The Pittsburgh Gazette.

CONFESSION

OF

Zachary T. Hockenberry.

Convicted of the Murder of Miss Annie McCandless, in Butler, Pa.

Confession of Z Taylor, Hockenberry, by his own hand and pen, Butler County, Pa., 1869:

I was born the 21st of March 1848, in county of Butler, State of Pennsylvania. After my mother died my father went to California; when he came home and was at home about a year; he sold the place and went to Texas to see the country. After he sold the place I went to hire with George McCandless, and I lived with him about five years. When I went to live with him, he had three daughters living, and one dead. I always thought more of Annie than any other girl; I believe she is the only girl I ever cared for in particular and yet, I cannot say that I had any particular wish to marry her. Some time before I left McCandless's, I cannot tell the exact time, I got a thought I would take some chance for to disfigure her face in some way. What put that thought in my head I cannot say, nor the motive, unless I did not wish any person to marry her, When I went from McCandless's I went to work for Mr. Daniel Graham. I went to work for him in the spring of 1866; I worked for him two years and a half; when I was with him about a month I seen a way that I could get out at night without them knowing it—that is out of the house; one Sunday night, I got out of the house and went up to McCandless's and went into the house; my intention was for to go the bed where Annie was and with the knife for to disfigure her in some way; when I went into the house I thought I could not do so; the night was so light, for the moon was up and shining bright; I went into the back room and laid a couple of chairs on the bed, and then went on the porch and took a coat that was hanging on a nail and hung it on the door handle, and then wrote a little with a pencil beside the door. I then went down and went into Mr. Graham's house and went to bed. Towards the last of the month of May I got a single barreled pistol which shot cartridges. On Saturday night, I think it was, I went to Mr. McCandless's the same way as the other time. This time I had the pistol; my intention was for to go into the house and for to go to the bed where Annie was, only for to shoot her across the face in such a way as for to disfigure her; when I went to the house I went in and went to the room door; I was afraid if I attempted to shoot her as I wished I might be in danger of killing her; I then shot in the room and left; I afterwards looked for the bullet hole, but could not find it; when I left I went down to Mr. Graham's and got in the house without their knowing and went to bed, when I went to Mr. McCandless's I went out to the back of the garden; I shot off the pistol again and then went to Graham's; Graham's house is a mile and a half from McCandless's house: in a few weeks after this I went up again at night, as before, with the same intention; when I went to the house they had the doors locked; I went to the door that had a window beside it and raised the window and reached in and unlocked the door and went in the room where they were sleeping and went to the bed where Annie was, I put my hand on her face to know how her face was; when I put my hand on her face she moved; I thought she might be awake; I thought then I could not shoot her, as I wished, so I put the pistol over the bed and fired into the wall. I then went to the room door and put in another cartridge into the pistol, by this time they were all awake, of course. I then put my hands to my mouth and made a noise; I then fired off the pistol again and went out. I had on two pairs of stocking, which made no noise in walking. When I went out I went down the road past Oliver Pisor's house. As I went past I shot through a window. I had no spite at any of them. Olivor Pisor is married to an aunt of mine, and George McCandless to a half-sister of my mother. I then went down and got into Graham's house, without them knowing it, and went to bed. Some weeks after this I went up again on Sunday night to Mr. McCandless's, with the same intention. I went on the porch and went to a window and cut off the putty so as for to take out a pane of glass in the middle of the window, so as for to reach in and unfasten the window, for they had the windows fastened down. When I had the pane of glass nearly out I thought I heard a noise, and that some one might be coming to the window who had heard the noise cutting off the putty. I left and went out to the barn. This time I had some matches. I intended if I got in the house, to go to the bed where Annie was, and to light a match so I could see to shoot her across the face, as I wanted so as for to disfigure her as I wanted to, but when I went in the barn I lit a match and set some straw on fire; the straw was in the hay mow. It burned so fast that I had to hurry away. Before I got out of sight it was burning out of the roof. I hurried and got down to Graham's; got into the house withouth them knowing it. All through the summer I went up nearly every Sunday to McCandless' house. I was there on Sunday, and the same Sunday night it was that the barn was' burned. I went from McCandless' in the evening to Graham's, and after dark got out and went to 'McCandless', and the rest you know. They always thought the shooting in the house was done by another person to annoy and bother them. It was that wish I had for to disfigure Annie that caused all the trouble. I was at McCandless' one day—I think the Sunday after I fired the two shots in the house. Annie and Mary told me about some one shooting in the house. The next Sunday, I think it was, I was in the recess, and I thought I would look and see the bullet holes. I looked first and saw the one in the wall, over the bed; the other one was up near the ceiling by the clock; the clock was against the wall by the head of the bed; I don't know if it was in the evening of that day, or on another evening myself and Mary were in the room; we were talking about the shooting; I showed to her the bullet holes; she did not believe they were bullet holes; she thought they were made in the wall by a little boy of her oldest sister's; that he might have got on the bed and made them with a stick. They afterwards, I believe, got a bullet out of the uppermost hole; they thought there were no bullets shot at all, until they got a bullet out of the upper bullet hole, but that the shooting was done to bother them; some length of time after this, one night, I was going up to McCandless's again, with the same intention as before; this time I had an iron bar; I intended for to use the iron bar for to open one of the doors with; the doors was fastened on the inside with a latch; there was an opening under the door; I intended for to put the iron bar under the door and pry it up till the latch came open. As I was going past Oliver Pisor's house, their dog, which was quite cross, came out and appeared as if he was going to bite; when I was before the door I shot at him, as I afterwards found out the bullet went through the door, I went on up to McCandless's but did not go to the house, because the dogs got to barking; Oliver Pisor's house is not far from McCandless's; I thought they might have heard the shot; I then started for Graham's; as I was going past John Stoten's house I shot at one of the windows but missed, and the bullet went above the window, as I afterwards found out; I went then and got into Graham's house without them knowing it. In the fall of the year they were preaching in the Baptist meeting house at night; I thought Annie would be there. After the preaching was over I went on ahead towards McCandless's; I intended for to meet them on the road, and have a handherchief partly over my face, and when they would be passing get as close as possible to Annie and shoot her across her face so as for to disfigure her; when they went past they were a good many together, and Mary was walking beside Annie, so that I did not know which was Annie; when they went past they did not see me; when they were past I shot off a pistol; awhile before this I got another pistol; after I shot off the pistol I went down to Graham's; after this I do not mind of seeing Annie out at night, but I was all ways watching for a chance to disfigure her in some way; I could not get into the house at night because they got new locks on the doors; as it was my wish for to get her disfigured in some way or the other, I thought of a good many ways; some length of time, it might have been a year after this, I got an old black shawl out of Graham's house; I got it up stairs hanging on a line; I took it out to the barn; it might be there yet for all I know; I put it the last time in the far left-hand corner of the barn floor, between the hay and the weather-boarding. This wish which I had I could not get it out of my mind, although I tried to. It was for that reason I staid with Graham as long as I did; I thought if I was there I could have a better chance some time and in some way, for to disfigure her in some way. I at one time got a piece of cloth, cut a hole through it; it could be put over one's face; the hole was to see through, no one could see one's face when they had it on. I thought if I could see her out some evening from the house a while I could put it on, she could not see my face and I might get a chance and get to her so I could in some way disfigure her; I thought some evening after they would be done milking would be a good time when they would go to the spring house for to put away the milk. I could be at the spring house when they would come over; it was generally Annie and Mary that milked the cows; the garden goes up against the end of the house; there is a little room on the porch next the gardens and a window, so a person in the garden can see into the room on the porch; this room is used for cooking in; I thought I would some evening, after dark, get into the garden and go to the window and with a pistol shoot Annie across the face in such a way as to disfigure her; such as these are the ways I thought to disfigure her after I could not get into the house at night.

I thought at last if I could get her it would be better to marry her than for to cause so much trouble with that one wish to disfigure her; but I never had made any proposals to her, nor asked her to marry me. I never thought of marrying her until I was at Graham's a good length of time; I wrote a couple of letters to her; I could not mind all that was in them now. As I said, I did not mind of seeing Annie out at night after the fall at the Baptist meeting house; nor I did not until April, 1868; I saw her out and went home with her, she asked me it I wrote any more letters; I said I had not; she told me not to write any more, that she was afraid some one might open them; I told her I would write no more; I asked her if I might come up some evening, but she gave me no satisfactory answer. Some time through the summer of 1868 I got a thought that I would go over to McCandless's some Sunday when they would be all away at church, but it seems, always some one stayed at home. I would be disguised, or something that way, I could then disfigure her, and could take anything I wished, such as money or anything. Towards the last of August, one Sunday morning, I took Graham's hatchet out; I took it out above the house, and above the Franklin road, then down the road and over along the road, and put it where I wanted it, I believe Mr. Graham saw me on the road with it. Afterwards I put the hatchet where I wanted it, I afterwards went to the barn and took the black shawl out and then went up stairs and got a few pistols; as I was going out through the gate I went past Jeremiah Lang—he was digging coal at Graham's. He asked me if I would take a walk down the road a piece? I told him I did not feel for walking; then I went to the barn, and then went over to McCandless'. Before I went in the house I saw George McCandless, Mrs. McCandless and Mary McCandless going to church in a wagon; I afterwards saw Nelly Graham, an old woman, an aunt of Mrs. McCandless', out from the house; when she went in I soon went to the house; the first one I saw was Mrs. Graham. Before I went in the house I put on the shawl, and the cloth with the hole to see through, and blackened my hands a little. When I went in I asked Mrs. Graham where the man of the house was; she said he was out at the spring house; I told her to go in the room, for I knew Annie was there; she went in at a door and locked it; I went to go in at another door, but it was locked. Annie must have locked it; I pushed it open and went where Mrs. Graham was; she then opened the door and went out; I then went in Annie was; I told her I wanted of the drawers; she said she thought her father had the key; I asked her where her father was; she said he was out somewhere; I told her she had better hurry and tell me where the key was; she then said she would not; I told her that I could break open the drawers; she said she thought there was nothing in the drawers; I went to the drawers and put the hatchet in the drack by the drawer, but could do nothing much that way. I knew where the key was kept; I went and got it; when I was getting it she tried for to keep me from getting it; when I got in I went to the drawer and was going to unlock it; she tried to keep me from doing so. I then thought I had as good a chance to disfigure her as I could wish; I then dropped the key on the floor; I then put a pistol to her face in the way I wanted so as to shoot her across the face, and snapped it, but the pistol would not go off; the pistol shot metal cartridges; I was surprised; it was the first time, I believe, it ever failed to go off; I thought then it was not so ordered for her to be disfigured, as I wished it was. I went away in the evening; said I was going to church; went to the barn and got the gun and went down the road towards the meeting house; when I got about a quarter of a mile my nose got to bleeding. I then went back and put the gun in the barn; when I went in the house some of Graham's asked me why I did not go to church. I said because my nose got to bleeding. The next night, which was the 3d of October, there was preaching at the Baptist meeting house. The meeting house is a mile from Graham's house. I went away in the evening, which was Saturday. I said I was going to church. When I left the house I went out to the barn and got the gun. I went down through Mr. Graham's meadow, then through Jacob Campbell's meadow, then on to a cross road, which goes up past George McCandless's house. When I got on the road I went up past John Stolen's house, and then past where Oliver Pisor used to live, and then to George McCandless's, when I was by McCandless's house I heard some one coming down the road; I then got over the fence and went below the road until the person would pass. It was Isaac Brannon; I thought about this time I heard some one talking outside of the house, and seen a light; I believe the person soon went into the house; in a little while I went down to the house and looked in a window; before this a while the moon rose and was shining bright; when I looked in the window they were eating supper; I saw Annie, she was sitting with the left side of her face to the window, I saw her face plainly and I thought I could easily shoot her across the face the way I wished so as to disfigure her; I then shot through the window, then went down the road a piece and got over into the woods and went across to Graham's; went to the spring-house and got a ladder and put it up against the end of the house by a little door that went up on a porch loft and put the gun in there, and took the ladder to the spring house again. After a while the people were going home from preaching; there came some from the meeting house to Graham's; there was Elizabeth English and her son William and others; I believe they came in a wagon, all of them. When the wagon stopped at the house I went up and helped to put away the horses. After the horses were put away we went in the house and went to bed; after a while, it might have been eleven o'clock. Wm. English slept with me; we slept up stairs; I went upstairs before he did; when he came up he went soon to bed; when he got in bed I went to a window and reached out on the porch loft and got the gun out of the loft; I put it away and went to bed with Wm. English; we talked about nothing in particular.

Wm. English soon went to sleep, before I got to sleep; Mr. Graham came up and said he had bad news to tell; he then said that Annie McCandless was shot dead; I do not know what I then said, for I believed I had missed her altogether when I shot through the window; he said they wanted him for to go up; but that he could not go; that he was not well, but that I had better for to go up; I then went up to Mr. McCandless's; I was there but a little while; I then went back to Graham's and got a horse and went with another person up about five miles along the Franklin road, and told as we went along what had occurred and got back to Gdham's before day light; Mr. Graham said to me as I had not got any sleep that I had better go to bed; I said that I would; as I was going to sleep he said that he thought the person who done that, alluding to what had occurred, could not sleep; I said I thought they could not; when I got in bed Wm. English was sleeping; Wm. English is a grandson of Mr. Graham and his mother is a daughter of Mr. Graham; when I got in bed I soon got to sleep and slept till morning. The next day, which was Sunday, the 4th of October, I felt very bad about what had occurred; it was that wish which caused all the trouble in every way; that wish to disfigure her; after I fired the shot through the window the evening before, it was my impression that I had missed her, and as I have said, it was that one wish I had for to disfigure Annie McCandless, that caused all the trouble in every way; the 4th of October, 1868, I was arrested; and on the 10th of April, 1869, my trial commenced. It continued for a week or ten days, but I never fired that shot on the 3d of last October, with the intention for to kill Annie McCandless. I can say so now, and can say so at the judgment bar of Almighty God, so I would call upon any honest and just man in the county of Butler, or elsewhere; and I would call upon the court that past the sentence; and I would call upon the jury that returned the verdict of murder in the first degree; and I would call upon any one who knows what is right and just, for I call in the behalf of justice, for let it be known I never fired a shot with the intention for to kill Annie McCandless; it may not be believed now, but I believe the time will come when it will be believed; it may be believed but when too late; if I had a wished to kill Annie McCandless, I could have done so; I could have killed her the night I fired the two shots in McCandless's house when no human being but myself knew I was there, but I did not wish to kill her—I can say so now and I can say so at the judgment bar of the Judge of all the earth.

Z. TAYLOR HOCKENBERRY'S

HAND AND PENN.

On the 10th of September; 1869, I was sentenced to death; it will be so; I ask forgiveness of all who I have rouged at any time, and in any way; and I am sorry for that wish and inclination which I had for to disfigure Annie McCandless; I am not sorry because I have been sentenced, but because of her; for she was a good girl in every way; and I am thankful to all who have been friends with me. John M. Thompson and Charles McCandless let them know I thank them for all the labore they have done in my behalf; they have been true and faithful unto me, and they have done for me all they could in every way, and Jas. Wilson, who was my guardian when I got into this trouble, he done all he could for me also, and he has been a true and faithful friend; let him remember that I am grateful unto John M. Thompson and Charles McCandless, they was my counsel; let them remmber me hereafter, and know that I am grateful unto them, and unto all. Let them remember that I did not fire the shot for to kill her. I acknowledge that I fired the shot. Let them remember that I did not fire it with the intention for to kill Annie McCandless, for as I have said if I had wished for to kill her I could have done so, but I did not wish for to do so; I could have done so when I was in the house at eight, when no living person but myself knew I was there; as I said before I did not wish to kill her; it was that wish for to disfigure her that caused all the trouble; and if at any time there has been any injustice done to me I do forgive it all, and all remember hereafter that I did not fire that shot with the intention for to kill Annie McCandless.

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The establishment, comprising ten ample rooms, is central. When it is not convenient to visit the city, the Doctor's opinion can be obtained by giving a written statement of the case, and medicines can be forwarded by mail or express. In some instances, however, a personal examination is absolutely necessary, while in others daily personal attention is required, and for the accommodation of such patients there are apartments connected with the office that are provided with every requisite that is calculated to promote recovery, including medicated vapor baths. All prescriptions are prepared in the Doctor's own laboratory, under his personal supervision. Medical pamphlets at office free, or by mail for two stamps. No matter who have failed, read what he says. Hours 9 A.M. to 8 P.M. SUNDAYS 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Office, No. 9 WYLIE STREET, (near Court House,) Pittsburgh, Pa.