

# PATERSON MURDER CASE

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## A Coroner's Jury Holds the Accused Men Guilty.

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### TALESMEN'S STRONG VIEWS

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#### Alleged Confession of Saal, the Saloon Keeper, in Which He Accuses McAlister.

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PATERSON, N. J., Oct. 27.—The jury summoned by Coroner Vroom of Ridgewood to investigate the death of Jennie Bosscheiter, the murdered mill girl, met to-day at Alyea's icehouse, near which the girl's body was found, on the Bergen side of the Passaic River.

Coroner Vroom told the members of the jury that he had consulted the Prosecutors of both Bergen and Passaic Counties in regard to the case, and they had informed him that it would be the duty of the jury to determine where the death of Jennie Bosscheiter had actually occurred.

Chief of Police Graul of Paterson, and Sculthorp, the cabman who drove the unfortunate girl and the four men—McAlister, Kerr, Campbell, and Death—on the night of the murder, appeared before the jury and gave testimony.

Chief Graul gave sufficient details of what happened on the night on which the girl was killed to show that she undoubtedly died while in the cab on the Passaic County side of the river, and that her body had afterward been taken across the river and deposited on the Bergen County side, where it was found. The Chief then told at length the story of the crime.

Sculthorp followed the Chief and told practically the same story. The questions put to him were intended to establish the locality where the death occurred, so as to ascertain whether the case came within the jurisdiction of the Bergen County authorities or that of the Passaic County officials.

As in the case of the Chief's evidence, the cabman's story seemed to prove beyond a doubt that the girl died in Passaic County.

At the conclusion of Sculthorp's testimony the jury retired. After a conference the jury decided that Jennie Bosscheiter met her death in Passaic County, and that the Bergen County authorities had no jurisdiction in the case. The Passaic County authorities, therefore, have now full charge of the investigation.

The verdict is in part as follows:

"We, the jurors, do say upon our oath that Jennie Bosscheiter came to her death according to the evidence produced on the 19th day of October in the County of Passaic, and that Walter McAlister, George J. Kerr, Andrew Campbell, and William Death are responsible for the same."

After giving this their verdict the jurors were dismissed by Coroner Vroom, and they gathered outside, discussed the matter freely, and were very decided in their opinions as to what should be done with the accused men. One of them said:

"Were I on a jury to try these men I would stay out for the rest of my life rather than agree to anything else than a verdict of murder in the first degree, for I am convinced that this would be the only just conclusion for any jury to arrive at."

Christopher Saal, in whose saloon, at Bridge and River Streets, the young woman received the fatal drug, will be an important witness against the prisoners. Saal at first denied emphatically that the girl or the men were at his saloon on the fatal night, but since then he has confided to one of his intimate friends that all of the accused men were with the girl in the room in the rear of his saloon, and that McAlister called the following morning, much agitated.

"That girl is dead, and for God's sake don't say a word. Stick to me and I will always be your friend," McAlister is alleged to have said to the saloon keeper.

The police authorities will not admit that any confession has been made by Saal.

Sculthorp, the cabman, seems to have been warned by the police here not to talk about the case with any one not in authority. He seems to be especially afraid of being seen in conversation with reporters. Sculthorp has now another cab in place of the vehicle which he drove on the night of the murder.