
Story of the Tragedy

by Fred D. Warren

Unsigned article in *Appeal to Reason* [Girard, KS], whole no. 886 (Nov. 23, 1912), pg. 1.
Attributed to editor Fred Warren.

Compiled from Newspaper Reports.

Girard, Kan., Nov. 11 [1912].— “The struggle under the competitive system is not worth the effort; let it pass.”

This note was found today tucked inside a book on Socialism belonging to Julius A. Wayland, owner of the *Appeal to Reason*, who committed suicide in his home.

Wayland ended his life by discharging an automatic revolver in his mouth. He had retired to his room when the shot was heard and he died two hours later.

Mr. Wayland had attended a moving picture show early in the evening after which he chatted pleasantly with several friends at the entrance to the theater before starting home. He appeared to be in good spirits.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Whittaker, who lived in the Wayland home north of town, heard him enter the house and retire to his room on the second floor. A few minutes later they heard a shot. Both Mr. and Mrs. Whittaker rushed to his room and found Mr. Wayland lying on the bed, partly disrobed, the weapon by his side. Drs. V.T. Bonn [?] and L.E. Stroke were called at once, but the wounded man did not regain consciousness and died at 12:15 am [Nov. 11, 1912].

He and Fred D. Warren and C.L. Phifer were

to appear in federal court in Fort Scott today, to be tried on the charge of violating postal laws by circulating obscene and defamatory material in the *Appeal to Reason* concerning some officials of the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth.

About 40 witnesses from this city had been subpoenaed to appear in court today, and there were rumors that other indictments were expected, which may have led to the tragedy.

Wayland, at the last term of court testified he had no connection with the management of the paper. Government officials claim they were prepared at this term to prove Wayland's responsibility as publisher and that an indictment may have been asked on a charge of perjury.

One year ago Mrs. Wayland was killed in an automobile accident, and Wayland is said to have been downcast and melancholy at times since then.

Mr. Wayland was 58 years old and is survived by 5 children — 2 boys and 3 girls. Walter Wayland, of Girard, cashier of the *Appeal to Reason* Publishing Company; Jon Wayland, a student at Emporia normal; Edith Wayland, also a student at the Emporia normal; Julia Wayland, attending school at Monroe City, Mo., and Mrs. Ollie Soudry, of Independence, Mo. Walter Wayland was the only member of the family in Girard.

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