Frank McAdams

Clan William

McAdams Murder of 1913

by Lori Hahn

Jealousy can be a big problem in personal relationships. In the case of Jacob Frank McAdams, his jealousy drove him to the ultimate horror: murder!

Frank was one of two sons and one of six children of John Lafayette McAdams and Josephine Amanda Newburn. He was born 17 Dec 1879 in Illinois. The family settled in the Cuba area of Fulton County, Illinois. He married in about 1898 to Fannie Manion, daughter of Martin and Louisa Manion. Fannie was born 08 Feb 1880 in Illinois.

They quickly had four children: Vera M, Ray Scott, John Martin, and the baby, Mary Ruth, who was born in 1909. In 1900, Frank was coal mining (Fulton County was rife with mines). In 1910, he was a contract carpenter. The couple separated some time prior to 1913.

The best way to tell the story of what happened the fateful night when the entire family's life changed is to just set it up. Picture it: Cuba, Illinois, is having a Thanksgiving's Eve festival on 27 Nov 1913. Everyone is there at the Opera House, making merry. There is a dance going on. Fannie is sitting at the dance watching the dancers. Her baby Mary Ruth is sitting on her lap.

Her angry husband comes roaring in, races up to her and shoots her three times, killing her instantly. Her baby was uninjured. A crowd of men surrounded him, but he and his gun forced them all out of the building, holding everyone at bay all night long.

At 5 a.m. the following morning, McAdams shouted down that he was injured and would not live. The coroner went in but met with a revolver pointing at his face. McAdams pulled the trigger, but it didn't fire.

At 10:30 a.m., a group went to the back door and fired several rounds inside, with no reaction. Finally, a single shot was heard. The group entered the building to find McAdams dead.

He left several notes, one of which professed his love for his wife and another begged his mother's forgiveness for what he'd done.

It was noted by the local paper, when both were put to rest on the same day, that for Frank's funeral, the sun did not shine and thunder rolled and rain fell. Fannie's service was under sunny, blue skies.

William Munson > Samuel II Munson > Calvin Munson > Susannah Munson > Josephine Amanda Newburn > **Jacob Frank "Frank" McAdams** m Fannie Manion

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