

JAMES D. SKILES IS SHOT TO DEATH BY JOHN H. MARSHALL

**Marshall Held To The April
Grand Jury By Coroner's
Jury. Skiles Buried In The
Hughes Cemetery.**

The first murder to occur in Schuyler county for a number of years was enacted Saturday afternoon of last week at about 5:30 o'clock in a tenement house, located on South Jackson street, when John Marshall fired three or four revolver bullets into the body of James Skiles, killing him instantly. The murder occurred in a room on the lower floor occupied by Mrs. Anna Helms and was witnessed by Mrs. Helms and Harry Millslagle.

Skiles, a coal miner, had gone to the tenement house for the purpose of having supper with Mrs. Helms and she was preparing the meal when he entered the room. Shortly thereafter three or four shots were heard and Skiles lay dead on the floor. An examination of the body revealed that one bullet penetrated thru his chin into his neck, another struck him in the breast, while a third bullet shattered his left arm just above the wrist. A wound on the left side of his head, just above the ear, was either made by a fourth bullet or by the bullet which passed thru his left arm, the theory being advanced that he was holding his left arm up as a shield. Both men were intoxicated.

Following the shooting Marshall went across the street to the home of Dr. W. F. Justus and notified him that there was a dead man in Anna Helms' room. Dr. Justus accompanied Marshall to the tenement house, and when they entered ascertained that the body had been dragged from the room where the murder occurred to the hallway, presumably by Mrs. Helms and Millslagle. In Mrs. Helms room, Dr. Justus found on a table four empty revolver shells. These were turned over to Sheriff Bartlow.

A few minutes afterwards Sheriff Bartlow and Deputy Bolton arrived at the scene of the murder and placed Marshall under arrest. In his overcoat pocket was found a revolver fully loaded. He made no resistance and was placed in jail without difficulty.

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The body of Skiles was removed to the Gordon Funeral Home.

Coroner W. F. Justus empaneled a jury Monday forenoon, composed of Mayor George H. Baird, John L. Barton, Samuel Davis, J. H. Means, T. W. Sweeney and H. E. McLaren. After the jurors had viewed the body the hearing was adjourned to Thursday forenoon at 10 o'clock.

Evidence Heard Thursday Forenoon

The coroner's jury re-convened Thursday forenoon at 10 o'clock at the Gordon Funeral Home where evidence was heard relative to the murder. The principal witnesses to give testimony were Harry Millslagle and Mrs. Anna Helms.

Millslagle testified that Skiles, Marshall and himself spent Saturday afternoon in the Anna Helms room playing on a guitar and violin, that they indulged in games of cards and drank wine from a glass jug. That at about 4:30 o'clock Mrs. Helms returned to her room and that Skiles and Marshall both attempted to kiss her and put their arms around her waist.

A quarrel ensued, but the two men were separated by Mrs. Helms. Skiles then occupied a chair on the east side of the room and Marshall a chair on the north side of the room. That as Skiles was standing near the kitchen stove four shots were fired by Marshall at close range. Millslagle and Mrs. Helms, not realizing that Skiles was dead, dragged his body into the hallway.

Mrs. Helms testified that she returned home from the Prince & Co. poultry house at about 4:30 o'clock; that Marshall, Skiles and Millslagle were in her room; that Marshall and Skiles both attempted to kiss her and put their arms around her shoulders. That the two men quarreled, and that Skiles produced a knife and threatened to cut Marshall's throat. That she took the knife from Skiles and laid it on the kitchen stove, but afterwards gave it back to him. That Marshall procured a revolver from his overcoat pocket and put it in his coat pocket; that Marshall warned Skiles to remain away from him or he would get hurt. That Skiles advanced toward Marshall in a threatening manner and pulled his hair. That Marshall fired one shot, and then a moment later three more shots in quick succession; that Skiles called Marshall vile names, etc.; that following the shooting she helped drag the body into the hallway and procured a bucket of water and

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scrubbed the floor to remove the blood stains.

Marshall Held to Grand Jury

After hearing other testimony of a less important nature the members of the jury viewed the revolver from which the bullets were fired, a pocket knife found on the floor in the hallway near the body of Skiles and other exhibits, returned the following verdict:

In the matter of the inquisition over the body of James Skiles, deceased, held in Rushville, Illinois, on the 26th and 29th days of December, A. D. 1932, we, the undersigned, jurors, sworn to inquire into, and true presentment make, how, in what manner, and by whom or what the body of the said James D. Skiles came to its death, and to deliver unto the Coroner of Schuyler county, Illinois, a true inquest thereof according to such evidence as shall be given us and according to the best of our knowledge and belief, on oath do find from all of the testimony given and the evidence submitted upon such inquisition, that the said James D. Skiles came to his death by reason of wounds from bullets in his chin, breast and his left arm; and we further find from all of such evidence that said wounds were caused from bullets fired from a gun held in the hands of John H. Marshall, and we recommend that he, the said John H. Marshall, be held to await the action of the Grand Jury of Schuyler county, Illinois.

Funeral Services Held Tuesday

Funeral services for James Skiles were held Tuesday afternoon at the Christian church, Rev. M. A. Warren officiating. Interment was in the Hughes cemetery, Buenavista township. The following obituary was read at the funeral services:

James Dennis Skiles, son of Moses and Lavina Skiles, was born in Birmingham township, Schuyler county, March 13, 1871.

He was united in marriage to Lillie May VanOrder, Dec. 5, 1896, and to this union were born five children, two dying in infancy. Mr. Skiles met his death Dec. 24, 1932, aged 61 years, 9 months and 11 days.

He leaves to mourn his passing, a daughter, Mrs. Helen White of Nebraska; two sons, Willis and William, of Michigan; two sisters, Mrs. Anderson McCarde, of Nebraska, and Mrs. Edward Burgess, of Indiana; three brothers, Albert, of Moline, Grover, of Indiana, and Bernard, of Rushville.