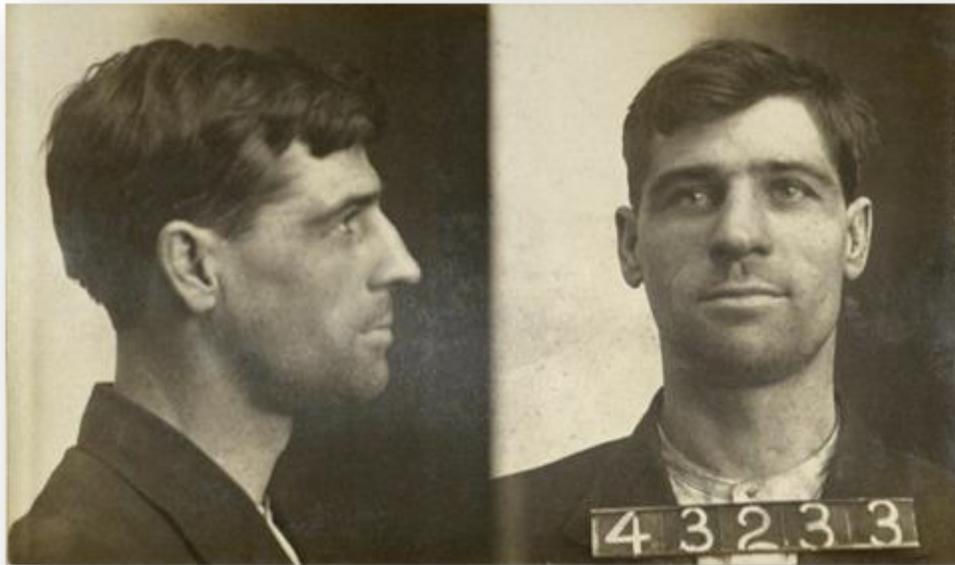


John "Big John" Mack Son of "Mother" Mack (McDonald)

"The killing of Sergeant Boyle was the final incident of a drinking bout which began in the Mack home, 22 Jervis Street, and wound up in the Tenderloin."

At the time of the shooting of Sergeant James Boyle, young John Mack, son of Kate, aka. Mary Mack (McDonald), was already far down the road on his way to becoming a hardened gunman, jail-breaker, yegg (safe-blower) and thief. He had spent much of his youth in and out of trouble with Toledo police and a considerable amount of time in the Toledo Workhouse.



When John Mack, age 21 at the time of Sergeant Boyle's death, was called to the witness stand in the murder trial, he testified that George Rogers told him that immediately after Boyle was shot, Rogers leaned over to ask Boyle where he was hit. Rogers said Boyle responded by reaching out and hitting him on the head. Rogers was called to the stand next, but excused when he refused to testify regarding anything that might incriminate him, adding that he was only 18 years old.

Summarizing John Mack's testimony describing his Tenderloin binge the night of the shooting, the Toledo Blade reported that, "The killing of Sergeant Boyle was the final incident of a drinking bout which began in the Mack home, 22 Jervis Street, and wound up in the Tenderloin." Mack told the court that on the night of the shooting the three had visited a number of Tenderloin resorts and saloons, drinking heavily in each of them.

Shortly before the shooting, the three were last seen at Mabel Bakers, saloon, 625 Lafayette Street at Erie Street, drinking continuously long after the place had closed. Mack said he was so intoxicated that, "I agues I was too drunk to tell whether Bechtel was drunk, but he must have been. He drank every time I did." [Toledo Blade, June 26, 1908.]

Mack confessed that the three were wandering around the Clover yard that night and morning, but denied that they had broken into any cars. Mack also said he told police the night of the shooting that he had left his revolver with a bartender before the trio headed for the railroad yards.

When the three were corralled by police officers that morning, Mack said he never saw Bechtel's pistol at any time earlier that evening and never saw the shot fired. Just before being dismissed from the stand, Mack admitted that he had served two terms in the Mansfield Reformatory, after pleading guilty to a variety of charges including assault and battery and of pointing firearms at a policeman.

Mack also admitted to spending time in the workhouse for various small crimes, but could not recall how many times he had been arrested by Toledo police. "How many times have you been arrested?" asked the prosecutor. "I don't know." [Toledo News-Bee, June 26, 1908.]

The defense attorneys did not refute Mack's bad reputation, but argued that his reputation had nothing to do with whether or not he was guilty of any actions the night of the shooting. Mack also stated that he had a third pending term in the Mansfield Reformatory that had only recently been reversed by the court.

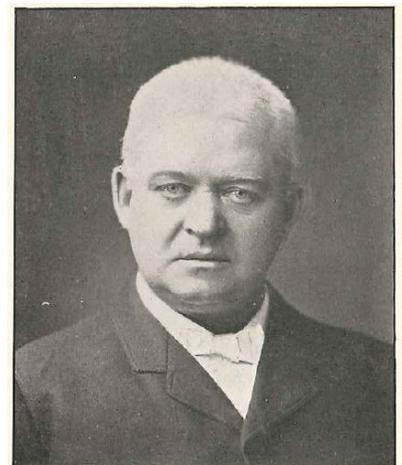
Mrs. Helena O'Connell, sister of Mother Mack, was then brought to the stand as a key witness. She described how Bechtel, barely conscious, was brought to her Avondale Avenue home by Chester Cleary and Frank McDonough about 4 a.m. on May 2. She admitted that she had known Bechtel for a few months prior to the shooting, through her nephew, John Mack.

On March 3, 1909, Prosecuting Attorney Holland C. Webster stunned court watchers when he abruptly dropped all charges against Mack and Rogers, citing lack of evidence. Inspector of Detectives John Carew, who was in charge of the case, told the press that he agreed with Webster's decision.

After 10 months in jail awaiting trial, Mack and Rogers were suddenly set free. Webster explained his highly controversial decision:

"I am aware that my action may cause adverse criticism in view of the nature of the offense charged, but I believe my duty to the state and the defendants leaves me no other course. I could not prosecute a cause in which I did not believe the defendant guilty. I would not ask a jury to do what I would not do myself. I do not think a persecutory has the right to urge a charge he does not believe just." [Toledo News-Bee, July 2, 1908]

Just before Mack departed, Prosecutor Webster warned him that Toledo was "too small for him." [Toledo News-Bee March 3, 1909] Mack and his mother, who had only recently returned from serving four years in the penitentiary, promised to heed Webster's warning.



DETECTIVE JOHN CAREW.

One day later, John Mack told Prosecutor Webster that he was leaving Toledo to live in his former home town of Muncie, Indiana. Mother Mack planned to stay in her home on Jervis Street in Toledo.

In later years, John Mack would spend time in the Ohio Reformatory and two stints in the Ohio Penitentiary. His last stint in the Ohio Penitentiary was a 17-year sentence for the Holland Bakery payroll robbery in Toledo in 1922, a crime for which he was pardoned by Ohio Governor Donahey in 1927 after serving five years.

Mother Mack's youngest son, Ted, was also in and out of the Ohio Reformatory and Toledo Workhouse before being caught in the Clover Leaf yards in 1910 robbing boxcars, an incident that resulted in a wild-west shootout and Ted Mack being shot dead by Toledo Motor Cop Clarence Mead.



Governor A. Victor Donahey