

# THE EVENING HERALD.

VOL. IX.—NO. 20.

SHENANDOAH, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1894.

ONE CENT.



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Or something else in our line. Why not buy it now. We are selling cheaper than ever.  
**J. P. WILLIAMS & SON**

## SOME NEW LIGHT!

An Important Witness in the Briggs Trial.

## THE SHOOTING AT BRIGGS

Ex-Representative James Brennan Says he Saw It and Thought Briggs Received the Ball in the Forehead, But Does Not Know Who Fired.

SPECIAL TO EVENING HERALD.

POTTSVILLE, Jan. 9.  
The most important witness in the Briggs murder trial yesterday was ex-Representative James Brennan. Nearly all the witnesses heretofore questioned on the subject testified that they did not hear or see any shots fired at the dinky which Amour and his men occupied, or see any of the Gilberton people shoot, throw stones, or any firearms. Mr. Brennan swore clearly and positively yesterday that shots were fired at the dinky by the people outside, that stones were thrown, and that after Briggs' gun was discharged he saw a man in front of the dinky draw a pistol, and fire at Briggs and that it was when the shot caused his head to fall back that Briggs released his gun to Mahony.  
District Attorney Ryan expects to close the case for the Commonwealth by Tuesday evening.

E. C. WAGNER sworn: I reside at Girardville. I am a member of National Guard and am captain of Co. E, 5th regiment, located at Girardville. I am the custodian of the arms and ammunition issued to that company. I was at home on the night of August 21st, last. John Briggs is a member of the same. No one called on me on August 21st to ask the use of state rifle. The number of John Briggs' in the company is 30. I recognize the rifle shown me and marked "E" and "30" as the one belonging to Briggs. I recognize it by the number. The rifle is a state piece. It is a Springfield rifle, 45 calibre. The shell handed me is of the kind of ammunition that would be used in that kind of a rifle.

Mr. Brennan stated that if the Commonwealth would make known its purpose the defense will admit what was intended to be proved.  
Mr. Wagner continued: The state furnishes the ammunition or shot for our company. The shell handed me is of the character of ammunition furnished the company. The ammunition is issued to members of the company on special occasions, and when they are required to go out on rifle practice. On other occasions it would be in charge of the quartermaster sergeant, W. B. Parker. I didn't give Briggs permission to take that gun with him to Gilberton on the 21st of August, last. The company, and no part of it, was not on duty on the night of August 21st.

CROSS EXAMINATION.  
We are in the habit of allowing men whom we consider responsible to take guns home. The rifles are safer there and are kept cleaner. Cartridges are issued to members for rifle practice and allow members in whom we have confidence to have the cartridges, to encourage rifle practice. The state encourages it.  
Mr. Wadlinger: "What position did Briggs hold in the company?"  
A. He was a corporal. He was a good man and a good citizen and was appointed corporal of the company.  
EX-REPRESENTATIVE JAMES BRENNAN, of Wiggins, called and sworn: He testified, I was in East Gilberton on the night of August 21st, last. When the dinky came up I saw Amour and others on front of the car. I heard Amour use a remark about "I demand protection from the Chief Burgess of Gilberton, borough to relay this track." Some person in the crowd said "You cannot lay this track to-night." I didn't recognize the party who used the expression. The car had pulled to the end of where the track had pulled some. Some person made the remark that they were blocking the crossing. They pulled the car back a little. I stood in front of the dinky, talking to a friend, and as I was in the act of leaving from in front of the dinky a man came out of the dinky, and on to the platform. I should have said, some person in the crowd said "Homesick" and another said, "where are the Girardville military?" A person from the inside of the car came out on the platform on the south side and reached the gun over the dash board and said, "Here is one of them, damn you," and fired at the same time. I saw some person fall in the crowd. Who it was I don't know. I saw a person grab the musket immediately after the man fired. The man fired from the dinky with a rifle. I could not identify the rifle. I recognized who fired the shot, but did not know him. I recognized the man when I came into the court house. He was the prisoner at the bar. The person fell in front of the dinky, close to the south side of the rail. I didn't know who he was. I never saw him before. At the time the shooting took place, when Briggs fired the shot, a person standing on in front of the dinky pulled out a revolver and fired at Briggs' head. I was under the impression that Briggs was shot in the forehead. Immediately after about five seconds after Briggs shot and while another person had hold of the barrel of Briggs' gun, a man standing by the edge of the car in front of the

lamp, or headlight, pulled a revolver and fired at Briggs, hitting him on the forehead and at that time Briggs let go of the gun. After the shooting was over and the crowd that had divided to the north and south was returning, I came back and went into the car. I expected to find Briggs there. Mr. Amour was lying in the car and I said to Amour, "Dick this is too bad." He was lying with his head facing the west.  
At this point Mr. Brumm objected to any conversation at which Briggs was not present.  
There was a spirited argument on this point in which Mr. Brumm said, "The real conspirators, and very rioters in this case are the Town Council of the borough of Gilberton and the witnesses who have been on the stand."  
Mr. Whitehouse cited and read from a number of authorities.  
Judge Wolfman sustained the objection.  
The witness continued to testify: When I got into the car I saw three men, Mr. Amour, Mr. Gillespie and Lawrence Keating. When the shot was fired by John Briggs I was standing on the street. I saw Amour at that time; he was standing on the north side of the car platform. He was talking to some person on the north side of the street, facing in that direction. I heard other shooting after the shooting had taken place on the car by Briggs. About six seconds from the time the shot was fired by Briggs until some one standing on the street fired the revolver in Briggs' face and, as I thought, hit him in the forehead. I saw the flashes of two more shots coming from the south side of the car. The first shot I saw was fired by John Briggs. From the time I saw the shot fired by Briggs until I saw the shot fired from the car was about 12 seconds and from the time after I saw the shot fired by Briggs until I saw the shot fired by the man on the road in front of the car was about six seconds. At the time the shots were fired from the south side of the car I was standing on the curb in front of Kern's butcher shop. I was in the act of going back at the time. I saw Flo Mahony that night with a gun in his hands, after they were returning after running down the street. During the excitement I did not see him to my knowledge. I saw a person have a hold of the gun, but I did not notice who it was. That was immediately after the gun was discharged. The person who had hold of the gun was standing right in front of the dinky. I didn't see more than one have hold of the barrel and the other had hold of the stock of it. Immediately after the man on the street fired Briggs seemed to fall back and he passed into the car. That was the last I saw of him. I don't think much time elapsed after the first shot when the man grabbed the gun. It was immediately after the gun was discharged.

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Q. Are you sure you saw a man grab the gun, or have hold of it?  
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Q. Did you see other firearms that night outside the dinky?  
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Q. You say you saw Briggs fire, you saw the shots fired on the north side of the dinky, you saw this man shoot at Briggs, and saw Briggs go into the car, and do you tell us that you didn't see James Hullivan trying to get on the car, or see if knocked down, or lying beside the car?  
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jump, or headlight, pulled a revolver and fired at Briggs, hitting him on the forehead and at that time Briggs let go of the gun. After the shooting was over and the crowd that had divided to the north and south was returning, I came back and went into the car. I expected to find Briggs there. Mr. Amour was lying in the car and I said to Amour, "Dick this is too bad." He was lying with his head facing the west.  
At this point Mr. Brumm objected to any conversation at which Briggs was not present.  
There was a spirited argument on this point in which Mr. Brumm said, "The real conspirators, and very rioters in this case are the Town Council of the borough of Gilberton and the witnesses who have been on the stand."  
Mr. Whitehouse cited and read from a number of authorities.  
Judge Wolfman sustained the objection.  
The witness continued to testify: When I got into the car I saw three men, Mr. Amour, Mr. Gillespie and Lawrence Keating. When the shot was fired by John Briggs I was standing on the street. I saw Amour at that time; he was standing on the north side of the car platform. He was talking to some person on the north side of the street, facing in that direction. I heard other shooting after the shooting had taken place on the car by Briggs. About six seconds from the time the shot was fired by Briggs until some one standing on the street fired the revolver in Briggs' face and, as I thought, hit him in the forehead. I saw the flashes of two more shots coming from the south side of the car. The first shot I saw was fired by John Briggs. From the time I saw the shot fired by Briggs until I saw the shot fired from the car was about 12 seconds and from the time after I saw the shot fired by Briggs until I saw the shot fired by the man on the road in front of the car was about six seconds. At the time the shots were fired from the south side of the car I was standing on the curb in front of Kern's butcher shop. I was in the act of going back at the time. I saw Flo Mahony that night with a gun in his hands, after they were returning after running down the street. During the excitement I did not see him to my knowledge. I saw a person have a hold of the gun, but I did not notice who it was. That was immediately after the gun was discharged. The person who had hold of the gun was standing right in front of the dinky. I didn't see more than one have hold of the barrel and the other had hold of the stock of it. Immediately after the man on the street fired Briggs seemed to fall back and he passed into the car. That was the last I saw of him. I don't think much time elapsed after the first shot when the man grabbed the gun. It was immediately after the gun was discharged.

CROSS EXAMINATION.  
There was no unusual drinking in Gilberton that night. Two, three or four bottles to a middling high time, "Homesick" and this party said "This is not Homesick." The youngsters standing about gave a kind of cheer. That was about 15 or 20 minutes before the shot was fired. The car pulling back from the crossing caused that. Quite a large number of people were in front of the car and at the sides of the car. I didn't know at the time it was Mahony who had hold of the gun that Briggs had. Some person grabbed the gun but it was over the rail, and after it was discharged.  
Q. Are you sure you saw a man grab the gun, or have hold of it?  
A. I saw him grab it. The man who shot at Briggs stood about 13 feet in front of me. As near as I can recollect, I don't think it was the same man who had hold of Briggs' gun. I don't know who he was. I cannot describe him. I only saw his arm and wrist. The man had his back to me. I couldn't say whether he was taller than Mahony. I didn't see his face. Then I backed down to Kern's curb with my face to the dinky. I only had to go about 17 feet. I stood behind the telegraph and telephone poles at Kern's corner when the shooting was going on. The struggle between Mahony and the other man was ended in about six seconds, when Briggs fell back with his head against the side of the car.  
Q. Did you see other firearms that night outside the dinky?  
A. No, sir. There were pistol shots fired from the crowd. I cannot say how many. All told there might have been from both sides from 15 to 20 shots fired. There were some pistol shots from the north side of the street. They were fired towards the dinky. I saw stones thrown from the north side of the street. I saw James Hullivan after the shooting standing at the dinky, after I came out of the car. I didn't see any marks on him and I didn't take notice to any blood running down his face.  
Q. You say you saw Briggs fire, you saw the shots fired on the north side of the dinky, you saw this man shoot at Briggs, and saw Briggs go into the car, and do you tell us that you didn't see James Hullivan trying to get on the car, or see if knocked down, or lying beside the car?  
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## PUBLIC INSTALLATION.

Ceremonies Held in Ferguson's Theatre Last Night.

## THE J. O. U. A. M. OFFICERS

A Packed House Greeted the Members of the Order Last Evening—Strict Attention and Good Order During the Entire Program.

One of the most successful entertainments, both as to its merits and the size of the audience, was that held in Ferguson's theatre last evening under the auspices of Maj. Jennings Council, No. 397, Jr. O. U. A. M. It was the occasion of the public installation of the officers of that Council, and the audience plainly showed its appreciation by frequent applause and strict attention from the rising of the curtain to the close.  
Previous to the entertainment the Council, headed by the Grand Master, gave a short street parade with about two hundred members in line. Long before the appointed hour there was a jam at the theatre and when the Grand band opened the entertainment with one of their choice selections, there wasn't a vacant seat in the theatre. The band met with a hearty reception as they always do whenever they appear before the public.  
Councillor Wm. Williams opened the Council with a short address showing the phenomenal growth of the order in this town, which he said numbered 350 members. The opening ode was then sung, after which Rev. Robert O'Boyle offered prayer, when the Council was ready to receive the installing officer, Deputy State Councillor John Shinn was upon the program as the installing officer, but being unable to attend, ex-Deputy State Councillor C. T. Strangha was selected for the duty.

This was one of the most interesting parts of the evening's entertainment, as the ceremony is very impressive and every line breathes patriotism. The Grand Master gave another selection, after which Jr. Past State Councillor C. N. Raymond, of Middletown, spoke upon the order and its principles. He paid a glowing tribute to Maj. Jennings Council for the effective work