at the first blow. When he found that he had killed her, he stabbed himself seven times, opened an artery in his left arm, and took laudanum, but could not die. He was removed to the hospital, and there are prospects of his recovery.

[Second Dispatch.]

San Diego Union • July 6, 1872

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## THAT FEARFUL MURDER.

**Statement of the Killing of Mrs. Carr by the Murderer Himself.**

Nicholas E. Carr who committed the fearful wife murder yesterday, which equals in horror any bloody occurrence of many preceding years, has been removed to the County Hospital and this morning is much improved. It is more than probable that he will recover. From additional statements made by the desperate man we gathered the following correct account of how the horrid affair happened: Carr who is a man of about forty-seven years of age, temperate of habits and possessed of some money and property, including the house on Twenty-fourth street between Mission and Bartlett in which the murder took place, states that he has been living an unhappy life for the last twelve years, occasioned by his wife's intemperance. When she was in liquor it was her custom to go to stores and buy articles for which she had no earthly use, and order the bills sent to her husband. In consequence of this mode of acting, Carr was compelled to put an advertisement in some of the papers last week, cautioning all persons not to trust his wife as he would not be responsible for any debts contracted by her. This so incensed her against him, that she immediately went upon a worse spree than any previous. Her conduct became so riotous toward him that he was forced to lock her out of his room in which he was at work at his trade making clothes. She burst the door open and attacked him with a cleaver when he, in a moment of passion, picked up from the table half of a pair of scissors, with which he struck her several fatal blows on the neck and body. She fell to the floor and in a very few minutes she was a lifeless corpse. With the same ghastly weapon he stabbed himself twice in the breast, cut himself with a pocket knife in the arm, and then lay down to die. He didn't die though, and early the next morning got up from the side of his dead wife, whom he had held in his arms the entire night, and took laudanum. The state of affairs was discovered by an adopted daughter, who had been spending the Fourth away from home, and the police was notified. Carr was taken to the Marine Hospital, and subsequently to the County Hospital, and the corpse of his wife to the Morgue. He made his will leaving all his property to Elizabeth Haley his adopted daughter.

San Francisco Examiner • July 6, 1872

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An awful tragedy was enacted in San Francisco night before last. A tailor named Nicholas E. Carr stabbed to death with a pair of shears his wife Ann, formerly a Mrs. Boucher of Marysville. The man then took a dose of laudanum and then stabbed himself. He is not yet dead. In justification he says that his wife is passionate a drunkard and unfaithful to her marital vows. Moreover, that she tried to kill him with a hatchet, when, in a frenzied state he picked up the shears and stabbed her fatally as above stated.

Oakland Daily Transcript - July 7, 1872 - [Oakland Daily Transcript](#)

#### NEWS OF THE DAY

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**A PREVIOUS HOMICIDE.**—It is stated that the man Carr, who murdered his wife Thursday and then tried to kill himself was prosecuted in 1865 in Oroville for the murder of his partner a man named Hencke, and that the jury acquitted him on the ground of self defense. Hencke and Carr worked a claim together. Their wives had some kind of difficulty, and their husbands became involved. One evening as Hencke was coming out of his claim Carr met him with a shot-gun, fired and killed him. Carr surrendered himself into custody, and claimed that Hencke first attacked him and that he killed him in self defense. The jury believed his statement and acquitted him.

[Evening Bulletin - July 8, 1872 - A Previous Homicide](#)

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## Inquest - Death Notice - SF Bulletin & SF Chronicle - July 9, 1872

**INQUEST.**—The Coroner will take testimony in relation to the killing of Ann Carr by her husband, N. E. Carr, on the 4th of July. From all that can be gathered concerning the character of Mrs. Carr, she appears to have been a good, industrious and economical woman. The murderer confesses the crime, but denies that it was premeditated. Whether it was or not, and the real motive that lead to the crime may be made to appear by the evidence.

[Inquest - July 9, 1872 - Evening Bulletin](#)

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### DEATHS.

**MOLLWAIN**—In this city, July 7, at his residence, No. 321 Sixth street, Robert Mollwain, aged 29 years.

Friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, this day (Tuesday), at 2 o'clock P. M.

**PAWLEY**—In this city, July 8, of paralysis, George O. Pawley, a native of Australia, aged 15 years and 8 months.

Funeral services will be held at the United Presbyterian Church, Mason street, near Eddy, to-morrow (Wednesday), at 10½ A. M. The friends of his uncle, Matthew McCloskey, and his brother-in-law, Charles H. Richards, are especially invited to attend.

**TRAINOR**—In this city, July 5, Ann Trainor, aged 55 years and 6 months.

**MACKEN**—In this city, July 5, William Edward, son of James and Jane Macken, aged 20 days.

**SWIFT**—In this city, July 5, Margaret Agnes, daughter of Mathew and Elizabeth Swift, aged 4 months and 21 days.

**CARR**—In this city, July 4, Mrs. Ann Carr, aged 50 years.

**GAYNOR**—In this city, July 7, William Henry, son of William and Mary Gaynor, aged 4 years, 2 months and 12 days.

[Ann Carr Death Notice - July 9, 1872 - San Francisco Chronicle: Page 4](#)

CARR — In this city, July 7, Mrs. Ann Carr, aged 50 years.



# The Mission Murder • Lizzie Haley Testimony • July 10, 1872



**The Mission Murder - Lizzie Haley Testimony - July 10, 1872 - Chronicle: Page 3**

## **THE MISSION MURDER INQUEST ON THE BODY OF MRS. CARR Testimony of Lizzie Haley, the Young Girl Who Lived in the Family A DRUNKEN WIFE AND A DISCORDANT HUSBAND.**

**Mrs. Carr a Peaceable Woman When Sober, but a Perfect Fury When Intoxicated.  
Only One Witness Examined the Inquest To Be Resumed Today.**

Coroner Stillman last evening begin the inquisition into the circumstances of the murder of Mrs. N. E. Carr by her husband.

### **THE JURY,**

is sworn in, is composed of a. W. Kennedy, J. B. Penschaw, Duncan Henderson, EW Park and F. F. Pardes. There are about a dozen witnesses, and coroner Stillman proposes to examine them at length, so that everything pertaining to the recent relations of Carr and his wife may be brought out. Last night the first witness examined was

### **Elizabeth Frances Haley,**

a young girl, 16 years of age and possessed of a very pretty face, figure and graceful deportment. She was sworn to tell all she knew and was the only witness examined during the evening. She testified that she had been living with the Carrs since August 12, 1869. Her testimony opened by a statement of the position of her room in the house where the murder was committed. She then said: "I have often seen Mrs. Carr under the influence of liquor at periods varying from a month to two months she would commence a drunken spell and remain drunk for a week and more. She was in cross and quarrelsome with everyone in an about the house, but when sober she was always kind to all and

### **LOVING AND AFFECTIONATE TO HER HUSBAND.**

He was invariably good and kind to her and I never saw him raise his hand to her during my stay in the house until last Wednesday. This demonstration was provoked in the following manner: She had a drunken fit and had taken all the knobs off the doors, and at one time had locked him out. He called me and Mrs. Kager who worked with me to open the door; but as we were afraid of Mrs. Carr we did not do so until she went upstairs when I opened a window and let him in. She had all the keys and he asked her for them. She refused to give them up and he ran to take them from her. They got into the kitchen and there I saw him catch hold of her for the first time. They had quite a scuffle and at one time I heard him say to her

**"YOU ARE HURTING YOURSELF, NOT ME."**

Mrs. Eager and I were so frightened that we went out of the house and while in front Mrs. Carr came to the door, swore at Mrs. Eager and threw a glass preserve dish at her. We both ran into the street and while we were outside Carr locked Mrs. Carr in her room, and said he would keep her there until she became quiet. Mrs. Eager and I were standing near the front door when the car came out. I asked him where he was going, and he said he was going for a policeman. While we were standing there he asked Mrs. Carr if she would be a good woman if he would let her out. He then beckoned us in to approach and listen to what Mrs. Carr said. He again asked her if she would be a good woman if he let her out. She said. "You let me out and you will see." She swore at him very hard and finally half agreed to behave herself; he did not believe her, but

### **WENT FOR A POLICEMAN,**

and Mrs. Eager and I went out. We closed all the doors in the house, and, I think, he nailed the kitchen door. When he came out, Mrs. Eager and I wanted to go with him, but he objected and got on a car, and I then went to Mrs. Eager's and remained all night. This was Tuesday night. On Wednesday morning I went to work and remained there until the afternoon, when I saw Mrs. Carr for the first time that day. They had no trouble that day that I saw. When I first saw her, she came to the work room and sat on a sofa.

### **THE CHAMBER DOOR WAS SHATTERED**

on Tuesday; the dining room door was shattered on the same day; she pounded very hard on the doors; on the morning of the 4th of July I worked until 11 o'clock; she was rather more pleasant than otherwise on that day while I was there.

Mrs. Eager was at work as usual on Wednesday; on Thursday, the 4th, in the morning I made a mistake in delivering a vest, and she called me some very hard names; Mr. Carr and I worked until 11 o'clock, and up to that time there was no disturbance; they talked violently at 11, and I went down and told her that she had been doing some nice work upstairs; I had some nice mats upstairs which she had torn to pieces and it was to that I referred. She asked me to repeat what I had said, and I repeated it. She then caught hold of my hand in very rough manner, when Carr came in and told her to let go of me; she unloosed me, went to the kitchen-table and got the carving-knife. Mr. Carr had gone into the work room and I followed, when Mrs. Carr came out with the knife in her hand and said something which I did not hear. Mr. Carr ran after her. I caught and held him. She said something further and then

### **SHE THREW THE CARVING KNIFE AT ME,**

and the handle hit me on the arm. I was about 15 feet from her, in the work-room door. Mr. Carr stood near his cutting board, very near me. When Carr tried to run at Mrs. Carr I held him very tightly. After she threw the knife he said to me 'What did she throw at you?' I said it was a knife and he told me to find it. We both looked and I found it, and laid it on a board near Carr.

A carving knife was here showing the witness, which she identified as the one that had been thrown at her.

*Testimony resumed*—When I laid the knife by him he stood looking at it and thinking, and I remarked that I had better go to Mrs. Swain's; he said it was the best thing I could do. I went out to go, and at the front door saw Mrs. Carr on the street and Mr. Carr was on the front step; he told me to go and tell Mr. Parks that he wanted him. Then Mrs. Carr said she would like to see me do it. I went upstairs and when I came down again Mrs. Carr was in the kitchen and Mr. Carr was in the workshop. He called me back, but I did not answer. This was nearly 12 o'clock noon of Thursday last. I came back at 7 o'clock that night when Mrs. Eager and her sister went to tell Carr that I would not be home. They went to the house and came back in 10 minutes and said that they had

### **RUNG THE BELL VERY HARD**

but could not get in: they went back again at my request and with the same result; a third time we failed and then we walked up and down past the house but saw no light and we went home. I returned on Friday morning with Mrs. Eager at about 7 o'clock; we tried to get in but could not get in. We stood there for about 10 minutes, and were about going away when Carr opened his bedroom window and told us to wait a minute. In about five minutes he came down and let us in. He was in his under-dress. He was very pale, and I asked him where Mrs. Carr was. He made no answer. I said to him "You look so pale; what's the matter?"

He then told us he had taken laudanum that

### **HE WOULDN'T LIVE 10 MINUTES.**

And we had better go for the policeman. Mrs. Eager and I both went out, and he shut the door. Mrs. Eager and I found a policeman after a long search. When I went back it was with the doctor and policeman. In the back bedroom there was a bed, two trunks and a washstand. I have seen Mrs. Carr drink. Never saw her drink anything but white wine. Have seen her beastly drunk. Last saw her so drunk about a year ago. That was not often so drunk

### **HAVE HEARD HER THREATEN TO THROW A HATCHET AT CARR.**

Never heard her threaten his life. On Tuesday last I saw her threaten him with a hatchet. Never saw a disjointed pair of shears about the house.

A blade of shears was shown the witness which she said she had often used to cut threads from the sewing machine.

*Testimony resumed*—When I last saw those shears they were not disjointed. I do not know how the chamber door could have been opened or with what instrument unless it was a rasp that was found. I heard Carr say on Wednesday and Thursday that he would send her to the Home of the Inebriate. I saw the advertisement in the paper, but never heard Mrs. Carr talk about it. There was some dispute about carpeting one of the rooms, and she was dissatisfied with the carpet that had been bought and destroyed it. The inquest was here adjourned until today







**THE MISSION MURDER.**

**The Inquest Closed and Carr Charged with Murder.**

**ONLY ONE FATAL STAB OUT OF THE TWENTY-THREE.**

**Mrs. Carr's Jealousy of Lizzie Haley.**

**THE BLOOMING WIDOW WHO KISSED CARR AT THE HOSPITAL.**

**What the Neighbors, Policeman, Butcher and Grocer Heard and Saw.**

Coroner Stillman yesterday resumed his duties in the matter of the murder of Mrs. Carr by her husband, and A. Carr. The first witness called was Dr. Edwin Bentley who testified by there on Saturday last he made a post mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Carr. Found a well developed woman, apparently 50 years of age. There were indications of a life dissolutely spent. The clothing was quite bloody, and in removing it

were disclosed — on the left arm, left side of the face and chest. Most of them were superficial; three or four penetrated the cavity of the chest; one was between the second and third ribs and penetrated the upper lobe of the left lung; a wound between the third and fourth ribs enter the lower lobe, and another between the fourth and fifth ribs enter the left ventricle of the heart; two or three of the chest wounds were on the right side, and three or four were on the back of the chest. All of the other organs of the body were in a reasonably normal condition, I examined the liver, but it was not remarkably fatty; it was quite healthy; the wounds vary from a quarter of an inch to an inch.

**THE BLADE OF THE SHEARS**

was shown Dr. Bentley, and he said that he thought the wounds could have been made by such an instrument. From the general indications of the body — the wound's, scratches etc. — he was of the opinion that the wounds were inflicted in the course of a protracted struggle between the deceased and the assailant. The only wound that was at all fatal was the one that entered the left ventricle of the heart, and that caused the death of the woman. Dr. Bentley was asked if laudanum would have a marked effect upon a man who had lost considerable blood, and was in the state of much excitement. Dr. Bentley said that that such a man might take and ordinarily fatal dose without any marked or fatal affect.

**MRS. CATHERINE AGAR**

was sworn and she said: I worked for Mr. Carr about two months. Never saw any ardent spirits in the house except a little liquor that Carr had in his shop for the toothache. My father, since the murder, has had charge of the house and he found a bottle of white wine and some brandy, which he said he found in the back bedroom. He showed it to me. I never heard her make any threats of personal violence to him. Mr. Carr was a strong, muscular man. Mrs. Carr was also pretty strong. On Tuesday I wanted to leave the house at half-past 3 o'clock, and he went to her to get the keys when

**SHE RAISED A HATCHET AT HIM.**

He took the hatchet from her, and in the scuffle she either fell or was thrown down. He caught hold of her while she was down, and held her two hands with one of his, while with the other he took the keys from her pocket. On Wednesday, July 3rd I was there all day, and saw all that happened, as Miss Haley testified last evening.

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The Mission Murder - July 11, 1872 • San Francisco Chronicle: Page 3

**THE MISSION MURDER**

**THE INQUEST CLOSED AND CARR CHARGED WITH MURDER**

**ONLY ONE FATAL STAB OUT OF THE TWENTY-THREE**

**MRS. CARR'S JEALOUSY OF LIZZIE HALEY**

**THE BLOOMING WIDOW WHO KISSED CARR AT THE HOSPITAL**

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**TWENTY-THREE PUNCTURED WOUNDS**

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**THREATS OF MURDER AND SUICIDE**

Last Wednesday she kept bothering him while he was at his work, and once he said to me, "I am afraid that unless she leaves me alone my passions will get the best of me, and then I will kill her and myself." I said that to do so would be foolish; that I would have her taken care of and would send her to the Home of the Inebriate. This was in the shop. Lizzie Haley was present during this conversation. Mrs. Carr was in the kitchen. She was in a position where she might have heard what was said: I have not seen Mr. Carr today. Have not seen him since Sunday. Went to the Hospital today but was not admitted. When Mrs. Carr was sober she was very kind to Lizzie Haley. On one day when she was drunk she was unkind to me, but the next day she said she meant to have said what she did to Lizzie.

**MR. CARR WAS VERY KIND TO LIZZIE**

Lizzy at times was pretty sharp to Mrs. Carr. At other times she would not answer her, and would not work. Never thought that she was jealous of Lizzie. Heard her once say that he thought more of Lizzie then he did of her. This shears were shown the witness, and the Coroner asked: "Did you ever see these shears before?" Witness —No sir; I never saw them before. Coroner— Yes you did see them before. [This was said in a very positive manner, but the witness knew what she was saying and didn't change her statement.] the Coroner then showed her a knife, and she denied that she had ever seen it before. She denied that she had told Officer Fennel that Carr has made his threats of murder and suicide a week before the time just stated; she may have said so, but thought that she didn't; in fact, was it.

**MRS. AGAR KISSES CARR**

Testimony resumed— I went to the hospital to see Carr on the morning of the 5th of July, and when leaving I felt so much for him that I kissed him. I went once since. I was left in charge of the house by Mr. Carr. Carr told me last Wednesday morning that he had locked her in her chamber on Tuesday night, and that she had kicked the door paneling to pieces. I do not think that there was any jealousy of Carr on the part of his wife because of his kindness to Lizzie. Do not think that any such jealousy had anything to do with all the trouble. I only kissed Carr once, and then at the Hospital. Mr. Carr never gave me any of Mrs. Carr's dresses.

**CHRISTOPHER RAHL**

testified: I am a grocer and my place is at the corner Mission and Twenty-Fourth streets. Have known Mrs. Carr seven months and a half. Do not know Carr. She generally came to my store for articles. About four months ago she bought two bits worth of brandy from me. Sometimes she bought wine. Some weeks she would buy several bottles and then none for a long time. I generally saw her every day, and never saw her under the influence of liquor. Saw her last at 10 o'clock on the morning of the Fourth of July. She came to my store for potatoes. She was not intoxicated. She did not speak of trouble with her husband. She said:

**"LIZZIE IS A WICKED GIRL"**

or words to that effect. I could not hear any noise in Carr's house at my store, if any had been made. My last conversation with her was of a general nature, and referred to nothing particularly.



# The Mission Murder • Seipel, McKees, Fennell testify • July 11, 1872 — 2 of 2

The Mission Murder - July 11, 1872 • [San Francisco Chronicle: Page 3](#)

## THE MISSION MURDER - continued

### CHARLES SEIPEL,

a butcher on the corner of Twenty-fourth and Mission Street, testified that he always found Mrs. Carr agreeable, ladylike and had never seen her under the influence of liquor. He last saw her on the morning of the Fourth of July and then she was not under the influence of liquor.

### MRS. MARY MCKEE

testified that she lives next door to the residence of the Carr's and has resided there for the past three years. She saw Mrs. Carr regularly, and never saw her intoxicated. On Tuesday she told me that she had bought a bottle of wine the night before. She came into my house and told me of her troubles. She said that she had lived happily with her husband until they took the girl Lizzie Haley from the Orphan Asylum.

### THE WITNESS' FEAR OF CARR,

at this point the witness faltered and refused to go on, stating that she was afraid to state anything about Carr, as he might do her some harm, should he ever gain his freedom. Coroner Stillman assured her that she had nothing to fear if she told the truth.

*Testimony resumed* — The first I knew of any trouble about Lizzie was last Thanksgiving night, when Lizzie said that Mrs. Carr had driven her from the house. I told her she ought to leave the house, as Mrs. Carr did not like her presence. She said she did not want to leave, as Mr. Carr was teaching her a trade. I never heard of Mrs. Carr in connection with any of the trouble. When Mrs. Carr told me about her getting the wine she said that she had taken it to give her "pluck" enough to put the girl out of the house. She said she would leave her house on Monday morning, and I advised her not to do so. She was frantic at times, more from trouble than liquor. When Lizzie was chased into my house, I asked her if she was not afraid of Mrs. Carr; she answered that she was not, and that Mrs. Carr was a coward. On Wednesday night Mrs. Carr came into my house and wanted to stay, as she was afraid to stay at home, her husband having told her that he would take her life. She said he had shut her up in a room. She showed me her limbs, which were badly bruised. She also told me that she had taken the locks off the doors so that she could not lock her in the house and murder her.

### SHE ESCAPES BY A WINDOW.

Mrs. Carr told me that when her husband locked her in the house she managed to get out by a window with the aid of a chair, and she brought the chair into my house. She was quite excited, and kept saying that she had no one that would sympathize with her.

### MRS. CARR'S JEALOUSY

On Sunday Mrs. Carr told me she felt like a stranger in her husband's house, and believed that he cared more for Lizzie than for anyone else. She said that she intended to put all her money where Carr could not get it, as he would give it to Lizzie. She said that she was afraid that her troubles would send her to the Lunatic Asylum. She said that she did not think that her husband cared to sleep in the same room with her, and she was going to get some furniture for another room in the house, make him pay for it out of his money in the bank, and thus keep so much of it from Lizzie. She told me that when she was in the mountains she gave all her money to defend him when he was on trial for his life; that she then slept in the neighbors barn, and then

**NO LIZZIE CAME BETWEEN THEM.**

She said that she had told Carr that she was intended to put all her earnings into the bank to her own credit, which displeased him very much. She said that in order to get a smile or favor from her husband, she would have to humor Lizzie in everything. Lizzie told me once in the presence of Mr. Carr that she would leave and go to Mrs. Swains, and Carr began to cry when she said it, and he said that there was no need for her leaving, as Mrs. Carr would change and become more reasonable after a time.

### JAMES MCKEE

the husband of the preceding witness, testified that in November last Lizzie Haley came into his house to get him to go into Carr's and stop a quarrel between himself and wife. Witness told Lizzie that he did not want to interfere in neighbor's quarrels. She came a second time and he refused to go then, and Carr next came and insisted that he should go and see Mrs. Carr, who was drunk. He went in with Carr and saw Mrs. Carr, who was a little excited, but nothing beyond that. Witness said, "I asked her what was the matter, when she said that

### IF CARR WANTED A CONCUBINE

he would have to keep her in some other house. She said that they would never have peace until the girl left. Then Carr commenced to abuse his wife, using very vile language, and I told him that I did not think she was as drunk as he was. I was about to go when Carr asked his wife for the keys of the room in which the bed clothes were. He insisted on getting the keys, and as she refused he threw her on the floor and got the keys. I pulled him off of her and then left. I never spoke to him after that. On the Fourth of July I was away from home until 2 PM and when I returned my little girl met me at my gate and said, "Oh papa, Mrs. Carr has been crying awfully for you and mother and she was saying that Carr was murdering her." Mrs. Carr told me at times that she used to follow her husband and Lizzie, and need to find them together at Woodward's Gardens.

### MARTIN FENNEL,

a regular officer at the Mission, testified to his connection with the case from the time he met Lizzie Haley and received information of the murder up to the time he saw a Carr in his house, where he was very cool and collected. He admitted the murder, and then the officer told him to consider himself under arrest for murder. Fennell stated that from his observation of the body he was of the opinion the woman had died easily. Her head lay on a pillow and her clothes were composed about her. On the floor were two pools of blood. It was separate and distinct and looked as though a person had laid in it, which bore out Carr's statement that he had laid in it. The bed and bedding were covered with blood, as if some one with bloody clothes had laid on it. There was blood on the walls of the chamber, and on the casing of the doors and windows. The witness identified the blade of the shears, a small knife and a pistol shown, as those he had found in the room. Carr told Mr. Fennell that he wished Mrs. Carr to have charge of the house and had given her the keys.

### CARR'S STATEMENT

Coroner Stillman here read to the jury the statement made at the Marine hospital by Carr, after which the case was given into their hands. The statement was that already published in full in the Chronicle.

### THE VERDICT

The jury in their verdict said: We find that Ann Carr came to her death, on the 4th day of July, from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors in the hands of her husband, N. E. Carr. The said act was premeditated and deliberate: that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands. And we charge The said Nicholas E. Carr with the crime of murder." Signed by A. W. Kennedy, Chas. G. Freiderich, James R. Prushaw, F. F. Pardee, E. W. Park and Duncan Henderson.





# Coroner's Inquest - The Jury Render Their Verdict - July 11, 1872

**THE CORONER'S INQUEST.**  
**The Jury Render Their Verdict.**

The Coroner's Inquest in the case of Mrs. Ann Carr who met her death at the hands of her husband on the 4th instant, was resumed at two P. M. yesterday. The following witnesses were examined:

Dr. E. Bentley, who made the post mortem examination, testified that he discovered twenty-three punctured wounds on the body of deceased; one punctured the heart and was the direct cause of death; several wounds entered the chest and the remainder were superficial; the wounds could have been made by the blade of a pair of scissors, which was produced; the examination showed deceased to have been of dissolute habits.

Mrs. Eager testified that she worked for Mr. Carr for about two months; never saw liquor in the house except on one occasion, when Mrs. Carr bought some for her husband, who was suffering from toothache; since the murder, found a bottle half full of white wine in the house; on Tuesday afternoon I wanted to go home at half-past three, and Mrs. Carr had the keys. Mr. Carr went towards her to take them from her, when she raised the hatchet to him, and he took it from her; after that she either fell, or he threw her down, and he was trying to hold her two hands with one of his; I believe he took the keys out of her pocket. I was at the house on the 3d, and saw all that transpired. Mr. Carr said to me on the 3d, that if she kept on bothering him he was afraid his passion would get the best of him, and that he would kill her and then he would kill himself. I told him if it was me I would have her taken care of, and would send her to the Home of Inebriates. Mrs. Carr was usually kind to Lizzie, except when under the influence of liquor, as I judged from her conduct and the smell of her breath. I know of no reason why she should have been jealous of Lizzie.

Christopher Rahl, groceryman, testified that Mrs. Carr was in the habit of trading at his store; she bought some brandy two months ago, and occasionally bought a bottle of white wine; never saw her under the influence of liquor; saw her alive the last time on the morning of the Fourth of July. She came to the store for potatoes; she was sober then. She never said anything about having any trouble with her husband. Have heard her speak of Lizzie. She said that she was a wicked girl, or words to that effect.

Charles Seipel, keeper of a market on Mission street, testified that he saw Mrs. Carr almost daily, and believed her to be a quiet woman; never saw her under the influence of liquor; saw her last at ten o'clock on the morning of the 4th, when she appeared to be entirely sober.

Mrs. Mary McKee, who was loath to give evidence in the case until her attendance was procured by an officer, testified that she saw Mrs. Carr daily previous to her death; never saw her intoxicated; she was in the habit of trading at his store; she bought some brandy two months ago, and occasionally bought a bottle of white wine; never saw her under the influence of liquor; saw her alive the last time on the morning of the Fourth of July. She came to the store for potatoes; she was sober then. She never said anything about having any trouble with her husband. Have heard her speak of Lizzie. She said that she was a wicked girl, or words to that effect.

James McKee, husband of last witness, testified that he was called into Carr's house last November to quell a quarrel between Carr and his wife, growing out of Mrs. Carr's jealousy of Lizzie. Mrs. Carr said that she had locked the girl's room, and if Carr wanted to keep a concubine he would have to keep her in some other house. Carr then commenced to abuse her, and called her vile names. He asked her for the key of the room where the bed clothes were. He caught hold of her and threw her down, and tried to get the keys out of her pocket, when I pulled him off. I got home on the 4th at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when my little girl told me that there had been a great noise in Mr. Carr's house. She said: "Mrs. Carr was hollering awful. She was calling for you and mama to come and save her—that Mr. Carr was murdering her." Mrs. Carr told me once that Carr and the girl used to meet downtown by appointment—that they would leave at different hours, and she would follow them, and then she would meet them at Woodward Gardens and other places. On the Sunday before the Fourth, Lizzie came into my house and gave me the latch-key, and asked me to give it to Mrs. Carr when she came home. I did as directed, when Mrs. Carr said, "Ain't that a pretty state of society? Here my husband has refused to go with me to a place where we were invited to dinner, but has gone out with that girl." My girl also told me that during the afternoon she saw Mrs. Carr open the window and Mr. Carr pull it down, after which she heard Mrs. Carr cry out "He is trying to put poison down my throat." Police Officer Farrell, who first visited the house and arrested Carr after the tragedy becoming known, repeated the same description already published of appearances about the place and the actions of the prisoner.

The jury retired to consider their verdict at half past 8 o'clock. After an absence of a few minutes, they returned the following:

"The deceased came to her death on the Fourth of July, 1872, at a twenty-fourth street, in the city and county, from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors in the hands of her husband, Nicholas E. Carr—that the said act was premeditated and deliberate—that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands, and we charge the said Nicholas E. Carr with the crime of murder."

## SF Bulletin - July 11, 1872 - The Jury Render Their Verdict

### THE CORONER'S INQUEST

#### THE JURY RENDER THEIR VERDICT

The Coroner's Inquest in the case of Mrs. Ann Carr who met her death at the hands of her husband on the 4th instant resumed at two P.M. yesterday. The following witnesses were examined:

Dr. E. Bentley, who made the post mortem examination, testified that he discovered twenty-three punctured wounds on the body of deceased; one punctured the heart and was the direct cause of death; several wounds entered the chest and the remainder were superficial; the wounds could have been made by the blade of a pair of scissors which was produced; the examination showed deceased to have been of dissolute habits. Mrs. Eager testified that she worked for Mr. Carr for about two months; never saw liquor in the house except on one occasion, when Mrs. Carr bought some for her husband, who was suffering from toothache; since the murder, found a bottle half full of white wine in the house; on Tuesday afternoon I wanted to go home at half-past 3 and Mrs. Carr had the keys. Mr. Carr went towards her to take them from her, when she raised the hatchet to him, and he took it from her; after that she either fell, or he threw her down, and he was trying to hold her two hands with one of his; I believe he took the keys out of her pocket. I was at the house on the 3rd and saw all that transpired. Mr. Carr said to me on the 3rd, that if she kept on bothering him he was afraid his passion would get the best of him and that he would kill her and then he would kill himself. I told him if it was me I would have her taken care of and would send her to the Home of Inebriates. Mrs. Carr was usually kind to Lizzie, except when under the influence of liquor, as I judged from her conduct and the smell of her breath. I know of no reason why she should have been jealous of Lizzie.

Christopher Rahl, groceryman, testified that Mrs. Carr was in the habit of trading at his store; she bought some brandy two months ago, and occasionally bought a bottle of white wine; never saw her under the influence of liquor; saw her alive the last time on the morning of the Fourth of July. She came to the store for potatoes; she was sober then. She never said anything about having any trouble with her husband. Have heard her speak of Lizzie. She said that she was a wicked girl, or words to that effect.

Charles Seipel, keeper of a market on Mission street, testified that he saw Mrs. Carr almost daily, and believed her to be a quiet woman; never saw her under the influence of liquor; saw her last at 10 o'clock on the morning of the 4th, when she appeared to be entirely sober.

Mrs. Mary McKee, who was loath to give evidence in the case until her attendance was procured by an officer, testified that she saw Mrs. Carr daily previous to her death; never saw her intoxicated; she used to come in and tell me about her troubles. She told me that she lived happily with her husband until they got the girl Lizzie from the Orphan Asylum, and that her husband thought more of the girl every day.

Lizzie came running into my place saying that Mrs. Carr had been chasing her and wanted her to leave the house; that Mrs. Carr was jealous of her. I told her that she had to leave the house under the circumstances. Mrs. Carr told me that she bought wine to give her pluck to put the girl Lizzie out of the house. On the night before the 4th Mrs. Carr came to me and wanted to stay all night, and she was afraid to stay in the house, as he had sworn to take her life. She told me that she had shut her up in a room, and she exhibited her limbs, which were bruised. Witness related further circumstances tending to show that Carr exhibited a preference for the girl Lizzie to the annoyance of his wife.

James McKee, husband of last witness, testified that he was called into Carr's house last November to quell a quarrel between Carr and his wife, growing out of Mrs. Carr's jealousy of Lizzie. Mrs. Carr said that she had locked the girl's room, and if Carr wanted to keep a concubine he would have to keep her in some other house. Carr then commenced to abuse her, and called her vile names. He asked her for the key of the room where the bed clothes were. He caught hold of her and threw her down, and tried to get the keys out of her pocket, when I pulled him off. I got home on the 4th at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, when my little girl told me that there had been a great noise in Mr. Carr's house. She said: "Mrs. Carr was hollering awful. She was calling for you and mama to come and save her—that Mr. Carr was murdering her." Mrs. Carr told me once that Carr and the girl used to meet downtown by appointment—that they would leave at different hours, and she would follow them, and then she would meet them at Woodward Gardens and other places. On the Sunday before the Fourth, Lizzie came into my house and gave me the latch-key, and asked me to give it to Mrs. Carr when she came home. I did as directed, when Mrs. Carr said, "Ain't that a pretty state of society? Here my husband has refused to go with me to a place where we were invited to dinner, but has gone out with that girl." My girl also told me that during the afternoon she saw Mrs. Carr open the window and Mr. Carr pull it down, after which she heard Mrs. Carr cry out "He is trying to put poison down my throat." Police Officer Farrell, who first visited the house and arrested Carr after the tragedy becoming known, repeated the same description already published of appearances about the place and the actions of the prisoner.

This concluded the evidence, and the jury retired to consider their verdict at half past 8 o'clock. After an absence of a few minutes, they returned the following:

"The deceased came to her death, on the Fourth day of July, from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors in the hands of her husband, N. E. Carr. The said act was premeditated and deliberate: that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands. And we charge the said Nicholas E. Carr with the crime of murder.



# Mission Murder - The Jury Render Their Verdict - July 11, 1872

## THE MISSION MURDER.

### A New Light Let in upon the Horrible Deed.

The inquest in the case of Mrs. Ann Carr, who was murdered at the Mission on the 4th instant by her husband, N. E. Carr, was resumed last night, at the Coroner's office. Dr. Bentley testified to having made the post mortem; also to the nature of the wounds, their number, etc. Mrs. Agar testified that she knew of Mrs. Carr's love for liquor; had seen her on one occasion go for her husband with a hatchet; heard him say he feared some time his passions would get the better of him and he would kill her and himself; didn't believe deceased was jealous of Lizzie Haley.

The butcher and the grocer also testified to her general character; the latter had sold her liquor but never saw her under the influence of it.

#### IN A NEW LIGHT.

Mrs. Mary McKee, a next door neighbor, testified to the abuse which Carr had put upon his wife. She (the witness) had never seen Mrs. Carr intoxicated. She knew that deceased was in great fear of her husband and very jealous of the orphan girl, Lizzie Haley. One night she came into witness' house and stayed all night, fearful that Carr would kill her. She frequently said that he cared more for Lizzie Haley than for her—that to win his smile she had to smile on Lizzie. She told witness that she drank wine to give her pluck to tell Lizzie to leave the house.

Mr. McKee, the husband of the last witness, testified that he had gone into Carr's house to stop a row between him and his wife; he believed Carr to be the drunker of the two; in witness' presence, he (Carr) knocked his wife down; she said that she had frequently followed her husband and Lizzie to Woodward's Gardens.

Carr's statement already given was read to the jury, and they returned the following

#### VERDICT.

"We find that Ann Carr came to her death, on the 4th day of July, from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors, in the hands of her husband, N. E. Carr. The said act was premeditated and deliberate; that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands. And we charge the said Nicholas E. Carr with the crime of murder. A. W. Kennedy, Charles G. Frederick, James R. Prusbaw, F. F. Pardee, E. W. Park and Duncan Henderson.

San Francisco Examiner - July 11, 1872

## THE MISSION MURDER

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#### VERDICT

"We find that Ann Carr came to her death on the 4th of July from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors, in the hands of her husband, N. E. Carr. The sad act was premeditated and deliberate; that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands, and we charge the said Nicolas Carr with the crime of murder." A. W. Kennedy, Charles G. Frederick, James R. Prusbaw, F.F. Pardee, E.W. Park and Duncan Henderson.



## During the Trial - July 13, 1874

### **The Victim of the Butchertown Brawl.**

The Coroner will hold an inquest this afternoon in the case of George W. Knight, who died from injuries received at a row in Butchertown, as elsewhere mentioned. In the evening an inquisition will be commenced to inquire into the circumstances attending the murder of Mrs. Carr by her husband, N. E. Carr.

[Weekly Alta - July 13, 1872 - Weekly Alta California: Page 2](#)

(THE VICTIM OF THE BUTCHERTOWN BRAWL)...

In the evening and inquisition will be commenced to inquire into the circumstances attending the murder of Mrs. Carr by her husband, N. E. Carr.

**CARR'S CONDITION.**—N. E. Carr, who stabbed his wife in twenty-three different places, and then tried to kill himself, was somewhat better yesterday, and hopes are entertained for his recovery.

[Weekly Alta - July 13, 1872 - Weekly Alta California: Page 2](#)

#### **CARR'S CONDITION**

N. E. Carr, who stabbed his wife in twenty-three different places, and then tried to kill himself, was somewhat better yesterday, and hopes are entertained for his recovery.

### **Verdict in the Carr Case.**

The inquest in the case of Mrs. Ann Carr was resumed yesterday afternoon, and a number of witnesses examined, who testified to the relations existing between the deceased and her husband, and the Coroner also read a statement by Carr, which has already been published. About half-past seven o'clock the jury rendered a verdict "that Ann Carr came to her death, on the 4th day of July, from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors in the hands of her husband, N. E. Carr. The said act was premeditated and deliberate; that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands. And we charge the said Nicholas E. Carr with the crime of murder." Signed by A. W. Kennedy, Chas. G. Freidrich, James R. Prushaw, F. F. Pardee, E. W. Park, and Duncan Henderson.

[Weekly Alta - July 13, 1872 - Weekly Alta California: Page 8](#)

#### **VERDICT IN THE CARR CASE**

The inquest in the case of Mrs. Anne Carr with resume yesterday afternoon, and a number of witnesses examined, who testified to the relations existed between the deceased and her husband and the coroner also read a statement by Carr, which has already been published. About 7:30 o'clock the jury rendered averted "that Ann Carr came to her death, on the 4th day of July, from the effect of stabs inflicted by a blade of a disconnected pair of scissors in the hands of her husband, N. E. Carr. The said act was premeditated and deliberate: that she was unarmed and helpless in his hands. And we charge The said Nicholas E. Carr with the crime of murder." Signed by A. W. Kennedy, Chas. G. Freiderich, James R. Prushaw, F. F. Pardee, E. W. Park and Duncan Henderson.



**NICHOLAS CARR.**—This man, it appears, has many acquaintances in the mining regions. The Butte Record, of the 12th says: "Carr will be remembered by many of our citizens as a former resident of Oroville, owning at one time the place where Dr. Green now resides, and subsequently the old O'Shay buildings at the upper end of town. He was, at one time interested in the Monte de Oro Mine, a valuable claim in the mountains, just above Thompson's Flat, across the river."

SF Bulletin - July 15, 1872 - [Nicholas Case](#)

#### NICHOLAS CARR

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**CARR'S FIRST MURDER.**—The Butte Record published at Oroville, says in regard to the killing of Hencke by N. E. Carr, in the Monte de Oro claim, in 1865, that the difficulty did not grow out of a disagreement between the wives of Carr and Hencke. Theodore Fisher, who was part owner of the claim at the time, and who is still working it, says the conduct of Mrs. Carr while there, 'was unexceptionable' and ladylike, and that the first disagreement between the two men, was the refusal of Hencke to let Carr have some hay. Owing to the bad feeling thus originating, it was arranged that Carr and Fisher should work together, and it was while Hencke was retiring from the claim that he was met and killed by Carr, never speaking after he was fired upon, and dying within a few minutes. No one witnessed the shooting, and the surrender of Carr, and the claim that he fired in self-defense, caused his acquittal; Carr is rapidly recovering, and will soon be well enough to be tried for his last offense.

Evening Bulletin - July 29 - [First Murder](#)

#### CARR'S FIRST MURDER

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# Back-story • Carr's First Murder • January 4 - March • Weekly Union Record

**SAD OCCURRENCE.**—We deeply deplore the story of having to record a sad and fatal occurrence which took place at the Mount De Oro claim, in Morris Ravine, last Wednesday evening in the death of an old highly respectable citizen of that place—Mr. Thomas Hankey. It appears that he had been working in the claim at twelve o'clock at night—his watch having expired at that hour—the relief men, or one named Fisher, had arrived, and something gone wrong with the hose, the deceased repaired it. Fisher then went below and commenced his regular work of piping, and Mr. Hankey, the deceased, started to go home, and when a few rods from the claim he was shot—the shot entering his right breast and coming out at the left. His wife hearing the report of the gun and the cries of her husband, hurried to the spot and found him expiring, unable to speak—he died in a few minutes. Fisher, who was but a short distance from the scene of murder, could not bear the report of the gun from the rush and piping of the water. A man by the name of Carr, an old partner in this mining claim with the deceased, has been arrested and charged with the murder, and is now undergoing examination before Justice Coughley. It appears from report that a difficulty existed, for the past few weeks, between these parties.

Weekly Union Record & Sacramento Daily Union - January 7 & 9, 1856

## SAD OCCURANCE

We record a sad and fatal occurrence which took place at the Mount de Oro mining claim, in Morris Ravine, last Wednesday night, resulting in the death of an old and highly respectable citizen of that place — Thomas Hankey. It appears that he had been working in the claim, and at 12 o'clock at night — his watch having expired at that hour – the relief man, or one of them, named Fisher, had arrived, and something having gone wrong with the hose, the deceased and Fisher repaired it. Fisher then went below and commenced his regular work of piping, and Hankey, the deceased, started to go home, and when a few rods from the claim he was shot — the shot entering his right breast and coming out at the left. His wife hearing the report of the gun and the cries of a husband, hurried to the spot and found him expiring, unable to speak — he died in a few minutes. Fisher, who was but a short distance from the scene of murder, could not hear the report of the gun from the rush and piping of the water. A man by the name of Carr, an old partner in this mining claim with the deceased, has been arrested and charged with the murder, and is now undergoing examination before Justice Coughley. It appears from report that a difficulty existed, for the past few weeks, between these parties.

**SAD OCCURRENCE.**—The Oroville Record of January 4th has the annexed:  
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**IN JAIL.**—The examination before Justice Coughley of Mr. Carr for the killing of Tom Hankey was concluded on Friday night last. Carr was committed to jail to await the action of the Grand Jury.

Weekly Union Record - January 14, 1856

## IN JAIL

The examination before Justice Coughley of Mr. Carr for the killing of Tom Hankey was concluded on Friday night last. Carr was committed to jail to await the action of the Grand Jury.

The District Court commences its session on the 27th instant. The following cases are set for trial: Monday, 27th—Le Blanc vs. Hammel; Stevens vs. Wuollen; The People vs. Carr, for arraignment. Tuesday, 28th—Elliott vs. Day; Cook vs. Day. Wednesday, 29th—Stanley vs. Gluckauf. Thursday, 30th—Heiman vs. Vanness and Whalen. Friday, 31st—People vs. Mattoon; People vs. Kirby. Saturday, April 1st—People vs. Willard *et al.*

on calendar. The People vs. N. E. Carr—Grand Jury report a true bill against defendant, N. E. Carr, for the crime of murder. Indictment ordered filed and certified to the District Court.

Weekly Union Record - April 1, 1856

## NOT GUILTY

The case of The People versus N. E. Carr, indicted by the Grand Jury for killing Thos. Hanke, was tried by a jury of twelve, in the District Court on Friday last. The jury after retiring for less than half an hour, returned a verdict — “Not Guilty.” Much interest was manifested in this case. The verdict appeared to give general satisfaction. Hons. C. F. Lott and J. O. Goodwin were attorneys for defendant, and Hons. S. R. Rosenbaum and J. M. Burt for prosecution.

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## Death of a Wife-Murderer - August 7, 16, 1874

### NICHOLAS E. CARR.

The case of Carr, the tailor who cut his wife to pieces with his shears, was called, when the Prosecuting Attorney moved a continuance until next Tuesday as Carr's condition would not permit his attendance at Court. Mr. Phillips further said that instead of growing better Carr was sinking, and there were doubts of his living. On this showing the case was continued until Tuesday.

[SF Chronicle - August 7, 1872 - Chronicle: Page 3](#)

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Nicholas Carr, who was in custody for the murder of his wife at the Mission a month since, died of self-inflicted wounds at the San Francisco hospital yesterday.

[Sacramento\\_Daily\\_Union - August 16, 1872](#)

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## Death of a Wife-Murderer - August 16, 21, 22, 1874

**DEATH OF A MURDERER.**—Nicholas Carr, who murdered his wife on the morning of July 4th, by repeatedly stabbing her with a pair of scissors and then tried to commit suicide by stabbing himself, died in the County Hospital at half-past nine o'clock yesterday morning. Carr frequently expressed a wish to die and attempted to starve himself by refusing food.

[Evening Bulletin - August 16, 1872 - Death of a Murderer](#)

### DEATH OF A MURDERER

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**Death of Carr, the Wife Killer.**  
Nicholas E. Carr, the murderer of his wife, died at the County Hospital yesterday from the effects of the wounds inflicted by himself at the time of murder. Since then Carr has been in the hospital, and at one time was expected to die. It will be remembered that he willed his property, the house and lot on Twenty-fourth street, and \$500 in the bank, to Lizzie Haley, the girl who worked with him, and of whom his wife was jealous. Carr was fifty years of age, a man of fine appearance and of industrious habits.

[San Francisco Chronicle - Aug 16, 1872 - S F Chronicle: Page 3](#)

### DEATH OF CARR THE WIFE KILLER

Nicholas E. Carr, the murderer of his wife, died at the County Hospital yesterday from the effects of the wound inflicted by himself at the time of murder. Since then Carr has been in the hospital, and at one time was expected to die. It will be remembered that he willed his property, the house and a lot on Twenty-fourth street, and \$500 in the bank, to Lizzie Haley, the girl who worked with him, and of whom his wife was jealous. Carr was fifty years of age, a man of fine appearance and of industrious habits.

**Nicholas E. Carr.**  
The name of Nicholas E. Carr was on the docket of the Police Court yesterday on a charge of murder for killing his wife, and when called, the Prosecuting Attorney moved that the case be dismissed as Carr is dead, and thus Nicholas E. Carr was disposed of as far as earthly affairs are concerned.

[San Francisco Chronicle - Aug 21, 1872 - Chronicle: Page 3](#)

### NICHOLAS E. CARR

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**DEATH OF A WIFE-MURDERER.**—Nicholas E. Carr, who inflicted twenty-two wounds upon his wife on the 4th of July last, causing her death, died at the County Hospital yesterday. Carr also inflicted several wounds upon himself and was in a fair way for recovery, when he commenced to starve himself, taking but little nourishment the past few weeks.

[Weekly Alta - Aug 24, 1872 - Weekly Alta California: Page 6](#)

### DEATH OF A WIFE-MURDERER

Nicholas E. Carr, who inflicted twenty-two wounds upon his wife on the 4th of July last, causing her death, died at the County Hospital yesterday. Carr also inflicted several wounds upon himself and was in a fair way for recovery, when he commenced to starve himself, taking but little nourishment in the past few weeks.



## Autopsy of Nicholas E. Carr - August 20, 1872

The physician who made the post-mortem examination in the case of Nicholas Carr, found that the cause of his death was pyæmia, and that he was insane when he murdered his wife.

[Cause of Death - SF Chronicle - Aug 20, 1872 - Chronicle: Page 3](#)

The physician who made the post-mortem examination in the case of Nicholas Carr, found that the cause of his death was pyæmia, and that he was insane when he murdered his wife.

py·e·mi·a

/pī'ēmēə/

noun: **pyaemia**

1. blood poisoning (septicemia) caused by the spread in the bloodstream of pus-forming bacteria released from an abscess.

*from Wikipedia*

- A form of **Pyæmia** (or pyemia) is a type of sepsis that leads to widespread abscesses of a metastatic nature. It is usually caused by the staphylococcus bacteria by pus-forming organisms in the blood.

*from the GNU version of the Collaborative International Dictionary of English.*

- *noun (Med.)* A form of blood poisoning produced by the absorption of pyogenic microorganisms into the blood, usually from a wound or local inflammation. It is characterized by multiple abscesses throughout the body, and is attended with irregularly recurring chills, fever, profuse sweating, and exhaustion.

*from Wiktionary, Creative Commons Attribution/Share-Alike License.*

- *noun pathology* A type of septicemia caused usually by the presence of Staphylococcus bacteria in the bloodstream; characterised by metastatic abscesses and other symptoms associated with septicemia.

*from WordNet 3.0 Copyright 2006 by Princeton University. All rights reserved.*

- *noun* septicemia caused by pus-forming bacteria being released from an abscess



## THE MURDEROUS TAILOR.

**The Heirs of Nicholas E. Carr Contesting His Will on the Ground of His Insanity—The Issues in the Case.**

The will of Nicholas E. Carr, the tailor who murdered his wife by stabbing her and mutilated her body in a most shocking manner with a pair of shears in their house on Twenty-fourth street, on the night of July 4, 1872, and inflicted injuries on himself of which he subsequently died in the City and County Hospital, came up for probate yesterday before Judge Myrick. Carr owned at the time of his death a house and lot where he lived with his wife on Twenty-fourth street, between Mission and Bartlett, a watch and chain, and \$500 on deposit in the Odd Fellows' Bank.

### THE HOMICIDE'S WILL.

The will was written by City and County Attorney Burnett at the bedside of Carr the day after the homicide, at Carr's dictation. It was read to him, and approved and signed by him in the presence of two witnesses. In it Carr gave all his wearing apparel to James Stockton, an employe in the Custom-house. He directed that the funeral expenses of his wife and himself be paid, and bequeathed the residue of his property and estate to the girl Lizzie Haley, who was indentured to him from the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and who is supposed by many to have been the cause of the trouble between him and his wife. He appointed George I. N. Monell of the Odd Fellows' Bank and A. Hemme his executors.

### THE HEIR-AT-LAW INTERPOSES.

In course of time application was made to have the will admitted to probate. About this time a party appeared on the scene and interposed objections to the probate of the will, announcing her intention to contest it, and have it set aside on the grounds that at the time, and long prior to the signing of the will, Carr was not of sound mind, and that the will was signed by him under restraint, undue influence and fraudulent misrepresentation. This party was Kate O'Reilly, the niece-in-law of Carr, and who claims to be his nearest living relative and his heir-at-law. The case came on to be heard yesterday before the Judge, a jury having been waived. W. C. Burnett appeared for the devisee, Eugene Duprey for the contestant, and Judge Cooney was appointed to represent the absent heirs.

### THE ISSUES

In the case are as follows: 1st—Was Nicholas E. Carr, the deceased, of sound and disposing mind at the time of the execution of the alleged will? 2d—Was the said alleged will signed by him or by any other person in his presence, by his expressed direction? 3d—Was the said alleged will signed by said Carr as required by law? 4th—If said will was signed by said Carr did he sign the same without restraint, undue influence or fraudulent misrepresentation?

The testimony of Drs. Bentley, Stillman and other physicians and experts was taken in regard to Carr's condition at the time of signing the will and the state of his mind at the time. As usual in such cases the experts differed in their conclusions, but the overshadowing skill and judgment of Dr. Stillman as an insanity expert was in favor of Carr's sanity. The case was not concluded and will be resumed to-day.

SF Chronicle - Nov 22, 1872 - [Chronicle: Page 3](#)

## THE MURDEROUS TAILOR

**THE HEIRS OF NICHOLAS E. CARR CONTESTING HIS WILL ON THE GROUND OF HIS INSANITY — THE ISSUES IN THE CASE**

The will of Nicolas E. Carr, the tailor who murdered his wife by stabbing her and mutilated her body in a most shocking manner with a pair of shears in their house on 24th Street, on the night of July 4, 1872 and inflicted injury on himself of which he subsequently died in the City and County Hospital, came up for probate yesterday before Judge Myrick. Carr owned at the time of his death a house and lot where he lived with his wife on Twenty-fourth Street, between Mission and Bartlett, a watch and chain, and \$500 on deposit in the Odd Fellows' Bank.

### THE HOMICIDE'S WILL

The will was written by City and County Attorney Burnett at the bedside of Carr the day after the homicide, at Carr's dictation. It was read to him and approved and signed by him in the presence of two witnesses. In it Carr gave all his wearing apparel to James Stockton, and employee in the Custom House. He directed that the funeral expenses of his wife and himself be paid, and bequeath the residue of his property and estate to the girl Lizzie Haley, who was indentured to him from the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and who is supposed by many to have been the cause of the trouble between him and his wife. He appointed George I. N. Monell of the Odd Fellows' Bank and A. Hemme his executors.

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In course of time application was made to have the will admitted to probate. About this time a party appeared on the scene and interposed objections to the probate of the will, announcing her intention to contest it, and have it set the side on the grounds that at the time, and long prior to the signing of the will, Carr was not of sound mind, and that the will was signed by him under restraint, undue influence and fraudulent misrepresentation. This party was Kate O'Reilly, the niece-in-law of Carr, and who claims to be his nearest living relative and his heir-at-law. The case came on to be heard yesterday before the Judge, a jury having been waived. W. C. Burnett appeared for the devisee, Eugene Duprey for the contestant, and Judge Cooney was appointed to represent the absent heirs.

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The testimony of Drs. Bentley, Stillman and other physicians and experts was taken in regard to Carr's condition at the time of signing the will and the state of his mind at the time. As usual in such cases the experts differed in their conclusions, but the overshadowing skill and judgment of Dr. Stillman, as an insanity expert was in favor of Carr's sanity. The case was not including and will be resumed today.

**CONTESTED WILL.**—In the matter of the estate of Nicholas E. Carr, Kate O'Reilly, niece in law of the deceased, who claims to be the nearest living heir, opposes and contests the probating of the will on the grounds that Carr, at the time of signing the will or subsequent thereto, was not of sound mind; that the will was not signed and attested according to the provisions of the statute and that the signing was done under restraint, under influence and fraudulent misrepresentations.

[Evening Bulletin - Nov 21, 1872 - Contested Will](#)

## CONTESTED WILL

In the matter of the estate of Nicholas E. Carr. Kate O'Reilly, niece-in-law of the deceased, who claims to be the nearest living heir, opposes and contests the probating of the will on the grounds that Carr, at the time of signing the will or subsequent thereto, was not of sound mind: that the will was not signed in attested according to the provisions of the statute and that the signing was done under restraint, under influence and fraudulent misinterpretations.



# Estate of the Murderer Carr - November 22, 1872

**ESTATE OF THE MURDERER CARR.**  
The Will Contested - Question as to His Sanity.

The execution of the will of Nicholas E. Carr was proven in the Probate Court, yesterday, but its validity is contested on the ground that Carr was insane, and Miss Kate O'Reilly claims the estate as a niece of Mrs. Carr. W. C. Burnett, counsel for the devisee, Mary Haley, stated that even if the will was broken the claimant O'Reilly could not inherit the property as Mrs. Carr died first, and at her death the common property passed to her husband, whose relations would be entitled to it, in case of his inability to will it. The witnesses to the will testified to its execution, and as to the clear and collected state of mind in which Carr was at the time of its execution; that he dictated its terms without restraint, or suggestion even, from any person, and was perfectly aware of his condition, he at that time expecting soon to die. The testimony of Dr. Stillman was taken, he being present at the time the will was drawn; and in his opinion Carr was at that time perfectly sane, though he believed he was not sane at the time of committing the murder, and at various other times between the signing of the will and his death. In his opinion the will was executed during a lucid interval. Dr. Bentley testified to the same effect. He considered Carr insane at various periods prior to his death, but that there were times of entire sanity. The issues in the case are as follows: First—was Nicholas E. Carr, the deceased, of sound and disposing mind at the time of the execution of the alleged will? Second—Was the said alleged will signed by him or by any other person in his presence, by his expressed direction? Third—Was the said alleged will signed by said Carr as required by law? Fourth—If said will was signed by said Carr did he sign the same without restraint, undue influence or fraudulent misrepresentation? The property involved is worth \$3,000. The further consideration of the case was postponed until next month, meantime some effort will be made to notify the heirs at law of Carr, who are supposed to reside in England.

SF Bulletin - Nov 22, 1872 - [Estate of the Murderer Carr.](#)

## ESTATE OF THE MURDERER CARR

### The Will Contested - Question as to His Sanity.

The execution of the will of Nicholas E. Carr was proven in the Probate Court, yesterday, but its validity is contested on the ground that Carr was insane and Miss Kate O'Reilly claims the estate as a niece of Mrs. Carr. W. C. Burnett, counsel for the devisee Mary Haley, stated that even if the will was broken the claimant O'Reilly could not inherit the property as Mrs. Carr died first, and at her death, the common property passed to her husband, whose relations would be entitled to it, in case of his inability to will it. The witnesses to the will testified to its execution, and as to the clear and collected state of mind in which Carr was at the time of its execution; that he dictated it its terms without restraint, or suggestion even, from any person, and was perfectly aware of his condition, he at that time expecting soon to die. The testimony of Dr. Stillman was taken he being present at the time the will was drawn: and in his opinion Carr was at that time perfectly sane, though he believed he was not sane at the time of committing a murder, and at various other times between the signing of the will and his death. In his opinion the will was executed during a lucid interval. Dr. Bentley testified to the same effect. He considered Carr insane at various periods prior to his death, but that there were times of entire sanity. The issues in the case are as follows: First —was Nicholas E. Carr, the deceased, of sound and disposing mind at the time of the execution of the alleged will? Second —Was the said alleged will signed by him or by any other person in his presence, by his expressed direction? Third — Was the said alleged will signed by said Carr as required by law? Fourth— If said will was signed by said Carr did he sign the same without restraint, undue influence or fraudulent misrepresentation? The property involved is worth \$3000. The further consideration of the case was postponed until next month, meantime some effort will be made to notify the heirs at law of Carr, who are supposed to reside in England.

**INSANE EXPERTS AGAIN.**  
Another Chance for Steebel on Insanity.

One of the most shocking wife murders which was ever recorded in our criminal annals was that committed by Nicholas E. Carr on the night of the Fourth of July last, at the Mission. It will be recollected that he stabbed his wife to death with a broken pair of shears, and then inflicted injuries upon himself which subsequently caused death. His will came up for probate yesterday before Judge Myrick. Deceased was possessed of a house and lot on Twenty-fourth street, between Mission and Bartlett, a watch and chain, and \$500 on deposit in the Odd Fellows' Bank.

**THE WILL.**  
was drawn up and written by City and County Attorney Burnett at the bedside of Carr the day after the homicide, at Carr's dictation. It was read to him, and approved and signed by him in presence of two witnesses. In it Carr gave all his wearing apparel to James Stockton, an employe in the Custom-house. He directed that the funeral expenses of his wife and himself, be paid, and bequeathed the residue of his property and estate to the girl Lizzie Haley, who was indentured to him from the Protestant Orphan Asylum, and who is supposed by many to have been the cause of the trouble between him and his wife. He appointed George I. N. Monell, of the Odd Fellows' Bank and A. Hemme executors. And now comes Kate O'Reilly, a niece of Carr, who objects to the proving of the will, on the ground that deceased was of unsound mind at the time of making it. A jury was waived in the case and the examination of witnesses began. The testimony of Drs. Bentley, Stillman and other experts was taken in regard to Carr's condition at the time of signing the will and the state of his mind at the time. They differed in opinion, of course. The trial is still in progress.

SF Examiner - Nov 22, 1872 - [Estate of the Murderer Carr.](#)

## INSANE EXPERTS AGAIN

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## The Contested Will of Nicholas E. Carr - January 8, 1874

**The Carr Will Case.**  
Kate O'Reilly, the niece-in-law of Nicholas E. Carr, the tailor who achieved notoriety by punching his wife full of holes with a pair of shears and ending his own miserable existence with the aid of a large knife, last Summer, has withdrawn from the contest of the will. The contest on the part of the absent heirs was merely formal, and the will will soon be admitted to probate.

[The Carr Will Case - Jan 8, 1873 - Chronicle: Page 3](#)

### THE CARR WILL CASE

Kate O'Reilly, the niece in law of Nicolas E. Carr, the tailor who achieve notoriety by punching his wife full of holes with a pair of shears and ending his own miserable existence with the aid of a large knife, last summer, has withdrawn from the contest of the will. The contest on the part of the absent heirs was merely formal, and the will will soon be admitted to probate.

**THE CARR WILL ADMITTED TO PROBATE.—All opposition and contest having been withdrawn, the will of Nicholas E. Carr was to-day admitted to probate.**

[Evening Bulletin - Jan 8, 1873 - Carr Will Admitted to Probate](#)

### THE CARR WILL ADMITTED TO PROBATE

All opposition and contest having been withdrawn, the will of Nicholas E. Carr was today admitted to probate.

## Legal Notices Probate and Creditors - January 1872-73

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA, CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**—In the Probate Court in and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, in the matter of the Estate of **NICHOLAS E. CARR**, deceased. Notice for publication of time appointed for proving Will, etc.

Pursuant to an order of said Court, made on the 19th day of September, A. D. 1872, notice is hereby given that **MONDAY**, the 7th day of October, A. D. 1872, at 11 o'clock A. M. of said day, at the Court-room of said Court, at the City Hall, in the city and county of San Francisco, State of California, have been appointed as the time and place for proving the will of said **Nicholas E. Carr**, deceased, and for hearing the application of **George I. N. Monell**, for the issuance to him of letters testamentary in the matter of said estate, when and where any person interested may appear and contest the same.

Dated San Francisco, September 19, 1872.

W. M. HARNEY, Clerk.  
By A. J. JEKKERS, Deputy Clerk.  
W. C. Burnett, Attorney for Petitioner.

**Evening Bulletin - September 19, 1872 - Legal Notice**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, City and County of San Francisco \_ In the Probate Court in and for the City and County of San Francisco, State of California. In the matter of the Estate of Nicholas E. Carr, deceased. Notice for publication of time appointed for previous Will, etc.

Pursuant to an order of said Court, made on the 19th day of September, A.D. 1872 notice is hereby given that **MONDAY**, The 7th day of October, A. D. 1872, at 11:00 AM Saturday, at the Court-room of said Court, at the City Hall in the city and county of San Francisco, State of California have been appointed at the time and place for proving the will of said **Nicholas E. Carr**, deceased, and for hearing the application of **George I. N. Monell** for the issuance to him of letters testamentary in this matter of said estate, when and where any person interested me appear and contest the same.

Dated San Francisco, September 19, 1872

W. M. Harney, Clerk  
By A. Jay. Jekkers, Deputy Clerk  
W.C. Burnett, Attorney for Petitioner

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS—NO. 4,923—**  
Estate of **NICHOLAS E. CARR**, deceased.

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, **George I. N. Monell**, Executor of the estate and last will and testament of **Nicholas E. Carr**, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said Executor, at his place of business, at the Odd Fellows' Savings Bank, Nos. 325 and 327 Montgomery street, in the city and county of San Francisco.

Dated at San Francisco, January 14th, A. D. 1873.

**GEORGE I. N. MONELL,**  
Executor of the Estate and Last Will and Testament  
of **Nicholas E. Carr**, deceased.

**Evening Bulletin - Jan 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 28, - Feb 4, 11, — Mar 1873 - Legal Notice**

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS— NO. 4,923—**

Estate of **Nicholas E. Carr**, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, **George I. N. Monell**, executor of the estate and last will and testament of **Nicholas E. Carr**, deceased, to the creditors of and all persons having claims against the said deceased to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said executor, at his place of business, at the Odd Fellows' Savings Bank, Nos. 325 and 327 Montgomery street, in the city and county of San Francisco.

Dated at San Francisco, January 14 A. D. 1873

**George I. N. Monell,**  
Executor of the Estate and Last Will and Testament of **Nicholas E. Carr**,  
deceased.