

# THE TOLEDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## *A solemn obligation*



Horse-drawn Toledo Police Wagon, late 1800s, early 1900s.

**Patrolman John Hassett  
E.O.W. March 5, 1880  
No photo available**

**First known Toledo Police Officer  
killed in the line of duty**

“On the evening of March 4, 1880, a great storm approached the Toledo area. Shortly after midnight, high winds brought the brick smoke stack of the Buckeye Brewery crashing down through the roof of the boiler room. Inside were Officer John Hassett, ex-officer and Special Policeman M. F. Doyle, and a night watchman by the name of Anton Schiniski.”

Schiniski was found lying near the door of the brewery and, though seriously injured, was able to direct rescuers to the two men who were buried under the chimney. Hassett, a policeman for only two weeks, was found in grave condition. He was removed to another building where he soon died. Doyle was believed to have been killed instantly.

“... last night at 9:30 o'clock, he made his first arrest, in company with Officer Hall. Hassett was very proud of his position as a policeman and determined to make a brilliant record, which he probably would have done. He was formerly a sailor on the lakes. He leaves a wife and five children, residing on Woodruff Avenue, near Allen Street, to mourn his untimely removal from the land of the living.”

“Hassett and Doyle were removed to the Central Police Station, where they were allowed to remain until about 8 o'clock this morning, at which time they were removed to their late homes.”

“Expressions of regret at the terrible catastrophe are heard on every hand, especially among the members of the police force and the immediate friends of the deceased. Hassett, though not well known to a majority of his fellow officers, was rapidly becoming a favorite.”

*John Hassett*

**TO PROTECT AND SERVE**