

DUFFY, JOHN FREDERICK

Birth

November 29, 1870 in Cumming, Iowa

Death

March 24, 1926 at Broadlawns
General Hospital, Des Moines,
Polk Co., Iowa



Standard Certificate of Death
077-7142
Registered No 8228

John Duffy

Residence: Martensdale, Iowa

Length of residence in city where death occurred: 50yr

Date of Birth; November 29, 1869

Place of Birth: Cumming, Iowa

Date of Death: March 24, 1926

Cause of Death: Gunshot wound; severed spinal cord at the 6 & 7 cervical vertebrae

Age: 56yr 3mo 25da

Occupation: Farmer

Father: Patrick Duffy, born in Ireland

Mother unknown, born in Ireland

Informant: Mrs. M. Graham, Fort Des Moines, Iowa

This certificate shows that his wife was Alice Duffy

Place of burial: Orilla Cemetery

Undertaker: William O'Donaghue

Cause of Death

Shot, severed spinal cord; Murdered
with gun

Ref: Old Burial Permit

Cemetery Lot

Buried on Lot 77

Lot was purchased by George Majors on June 16, 1880

Father

Patrick Duffy

Mother

Mary J. Major

Marriage

J. F. Duffy to Alice May Gill on November 26, 1907

Return of Marriages for the County of Polk for the year ending June 30, 1908

J. F. Duffy

Age: 39

Residence: Booneville, Iowa

Occupation: Farmer

1st marriage

Father: Patrick Duffy

Mother: Mary J. Major

Married

November 26, 1907

Alice M. Gill

Age 28

Residence: Booneville, Iowa

Place of birth: Booneville, Iowa

2nd marriage

Father: R. J. Caldwell

Mother: Alice M. Smith

Witnesses: Martin McNamass ?& F. A. Cope

Married by a J. P. – F. A. Cope

She was Alice Almira Caldwell Gill

Census

1880 – Lee Twp., Madison Co., IA; ED 109; Page 39A; August 9, 1880

Dwelling 115; Family 116

Duffy, Mary	36	IN	IRE	IRE
Emma	16	IA	IRE	IRE
Fannie	12	IA	IRE	IRE
John	10	IA	IRE	IRE
Maggie	09	IA	IRE	IRE
Sarah	06	IA	IRE	IRE

1885 – Lee Twp., Madison Co., IA; Page 216

Dwelling 40; Family 46

Duffy, Mary J.	42	IN
Frances	17	Madison Co., IA
John	15	Madison Co., IA
Margaret	13	Madison Co., IA
Sarah	11	Madison Co., IA
Michael	27	Madison Co., IA
James	25	Madison Co., IA

1895 – Linn Twp. Warren Co., IA; Page 30

Duffy, Mary J.	52	IN
John	25	Madison Co., IA
Sarah	21	Madison Co., IA
Alfred	08	Madison Co., IA

1900 – Lee Twp., Madison Co., IA; ED27; Page 4; June 11, 1900

Dwelling 65; Family 65

Duffy, Mary J.	57	Wd - 5 children; 5 living	IN	IRE	IRE
		Born December 1842			
John F.	30	Farm labor	IA	IRE	IRE
		Born November 1869			
Alfred	05	grandson	IA	IA	IA
		Born May 1886			

1905 – Madison Co., Iowa; State census

Duffy, John	35	single	IA
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1910 – Lee Twp., Madison Co., Iowa; ED29; Page 1B; April 16, 1910

Dwelling 12; Family 12

Duffy, John F.	45	1st marriage	IA	Ireland
		Married 3yr; Farm labor		
Mina A.	30	2 nd marriage	IA	NY NY
		3 children; 3 living		
Geneva M.	07		IA	KS IA
Willis H.	06		IA	KS IA
Mary J.	01 2/12		IA	IA IA

1915 – Booneville, Lee Twp., Madison Co., Iowa; Card #343; John Duffy; Age 49

1920 – Des Moines Ward 1, Polk Co., Iowa; ED83; Page 12B; January 10, 1920

2121 Olive St

Dwelling 237; Family 302

Duffy, John	49	Steam Railroad laborer	IA	Ireland
Mina	39		IA	NY NY
Mary	11		IA	IA IA
James	09		IA	IA IA
Rosa	08		IA	IA IA

Gill, Geneva	17	stepdaughter	IA	IL	IA
Gill, Wells	15	stepson	IA	IL	IA

1925 –

The following was taken from Ancestry

He was killed by his nephew, Harry Graham (son of Henry Graham and Mary Frances Duffy) in Des Moines, Iowa. Shot in the neck and died a few days later. He was shot in the 1500 block of Bluff St. (now 2nd avenue).

Obituary

[The Des Moines Tribune, Wednesday, March 24, 1926, Page 1]

Murder Charge Will Be Filed Harry Graham Suspected in Nephew's Death

The death of John Duffy, 50 years old, Martensdale, Iowa, fatally wounded in a quarrel over a woman a week ago, will result in the filing of murder charges against Harry Graham, 31 years old, Duffy's nephew, today, according to Inspector Carl Vonn of the detective bureau.

Duffy died at 3 o'clock this morning at Broadlawns GeneralHospital. He had been wounded in the neck, supposedly by a .22 caliber rifle bullet a week ago.

Duffy was found near Graham's flat, 1507 Bluff street.

A woman, who gave her name as Marie Auston, 515 East Locust Street, is being held at police headquarters this morning for investigation. Inspector Vonn refused to comment on her arrest.

She was brought to police headquarters by Detectives Delmege and Alber, who were assigned to the murder investigation this morning.

She gave her residence as a room over a theater at 515 East Locust Street.

Police today told of an argument in which Duffy, a woman and another man, believed to be Graham, were involved in an argument at this address the afternoon before Duffy was fatally wounded.

Duffy told officers that the woman was leaving him and that he had been struck by the other man.

They were allowed their liberty when the difficulty was settled.

At 5:10 o'clock the evening of March 17, residents near 1500 Bluff street heard a shot and saw a man drop on the sidewalk.

His supposed assailant bent over him, cursed several times and then fled. The assailant was dressed in coveralls, according to witnesses.

Duffy was taken to Broadlawns GeneralHospital but he refused to name his assailant or to give any evidence to detectives in connection with the shooting.

He declared that he did not wish to prosecute. He remained silent on the matter until his death this morning.

Detectives have been attempting to locate Graham for some time, it was learned today. He has succeeded in remaining at liberty and is believed to have left the city. He is a peddler.

Police assume that he quarreled with Duffy over the woman and that Duffy followed him to the Bluff street flat where the quarrel was renewed after the previous argument in the woman's room on East Locust Street.

Police were silent on the matter and refused to disclose any details of the investigation this forenoon.

[The Des Moines Register, Thursday, March 25, 1926, Page 22]

Graham Faces Murder Charge as Duffy Dies He Flees; Hint of Love Tangle in Shooting

After police filed charges of murder against Harry Graham, 31 years old, late yesterday as the result of the death earlier in the day of John Duffy at the Broadlawns General Hospital, a search for the man throughout the middle west was undertaken last night.

Duffy, who was 50 years old, died from the effects of a gunshot wound received a week ago. Police found the man lying in an unconscious condition on the sidewalk near Bluff and Clark Streets. Neighbors said they heard a shot and saw a man hurriedly leaving the man lying upon the ground.

Marie Austen, 515 East Locust Street, who police said was a witness to the shooting, was held in the city jail last night. She was questioned at length by detectives.

Detectives believe the shooting followed a quarrel over a woman. After the affair Duffy, who said Graham was his nephew, refused to tell police the circumstances and would not acknowledge he was the one that fired the shot.

A thorough search of the city yesterday failed to find Graham. Police believe he has left the city. Detectives Delmege and Alber are handling the case.

[The Des Moines Tribune, Thursday, March 25, 1926, Page 1]

Detectives at Forest City to Return Graham Alleged Slayer of John Duffy Arrested Last Night

Harry Graham, 31 years old, charged with the murder of his uncle, John Duffy of Martensdale, Iowa, was arrested last night at Forest City, Iowa, according to word received here today.

Inspector Carl Vonn and Detectives Delmege and Alber have gone to Forest City to return Graham to Des Moines for trial.

Details of his arrest were not known here today. Duffy, who was 50 years old, was found wounded on a sidewalk near Bluff and Clark streets March 17. A rifle bullet had entered his neck.

Marie Austen, living over 515 East Locust street, who was arrested for questioning yesterday, after Duffy's death at Broadlawns General hospital, is still being held in the city jail.

Detectives refuse to state whether or not she has made any comment on the shooting.

Information already in the hands of detectives leads them to believe that Duffy and Graham quarreled over a woman and that an argument occurred the afternoon of the shooting in the room over 515 East Locust Street.

Although Duffy refused to make any comment concerning the possible identity of his assailant, a warrant for murder was sworn out against Graham a few hours after Duffy's death yesterday morning.

[The Des Moines Tribune, Friday, March 26, 1926]

Girl, Quizzed, Denies Affair with H. Graham
Police Want to Know Intensity of Fruit Peddler's Love Affair.

While Harry Graham, 30 years old, is awaiting arraignment for the alleged murder of his uncle, John Duffy, and Marie Austin, the henna-haired woman in the case, is being held in jail, detectives are attempting today to determine the degree of intensity of a fruit peddler's live affair.

The establishing of a motive to connect Graham with the fatal wounding of Duffy depends upon the proper measurement of the fervor in the fruit vendor's amours.

Graham, who is a huxter, was arrested at Forest City, Iowa, Wednesday night and was brought to a cell here by Inspector Carl Vonn and Detectives Delmege and Alber last night.

Marie Austin, over whom Duffy and Graham are believed to have quarreled, was arrested Wednesday morning after John Duffy died at Broadlawns General Hospital from a bullet wound in the neck. Duffy came to Des Moines from Martensdale, Iowa a few days before the shooting March 17, at 1507 Bluff Street.

Marie, who, according to police is a woman well acquainted with the ways of the world, may also face charges as the result of her reluctance to discuss her love affairs and their results. Inspector Vonn said today he is considering charging the woman with being an accessory after the fact.

A third arrest today was that of Arthur Latham, 1116 Fourth Street, who may be a material witness in the case.

Alber and Delmege, assisted by Detectives Rosecrans and Gager, spent the forenoon in questioning noncommittal witnesses and principals in connection with the murder.

The woman declares that she did not know Duffy and intimates that her acquaintance with Graham was slight.

Graham obstinately refused to make any statements at all concerning his relations with Marie Austin.

He also denies that he fired the shot, which stretched Duffy on the sidewalk in front of Graham's former home.

The prisoner was taken to the 1500 block on Bluff Street this forenoon in order that witnesses might have an opportunity to identify him.

Another link in the city's chain of evidence against Graham is the story of police who were called to Marie's apartment, over 515 East Locust Street several hours before the shooting took place on Bluff Street.

They said that Duffy was present and that he complained that the woman was leaving him for his nephew.

The supposition held by detectives is that Duffy followed Graham and Marie Austin to 1507 Bluff Street where they believe he quarreled with his nephew. The shooting is thought to have been the climax of this quarrel.

Graham will probably be arraigned in municipal court some time during the next two days.

When taken to the hospital after the shooting Duffy refused to give detectives any information that might lead to the discovery of his assailant.

Witnesses near the scene of the shooting said that a man dressed in coveralls fired a rifle at Duffy and bent over him as he lay on the sidewalk.

Duffy's condition grew more serious steadily. He died at 2 o'clock Thursday morning at Broadlawns GeneralHospital.

Marie Austin is being held by local police for questioning in the John Duffy murder. Police allege that she is the woman over whom Duffy and another man quarreled previous to the shooting which proved fatal to Duffy. Harry Graham questioned as the killer of Duffy denies all knowledge of the case after several hours of questioning by detectives.

[There is a picture of Marie Austen with this article.]

[The Des Moines Register, Friday March 26, 1926, Page 5]

Harry Graham, in Cell, Denies Slaying Duffy Brought Here After Arrest at ForestCity

Harry Graham, whom the police accuse of shooting and fatally injuring his uncle, John Duffy of Martensdale, in a quarrel over a woman March 17, was put in the city jail last night after a three day search by detectives.

Graham is 31 years old and lives at 1507 Bluff Street. He was arrested late yesterday afternoon by deputy sheriffs at ForestCity who had been notified by local authorities to watch for him.

Admitting his identity, Graham denied any connection with his uncle's murder. He was not questioned at length by detectives last night but will be examined early this morning before arraignment on a murder charge.

Inspector Carl Vonn and detectives Delmege and Alber, who brought the suspect back from ForestCity last night, declared that they felt sure Graham could at least solve the Duffy murder for them.

Information already obtained on the murder leads the detectives to believe that Duffy and Graham quarreled over Marie Austen in her room at 515 East Locust Street and that the shooting occurred in her room.

Duffy was found with a bullet in his neck on the sidewalk near Bluff and Clark Streets late in the evening on March 17. He was taken to Broadlawns GeneralHospital where he died Wednesday forenoon.

A warrant for the arrest of Graham was immediately sworn out and Miss Austen, the woman over whom the men are alleged to have quarreled, is being held in the city jail for questioning.

Although detectives refuse to comment on Miss Austen's assertions since her arrest, it is believed at the jail that she has substantiated the detectives' theory of the crime.

Graham will probably be arraigned sometime today on a charge of first degree murder.

[The Des Moines Tribune, Saturday, March 27, 1926, Page 13]

Harry Graham is identified
Women Witnesses Say He Was Seen Running From Scene of Shooting

Women witnesses today identified Harry Graham as the man who ran from the scene of the fatal wounding of his uncle, John Duffy of Martensdale, Iowa.

Graham is held at the city jail on charges of murder resulting from the death of Duffy a week after the shooting.

Police withheld the names of the two women witnesses, who identified Graham, but it is said that they live near 1507 Bluff Street, Graham's former residence and the scene of the shooting March 17.

Marie Austin, residence over 515 East Locust Street, the woman over whom Duffy is thought to have quarreled with his nephew, is still at police headquarters. She continues to deny that any love affairs existed with either Duffy or Graham.

Police are considering charges against the woman for alleged interference with the murder investigation.

Graham is also silent.

Hopes of admissions from Marie Austin and from Graham are held by police today. They are being questioned continuously by detectives.

[The Des Moines Register, Saturday, March 27, 1926, Page 9]

Graham Keeps Silence On Duffy Killing
Marie Austin Denies Any "Love Affair."

Harry Graham, suspected by police of murdering his uncle, John Duffy of Martensdale, in a quarrel over a woman at 1507 Bluff Street, held his tongue yesterday as a squad of detectives attempted to pry from him some clue to the murder.

At the same time Marie Austin, "the worldly wise woman" over whom Graham is alleged to have quarreled with his uncle, refused to answer any questions save one concerning her love affair with the 30 year old fruit vender charged with murder.

"There was no love affair with either of them.," she told Inspector Carl Vonn of the detective department, and became silent again as they pressed for further information. As a result, she will be charged with being an accessory after the fact a crime that may carry life imprisonment.

Graham, scheduled to be arraigned yesterday, was kept in his cell at the city jail throughout the day while detectives questioned him. Both he and Mrs. Austin will probably be arraigned today.

Without further clues from the two suspects, detectives hold to their original theory of the murder and yesterday arrested Arthur Latham, 1116 Fourth Street, who may be used as a material witness in the case. He will be questioned by detectives this morning.

Hope of convicting Graham for the Duffy murder, in view of the silence of the two suspects, has turned to the testimony that will be given by police, it was learned last night. Shortly before the shooting an emergency crew was called to Mrs. Austin's room at 515 East Locust Street, where Duffy complained to them that his nephew was "stealing his girl."

The police theory is that the nephew, Graham, was successful to his "theft," that he took her to his home, 1507 Bluff Street, and that Duffy followed them, starting a quarrel that ended in the fatal shooting.

Graham, under guard of Detectives Alber, Delmege, Rosencranz and Gagen was taken to the 1500 block on Bluff Street early yesterday to be identified by witnesses to the shooting.

A number of neighbors told of seeing the aged Martensdale farmer lying on the sidewalk with a bullet in his neck, but no one saw the actual shooting, detectives said last night.

[The Des Moines Tribune, Monday, March 29, 1926]

Man, Girl Deny Murder Charge
Marie Austin and Graham Waive to Grand Jury.

Marie Austin, 31 years old, and Harry Graham, 30 years old, were taken before municipal court this morning for arraignment on charges of murder placed against them in connection with the death of Graham's uncle, John Duffy, 50 years old, Martensdale, Iowa.

They pleaded not guilty and waived to the Grand jury.

Marie Austin, according to detectives, is held on the ground that she is an accessory after the fact, her offense consisting of aiding in the flight of Graham and concealing his alleged crime.

The woman has been kept in the city jail since late last week. Graham was arrested and brought back from Forest City, Iowa. Both have been persistent in their denials of the accusations of detectives.

Graham is alleged to have shot Duffy in the neck with a revolver as the result of a quarrel over Marie Austin. Duffy died a week later at Broadlawns General Hospital.

Graham then left the city.

The couple are held without bond in the city jail to await the action of the grand jury.

"We feel that Marie Austin's connection with the case as an accessory after the fact necessitates taking her before the grand jury," Inspector Carl Vonn said.