

HENDERSON - *Theodore*

and 22867

E. A. OBRIEST VICTIM OF GUNMAN'S ATTACK; CONDITION IS CRITICAL

MAY 17 1931

TIME

Unarmed Undercover Agent for Vice Squad
Felled by Colored Man on Illinois
Street; Three Suspects Held

An undercover man for the police vice and liquor squads, Patrolman Edward A. Obriest, 27, of 2527 Buckeye street, was wounded, perhaps fatally, by an unidentified colored man last night in the 300 block of Illinois street.

Late last night he was being operated on in Mercy hospital, where he was taken by other members of the squad, and physicians feared he would not recover. Meanwhile, an intensive hunt was begun by every available policeman in the city for Obriest's assailant, his companion, and a woman witness of the shooting.

Shortly before midnight, two colored men and a colored woman were arrested. They were being grilled early today by detectives. Their statements were not revealed by the questioners.

6 BULLETS IN BODY

Two slugs from a revolver in the hands of the gunman tore into Obriest's stomach, and as he turned to flee the searing stream of lead fired at pointblank range, he stopped four more bullets. One struck him in the left thigh, one lodged in his left shoulder and two more hit him in the left arm. Obriest was unarmed.

The assailant stripped off his topcoat after emptying his pistol and fled between houses.

Obriest, bleeding profusely, ran toward No. 6 police sub-station on Division street, near Indiana avenue. Once he staggered and fell, but he regained his feet and continued his flight.

SUSPECT HELD IN SHOOTING OF DRY ENFORCER

MAY 18 1931

TIME

Assailant of Obriest
Signs Confession
of Guilt

FOUND IN ALLEY

City Patrolman Remains
Near Death in
Hospital

While Patrolman Edward A. Obriest, 27, undercover man for the police vice and liquor squads, lingered near death in Mercy hospital yesterday, police arrested the colored man who shot him Saturday night and elicited a signed confession from the man.

Obriest was shot in the 300 block

DRIVE ON VICE STARTS AFTER COP IS SHOT

MAY 18 1931

NEWS

Suspect Admits He Wounded
Vice Squad Member During
Altercation

With orders to take no chances with suspected gun toters Toledo's police Monday were preparing for a cleanup drive in the Illinois street district as a result of the shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, 27, an undercover man for the vice and liquor squads. Obriest is in Mercy hospital and his condition is critical. He was shot five times Saturday night by a colored gunman in the 300 block on Illinois street. Obriest had been appointed earlier in the day as a special investigator for the vice squad.

Robert Konwin, assistant county prosecutor, went to the hospital Monday to obtain a statement from Obriest. The wounded patrolman, however, declined to talk.

"I feel like I am going to live," he said.

ADMITS SHOOTING.

Six hours after the shooting, the gunman, Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 Illinois street, was traced to an address in Lucas alley where he was arrested. He admitted the shooting in a signed statement.

Detectives Jack Hodges and D. A. Wilson found Obriest at No. 8 fire engine house at Indiana and Illinois streets, where he had gone after the shooting. He was bleeding profusely from his wounds and weak from the loss of blood.

At the hospital, Obriest told Detective James Ford, head of the vice squad, that he approached two men who were arguing in front of 322 Illinois street, and one of the men dropped a jug of liquor. He said that he grabbed for the man and the other man whipped out a revolver and began shooting. He was struck twice in the abdomen.

The patrolman kicked at his gun, and Henderson said he threatened to shoot. The officer continued to advance, Henderson said, so he opened fire. Although the patrolman fled after two shots, Henderson said he continued to shoot until his pistol was empty.

The step-father testified that he was delivering a jug of liquor when the officer grabbed him. "He pulled up his sweater," Harlen said, "but if he had a badge, it was so dark I couldn't see it."

Harlen said he fought with the officer for 10 minutes before escaping. Both he and his step-son said they did not know the man in the sweater was a policeman.

The stricken officer had not realized the seriousness of his

wounds, and, because of this, Robert Konwin, assistant county prosecutor, was unable to take a statement from him Monday.

No Statement Taken

Under the law, an ante-mortem statement may be admitted as evidence only when the dying man knows he is dying. Mr. Konwin called at the hospital Monday, but when the dying officer, in a brief conversation, indicated that he thought he would recover, the assistant prosecutor left without informing him of his real condition.

The patrolman is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Obriest. The body is at the H. H. Birkenkamp funeral home.

Forty patrolmen will form an escort when services are held at 2 P. M. Thursday in the Obriest home. Burial will be in Forest cemetery. Pallbearers will be Patrolmen Masney, Whitmer, Goetting, Harmon, Geisert and Roger Peters.

YOUTH FACES COURT TODAY FOR SLAYING

MAY 20 1931

First Degree Murder
Charge Is Filed in
Officer's Death

RITESTOMORROW

Suspect Admits Shooting,
Denies Intent To
Kill Patrolman

Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 Illinois street, colored, is to be arraigned in police court this morning on a charge of first degree murder in the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, 27, of 2725 Buckeye street.

The charge was placed against Henderson yesterday after a verdict of homicide was returned by Coroner Frank G. Kreft in the officer's death.

DIES OF WOUNDS

The patrolman, wounded Saturday night while acting as an undercover man for vice and liquor squad, died in Mercy hospital yesterday morning.

Henderson admitted to the coroner that he fired six shots at the officer after the latter and his step-father, John Harlen, 32, had engaged in a tussle, but maintained that he did not know the man was a policeman.

RITESTOMORROW

A guard of honor consisting of 40 patrolmen in charge of Capt. Dan Wolfe will act as an escort following the funeral services in the home tomorrow at 2 p. m. Burial will be in Forest cemetery. Pallbearers will be Patrolmen Masney, Whitmer, Goetting, Harmon, Geisert and Roger Peters.

The victim was appointed a patrolman May 1, 1926.

TAKEN TO HOSPITAL

At the station he was met by Detectives J. R. Hodges and D. A. Wilson, who had stopped there to telephone. They ran for Detective James Ford, head of the vice squad, who was in the vicinity with Patrolmen Kenneth Larsen, Claire Bailey, Archie Best and Roger Peters.

They took the wounded man to Mercy hospital. There a cursory examination revealed the seriousness of his wounds and he was taken immediately to the surgery for an emergency operation. His life hung by a slender thread, it was said.

Before he entered the operating room, however, he told Detective Ford of the shooting. He was standing near a place at 356 Illinois street, he said, while Ford and his men raided a dice game in which several colored men were participating. They did not know of the shooting for several minutes.

Observing two colored men arguing nearby, Obriest walked toward them, telling them to quiet down and get off the street. One of them dropped a bottle of liquor and simultaneously, the officer swung at his companion.

The blow staggered the man, but he reached for a pistol. Drawing it, he fired two shots into Obriest's body. As the officer turned, the man emptied the other four chambers of the gun. All the shots took effect.

Patrolman Obriest, who has been on the Toledo police force for six years, was added to the vice squad yesterday. He was dressed in rough citizens clothing and was to have entered suspected resorts under the pretense of being a customer in order to obtain evidence.

His assailant was saved because the officer was not carrying a gun, which police feared might reveal his identity in the resorts he was to visit. When the man began firing, he had no recourse but flight.

Obriest's assailant was five feet, nine inches tall and wore a brown hat, detectives learned. He wore light trousers.

with two colored men who were arguing there. He stopped six slugs from the revolver in the hands of one of the men.

IDENTITY REVEALED

Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 Illinois street, admitted in a signed statement that he shot the patrolman who was scuffling with Henderson's stepfather.

Henderson was arrested after John Harlen, 32, of 358 Illinois street, and his wife, Lucille Harlen, 37, same address, parents of Henderson, revealed the gunman's identity to detectives. He was found in an alley near 381 Lucas street.

Four others who made signed statements to detectives are being held with Henderson at the Safety building.

DELIVERING WHISKY

John Harlen told police he was going from 338 Illinois street to the home of Addie Higgins, 322 Illinois street, to deliver a half gallon of whisky. He said that the patrolman grabbed him and showing Harlen his badge started to take the whisky away from him.

In his statement Henderson said he saw the struggle between the officer and his stepfather. He stated that he ran back to his home to get his gun and returning to the scene of the fight ordered the patrolman to halt.

He said Obriest kicked him in the stomach. He fired at him and as the officer started to run away, Henderson said he emptied his pistol into the fleeing figure.

WEARING DISGUISE.

When he turned from the stream of fire, the gunman emptied his gun at him as he was fleeing. Obriest was dressed in rough clothing and was unarmed. He had affected a disguise in order to get evidence for the vice squad without arousing suspicion.

Henderson, who is being held on a technical charge of suspicion, told detectives that while he was standing on his porch, he saw Obriest struggling on the sidewalk with his stepfather, also held on suspicion. Henderson then went into the house and procured a .32 caliber revolver and fired point blank when the officer approached him, he said.

ARRESTED QUICKLY.

The gunman's stepfather admitted to detectives that he was delivering a gallon of liquor to an Illinois street address, when the officer approached him and said, "Do you see this?" meaning his badge.

YOUTH IS NAMED
OBRIEST KILLER

Henderson to Face First Degree Murder Charge in Police Shooting.

Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 Illinois street, was to be charged with first degree murder by police Tuesday in the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, 27, of 2725 Buckeye street.

The officer died at 2:30 A. M. in Mercy hospital of gunshot wounds inflicted Saturday night while he was doing undercover work for the vice and liquor squad in the 300 block in Illinois street.

Henderson was named in a homicide verdict by Coroner F. G. Kreft after he had testified at the coroner's inquest Tuesday noon.

Henderson said that he saw a man in a red sweater fight with his stepfather, John Harlen, 32, same address. The man was Officer Obriest.

Tells of Shooting

Henderson said he obtained a pistol he had purchased three years ago, and when he saw his stepfather's opponent walk past the house, he ordered the man to halt.

OBRIEST IS VICTIM
OF STREET ATTACK

Confessed Slayer Detained on Suspicion; Death Comes In Mercy Hospital

Patrolman Edward A. Obriest, 27, undercover man of the police vice and liquor squads, died in Mercy hospital early today of bullet wounds he received while investigating the activities of a colored bootlegger on Illinois street late Saturday. Patrolman Obriest fell with six wounds, two of them in his stomach. Shortly after he was taken to the hospital, Theodore Henderson, 19, who later admitted he shot the officer, was arrested. He was booked as "held for investigation" and now faces a charge of murder. Two others also are held.

Roughly dressed and unarmed, Patrolman Obriest became separated from his fellow policemen on Illinois street Saturday. He accosted a colored bootlegger while standing alone. When the man dropped a jug, he struck at him.

Henderson joined the pair and when Obriest kicked him in the stomach, he said, he retaliated by firing six shots at the officer. None of the bullets missed, Obriest suffering wounds in the stomach, back, thigh and arm.

FATAL SHOOTING
TO GRAND JURY

Probe Into Killing of Patrolman to Begin on Thursday.

Several witnesses to the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest Saturday night in the 300 block in Illinois street will testify before the Lucas county grand jury Thursday when it considers the case.

Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 Illinois street, who made a statement to police admitting the shooting, was bound over to the

grand jury Wednesday on a first degree murder count with which he was charged Tuesday afternoon.

Henderson was named in a homicide verdict by Coroner Frank G. Kreft after he had testified at the coroner's inquest Tuesday noon.

Patrolman Obriest died at 2:30 A. M. Tuesday in Mercy hospital of gunshot wounds inflicted Saturday night while he was doing undercover work for the vice and liquor squad.

HENDERSON INDICTED

NEWS BEE

MAY 22 1931
Charged With First-Degree
Murder in Officer's Death

Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 Illinois street, was indicted Friday for first degree murder in the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, who was buried in Forest cemetery Thursday under a police guard of honor.

Patrolman Obriest was shot Saturday night while working as an undercover man for the vice and liquor squads in the Illinois street district. He died Tuesday.

Services were at the residence, 2727 Buckeye street. At the head of the guard of honor was a squad of eight motorcycle patrolmen, led by Inspector Joseph Delehaunty.

TRIAL FOR KILLING OF POLICEMAN OPENS

OCT 19 1931 NEWS BEE

Theodore Henderson Faces Test for
Life on First Degree Charge.

Theodore Henderson, 19, charged with the murder of Patrolman Edward Obriest, Monday was fighting for his life in common pleas court.

Three jurors were questioned during the morning's session and but one seated. The tentative juror is Miss Bertha Brand, Route 6, Station A, Pickle road. Miss Brand lives with her brother, a farmer.

The majority of the men asked to serve on the jury pleaded to be excused on account of work.

Patrolman Obriest was shot May 16, 1931, when he was conducting a liquor investigation in the 300 block of John R street, formerly Illinois street. He died three days later.

The case is being tried before Judge Charles Lemmon.

In the opening statement of Samuel Kaplan, also an assistant prosecutor, it was related that Obriest, working in civilian clothes, was investigating vice conditions in John R. street where he encountered John Harlin, stepfather of the defendant.

Harlin was carrying a jug of whisky under his arm it was said. When Obriest questioned Harlin, Mr. Kaplan said, he showed his badge and inquired of Harlin as to where he was going. There were words, a struggle and then the suspect fled, the jury was told.

Henderson was in a house when the fight started. It was related, he went a few doors away to his home, got a gun, waited for Obriest to pass the house after the stepfather had fled, slipped into the street and called to Obriest to halt. An instant later, the assistant prosecutor said, the first shot was fired.

Shooting Not Denied

John Cochrane, one of the attorneys for the defense, in his statement said it was not denied the shooting took place but pointed out that Obriest was sent into John R. street disguised as a bum. The youth, not knowing Obriest was a policeman, Cochrane said, acted as a normal person would act under similar circumstances, considering conditions to be found in the neighborhood and the affection that was felt between the stepfather and the stepson.

Obriest, Cochrane said, when halted in the street, lunged at the boy and kicked him in the abdomen. He said testimony would show that the youth was a good boy, had been hardworking, had left school in the fourth grade, and had purchased the gun four years before to guard his mother while the father was absent from the home.

As the result of objections lodged by Attorney Jesse Heslip, counsel for the defense, the jury viewed the scene of the shooting Thursday for the second time.

OFFICER TELLS STORY OF DEATH

OCT 23 1931 SLADE
Events Preceding Slaying
of Policeman Related
at Trial.

Kenneth Larson, a member of the vice squad, was questioned for an hour Friday regarding incidents leading to the shooting of Patrolman Edward O'Briest in John R. street last May. Theodore Henderson, 18, is being tried on the charge of first degree murder in this case in Judge Charles Lemmon's common pleas court.

Larson, who first took the stand Thursday, said Obriest was in plain clothes and had left his own gun in his locker at police headquarters. He explained that officers with him had raided a place a few doors from Henderson's home.

In the raid, he said, a shot from a 38-caliber gun was fired when persons in the house attempted to run from the building. Entrance was gained by breaking a rear door, after Acting Captain Ford's demand for admission was refused. Obriest was not with the officers but had gone down the street, the witness said.

So far as he could remember, Larson contended, Obriest was not dressed as a bum as had been contended earlier in the trial. Obriest had a badge under his sweater, Larson said.

Patrolman Archie Best, another member of the squad, related details of the raid.

It is contended by the state that after the invasion of the officers into John R. street, Obriest met Henderson's stepfather, had trouble with him, and then was accosted and shot by Henderson.

Attempts of defense counsel to introduce into the trial the fact that Detective Ford, former head of the vice squad, had been indicted by the county grand jury, precipitated a sharp legal encounter.

Judge Lemmon ordered the attorneys to continue with the cast without further comment regarding Ford's indictment.

Wilma Yarick, secretary to Coroner Frank Kreft, and James Clemmons, 355 John R. street, placed under special guard because of reports he had been threatened, testified for the state late Thursday.

STATE CONCLUDES HENDERSON TRIAL

OCT 24 1931 TIMES
Appeal From Charge of
First Degree Murder
Denied by Judge

After asking the court to withdraw from consideration of the jury the first count of the indictment which charged Theodore Henderson, 19, colored, with shooting a police officer, the state rested its case yesterday afternoon.

Henderson is on trial in connection with the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest in John R street last May.

Common Pleas Judge Charles Lemmon granted the request but overruled a request of defense attorneys to have the second count dropped. The second count of the indictment charges first degree murder.

The defense called Mrs. Ernestine Haynes, a sister of the defendant, and Sam Stevenson of John R street to the stand yesterday.

Two members of the vice squad, Kenneth Larson and Archie Best, were called by the state. The prosecution also questioned L. P. Jones, a resident of John R street, and Detective D. A. Wilson.

YOUTH TO GIVE DEFENSE IN SLAYING TRIAL

OCT 24 1931 SLADE
Accused in Murder of
Patrolman to Go on
Witness Stand
Monday.

Theodore Henderson, 18, of 358 John R. street, on trial before a common pleas jury in Judge Charles H. Lemmon's court, will take the stand in his own defense Monday in his first degree murder trial.

Attorneys Jesse Heslip and John Cochrane, representing Henderson, said they expected to have the youth tell from the witness stand his story of the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, member of the police vice squad, on John R. street, May 16.

When the state rested its case late Friday, upon motion of Attorneys Robert Konwin and Samuel Kaplan, representing the prosecutor's office, the first count in the murder indictment was dismissed because it had not been shown in the testimony that Henderson knew Obriest was a patrolman. The count charged Henderson with the murder of a policeman.

Frequent clashes of counsel in the trial led to a request of counsel on either side for the citation of their opponents for improper conduct. The judge overruled the motions.

Samuel Stevenson, 395 John R. street, who heard the fatal shots fired, was the first witness called by the defense. He had been summoned to testify for the state and the prosecutor's office did not put him on the stand.

Ernestine Haines, sister of Henderson, was called to impeach the testimony of James Clemmons, 355 John R. street, who, for the state, said he saw Henderson shoot the patrolman. The state holds that Henderson got a gun after he saw his stepfather and Obriest have a struggle in the street, stopped the patrolman and fired upon him in an altercation.

SLEUTH TAKES STAND IN TRIAL OF HENDERSON

OCT 22 1931

Detective Wilson Tells
of Arrest in Fatal
Shooting of City
Patrolman.

Detective D. A. Wilson, 248 Mitchell street, Thursday told from the witness stand in Judge Charles H. Lemmon's court of the arrest of Theodore Henderson, 18, of 358 John R street, in the fatal shooting of Edward Obriest, city patrolman.

The youth was found a little more than three blocks from the scene of the shooting, Wilson told the common pleas jury. Wilson assisted in the removal of Obriest to the hospital where the patrolman died on May 19, three days after the attack for which Henderson faces first degree murder charges.

Under objections of counsel for the defense, Wilson was not permitted to tell of the conversation he had with Obriest after the shooting and with Henderson after Henderson was arrested. Henderson's statement, made at police headquarters, was introduced as evidence.

Struck in Back

Five of six bullets that struck Obriest were fired into his back, Coroner Frank G. Kreft testified Wednesday afternoon.

Coroner Kreft said that one of the bullets entered Obriest's body from the left side. That bullet, he said, probably inflicted fatal wounds.

On cross-examination the coroner said the first shot that struck Obriest may have caused him to whirl with his back to Henderson.

James Clemons, 355 John R. street, called by the state Thursday, testified he witnessed the shooting from his porch. Clemons is under guard because he received several anonymous threats.

In Civilian Clothes

BAR INDICTMENT REPORT IN TRIAL

OCT 23 1931

Grand Jury Action in Bribe
Case Banned as Murder
Case Testimony

Unsuccessful efforts of Defense Attorney John Cochrane to get before the jury, hearing the case of Theodore Henderson, 19, colored, charged with the murder of Patrolman Edward Obriest, a statement that Detective James Ford, former head of the vice squad, had been indicted for soliciting a bribe, featured Friday's session before Judge Charles H. Lemmon.

Kenneth Larson, another member of the vice squad, who with Detective Ford was on the raid and later assisted in the roundup which netted Henderson, was on the stand at the time. Assistant County Prosecutor Robert Conwin and Sam Kaplan had just completed their direct examination.

The defense sought to prove thru both Patrolman Larson and Patrolman Archie Best, who followed him to the stand, that Henderson had no way of knowing Patrolman Obriest was a policeman since he was dressed as a bum to deceive bootleggers from whom "buys" were desired.

Patrolman Larson insisted that Patrolman Obriest was wearing a badge, plainly noticeable, when he tried to arrest Henderson and was shot five times. Patrolman Best insisted that his slain companion stood out among the men on John R street, where the shooting occurred, because of his policeman's "posture."

The state probably will rest its case Monday.

Crowds Increase Daily At Henderson's Trial

OCT 23 1931

Deputies Rope Off Section of Courthouse
To Accommodate Spectators During
Obriest Slaying Case

Because of the large crowd attending the trial of Theodore Henderson, in the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, May 16, deputy sheriffs roped off one section of the second floor in the courthouse yesterday afternoon. The number of spectators has been growing daily.

OFFICERS TESTIFY

After all seats in the court room had been filled the crowd was moved from in front of the court room door

and only witnesses were permitted in that section of the hall.

Two police officers, D. A. Wilson and Ken Larson, were witnesses yesterday. Mr. Wilson told of the arrest of Henderson following the shooting which took place in John R street. Henderson is being tried on a charge of murder. Officer Larson told of being with Patrolman Obriest previous to the shooting.

Other witnesses yesterday were Coroner Frank G. Kreft, his stenographer, Miss Wilma Yarick and James Clemons, a resident of John R street. Coroner Kreft said that five of the six bullets that struck Obriest were fired into his back.

CLEMONS TAKES STAND

Mr. Clemons testified he was upstairs in his home preparing for bed when he heard a shot and went out on his porch.

It is contended that the shooting resulted after Obriest, working in civilian clothes, stopped Henderson's stepfather for questioning in John R street. The stepfather escaped from the officer and, it is charged, that Henderson went to his home, got a gun and the shooting followed.

RECESS IS CALLED IN MURDER TRIAL

OCT 24 1931

Henderson Defense Builds Case
for Monday Argument

Contending that Theodore Henderson, 19, colored, did not kill Patrolman Edward Obriest with malicious intent, defense attorneys Monday will begin their attempt to clear their client of the first degree murder charge on which he is being tried in common pleas court.

Prosecutors San Kaplan and Robert Konwin rested their case with the jury late Friday afternoon and the court declared a recess until Monday.

Those who testified late Friday were Louis P. Jones, 708 Division street; Detective D. A. Wilson; Sam Stevenson, 395 John R. street, and Mrs. Earnestine Haines, 358 John R. street. The last named is a sister of the defendant.

Henderson Attorney Paid \$500 by County

NOV 6 1931

On recommendation of the common pleas judges, county commissioners have approved a voucher for \$500 to John C. Cochrane, who defended Theodore Henderson, who was acquitted of the charge of first degree murder in connection with the killing of Patrolman Edward Obriest a few days ago. Mr. Cochrane had been appointed by the court to defend Henderson.

MURDER TRIAL NEARING END

OCT 26 1937 BLADE

Defense Expected to
Close in Theodore
Henderson Case.

Completion of defense testimony Tuesday is expected with the resumption of the first degree murder trial of Theodore Henderson, 18, of 358 John R. street, charged with the fatal shooting May 16 of Patrolman Edward Obriest, member of the police vice squad. The trial is being held in the common pleas court of Judge Charles H. Lemmon.

The trial Monday was marked by the attempt of defense counsel to impeach the testimony of James Clemons, 355 John R. street, a principal witness for the state, who had testified that he had seen Henderson shooting at a running man.

Five witnesses were called to offset this testimony. They were Mrs. Florence Jameson, 358 John R. street, an aunt of the defendant; Mrs. Lucille Coleman, 328 John R. street; Edward Sanders, 357 John R. street; Beryl Thomas, 365 John R. street, and Willie Watts, 227 Avondale avenue. They testified that Clemons had told them that he had not seen the shooting.

Trial routine was interrupted when Judge Lemmon warned counsel on both sides that he could not permit further cross-table comment. The warning came after Attorneys Jesse Heslip and John Cochrane for the defense had objected to comments made by state counsel. The state is being represented by Samuel Kaplan and Robert Konwin.

HENDERSON TELLS STORY OF SLAYING

OCT 28 1937

Officers Also Testify;
Deny Use of Third
Degree

Members of the police detective bureau took the stand in Judge Charles Lemmon's common pleas court yesterday to deny charges that Theodore Henderson, 19, of 358 John R street, on trial for first degree murder, had been subjected to a third degree by police.

Henderson is charged with slaying Edward Obriest, a member of the vice squad. Taking the stand in his own defense, the youth said he shot Obriest in self-defense, not knowing him to be an officer because he was not in uniform.

He said police threatened to beat him after he was arrested in order to make him confess the slaying and that the signed statement taken from him in the detective bureau was not accurate or given willingly.

Detectives James Ford and Daniel Wilson were called as rebuttal witnesses by the state and said that Henderson had not been beaten or threatened after his arrest. The case is scheduled to go to the jury this afternoon.

JURORS ACQUIT OBRIEST SLAYER

OCT 29 1937

Henderson, 19, Is Freed
After Two Hours of
Deliberation

A plea of self-defense brought acquittal last night to Theodore Henderson, 19-year-old colored youth who fatally wounded Patrolman Edward Obriest, May 16.

A not guilty verdict to a charge of first degree murder was returned by a jury in Judge Charles Lemmon's common pleas court at 9:15 p. m. after less than two hours deliberation.

At the trial, Henderson testified that he did not know Obriest was an officer and he shot him when the latter tried to attack him after beating him stepfather, John Harlan, near their home on John R street.

The jury retired at 6:20 p. m. and was taken to dinner at the Elks' club by Bailiff Edward Newmark from 7:10 to 8:10.

Henderson's mother, Mrs. Louise Harlan, his counsel, John Cochrane and Jesse Heslip, Assistant Prosecutor Robert Konwin and a score of spectators were in the courtroom with the defendant when the verdict was read.

TESTIMONY ENDS IN SLAYING TRIAL

OCT 27 1937 TIME

Henderson's Stepfather Is Final Witness Called To Stand

Taking of testimony in the trial of Theodore Henderson, colored, charged with the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, last May probably will be conducted today in the common pleas court of Judge Charles Lemmon.

Defense attorneys called ten witnesses yesterday, the last of whom was John Harlin, stepfather of the defendant. It is charged the shooting occurred after Patrolman Obriest, working in civilian clothes, stopped Harlin to question him concerning a jug he was carrying.

Harlin testified to being stopped on John R street and of the tussle that followed and his escape from the officer. He was brought in from the workhouse, where he was sent on a liquor charge, to testify in the trial.

The other witnesses called yesterday by the defense were for impeachment of testimony submitted earlier in the trial and for character testimony.

JURY ABSOLVES SLAYER OF COP

OCT 29 1937 NEWS BEE

"Not Guilty" Verdict Returned for Henderson After Two Hours Deliberation

A jury in the common pleas court of Judge Charles G. Lemmon deliberated less than two hours late Wednesday to acquit 19-year-old Theodore Henderson of first degree murder in connection with the slaying of Patrolman Edward Obriest.

The colored youth had pleaded self-defense in the trial. He testified he shot the patrolman May 16 when Obriest attempted to attack him after beating Henderson's stepfather, John Harlan, near their home on John R street.

He also told the jury that he was beaten by police after he was taken to the Safety building and forced to sign a statement.

Henderson's mother, Mrs. Louise Harlan, his attorneys, John Cochran and Jesse Heslip, Assistant Prosecutor Robert Konwin and several spectators were in the courtroom when the jury returned its verdict.

The jury received the case for final deliberation at 6:20 p. m. At 7:10 the jury was taken to the Elks' club for dinner, returning at 8:10.

Pleads Not Guilty to Killing Officer

JUN 13 1931
Theodore Henderson, charged with killing Patrolman Edward Obriest during a fight between the latter and Henderson's father in John R. street several weeks ago, probably will not be tried on a first degree murder charge until the fall term of common pleas court, it was said Saturday. Through his attorney, John C. Cochrane, appointed by Judge Robert G. Gosline, he pleaded not guilty. **NEWS BEE**

A similar plea was made for Ross Camp and Vern Miller, indicted for robbing the Detroit and Delaware branch of the Commercial Savings Bank & Trust Co. of \$4,759, March 16.

Theodore Hornbuckle, Will Green and Jerry Coleman pleaded guilty to chicken stealing. In one evening they took \$126 worth of chickens from Edna Cramer, Norris R. Hilts and Emil Wittman, all of Matzinger road.

Youth Admits Fatal Stabbing

722867

Jailed After Victim

Dies in Hospital

DEC 10 1942

SLADE

A 17-year-old Indiana Avenue youth was arrested last night and has admitted the fatal stabbing of Theodore Henderson, 29, of 381 Indiana Avenue, police said today. The stabbing occurred Dec. 3 in the Indiana Avenue district.

Henderson, acquitted in 1924 of the fatal shooting of Patrolman Edward Obriest, died in Mercy Hospital at 2:30 a. m. today. The suspect will be charged with homicide, Detective Ralph Murphy announced.

The prisoner said he stabbed Henderson in the stomach after he had been knocked down by the older man during an argument. He was arrested by Patrolmen Arnold Basilius and Charles Stewart after he called Lieut. Anthony Bosch and said he understood police were looking for him.

Henderson's body was taken to the Easley Mortuary. Henderson, then 18 years old, was acquitted in Common Pleas Court Oct. 28, 1931, by a jury which considered the case but two hours.

That Henderson shot Obriest, a

by a jury which considered the case but two hours.

That Henderson shot Obriest, a member of the police vice squad, was not denied in the trial. It was declared, however, that Henderson, previous to the shooting, had seen Obriest, whom the youth did not know and who was in civilian attire, knock down John Harlan, his stepfather, in an altercation.

Harlan, in his testimony, said he was carrying a jug of liquor to the home of a neighbor when accosted by Obriest.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

This was on the Old West End question site. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I find history intriguing. I always have. I was not born in the Toledo area, so I know nothing of its true history. I recently was reading the role call for fallen officers of Toledo Police. Officer Obriest, in 1931, died in an altercation near the intersections of Illinois & Division. I am having trouble finding info on past maps of Toledo because today there is no Illinois in Toledo. I assume it would be street renamed in the area...because I see there are Indiana and Michigan, so I am assuming a street in between was renamed at some point. Do you know which one this was?

[REDACTED]

Hello,

This street just gets NO respect!!! It appears that Illinois had two later name changes that we could find.

The 1931 city directory revealed that Illinois ran "from junction of Washington and Michigan west to Division." Illinois became John R by the time the 1934 directory was published. We compared street addresses and home owners' names to confirm this. We found an obituary in which the deceased was once a resident of Illinois Street, now known as Moorish Avenue. Both the 1962 and 1964 directories refer to John R in one area of the book and then Moorish in another. Very confusing! Again, we compared street addresses and home owners' names to confirm another name change for this short street.

A Toledo Blade article in 1972 mentioned that John R street was renamed Moorish Avenue in 1954. The story speculated that the street name John R honored the first mayor of Detroit, John R. Williams.



PATROLMAN EDWARD O'BRIEST

Edward O'briest was a 27 years-old unmarried patrolman conducting undercover work when he was shot and killed on May 19, 1931. Illinois street, once home to the old Toledo University before its move to Bancroft Street, had become an area known as a red-light district, a location for prostitution and other crimes. No suspect in his killing was ever identified. So today the location of this altercation that cost Officer Obriest his life was near the intersection of Moorish and Division which still remains but nearly lost to the freeway construction of the '60s.

Thanks for writing.

Your Hlstory Detective