

Killed On the Street - Charles Allen Shoots Paul Hill Slade

The Men quarreled earlier in the day. What those who saw the deed say.

At about four o'clock Saturday afternoon the reports of a pistol rang out sharp and clear upon the air, and in a few moments one man was lying a corpse on the principal business thoroughfare of the city, while another was a prisoner at the county jail.

Charles S. Allen has shot and killed Paul Hill Slade, both well known citizen of Dawson. The tragedy occurred near the store of Alesker & Taubin on the Lee Street sidewalk that crosses Main, and so rapidly was the whole affair done that despite the crowds in the street it could not be prevented. It seems that for several days bad feeling had existed between Messrs. Slade and Allen. Allen had recently built and fitted up a large wagon and furniture factory here, and Slade had been furnishing him with logs out of which lumber for the shops were cut. A misunderstanding arose between them about a settlement and two or three lively disputes occurred at different times, and the last one taking place fifteen or twenty minutes before the killing. This last interview was an unusually exciting one, and those who witnessed it say that Slade cursed Allen severely and flourished a stick in the air. Chief Savage quelled the fuss and Slade walked up Main Street with Mr. Coup Tedder.

After a few minutes Mr. Slade went back down the street in company with Mr. W.W. Tedder and stopping where he was killed a few moments later, engaged in a conversation with Mr. Tedder, Mr. H.H. Savage, his two brothers – Deputy Sheriff Slade and Mr. T.J. Slade – and his half brother, Mr. R.I. Colson. These gentlemen, Sheriff Christie and Mr. Charles Deubler, the latter two being but a few feet distant, all statements as to how it occurred.

They say that Slade was standing with his face to the northwest and was telling Mr. Savage about the goat he had promised to give the latter gentlemen's little boy, when Allen walked from behind Baldwin's store and approached his victim on the left side; that's when Allen got in about six feet of where the men were standing. He raised his pistol and with an oath, told Slade to retract all that he had said, and while Slade was in the act of turning around, and before he had time to speak, the pistol was fired and he fell to the ground.

Before Allen could fire a second shot, if such had been his desire or design, Deputy Sheriff Slade and Mr. Colson seized him and threw him to the ground. The slayer would have been killed with his own smoking revolver had not a dozen or so men rushed forward to prevent it. Mr. Colson had wrestled the weapon from Allen's hand and after striking him over the head with it, had reversed ends and was in the act of shooting when Sheriff Christie, Chief Savage, and Mr. Tedder succeeded in disarming him. All of these gentlemen had bruised and bloody hands when the fierce struggle for the possession of the pistol was over.

Allen, in the meantime, was in charge of the Officer Arnett, and as soon as possible he was rushed off to jail by the sheriff and the Chief of Police. County physician Dean called at the jail a short while afterward to examine Allen's head and found that the blow from Colson with the butt of the pistol made but a slight hurt, and a small knot and a few drops of blood being the only evidence of the lick.

Slade died where he fell in ten minutes, surrounded by thousands or more of people. An examination showed that he was unarmed. He never spoke after receiving the fatal wound. His body was removed to his home and the lamentations of the wife and six children over the dead husband and father made a truly pathetic scene. The burial took place at Salem church, in Calhoun County Sunday afternoon.

There being no doubt as to the cause of Slade's death, no inquest was held by Coroner Daniels. Dr. Geneke made an examination of the wound on Sunday morning, however, and probed for the ball. It entered under the second rib of the left side, passing about two and half inches above the heart and cutting one of the large arteries. It passed into the cavity of the stomach and was lost. That Allen was greatly excited or angry after the quarrel with Slade is shown by the way in which he procured the pistol, a .38 caliber of improved make that did the deadly work. He went to the store of Baldwin & Co., asked the clerk, Mr. Joe Hayes to show him a pistol. Mr. Hayes had no idea what the weapon was wanted for and priced Allen a pistol at \$12.50. He thought that was too much for it and said he would take it to Mr. Baldwin and see if he could get it for \$10.00. He did not see Mr. Baldwin, however, but going to the rear end of the store he loaded the pistol with cartridges that he had previously bought and walked out a side door and shot Slade as soon as he reached him.

Sunday morning Slade's relatives sue out a warrant against Allen for murder. He waived preliminary examination, and Judge Griggs passed an order for his removal to the Americus jail for safe keeping. He was carried there on the noon train Sunday by Sheriff Christie and a guard. Just before he left he was seen by a news reporter and asked if he desired to say anything about the unfortunate occurrence. He said very firmly and pleasantly that he had nothing to say for publication and required that the news be sent regularly to him at Americus. He had not consulted an attorney before leaving, but it is safe to say that he will be defended by some of the best talent to be procured. Colonel J. G. Parks has been employed to aid the (?) in the prosecution.

Mr. Allen, who is about 30 years of age, is a single man, but he has an aged mother several brothers and sisters who are nearly crazed with grief. The tragedy is one of the most deplorable affairs that has ever occurred in Terrell County and the unfortunate families of both parties have the deep sympathy of the entire community.