

A HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.

Samuel Winesburg Murdered, and His Wife Seriously Wounded.

THE MURDERERS UNDER ARREST.

They are Michael and John Moylan, Father and Son—The Tragedy Occurred About Two Miles Up Boggs' Run, in Marshall County, About Nine O'Clock Last Night.

A terrible tragedy was enacted in the valley of Boggs' run, about two miles from the lower end of this city, about nine o'clock last night.

Samuel Winesburg, a well-known workman in the Wheeling steel plant at Benwood, was murdered, and his wife seriously and probably fatally wounded.

Their assailants were Michael and John Moylan, father and son, the former also a workman in the Wheeling plant.

Both these men were arrested a short time after the bloody affair, and were safely confined in the Benwood lock-up. Word was sent to this city, about ten o'clock, shortly after the tragedy became known in Benwood, and the city police on duty in the lower ward did all that was possible to assist in capturing the accused persons.

NEWS REACHES BENWOOD.

The first news of the tragedy reached Benwood about ten o'clock, when Thos Means and Fred Kelts, neighbors of the parties, came to town in a buck board in search of a physician. They stopped first at the City Building, and notified Marshal Louis Gocke, and continuing down the street, they then called upon Dr. McDonahl. The physician accompanied them back to the scene of the crime. The story spread like wildfire, and in a few minutes a large crowd of men had gathered around the police station, anxious to hear the news, while wild rumors were circulated. Marshal Gocke, accompanied by officer Wm. Casey, and Constable Sprouts secured a lantern, and started after the murderer. An old quarry has been used as a tunnel connecting the run with that part of the hillside near the Riverside plant. The officers started through this tunnel with the lantern.

In the meantime Will Myer, the well-known dairyman, accompanied by a farmer living near his place, drove in to town, and from them the eager crowd heard the story as it was told by the wife and sister-in-law of the murdered man.

ONE STORY OF THE MURDER.

It is supposed from their story that Winesburg, who is employed in breaking pig metal at the Wheeling steel plant, had worked during the morning, and part of the afternoon of Sunday, and went to his home late in the afternoon, and went to sleep. He awoke before eight o'clock in the evening and was informed that Moylan had insulted his wife. He became very angry, and remonstrated with him for doing so.

A narrow ravine separates the homes of Moylan and Winesburg. The house of the former is on the north side, and the latter on the south side of the ravine. When Winesburg took Moylan to task for insulting his wife, the latter dared him to come down to the road. According to Mrs. Winesburg's story, her husband went down to the road, and Moylan at once struck at him. While they were quarrelling Mrs. Winesburg came down to prevent them from coming to blows, when John Moylan produced a revolver and fired three times. The first shot passed through Winesburg's heart and the second entered the left breast of his wife, about two inches above the heart. The third shot missed its mark.

WINEBURG DIES.

Winesburg at once fell to the road, and when neighbors attracted by the noise of the pistol shots, rushed to his assistance, he was dead. Among the first to arrive on the scene were the two men who came to Benwood for a physician. They carried the dead body into Winesburg's home, and laid it upon the floor of the front room.

Mrs. Means then ran to the house of Will Myer, about a half-mile away, and he was upon the scene in a few minutes. After doing the shooting, the Moylans, father and son, entered their home and the son went to bed.

A crowd of half a hundred curious people soon gathered on the scene of the tragedy. The physician arrived in a short time, but Winesburg was beyond medical aid. The bullet in Mrs. Winesburg, entered above the heart, and lodged just beneath the skin below her shoulder in her back. The physician extracted the bullet, and did all that was possible to alleviate her suffering. The wound is a very dangerous one, and will very probably prove fatal.

THE ARREST.

About eleven o'clock the officers arrived through the tunnel. Moylan's house was dark, not a light being visible. The officers knocked at the front door. Moylan, who had probably remained up in anticipation of arrest, came down and opened the door. The officers placed him under arrest, and asked for the son. The father called John down from the second story, and he was also placed under arrest. The officers proceeded up stairs, as directed by the prisoners, and found the weapon with which the murders were committed in a box on a mantle. The weapon is a .38-calibre revolver of a very cheap pattern. After firing the shots Moylan coolly reloaded the revolver and when it was found all the chambers were full. Moylan took his arrest very coolly and did not offer any resistance. He said he intended coming to town in the morning to surrender. The son, a slight lad, only 16 years of age, also went along without protest, hanging his head and saying not a word.

PLACED IN JAIL.

Both prisoners walked the entire distance with the two officers, while Constable Sprouts remained at the home of Winesburg, to aid the physician. The

party reached town about one o'clock. The crowd about the City Building, numbering half a hundred, men and boys pressed forward anxious to get a look at the prisoner, and even forced their way into the cell corridor, until the officers removed them. The father and son were carefully searched, and then placed in adjoining cells.

A REGISTER reporter was present when the prisoners were brought in, and heard the story of the crime from their own lips. The father was seen in his cell, and stated that the murder was done in self-defense. He said he was in town with his wagon, and several of his children in the afternoon which was corroborated by the officers, "and a half dozen men present, who had seen him. He said he was returning to his home when he was met by Winesburg and his wife on the road and Winesburg tried to pick a quarrel, and a few words were exchanged. He and his wife then picked up stones, and Moylan and son John started to run toward the house. They assailed them then with rocks, and one stone struck John beneath the left eye and almost knocked him down. It was then, believing that they intended to kill him, that he pulled his revolver and fired at random. Mr. and Mrs. Winesburg, he said, were on his property at the time. He denied that the boy had the revolver or fired the shots.

THE BOY'S STORY.

The boy when placed in the cell hung his head, and proceeded to take off his shoes. When the reporter spoke to him, he came forward, and his eyes filled with tears. The story he told corroborated that of the father. He showed a scar on the side of his face, which he said was the result of being struck by the stone. He said his father and the murdered man had quarrelled frequently, and that Winesburg was always "picking at them." The father also stated that Winesburg was very quarrelsome.

Squire Harry Riddle went out to the scene of the tragedy early this morning, and will hold an inquest sometime today. Moylan was before him about a year ago, on complaint of Winesburg, and was fined. Stories are told of the younger Moylan which are of a very damaging nature. It is said that he has always carried a revolver, and that he has frequently scared boys of his age by racing them with the weapon in his hand.

THE PARTIES TO THE CRIME.

All the parties are well known in Benwood. Winesburg, the victim of the awful tragedy, has been employed for a long time at the lower steel plant. His wife's maiden name was Meisenheller. He leaves three children. He has always enjoyed a reputation as a peaceful, law-abiding citizen. Michael Moylan, the self-confessed murderer, was employed at the Wheeling Steel plant until about a month ago, since which time he has been idle. He met with an accident about eighteen months ago in which a limb was broken, and the loss of work left him in very poor circumstances. He has a farm of twenty acres surrounding his home. His wife has been dead about six years, leaving a charge of five children upon him. The oldest of these, who is with him charged with last night's awful crime, is John, aged about 16. He has been employed for some time by M. Moran, the Benwood tinner. Michael Moylan was generally regarded as a good, law-abiding citizen.

In the excited crowd which gathered about the jail last night, little credence was given to the story of Moylan, the general opinion being that the son was the real murderer.