

SHOT THAT KILLED 'BUTTERFLY GIRL' IN LOVE NEST CALLED ECHO OF CANNON'S ROAR IN THE ARGONNE

Shell Shock Brought on Again by Whims of Extravagant Woman to Be Defense of Dr. Herbert Bryson in Explaining Cassville, Pa., Tragedy

MOTHERS OF DEAD GIRL AND ACCUSED MAN STAND TOGETHER AT HIS TRIAL

"I Pity Poor Man," Says Parent of Bride Who Fled to Mountain Home With War Veteran But Accused Him With Her Last Words

TWO mothers well past the meridian of life are pleading for the life of a young soldier. One is the mother of a man who killed a beautiful girl for whose love he defied the laws of God and man. One is the mother of the girl, shot down as she fled the unleashed anger of her affinity.

Yet the prayers of the two are blended that the man may go free. Both are deaf to the echoes of the girl's dying gasp: "He shot me without cause; he should be punished."

"I shall stand by my boy to the last," says the mother of the soldier. "Irene was high-tempered; my sympathies are with the poor man," says the mother of the girl.

And thus it comes about as the final chapter of an unallowed love. For Dr. Herbert Bryson, war hero, stole away with pretty Irene Haines, wife of another, lived with her in a mountain village love nest and then one day shot her down.

It is a far cry from the hellish noises and terrifying scenes of the Argonne of September, 1918, to a tensely hushed courtroom in the little town of Huntingdon, Pa., in September, 1922.

Shots of Argonne Echo in Little Courtroom

Yet counsel for the defense of Dr. Bryson, former prominent physician of Washington and hero of the Forty-second (Rainbow) Division, will endeavor to establish beyond a reasonable doubt that the cause of the murder with which Dr. Bryson is charged finds its roots in the horrors of the last great battle in which the Americans participated.

To picture on the one hand a man counting on the field of battle, the victim of shell-shock, and on the other the same man, almost four years later, bowing, with smoking revolver in hand, above a dying woman—and then to weave a case which demonstrates the latter picture as the natural and inevitable sequel of the first—is the thing which Dr. Bryson's attorneys must do.

There have been few murder cases in Pennsylvania in recent years presenting so many unusual ramifications, or permitting, at the outset, so many developments of a sensational trend.

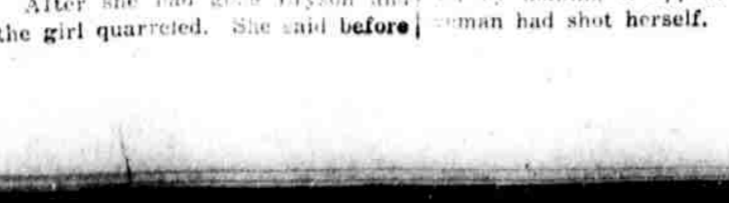
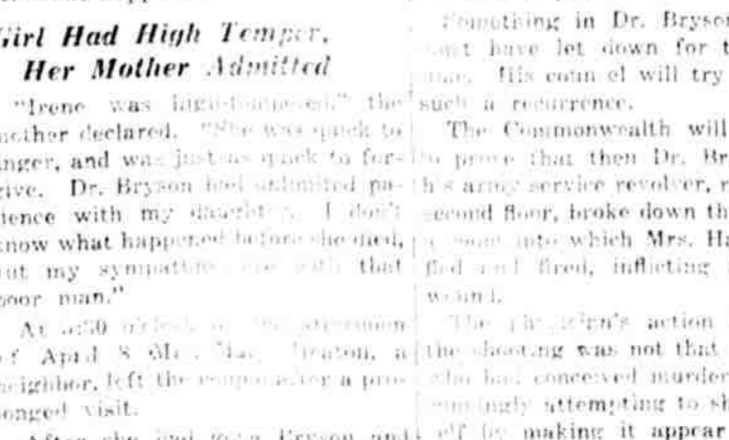
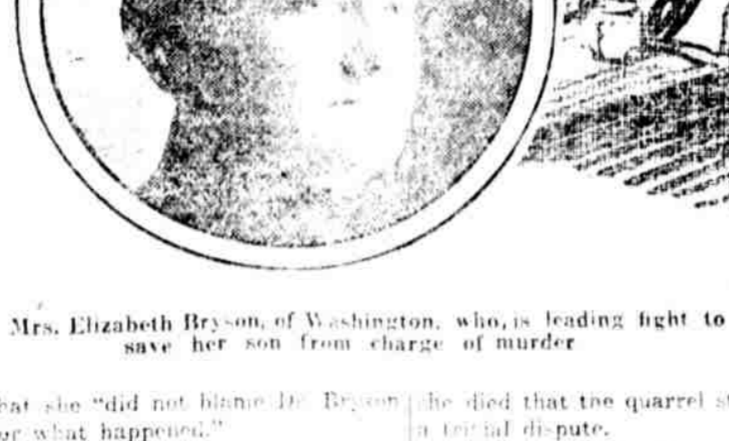
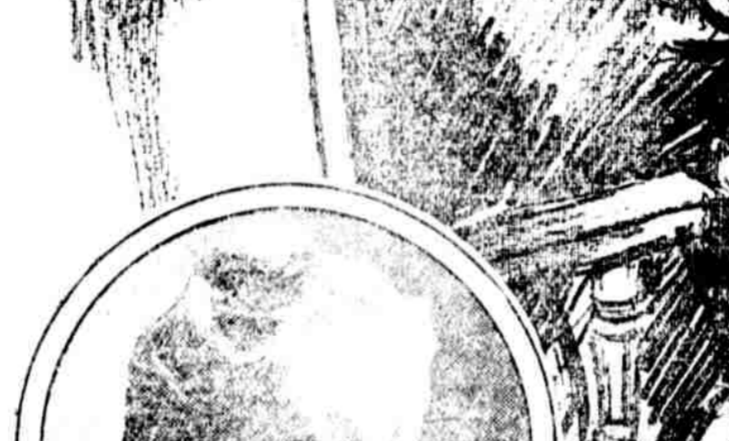
So far as a general shell-shock will be advanced for the first time in a prominent case as a defense for murder.

Testimony of witnesses for the defense, it is believed, will turn on the thread of Dr. Bryson's life back in Washington in the antebellum days.

It will be shown that he was recruited into the army from the University of Washington, and eventually received his commission.



Mrs. Laura B. Randall, who will testify for her brother at his trial for murder of his "love mate"



Dr. Herbert Bryson, war veteran, facing trial for murder of woman with whom he eloped and who was killed in their "love nest" at Cassville, Pa.

One of his country through the five greatest actions in which American troops participated on the western front.

The night raids of the bombing planes with the ever-present danger of disaster to the ammunition train; the destruction of ammunition dumps, the raking of truck trains by enemy planes, the long rows of wounded at the dressing stations—finally, after months of this, shell-shock.

Something snapped in Major Bryson's brain, to relieve the tenor of a dull and nightly strain that was beyond human endurance.

From the date of that mental collapse—witnesses for the defense will weave a different story as they take the stand.

The meeting between the major and Mrs. Haines, an attractive stenographer in one of the Government bureaus at Washington, will be recalled.

This young woman was described by her husband, following the tragedy, as "a butterfly girl." He declared "she used all the money I could make in buying clothes and finally took an office job, and then took all the money both of us earned to pay for her finer."

Whether Mrs. Haines saw in Dr. Bryson an opportunity to get away from the monotony of work in the Government bureau without denying her growing love for handsome young soldier is not known.

At any rate, there was an agreement, and with no more ado Mrs. Haines deserted her husband and fled from Washington with the former army officer.

Cassville, the village they selected, is twenty miles from the nearest railroad, the largest village of a prosperous farming valley, which is surrounded by mountains whose peaks are treacherous.

Love Adventurers Took Part in Village Life

The physician and the girl tried to enter into the simple life of the countryside, and in some ways succeeded.

"Mrs. Bryson" made friends quickly, but residents of the valley were unable to understand Dr. Bryson. He seemed distant, they said, and appeared to have something on his mind.

But for the most part Cassville accepted Dr. Bryson and his supposed wife, and were glad to number them among the residents.

The two appeared devoted. They were never known to quarrel. Jealousy was a thing apart from their lives, so far as neighbors knew.

For nearly a year Dr. Bryson lived at Cassville, while his mother in Washington believed him practicing in New York State.

At times Bryson appeared to be on the verge of a breakdown. He worried continually concerning the condition of his patients. When one died he attended the funeral and in the midst of the services a recurrence of that snapping something in his brain took place. Friends noticed a temporary change in his face. His left side appeared to be paralyzed. He was several days recovering from the shock.

Counsel for Dr. Bryson may bring out that he was subjected to another strain of marked intensity, in connection with the domestic life into which he had entered with another man's wife.

Mrs. Haines' mother, Mrs. Helen Kirby, of New York, who claimed the body of her daughter following the tragedy, testified at the Cooney's inquest.

Over the body of her daughter the mother declared again and again that she "did not blame Dr. Bryson for what happened."

Girl Had High Temper, Her Mother Admitted

"Irene was high-tempered," the mother declared. "She was quick to anger, and was just as quick to forgive. Dr. Bryson had admitted patience with my daughter. I don't know what happened before she died, but my sympathies are with that poor man."

At 5:30 o'clock in the afternoon of April 8 Mrs. Haines, a neighbor, left the house, a prolonged visit.

After she had gone Bryson and the girl quarreled. She said before she died that the quarrel started as a trivial dispute.

Something in Dr. Bryson's brain must have let down for the third time. His counsel will try to prove such a recurrence.

The Commonwealth will attempt to prove that then Dr. Bryson got his army service revolver, ran to the second floor, broke down the door of a room into which Mrs. Haines had fled and fired, inflicting the fatal wound.

The physician's action following the shooting was not that of a man who had conceived murder and was vainly attempting to shield himself by making it appear that the woman had shot herself.

He had at his command potent drugs which in a moment could have ended the suffering of the dying woman and sealed her lips forever.

He first attempted himself to staunch the flow of blood from the mortal wound in the abdomen.

Then he telephoned to Hunting-

don to Dr. Fred R. Hutchison, urging his fellow physician to come with all speed to Cassville.

"My wife is dying," Dr. Bryson

told Hutchison. "She is shot through the abdomen."

Hearse Used to Rush Woman to Hospital

"You must bring her to the hospital here," Dr. Hutchison told the Cassville physician.

Dr. Bryson then telephoned to Myron McClain, village undertaker, who has a combination hearse and ambulance.

"My wife is dying and I must get her to the hospital at Huntingdon," Bryson told McClain over the telephone.

"What happened to her?" McClain asked.

"She shot herself," Dr. Bryson said. "Without waiting to change the hearse body into an ambulance, McClain drove to the parsonage, the dying woman was placed in the hearse, with Dr. Bryson at her side, and the trip to Huntingdon, over the mountain road, was begun.

It was after 9 o'clock when the hospital was reached.

There Mrs. Haines was taken to the operating room, where an examination showed she could not recover.

Dr. Bryson repeated in a monotone to hospital attaches that the dying woman had shot herself.

But when one physician succeeded in getting Dr. Bryson away from her, he told another member of the hospital staff that Bryson had shot her.

Dr. Bryson was then arrested at the hospital by Sheriff Corbin, and District Attorney Chester D. Fetterhoff was notified.

With two neighbors, Homer Smucker and James Corbin as witnesses, he went to the hospital to take an antemortem statement.

With her dying breath, Mrs. Haines declared that there had been a quarrel, that Dr. Bryson had shot her without cause and that "he should be punished."

This dying statement is the only direct evidence of the cause against Dr. Bryson. No one witnessed the shooting. There has been no confession from the accused physician, and circumstantial evidence usually present, is scant.

Since his arrest Dr. Bryson has maintained a detached air, as though his thoughts were apart from the grim surroundings of the county jail.

If anything, he appears better mentally and physically than when he was practicing medicine at Cassville.

Mind Seems Easier Now Than When at 'Love Nest'

There are no longer patients whose conditions trouble his dreams. His life is wholly irresponsible. All he need do is eat, sleep and put in the time. This he does by reading stacks of sensational magazines. Detective stories of the popular, paper-back type are read by the hour.