

SUCCUMBED AS RESULT OF HIS WOUND

**Officer August Baker Died
at Allegany Hospital
This Morning.**

FEW HOURS OF COMA.

**Preceded the Passing of the Brave
Officer to the Great Beyond, Jesse
Page, an Alleged Complice of the
Murderer Has Surrendered to the
Police.—Burn's is in the County Jail.**

City Patrolman August Baker, who was shot by the negro desperado, William Burns, succumbed at 3:30 o'clock this morning at the Allegany Hospital as the result of his wound.

About eight o'clock yesterday evening the brave officer began to show signs of death's approach. His pulse became weak and intermittent and his breathing stertorous. Near midnight he lapsed into a state of coma, from which only once did he arouse and then but for a moment. During that brief period of consciousness he complained of fearful agony. By his side as his faithful wife, although during the last few hours he was unconscious of her presence.

SATURN 10-5-1907

Jesse Page, colored, whom the officers stated last evening was wanted in connection with the shooting of Officer Baker, went to the police station shortly before noon yesterday and surrendered himself. Page, who is about 23 years of age, and rather short of stature, is a native of Cumberland, a son of James Wesley Page. He claims he was not present at the time of the shooting. Page stated yesterday that he went down on Wineow street with Burns and visited Kate Preston's saloon, where they took a drink, and where he claims the disturbance or fight took place that resulted in Officer Baker placing Burns under arrest. He stated that he was in another part of the Preston saloon at the time of the trouble, and that he tried to telephone the police station while the disturbance was on in the saloon. Page also stated that after Burns had left the Preston saloon he started to take him away when Burns kept up the row on the outside, defied the officer to arrest him, and finally grew so offensive that it became necessary for the officer to take him in custody.

When asked if he was present when Burns shot Officer Baker, Page replied, "No," and said he had at once gone around on the railroad and had spent the night in the Western Maryland Lumber yards. When asked why he had run away and had gone to the lumber yard, Page stated that he thought he had better get out of the road as he did not know what might happen.

In connection with the story told by Page, James Hussey, bartender at the J. M. Fields saloon, on Wineow street, in front of which place the shooting occurred, called at the Daily News office last evening and stated that the row did not take place in his saloon. Hussey said that Burns and another negro came into his saloon more than a half hour before the shooting; that he did not remember selling them anything to drink, and that they departed within a few minutes after coming in, without causing

any commotion. He said that he was in the doorway when the shot was fired; that Officer Baker had raised his mace and threatened to hit Burns if he did not go along peacefully, and that the officer struck the negro with his club and felled him to the ground after he had been shot.

Burns was removed to jail at a very early hour yesterday morning and locked in a cell. He refused to talk about the shooting, was in a sulky mood, and apparently not the least bit remorseful because of the shooting.

Officer Charles W. Goss has a card which Officer Baker had in his upper vest pocket, through which the bullet fired by Burns passed. The card was one used by Edward Douglas, a deaf mute to solicit alms. It is blood-stained and the discharge of the weapon charred the cardboard. On the back of the card Officer Baker had made memoranda. The card shows that the bullet passed through the upper vest pocket not more than an inch below the heart.

The (Cumberland) Daily News
October 7 1907

BAKER'S MURDERER LYNCHED BY A MOB

Force the Jail and Drag Burns
Out to Death.

NEGRO'S BODY IS RIDDLED WITH BULLETS

A Sunday of Unusual Excitement---Thousands View
the Ghastly Remains of the Murderer. at
the Morgue---Stories and
Incidents.

William Burns, the negro who murdered City Patrolman August Baker has paid the penalty for his crime.

He was taken from the county jail at midnight Saturday night and died with bullets.

ONE DEMORALIZING EFFECT OF LYNCHING

Judge Boyd directed the grand jury at Cumberland yesterday to investigate the lynching of William Burns the negro murderer of Policeman August Baker. It cannot be doubted that the people of Cumberland regret sincerely the law was not allowed to take its course in the regular and orderly way prescribed by the statutes of Maryland. Mr. Baker was a useful and respected officer and citizen and met his death while doing his duty. Naturally there was great indignation in Cumberland. But it is always the wisest and best policy, not to speak of every citizen's obligations under the law, to leave the punishment of criminals to the courts. It is best for the community, even under the greatest provocation and excitement, because lynch law is apt to have demoralizing consequences in quarters in which such results would be least expected.

The people of Cumberland are probably as humane, as law-abiding and as free of morbid tendencies as the people of any community of the same size in this country. Yet it was stated in The Sun's dispatches yesterday that a crowd estimated at 10,000, including many Sunday school children, closely examined the body of the murderer as it lay at the undertaker's. "In the evening an attempt was made to close the shop, but the crowd threatened to force the doors and they were reopened." Such an exhibition of morbid curiosity on the part of adults is incomprehensible in a city with so intelligent and refined a population as that of Cumberland. But it is simply amazing that Sunday-school children should have been permitted to gratify a curiosity which ought not to be encouraged even on the part of adults. The effect upon these children cannot but be harmful, because it tends to make them callous—to accustom them to bloodshed and to deeds of violence. If the murderer had been executed according to the laws of the State and the prison regulations the sentence would have been carried out in an orderly way in the presence of only such persons as are required. There would have been no curious crowds peering into his coffin. Lynching is the result of an excess of passion and, like excesses of all kinds, it has a demoralizing effect upon all who are brought under its influence. It is to be hoped that never again may the spectacle be presented in Maryland of Sunday-school children permitted, if not encouraged to gaze upon the body of a victim of lynch law.—Baltimore Sun.

The (Cumberland) Daily News

October 9, 1907

REWARD!

The County Commissioners have offered a Reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons who lynched Williams Burns at the county jail Saturday night.

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MAY RECEIVE A CARNEGIE MEDAL.

Rev. William Cleveland Hicks, rector of Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal church, Cumberland, the leading church of the denomination in Western Maryland and archdeacon of Cumberland, may be awarded a Carnegie hero medal. George A. Campsey, of the Carnegie Hero Commission arrived here from Pittsburg yesterday to ascertain the facts connected with the attempt of Rev. Mr. Hicks to prevent the lynching of William Burns, a young negro here on October 6, 1907, in front of the jail. The negro was shot to death by a mob which broke into the jail and secured the prisoner. As Burns lay prostrate in the street, Rev. Mr. Hicks, who had been aroused by the noise of the mob at midnight, the rectory being nearby, attired in his cassock stood at the head of the negro and sought by prayer, exhortation and personal courage to dissuade the men who were bent on taking the negro's life. His expostulations were in vain and he offered prayer as two members of the mob were pumping lead into Burns' body. Rev. Mr. Hicks' garments were bespattered with blood and he risked his own life in his attempt to stop mob violence. Burns was lynched for shooting Policeman August Baker, a veteran of the Cumberland force, who died from the wounds the negro inflicted.

Mr. Campsey concluded his investigations last night. He had attempted to secure the testimony quietly, but some of the witnesses interviewed let known his mission. Mr. Campsey is a former Pittsburg newspaper man. Rev. Mr. Hicks at one time was one of the assistants in Trinity parish, New York City.