



Victim of Shooting

TB 8-1-1921



WILLIAM H. KRESS.

This is Patrolman William H. Kress, 51, of 317 Marlon street, who is near death in St. Vincent's hospital as the result of bullet wounds which severed an artery in his left thigh. Kress was shot by Arthur Harding, colored, when the patrolman attempted to arrest Harding on State street near Canton street early Monday morning.

## 2 GIVE BLOOD FOR COMRADE

### Patrolman, Wounded While Pursuing Gunman, Is at Death's Door.

Patrolman William H. Kress was near death in St. Vincent's hospital Monday noon despite two blood transfusions made to save his life following a shooting affair with a negro in State street near Canton street, Monday morning at 1.

His assailant, Arthur Harding, 328 East Woodruff avenue, also is in St. Vincent's from a severe mauling he received at the hands of police comrades of Kress when he resisted arrest.

Hospital attendants say Kress has only a slim chance for recovery.

#### Comrades Give Blood.

Auto Patrolmen Carl Melms and Fred Reaser Monday voluntarily gave of their blood to save the life of Kress if possible. The transfusions were performed and while they revived the injured patrolman temporarily they probably will not save his life, it was said at the hospital.

The other of Kress' comrades on the force, Emmanuel Cavender and James Laughlin, were in the hospital at noon in order to give their blood to save Kress in case doctors thought it advisable. Others of the force also volunteered to submit to the operation.

#### Go After Gunman.

Kress and Patrolman John Hodges, the latter colored, were standing at Canton and Jackson streets about 1 A. M. when two colored men drove up and told them a man with a gun was threatening passersby on State street. Kress and Hodges entered the machine and were driven to State and Spellbusch, where they left the car.

Harding, who was standing with two companions on State street, began to run as the officers approached, then suddenly turned and fired a volley at Kress, it is alleged. The charge went through the patrolman's leg, severing an artery.

#### Taxi Man Lends Aid.

Steve McGraw, taxi proprietor, who saw the shooting and ordered Kress taken to a hospital, probably saved the patrolman from bleeding to death. McGraw also notified police headquarters of Kress' condition.

Hodges, meanwhile, pursued the fleeing negro, emptying his revolver at him. After chasing him through a yard in State street, he captured him, after a fierce struggle, as the negro tried to escape over a fence. Harding was subdued only after Hodges, using his emptied gun as a weapon, beat him almost into insensibility.

# PATROLMAN IS NEAR DEATH

William Kress Shot Down  
By Negro

ARTERY IS SEVERED

Companions Give Blood  
To Save His Life



Patrolman Kress.

Shot by a crazed negro early on Monday, Patrolman William Kress of 317 Marlon-st., is lying near death in St. Vincent's Hospital with brother officers giving their blood to save his life. Two blood transfusions already have been made.

Quick work of Steve McGraw, taxi proprietor, who saw the shooting and ordered Kress taken to a hospital in a taxi, prevented the patrolman from bleeding to death.

The maniac was captured after a terrific fight with Patrolman John R. Hodges, colored, 915 City Park-  
**ARMED WITH SHOTGUN.**

Kress and Hodges were standing at Canton and Jackson streets at 1:10 a. m. on Monday when William Smith, colored, 1807 Canton-st., and a companion, W. T. Johnson, stopped their car beside the officers and told them of a negro "down on the avenue" who was armed with a shotgun and threatening to shoot the first man who appeared.

"He's bad," declared Smith. "He's got a shotgun and is walking up and down the street with it. Better be careful."

Kress and Hodges walked up State-st. In the middle of the street the

## PATROLMAN IS NEAR DEATH

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officers could see three men creating a disturbance.

As he approached the trio Kress turned a flashlight on them. One of the men whirled and fired at the light. It was the "badman" negro.

### KRESS SHOT DOWN.

Kress went down in a heap. The charge from the shotgun had torn a hole in his leg, severing an artery. The three men ran and Hodges pursued the one with the shotgun.

Steve McGraw, who has a taxi stand nearby, saw that an officer had fallen and called the police. Then he sent a taxi driver to the corner. The driver picked up Kress and speeded to St. Vincent's Hospital.

In the meantime Hodges, emptying his revolver at the fleeing negro, chased the man thru a yard at 613 State-st where the maniac stumbled when a bullet from Hodges' gun struck his leg.

He continued running, however, still holding his shotgun, and tried to crawl over a fence. Hodges, his gun empty, grabbed the negro and pulled him back.

### REVOLVER BREAKS.

A fierce struggle followed. Using his gun as a club, Hodges pounded his prisoner so hard his revolver was broken. Still the negro fought.

"Who's there," someone shouted. It was Patrolman Jimmie Ford, accompanied by Patrolmen Halloran and Smith of a police speed car crew. Hodges told them and his prisoner was quickly subdued. He was carrying 12-gage, single barrel shotgun.

At the hospital it was announced that blood transfusion was necessary immediately to save Kress. Motor Patrolmen Reaser and Melms volunteered at once and Reaser was selected. At 6 a. m. on Monday Melms returned to the hospital and also gave some of his blood.

Motor Patrolmen Cavender and Laughlin have volunteered to give their blood and are awaiting a call from the hospital.

Kress has only a fighting chance for his life. He has a wife and child.

### GUARDED IN HOSPITAL.

The captured negro gave his name as Arthur Harding, 30, of 628 E. Woodruff-av. He is in St. Vincent's Hospital, guarded by Detective Frank DeLora.

Harding had fought with his wife on Sunday morning and later in the day got into another fight with another man in a poolroom at Canton and State streets. He was struck over the head with a billiard cue and on Sunday night was out "to get" his assailant.

# PATROLMAN DIES OF WOUND

**TNB 8-2-1921**

## Slayer In Hospital Under Police Guard

City Patrolman William H. Kress, who was shot in the leg by a negro on State-st early on Monday, died of his wound in St. Vincent's Hospital on Monday afternoon shortly after 3 o'clock.

Two blood transfusions were made in an effort to save the patrolman's life. An artery was severed when a load of shot from the negro's shotgun tore a hole in Kress' leg. Motor Patrolmen Reaser and Melms each gave a pint of blood in the transfusions.

### UNDER POLICE GUARD.

The negro held for shooting Kress is Arthur Harding of 628 E. Woodruff-av. He is under police guard in St. Vincent's hospital where he was taken after being shot and captured by Patrolman John Hodges, colored.

Harding, armed with a shotgun, was out gunning for another negro who had been fighting with him on Sunday. He is alleged to have threatened to shoot any policeman who came near him. He made good his threat when Kress and Hodges approached him while he was talking to two other negroes.

### FIRE POINT BLANK.

Harding fired point blank when Kress turned a flashlight on him. In a chase that followed Patrolman Hodges shot Harding in the leg, overtook him and subdued the negro after a fierce struggle.

Kress leaves a wife and a six-year-old child. He had completed three years of service on the police force on Monday. Services will be held in the home of his brother-in-law, H. P. Oblinger, 823 Dunwood-ct on Thursday at 2 p. m. Kress' home was at 317 Marion-st.

# POLICEMAN DIES; BURIAL THURSDAY

TB 8-2-1921

## Blood Transfusions Fail to Save the Life of Wm. Kress.

Patrolman William H. Kress, shot by a negro at Canton and State streets early Monday morning, died in St. Vincent's hospital at 3:45 P. M. Monday, despite two blood transfusions made in an effort to save his life.

Funeral services will be held at 2 P. M. Thursday in the home of his father-in-law, Fred Orton, 823 Dunwood court. Kress, who lived at 317 Marlon street, leaves a wife and a six-year-old child. He had been on the police force three years.

Kress received his death wound while he and Patrolman Hodges, colored, were pursuing Arthur Harding, negro, at State and Canton streets, with intent to arrest him. Harding, who was severely beaten by Hodges, following the shooting, is in St. Vincent's hospital under police guard.

Kress and Hodges were informed about 1 A. M. that a negro with a shotgun was threatening residents of the Canton street district. As the patrolmen approached the trio, Harding, police say, opened fire without warning. Kress fell almost at once, shot through the left thigh. The bullets severed an artery and Kress suffered great loss of blood. He was removed to St. Vincent's hospital at the direction of Steve McGraw, taxi proprietor, who witnessed the shooting.

Harding, who lives at 628 E. Woodruff, was arrested after a battle with Hodges.

Patrolman Goins later found Harding's cap and four loaded shotgun shells back of the fence where the negro was captured.

Brother officers of Kress offered their blood when Police Surgeon Dale Wilson said blood transfusion might save the wounded man's life. Auto Patrolmen Carl Melms and Fred Reaser submitted to the operation early Monday morning and were able to leave St. Vincent's hospital during the evening.

Emmanuel Cavender and James Laughlin, also comrades of Kress, remained at the hospital all day Monday, ready to give their blood if it were needed. Hospital attendants say Kress could not take more blood after the first two operations were performed.

George Carter, 964 Oak street, Monday night went to Central station and identified the shotgun held as evidence against Harding as the gun stolen from his home July 31.

# ACCUSED MAN'S WIFE IS ARRAIGNED

Gertrude Harding, wife of Arthur Harding, held for the slaying of Patrolman William Kress early on Monday, was arraigned in Police Court on Tuesday on a charge of disturbance. She was arrested on Saturday morning by Patrolman Reese when she got into a fight with Arthur.

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# DEATH WEAPON HAD BEEN STOLEN.

TNB 8-2-1921

The shotgun used by Arthur Harding, 30, colored, 628 1/2 Woodruff-av. in shooting Patrolman William Kress early on Monday, has been identified by George Carter, 964 Oak-st.

Carter's home was robbed on Saturday night. Carter saw a negro leaving the house with his shotgun and his description of the prowler tallies exactly with Harding, police say.

Patrolman Orlando Golns. colored, searching the yard in the rear of 613 State-st, where Patrolman Hodges caught Harding, on Monday found Hardin's cap and four loaded shotgun shells.

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## HEAR MURDER CASE MOTION SATURDAY

Motion for a new trial for Arthur Harding, colored, convicted on a charge of first degree murder of Policeman William Kress, will be heard by Judge Brough on Saturday morning. Should Harding fail to get a new trial he will be sentenced to die in the electric chair, as the verdict against him was without recommendation of mercy.

# HARDING SENT TO DEATH CELL

## Judge Brough Sentences Negro For Murder

Arthur Harding, colored, the third man to be sentenced to death from Lucas-co in the last year, on Saturday morning was sentenced to die in the electric chair on Feb. 24 by Common Pleas Judge Brough for the murder of Patrolman William Kress.

Motion for a new trial for Harding was overruled by Judge Brough. Attorney Murphy argued for a new trial, saying that the court had erred in instructing the jury and that the jury had acted hastily and in mob-like fashion in reaching verdict.

Harding was asked if he had anything to say. He declared that he was not guilty of murder and that he would "leave it to God."

Harding took the sentence calmly and shook hands with his attorney as he left for the County Jail. His wife and mother-in-law were crying as they left the courtroom and accompanied him to the gates of the jail, where Harding waved goodbye.

Royce Richardson and John Burk, other men sentenced to the chair within the last year, were convicted of killing New York Central Detective Schreiner on Jan. 17. Burk was also sentenced by Judge Brough

# TNB 12-29-1921

## SEVEN OFFICERS GIVE LIVES

Shot down by desperate gunmen and bandits while performing their duty, seven police officers in Toledo have made the great sacrifice in the last year. They are:

Jan. 17: Louis Schroeder and A. E. Long, New York Central detectives, shot by bandits while guarding ticket office receipts. Royce Richardson electrocuted, John Burke sentenced to die, Edward Foley, serving a life sentence, and Fred Seward committed suicide as a result of the crime.

June 9: Patrolmen Harry Dowell and Harold Mossbrugger, killed by James Kelley in a gun battle when he was barricaded in attic of 611 Walnut-st.

Aug. 1: Patrolman William H. Kress, slain by Arthur Harding, negro gunman on State-st, off Canton. Harding awaiting death in the electric chair.

Dec. 1: Patrolman W. McGinnis, killed by two crooked still men, divisions of Indian av.

Dec. 23: Patrolman William A. Reed, of the vice-squad, killed by Arthur Binkley, wounded in a running gun battle on Canton-st.

# HARDING TO DIE

## Appeal of Colored Slayer Refused

The Court of Appeals ruled on Monday morning that Arthur Harding, colored slayer of City Patrolman William Kress, will die in the electric chair on Feb. 24. Harding was convicted of a charge of first degree murder in Common Pleas Court several weeks ago. He shot Patrolman William Kress on July 31, 1921, when Kress approached the man on Southard-av, near Spielbusch-av.

L. M. Murphy, attorney for Harding, carried the case to the Court of Appeals on the grounds that Harding was convicted of the murder charge thru passion and prejudice of the jurors and not by the testimony and evidence in the case. The higher court ruled that Harding had been given a fair trial and held that there were no errors in the proceedings in the lower court.

The case was heard before Common Pleas Judge Bernard Brough, now mayor. Harding was sentenced by Judge Brough to die in the electric chair on Feb. 24. The jury brought in a verdict of guilty of first degree murder with no recommendation for mercy.

Harding still may appeal to the State Supreme Court.

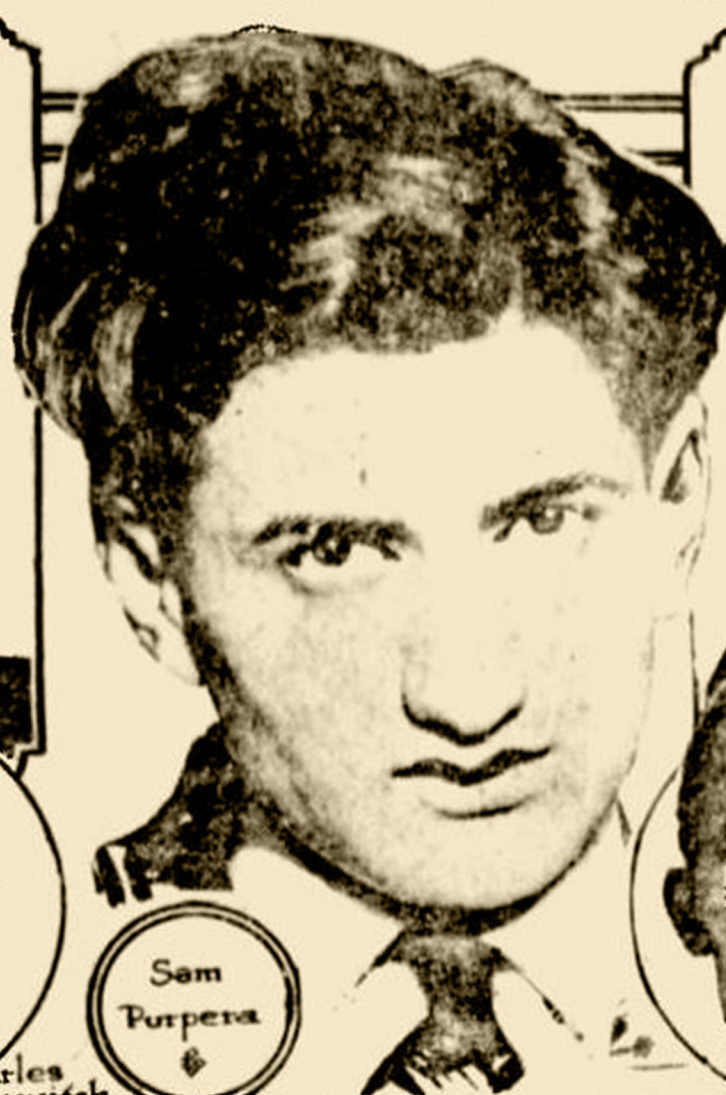
# "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH"—14 WILL PAY



Steve Mayeskey



Domimo Benigno



Sam Purpera



Roy Shamblin



George Bush



Arthur Harding



Charles Markovitch



Leroy Tyler



John Burke



Walter Wright James Conwell Harry L. Bland John Vanden Edward Moffat

**F**OURTEEN murderers await the call to death in the electric chair at Ohio Penitentiary. The first will die on Feb. 24 and the last on May 5.

**Y**OUTH, look at the pictures above. A lesson there for you

And for you, too, Middle Age. A lesson for all men, regardless of the number of milestones they have passed in life.

Crime tempts. Crime, in the distance, seems alluring.

And here is crime's reward: Death! But death is not the end, even on earth

When children of this and other generations encounter the graves of these men their eyes will go big with horror. Their voices will be softened to whispers as they point to a little mound and say: "He killed a man."

**T**HE other day we celebrated the birthday anniversary of a great man—Lincoln.

Lincoln long has been dead, yet he lives. He lives in the aspirations and the inspirations of men. The recorded pages of his life lift us to higher ideals. They teach us that there is a clear road to exalted places. A road that is paved with honor, open alike to rich and poor.

And so we live on after death, the influences of our memories still shaping the destinies of men.

**T**HERE is but one end to the road these murderers chose. Disgrace. No inspiration from the lives of them.

The highway of crime is strewn with the blasted hopes of men who have traveled it.

**T**HESE men who are to die knew there was a law against robbery and against murder.

They thought they could escape arrest. Or they thought that if they were caught, the law would not be enforced.

The greatest mistake that criminals make is in thinking that they can outwit the law.

The penitentiaries are filled with men who thought that.

**S**OMETIMES it seems that the law is full of loopholes, that it can be violated safely if the criminal is smart. There are so many ways to escape the police, and if a man is caught there are so many ways to escape conviction.

But the criminal who escapes is the criminal who is caught the next time. Because one success almost inevitably results in another try.

Some end their days in poverty and disrepute. Some end behind

the bars. Some sit finally in the electric chair, like these 14.

**T**HEY knew the law was to protect those they attacked, and others who might be attacked. But its force was not apparent. The law seemed merely words in a printed book. Now they find the law is a force so strong that they are as powerless to resist it as ants to resist the raised heel.

They chose the path at the end of which is death.

**S**OMETIMES a man kills another under what he defends as provocation. But there are no such extenuating circumstances in the cases of these 14.

They killed deliberately. And some did not want to be opposed. They shot their victims down savagely; in cold blood.

Too late now for them to cry to the state: "Have mercy!"

**S**AMUEL PURPERA and Dominic Benigno are two from Cleveland who joined in the same crime. Purpera is condemned to

die March 12; Benigno, April 27.

The story of their case is familiar. They were in a gang of payroll robbers that murdered Wilfred C. Sly and George K. Fanner. Their blood-streaked loot was \$4200. They gave no mercy.

John Burke of Toledo was one of a gang that killed New York Central Detectives Louis Schroeder and A. E. Long in a holdup on Jan. 17, 1921.

Arthur Harding, also of Toledo, killed Patrolman Kress.

Walter Wright of Steubenville killed a man for an auto. Roy Shamblin of Portsmouth killed a man and a woman.

**S**OME killed for one thing, some for another. But most of them killed for money.

Now, if any one of them had all the money in the world, no gladly would give the last penny of it for the life that now belongs to the state.

"That damned chair!" cries one of the men in murderers' row. "We all must die some time, but to die in that damned chair—that damned chair!"

## 14 TO DIE

- FEB. 24: Arthur Harding, Toledo, Lucas-co.
- FEB. 24: Roy Shamblin, Portsmouth, Scioto-co.
- MARCH 1: Walter Wright, Steubenville, Jefferson-co.
- MARCH 1: Harry Le Bland, Pomeroy, Meigs-co.
- MARCH 3: Leroy Tyler, Youngstown, Mahoning-co.
- MARCH 3: John Burke, alias McGuire, Toledo, Lucas-co.
- MARCH 12: Samuel Purpera, Cleveland, Cuyahoga-co.
- MARCH 24: Edward Moffat, Akron, Summit-co.
- APRIL 7: George Bush, Youngstown, Mahoning-co.
- APRIL 14: Steve Mayeskey, Youngstown, Mahoning-co.
- APRIL 20: James Conwell, Columbus, Franklin-co.
- APRIL 21: Charles Markovitch, Youngstown, Mahoning-co.
- APRIL 27: Dominic Benigno, Cleveland, Cuyahoga-co.
- MAY 5: John Vanden, Columbus, Franklin-co.

**M**ONEY gained by dishonesty never brought happiness to any man.

No man whose business is law-breaking is happy.

If you were to ask the veteran criminal what his experience has taught him, he would reply, if he told the truth for once:

"Crime does not pay."

**T**ICK, tick! The minute hands of the clock are tolling off the lives of the doomed 14.

"Tick, tick. Nearer, nearer comes the hour of death."

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# Alleged Police Slayer Dies in Electric Chair

Colombus, Ohio—Arthur Harding, Toledo negro, was put to death in the electric chair at Ohio penitentiary shortly after midnight for the murder of William H. Kress, Toledo policeman.

Harding protested his innocence to the last and died praying.

Roy Chamblin, Portsmouth, convicted of the murder of John Newman and Louis Doyle, and who was to have been electrocuted with Harding, was granted a 30-day reprieve by Gov. Davis.

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# HARDING PAYS

## Slayer Of Patrolman Kress Put To Death

*Special to The News-Bee*

COLUMBUS, Feb. 24. "Oh, God, I know I did wrong, but You have forgiven me. Have mercy on my——"

Arthur Harding, colored, who killed Policeman William H. Kress in Toledo on Aug. 1, died in the electric chair on Friday morning with a partially completed prayer on his lips.

### REMOVED TO DEATH CELL.

Harding was transferred from "death row," where he was one of 14 men awaiting execution, to the death cell, directly above the electric chair, late Thursday afternoon.

Major Collins, of the Volunteers of America, and the Rev. P. O. Reed, Protestant chaplain of the prison, and a prison guard were with him.

"I want to sing," were the first words Harding uttered in the death cell. He began singing old-fashioned camp meeting hymns and kept it up for nearly an hour. When he began to tire, he said to Major Collins: "Bring me the old Bible and read to me"

### TELLS OF MURDER.

Harding freely discussed the killing of Policeman Kress.

"I was drunk," he said. "I am a victim of the curse of drink. If I fired the shot that killed Kress I don't know it. But I do know that I did wrong and that I deserve punishment."

When a guard from the execution room said "All is ready," Harding arose briskly and said: "I am ready to meet my God."

Harding lost his last chance for life Thursday when the Supreme Court refused to review his case.

Governor Davis late Thursday granted a reprieve of 30 days to Roy Chamblin, Portsmouth, who had been scheduled to follow Harding to the electric chair.