

State of South Carolina

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD

The State

VS.

THE DEAD BODY OF

Joseph Adkins

Inquisition taken this 4

day of *Nov* A. D. 19*60*

by

DAVIS E. BOWLIWARE,
Coroner for the said County

Entered and Recorded in Coroner's
Book Inquisition, page *117* this
1 day of *Jan* A. D. 19*60*

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
 ;
)
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD ;
)
)

IN THE CORONER'S COURT

PROCEEDINGS of a Coroner's Inquisition over the body of:

Joseph Adger (Male, Negroid)

by Coroner Davis Earl Boulware, and a Jury, consisting of the following: Thomas Wilkes, Foreman; Rembert Clark; Millard Smith; John C. Pope; James B. Ramsey; Roland Jordan.

Held at the Fairfield County Court House, Winnsboro, S. C. on the 10th November 1960.

Appearances: Coroner Davis Earl Boulware
 John A. Martin, Attorney-at-Law

Verdict: Joseph Adger died as the result of a pistol shot by Louise Adger.

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Reported by:

Mrs. Vivian H. Smith
Forest Hill Drive, Box 27
Winnsboro, S. C.

(JURY SWORN AND CHARGED)

James E. Brown
(Being duly sworn)

Q: What is your position, Mr. Brown?

A: I'M a policeman.

Q: Did you investigate a shooting on the date of November 4, 1960?

A: Yes.

Q: What evidence did you find?

A: It was about 9 p.m. when we got the call. Mr. Robinson and myself were together. We were in Forest Hills when we got the call so I guess it took close to five minutes to get to the house. When we got there Joe Adger was lying in the back seat of his automobile. He was lying on his back with his head in a downward position and his feet were out the window on the opposite side. His face was covered with blood and there was blood on the seat of the automobile. There was a good amount on his clothes. Mr. Robinson walked up to one side of the car and I went to the opposite side. Mr. Robinson felt for his pulse and told me he thought he was dead. At that time I could see there was a little breathe in his body and told Fred to call an ambulance. He got back to the Police Car to call the ambulance. I asked someone in the crowd who done the shooting? They told me it was that woman standing there and it was Louise Adger they pointed to. I asked her what happened and she told me she shot her husband, Joe Adger. I put her in the car right then. I asked her where the gun was and she said it was in the house lying in a chair in the living room. I left her in the car and went in the house and found the gun where she said it was. At that time we talked to her mother, Lucille Edwards, and she also told me her daughter shot her husband. When the ambulance came we got Joe Adger out of the car and into the ambulance and proceeded to the hospital. Louise was in the car with Mr. Robinson and myself going to the hospital. On the way she said "where did I shoot him?" I told her at that time I did not know but I thought it was in the face. She told me, "No, I shot him in the chest". When we got to the hospital Joseph Adger was dead. Dr. McCants was called to verify this. We brought Louise back to the jail and locked her up and in questioning her she said she got the gun from under the mattress of the bed and said she shot Joseph because he slapped her mother. She said it started as an argument concerning her, her mother and Joseph about the baby. She said thr baby had some needles where her mother was sewing and from the way she talked that is the way the argument started. Louise said at the time she was in the kitchen washing dishes, her mother was in the living room sewing and the baby got some needles in its hand and there was an argument about the needles and that is when Louise told us her mother was slapped by Joseph. At that time Louise said she ran from the kitchen through the living room and into the bedroom and got the gun from the bed under the mattress, came back into the living room and shot Joseph with the 32 caliber pistol. That is about all.

Q: Did you examine the living room?

A: Yes, it was some blood in the car and on him and on the porch. There was a little blood in the living room in the right hand corner on a couch where

A: No. An oil burner heater apparently in the middle of the room was setting up right. I asked Lucille Edwards had it been turned over at any time. She said "no." The furniture was placed around like it always was I suppose.

Q: Did you examine the bed where she said she got the gun?

A: There was no sign of the bed being disturbed. It was perfectly made. There was a long bed spread draped to the floor. It did not look like it had ever been set on.

Q: Did Louise make a statement as to who was there?

A: She said herself, her mother, the baby and Joseph.

Q: Did she say anything about the condition of Joseph when he came home?

A: I think I asked if he was drinking and she said he was drinking a little.

Q: Where did they live?

A: Zion Hill. The street was not named. I understand some call it College Street Extension. It is the second street behind Alexander's Store and it is dead-end with no name.

Lucille Edwards
(Being duly sworn)

Q: You are the mother of Louise?

A: Yes.

Q: Were you present when Joseph was shot?

A: Yes.

Q: What happened?

A: When I got home from work about 7:30 P.M. Joseph was leaving the house. I knocked at the front door and he told me to go to the back door and I told him I heard Louise coming. He was gone about 2 hours--from 7:30 to about 9:15. I was making his baby some outing slips when he knocked. I said who is there and no one answered. I said another time who is there and no one answered. The third time I asked who was there when he knocked and he said "Louise, open the door". I told him Louise was in the kitchen undressing the baby so I got up and opened the door. Joseph walked straight through the living room to the kitchen and pulled out a chair and sat down by Louise. He started playing with the baby. Louise got up and started stacking the dishes. Joseph said "Louise, take the baby". Louise said "hand her here. Let me put her to sleep because I have to do the dishes." Joseph made oath and told Louise she did not have to take the baby if she don't want to. Louise reached for her and Joseph refused her the baby. I reckon it was about 3 minutes til Joseph put the baby on the floor. She crawled in the living room where I was. I put her up on a chair and she got a book of needles and I coaxed the needles from her. Joseph then called Angela to come to him. I put her on the floor and she had the book of needles again. I took them away from her and told her to hold and walk to her daddy. Joseph then got the baby. He made an oath (curse) and said he bought play things for her to play with and that these so and so's don't

"She needs something more important." Joe cursed. I said all you call me will go back on you. Joseph said he was tired of me and he came back into the living room. I stood up and said "don't hit me". I don't know who hit who but we went into holt. I did not know when Louise came out of the kitchen. Joseph and I were in holt tussling. Louise came from the bedroom and Joseph grapped her. I don't know when I got loose. When Joseph and Louise were in holt is when I saw the gun. I called for someone to come and help us. About that time I heard a pop like it was smothered, not like a gun shot. Louise and Joseph were still tussling and about that time they fell to the long chair in the living room. I got the two children and ran toward the door. When I got them out Louise was there at the door and said "what did I do?" I told her to run and call the police. That is all.

Q: Where did she get the gun?

A: I don't know. I did not see the gun until they were tussling.

Q: After she shot, what did she do with the gun?

A: I didn't know but I said for somebody to help us or we will all get killed. I ran back in and got the babies shoes and Louise ran out and asked someone to help her get him in the carto take to the hospital.

Q: Did she have the gun when she came out of the house?

A: I guess so. I don't know but when I was standing across the road she started to give it to me and I told her to take it back in the house.

Q: Had you and Joseph had any trouble?

A: No recently but I have called Mr. Montgomery once for him drawing a shot gun on me. We have had words. Joseph and Louise could not get along.

Q: How long had they been with you?

A: Two years from the beginning of this time.

Q: They moved once, didn't they?

A: No, Joseph went home, I don't know when it was, but I came to work and they were pleased. I got to work and around 9 or 9:30 a.m. Louise came to Mrs. Curlee's bleeding. I told her I could not do anything and that she would have to be the one to do something. She came on up town and took a warrant. They went there and left Joe and told him to come up town when Louise came home. She stayed up town all day because she said she was afraid to go home. He brought me the paper and I told him I did not know anything to do. Louise told him to go on home and he did go home and stayed a few days.

Q: Did they live in Columbia?

A: Yes, three years ago for something like inside of 9 or 10 months.

Q: Did they have trouble during that time?

A: Yes sir.

Q: Very much?

A: No, I don't think he was drinking an awful lot. It was a daily thing with him though so I did not really notice it that much any more.

Q: Did Joseph help you pay any of your expenses?

A: I would not say he helped me because it was his wife and children and I just ran the house for him.

Doctor's Statement

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that I saw Joseph Adger November 4, 1960 9:40 p.m. There was a pistol wound in the middle of the chest midway on the line connecting both nipples. The breast bone did not appear fractured. Very probably the bullet entered the heart. No point of exit could be found. This wound I believe was sufficient to cause his death. He was dead on arrival at the Emergency Room of the hospital.

C. S. McCants, M.D.

Jury charged to find whether Joseph died

1. by mischance, accident, felony
2. if by felony, whether his own or another's
3. if by mischance whether by act of God or man
4. if by felony of another, who were principals and who accessories, who threatened him of life or murder and with what instrument he was struck or wounded
5. if by mischance or accident, by act of God or man, whether by hurt, fall, stroke, drowning or otherwise.

VERDICT

See Page One.

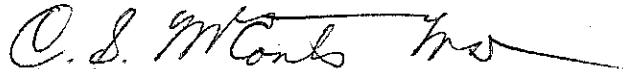
For information: Attorney John A. Martin was present representing Louise Adger. Because of her highly emotional condition which had her on the verge of hysterics which was taken from the Court Room during the testimony of her mother, Lucille Edwards.

CHARLES SPENCER McCANTS, M. D.
WINNSBORO, S. C.

November 10, 1960

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to certify that I saw Joseph Adger November 4, 1960, 9:40 p.m. There was a pistol wound in the middle of the chest midway on the line connecting both nipples. The breast bone did not appear fractured. Very probably the bullet entered his heart. No point of exit could be found. This wound I believe was sufficient to cause his death. He was dead on arrival at the Emergency Room of the hospital.


C. S. McCants, M.D.

CSM/g

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD

Personally appeared before me Louise Adger, who first being duly sworn makes the following statement:

Me and Joe, my husband Joe Adger, was in the kitchen last night, Nov. 4. He came in about 9:00 clock. The baby was hollowing and I tried to get her in the bed and Joe told me to give her to him. Joe took the baby and I started washing the dishes and Joe told me to take the baby back so I told him I was washing the dishes and Joe cursed and told me I did not have to take the baby. He sat the baby on the floor and the baby crawled in the room with my mother. Then the baby started bothering my mother's needles. My mother is Leucille Edwards. So she told the baby to put the needles down and the baby was hollowing, so Joe, he calls the baby "Pooch", went to get her and told her not to bother a thing in the house and that he would buy her some needles. So my mother told Joe that she was sorry that if he was going to start an argument. Then I told Joe 'don't buy the baby no needles because she needed something else beside needles.' Then Joe told me that nobody had said a dam thing to me and for me to keep my dam snagged-teeth mouth out of it, he said, and that is the time my mother told ~~at~~ him that she was going to get Mr. Lauderdale to put him out of the house. So Joe d again and told her to go get him, that dam Mr. Lauderdale, he had been put out one time and they had let him come back. I told him that she didn't have anything to do with it because ed him. Then I told Joe to hush and why didn't he go home. ey was still argueing and Joe ~~g~~ went up in the house then and

said that he was going to end that dam shit and then that is the time he hit my mother and my mother got up from the chair and her and Joe got to tussling and Joe had her going toward the bedroom. Then I beat Joe in the room and I got the gun from under the mattress and I told Joe not to hit her no more. They were still tussling and Joe had her bent back under the chair and my mother screamed and then I shot. Then she told me to go get the Police and I ran on out the house with the gun, called the Police, a man did, Dave=Holmes. Then I ran back to the house then and I went to the store to try to get somebody to drive Joe's car to carry him to the hospital. Somebody asked me where was the gun and then I give the gun to my mother and she gave it back to me and said that she was scared. I got the gun and went on into the house where they were trying to get somebody to get Joe to put him in the car, then the Police came after we had got him in the car. That's all.

B. R. Peake: You stated that Joe hit your mother, what did he hit her with?

Louise: His ^{hand} ~~had~~, he slapped her.

B. R. Peake: Did your mother hit Joe?

Louise: She didn't hit Joe first but she got up after he hit her and hit him back and told him to get out of there.

B. R. Peake: Louise, do you know about how far you was from Joe when you shot him?

Louise: I told you the best I could how far I was from him.

B. R. Peake: How far to you think that was?

Louise: around 5 or 6 feet.

B. R. Peake: Did Joe have a hold to your mother when you shot him?

Louise: I thought he did but my mother said that he had turned her aloose.

B. R. Peake: Then Joe did not have a hold to you, did he?

Louise: No Sir.

B. R. Peake: Louise, ^{is} this is the gun that you shot him with?

Louise: Yes sir, that's it.

B. R. Peake: Louise, are there anything else that you want to tell us about this?

Louise: There is nothing else to tell, Lord, with Joe gone.

B. R. Peake: Louise, when you shot Joe what position were you standing in?

Louise: Lord I don't know, Lord, all I know is that he was fighting my mother and I shot. But I did not intend shooting him, I told Joe not to hit her no more and if he hadn't hit her I wouldn't shot him.

B. R. Peake: Was he facing you or did he have his back to you or do you know?

Louise: I thought Joe had his back to me.

B. R. Peake: Louise, how much education ^{do} you have?

Louise: I finished highschool.

I make this statement freely and voluntary without any reward or promise. All of the above is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God to the best of my judgement.

I have been advised that this statement may be used in Court in a trial of this case. I make this statement in the presence of R. R. Macfie, Jr., Chief of Police, Winnsboro, S. C.; Fred G. Robinson, Patrolman for Town of Winnsboro; B. R. Peake of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division; and Loretta M. Mattox, Clerk.

Louise Adger

Louise Adger

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME
THIS ~~5th~~ ^{7th} day of NOVEMBER, 1960.

Davis & Boulware

NOTARY PUBLIC FOR NORTH CAROLINA

WITNESSES:

James E. Brown
Fred J. Kohnson
C. A. McKim

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THE ABOVE STATEMENT AND HAVE
BEEN GIVEN A COPY OF SAME AS OF THIS DATE.

Louise Adger

LOUISE ADGER

State of South Carolina,
COUNTY OF FAIRFIELD

An Inquisition indented, taken at Winnboro SC in the County and
State aforesaid, the 10 day of November A. D. one thousand
nine hundred and 60 before DAVIS E. BOULWARE, Coroner, upon view of the body of
Joseph W. Adgers of Fairfield County then and there being dead, by the oaths of

Thomas Wilkes
FOREMAN
Rembert Clark
Milard Smith

John C. Pope
James B. Ramsey
Roland Jordan

being a lawful Jury of Inquest, who, being charged and sworn to inquire, for the State of South Caro-
lina, where and by what means the said Joseph W. Adgers

came to death, upon their oaths, do say:

By a pistol shot fired
By Louise Adgers.

And so the said Jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths aforesaid, do say that the aforesaid,

In Witness Whereof, I, DAVIS E. BOULWARE, Coroner aforesaid, and the Jurors aforesaid to
this Inquisition, have set our Hands and Seals, the day and year aforesaid.

Davis E. Boulware Coroner, (L. S.)

Thomas Wilkes Foreman, (L. S.)