

THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

A solemn obligation



Patrolman William Reed
E.O.W. December 28, 1921



The family of William Reed.

Three days after Christmas, and only six days after the murder of Officer “Petie” McGuire, Officer William Reed was killed pursuing a suspect.

Officer Reed’s “tour of duty was in the old Canton Street murder district, near Death Valley, a narrow alleyway known as a retreat for fugitives from police in the nights when gunplay was part of a patrolman’s routine in that section.”

Reed, along with Vice Officers Matthews and Langendorf, had exchanged fire with a suspect who was accused of passing a \$24 bad check at the United Coal & Coke Company, 1125 Champlain Street. “As the pursuers rounded the corner at Canton and Smith Streets, one of the runner’s bullets penetrated Reed’s breast and he crumpled up on the pavement.”

Reed remained conscious until approximately 20 minutes after he arrived at Toledo Hospital. “As his superior, Captain Harry Jennings, commanding the Vice Squad, wept and said good bye, Reed grasped his captain’s hand and weakly requested him to convey a farewell message to Mrs. Reed.”

“And tell her to take good care of the children, Harry,” he added faintly before death sealed his lips. Jennings went to a corner of the room, sank into a chair and cried bitterly.” Reed had resided at 556 Colburn Street and left behind his wife and six small children under the age of 10.

A machine gun was ordered to the scene where the suspect, Arthur Binkley, was hiding, but negotiations finally brought him out.

William Reed

TO PROTECT AND SERVE