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## GEORGE W. BROWN

December 17, 1904

At about 7:20 P.M., on a dark, winter evening, mounted Officer George W. Brown, patrolling in the area of 26th Street and Broadway, decided to stop and interview a bicyclist. The bicyclist seemed to be loitering, leaning his bike against a telephone pole in front of a house with a yard, trees and luxuriant foliage. Officer Brown dismounted and led his horse near to where the individual was standing. He called the bicyclist to come to him.

Without warning, from the shadowy foliage behind the bicyclist "a hand was thrust out of the darkness and three shots rang out as one." Brown staggered back exclaiming, "MURDER! MURDER! I AM SHOT!"

Two of the shots struck Patrolman Brown in the chest. One round severed his pulmonary artery. After being shot, Brown staggered back and fell into the gutter. The cyclist ran to his aid, as did an off-duty fireman. Together, they carried the mortally wounded officer across the street to Providence Hospital.

The murderer fled along 26th Street towards Telegraph. An off-duty police officer who lived nearby heard the shots and Brown's cry. He called in the alarm. "All avenues of egress from Oakland . . . were closely guarded," and the Department quickly spread word of the shooting to all neighboring jurisdictions.

The investigators learned that shortly before the attack on Patrolman Brown, a "footpad" (robber) had robbed a young man at gunpoint in the neighborhood. They theorized that the robber, hiding in the shadows cast by the trees and buildings, mistakenly thought Patrolman Brown was beckoning to him, and intended to arrest him for the robbery. Fear of arrest led him to shoot Patrolman Brown. The murderer managed to escape from Oakland, but was apprehended several years later in Stockton.

Unable to give an account on the attack, Patrolman George W. Brown expired minutes after reaching the hospital.