

## Testimony of Events Leading to the Events of July 4, 1872

Neighbors • James & Mary McKee

Mary McKee

*At an early point in this witness's testimony she 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. Her testimony resumed*



I have lived next door to the Carrs for the past 3 years. In our regular visits I never saw her intoxicated. As time went on, both Lizzie and Ann would visit my house to tell me of

their troubles. I was their sounding board and I did my best to give them the advice they needed to hear.

My first inkling of trouble between the Carrs was last Thanksgiving. Lizzie took refuge in our house next door when Mrs. Carr chased her from their home. I advised her to leave, especially if Mrs. Carr was so unwelcoming. She countered that learning a trade from Mr. Carr was important to her, so she did not want to abandon that opportunity. I asked if she feared Mrs. Carr, and she denied my assumption, saying Mrs. Carr was a coward.

This past Tuesday, Mrs. Carr told me she had bought a bottle of wine to give her "pluck" enough to put the girl out of the house. She was frantic at times, more from trouble than liquor.

Wednesday, Mrs. Carr entered with a chair she had used to escape through a window next door. She begged to stay overnight, fearing that Mr. Carr's threats of killing her would be her tragic end. She claimed he had locked her in a room, showing me her badly bruised arms as proof of his brutish behavior. Her solution was to remove the locks on all

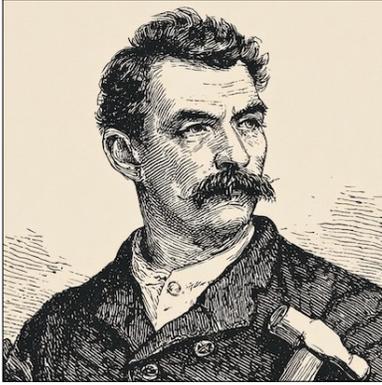
the doors so he couldn't trap her in the house to murder her.

She was in a state of desperation and feeling alone with no one listening or sympathetic. I did my best to hear her side of the story. When she came over on Sunday to collect her chair, she confided she felt like a stranger in her own home. I assumed they had as happy a marriage as anyone can have. She assured me that was true... until they took the girl Lizzie Haley from the Orphan Asylum. She thought Mr. Carr now cares for Lizzie more than than her. She said that in order to get a smile or favor from her husband, she had to humor Lizzie in everything. Once, Lizzie said she would leave and go to Mrs. Swain's, in the presence of Mr. Carr. He began to cry, saying there was no need for her leaving, as she (Mrs. Carr) would change and become more reasonable after a time.

She thought he no longer cared to sleep in the same room with her. Her plan was to furnish another bedroom with his money, to keep the sum from Lizzie. She mentioned she told him of separating her earnings into her own bank account for her spending. Carr was mightily displeased by this plan. Money was a point of contention between them. She was obsessed with the idea that Mr. Carr would give Lizzie her money. When they lived together in the mountains, before Lizzie came between them, she talked of sleeping in the neighbor's barn, giving all her money to defend him when he was on trial for his life. She was quite distraught and agitated by the injustice, fearing her troubles would send her to the Lunatic Asylum.

James McKee

Our Thanksgiving was interrupted by Lizzie, twice, pleading for help in stopping a quarrel between the Carrs. I told her I didn't care to interfere, both times. Mr. Carr came over next and insisted, she was drunk and out of control. When I arrived, she seemed a little excited, but nothing beyond that. I asked her what was upsetting her. She blurted out "If he



*wants a concubine he will have to keep her in some other house. We will never have peace until Lizzie leaves.*" This incensed Mr. Carr who verbally abused his wife, using extremely

vile language. *I told him I did not think she was as drunk as he was.* I was about to leave, when Carr asked her for the keys of the bedroom, she refused and he threw her to the floor to snatch them from her pocket while he held her down. I pulled him off of her, left and never spoke to him again.

*Mrs. Carr told me at times that she used to follow her husband and Lizzie, to find them together at Woodward's Gardens.*

On the Sunday before the Fourth, Lizzie gave me the Carr's latch-key, and asked me to give it to the Mrs. 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."*

*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."*

#### Employee • Mrs. Catherine Eager

After working for Mr. Carr for 2 months, the only spirits I saw in the house, was a little liquor in the shop for his persistent toothache. He put me in charge of the house while he is in jail. Since the murder, a bottle of white

wine and some brandy were found in the back bedroom.

Never heard Mrs. Carr make threats of violence toward her husband. Mr. Carr was a strong, muscular man. Mrs. Carr was also strong. I was planning on leaving the house at 3:30 on Tuesday. When he went to get the keys from her, she raised a hatchet at him. He took it from her in a scuffle, she fell or was thrown down and he caught both her wrists with one hand while he took the keys from her pocket. He told me he had locked her in her chamber on Tuesday night, and that she had kicked the door paneling to pieces. I also witnessed what happened on Wednesday as Lizzie testified.

Last Wednesday she kept pestering him as we worked and 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 doing so would be foolish; better to send her to the Home of the Inebriate to have her taken care of. Lizzie Haley was present in the shop during this conversation. Mrs. Carr was in the kitchen, and may have heard what was said.

When she was sober, Mrs. Carr was very kind to Lizzie, even when Lizzie was sharp with her, wouldn't answer or just stop working. Never thought Mrs. Carr was jealous of her because of her husband's kindness to Lizzie. Do not think that any such jealousy had anything to do with all the trouble.

*One day when she was drunk, as I judged from her conduct and the smell of her breath, she was unkind to me. The next day she said she meant to have said what she did to Lizzie.*

*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 only kissed Carr once at the Hospital. Mr. Carr never gave me any of Mrs. Carr's dresses.

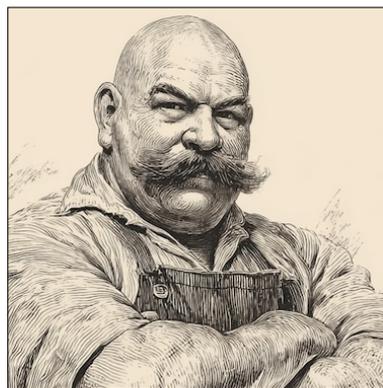


**Grocer • Christopher Rahl**

I am a grocer at the corner Mission and Twenty-Fourth streets. I have known Mrs. Carr seven and a half months, since she came to my store for articles every day. Some weeks, she would buy several bottles of wine and then none for a long time. About four months ago she bought two bits worth of brandy from me, for her husband who had a nasty toothache. Never met or know the man. I never saw her under the influence of liquor in my store. Last saw her at 10 o'clock on the morning of the

Fourth of July. That day she came to my store for potatoes.

She was not intoxicated, nor did she speak of trouble with her husband. She did say "*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.



**Butcher • Charles Seipel**

I'm the owner of a butcher shop on the corner of Twenty-fourth and Mission Street. I always found Mrs. Carr agreeable and ladylike. Never have I ever seen her under the influence of liquor. She came into the shop on the morning of the Fourth of July. It was the very last time I saw her. She was not drunk or under the influence of liquor.