

TWO MEN SHOT IN A MYSTERIOUS AFFRAY NEAR RABIDEAU CHURCH

One man was instantly killed and one seriously wounded in a shooting affray which occurred in front of the Rabideau church, at Berringer Corners in Whiteford township, at about 1 o'clock this morning.

Walter Gilday, of Erie, an ex-deputy sheriff, was instantly killed and Maurice Drouillard, proprietor of the Erie Hotel at Erie, is said to be dying in St. Vincent's hospital at Toledo. Gilday was shot through the chest and spine and died instantly. After the shooting Gilday was taken to the residence of Rev. Father O'Donnell at Whiteford Center and Doctor Parmlee of Lambertville called. Drouillard, who was shot through the spine, was rushed to St. Vincent's hospital at Toledo in an ambulance and a report from the hospital at noon today says that his chances for recovery are slim.

A Rev. Mr. King, who styles himself an ex-priest, had been holding revival meetings in the Rabideau church for the past week and, it is said, in his sermons has been attacking the different churches, especially the Catholic church. It is claimed that trouble has been brewing ever since the arrival of Rev. King. Deputy Sheriff Whitman of Petersburg has been stationed at the church for the past few days on account of the trouble.

It is said that three automobile loads of young men from Erie and surrounding territory drove to Whiteford last evening to attend the meeting out of curiosity. After the meeting, which concluded about 1 o'clock this morning, Gilday, Drouillard and Byron Gilday, a brother of the slain man, were seated in an automobile, which was parked in front of the church, and it is declared that as the crowd came out of the edifice, a volley of shots was fired, several taking effect in the body of Gilday and Drouillard. The three men were all seated in the front seat of the machine, but Byron Gilday was not injured.

Sheriff Pupard and Coroner Huber went to the scene of the shooting this morning. The above statement of the shooting was given by Alfred Gilday, a brother of the man killed.

No arrests have been made so far as it is hard to learn who did the shooting as there were so many shots fired. It is said that shotguns were used. A number of special deputies were on duty about the church Sunday.

Walter Gilday was thirty years of age, a single man, and lived with his mother at Erie. The body of Gilday was brought to his home this morning and the funeral will be held at St. Joseph's church at Erie Wednesday morning. He leaves a mother, four brothers, William, Alfred and Byron of Erie and Grover, of Sylvania, Ohio; three sisters, Jane and Alice Gilday of Erie and Mrs. B. Weipert, of Ida.

Maurice Drouillard is about 40 years of age and has a wife and several children.

A party was arrested Sunday at Whiteford charged with pulling a gun on Deputy Sheriff Whitman, who was guarding the church. He was brought to the county jail and released on bail.

Another Version of Shooting.

Sheriff Pupard, who returned at noon today from the scene of the shooting, states that there are many reports afloat as to the causes and circumstances of the affray. The sheriff's deputies declare that a band of ten or twelve men entered the church Sunday night about 10 or 11 o'clock, and, while King was preaching, took some offense at his remarks and called him a "liar." The young men were then evicted from the church by deputy sheriffs, who also remained on guard outside of the church most of the night.

It is claimed the young men remained near the church until 1 or 2 o'clock this morning, when it is charged one of the auto parties drove towards the front door of the church, just as some of the deputies were trying to spirit Rev. King out of the rear door.

It is asserted that one of the deputies, when he ordered the autoists to halt, was fired upon by one of the men in the auto. The deputies returned the fire and there was a general fusillade, during which Gilday was killed and a companion badly wounded.

During all this time and throughout the pitched battle, the members of the congregation remained in the church, fearing to go to their homes.

Prosecuting Attorney Haas will have a grand jury investigation of the shooting. He will advise King, who is editor of the Converted Catholic Evangelist and who resides on Palmetto street in Toledo, to stop holding further meetings at the church, as reports from Toledo to the prosecuting attorney today were that gangsters from Toledo were coming to "get" King if he continued the meetings. The prosecuting attorney believes this method will prevent further rioting and possible bloodshed.

In a statement made to Toledo newspapers Monday, Rev. King tells of earlier trouble at the church and claims that he had been spirited away and was not present when the shooting took place.