

FRANK'S BODY HERE; BURIAL HOUR SECRET

Painted Pine Coffin, with Flowers from Friends, Brought Home by Widow.

CROWDS BESIEGE HOUSE

But Coffin Is Rushed in Late at Night—Mother Forgives Slay-ers as Son Had Done.

The body of Leo M. Frank, accompanied by his widow, arrived at the Pennsylvania station at 6:20 A. M., yesterday. A small group of relatives, including the dead man's father, Rudolph Frank; his sister, Mrs. Otto Stern, and her husband, were at the station to receive it.

Because of disfigurements on the face made by the heel of a man in the mob that gathered about the body after it was discovered hanging and cut down, it was not taken at once to the Frank home, 152 Underhill Avenue, Brooklyn, but to an undertaker's establishment near by to be prepared for burial. The mother did not see the body until late in the evening.

It was 11:14 o'clock when Frank's body, in a new black coffin with purple draping, was carried into the home of his parents. Until then it had lain in the shop of James Strauss at 503 Atlantic Avenue, with Detective Sergeant Barry and Detective McClum on guard to keep the curious from attempting to view it.

Around the Frank home an expectant throng had waited all the evening though Detective States made their remain at the corner of Park Place or of Sterling Place, each about half a block from the Frank home, but as the time passed this crowd began to thin out until, shortly before 11 o'clock, only a few men and women still loitered about the corners. It was decided then to have the body brought to the house and States, hoping the small throng remaining would take his departure as evidence that the body was not to be brought to the Frank home last night, went to the home of the undertaker at 327 Park Place.

The body was put in an automobile hearse, and with Barry and McClum accompanying it, the cortege left the undertaker's at 11:06 o'clock, stopped at Mr. Strauss' home where States and the undertaker joined the party and then sped to the Frank home. The three detectives pushed back the few curious one who still waited there, and the coffin was hurried into the house.

The mother would not talk of the hanging. It was something of the past, but she said she could never forget the "relentless persecution" of her son "that did not end even after he was actually taken out and slain."

In a letter written by Frank to his aunt two days before the lynching and received by her one day after his death there is every evidence that Frank expected complete vindication. Referring to the devotion of his wife, Lucille, and his recovery from the wound inflicted by a fanatical prisoner at Milledgeville, Frank said he had been "snatched from the portals of the Great Beyond for the enjoyment here of that honor which is justly mine."

Last Letter to His Aunt.

The text of this letter follows:

Milledgeville Prison, Aug. 14, 1915.

Dear Aunt Sarah: Just a few lines to tell you how glad I was to receive your welcome letter of Aug. 6, 1915, and how much I appreciate the box of lovely fruit which you directed Herbert Schiff to send me.

Thank God, I am improving right along in health and strength. The wound has nearly healed up, though my neck will still be bandaged for another week or so. I am daily gaining in health and strength, the nurses have now gone, and I am attended by the State's doctors only. My dear Lucille is taking care of the nursing job, and doing remarkably well. To her tender care and ministrations I attribute my rapid gaining in strength, as she gets up and prepares all that I have eaten.

In my battle with death, she has been to me a pillar of strength and encouragement, even as the good Lord has been my buckler and savior. Surely he has snatched me from the portals of the great beyond for the enjoyment here of that honor which is justly mine. I await patiently for the dawn of that brighter day. With much love to you and all dear ones, in which dear Lucille joins me, I am,

Your devoted nephew,
LEO M. FRANK.

P. S.—Greetings to inquiring friends.

"You see," exclaimed the mother yesterday, referring to that letter, "how far his thoughts were from death. And yet today he is brought to me dead."

When the train which brought the body arrived at the Pennsylvania Station there was a rush of baggage men and porters for the door of the express car. Several trunks were tumbled out first, after which four men dragged a pine coffin, painted light green, to a platform truck. Upon the coffin were several boxes of flowers sent by friends in the South who believed in the dead man's innocence.

Facts of His Death.

Tacked to the centre of the coffin was a yellow envelope containing the death certificate, as required by law when a body is transferred from one State to another. The certificate indicated the main facts of Leo Frank's life to be as follows:

Name—Leo Moses Frank. Where born—Germany. Date of birth—July 4, 1885. Occupation—Superintendent of pencil factory. Mother's name—Judith Hirsch. Father's name—R. Frank. Cause of death—Strangulation. Died—At Marietta, Ga. Destination of body—Brooklyn, N. Y.

Just as the body was taken from the train a man pushed his way forward in an effort to get nearer. A guard held him back, only to give him a free road, when the man, who proved to be Rudolph Frank, exclaimed in a choking voice:

"Let me—Let me—Can't you see—I'm that boy's father."

At the other end of the platform Frank's sister, Mrs. Otto Stern, with her husband and another man, received the widow, who alighted from the train heavily veiled. Mrs. Frank had not slept for many hours and was on the verge of

collapse. She was hurried to a waiting automobile. "It's over. It's all over now," she sobbed.

Others who arrived with the body were Frank's brother-in-law, Alexander Marcus; Rabbi David Marx, Chaplain of the Milledgeville Prison, and Harry Alexander, one of Frank's lawyers.

Few to See Departure.

That the party might encounter no demonstration, the station was guarded by a dozen detectives and an extra detail of police under Sergeant Van Twistern of the Central Office. The precautions, however, proved unnecessary, because not more than 200 persons were gathered about the Thirty-first Street exit to see the departure.

At 6:30 A. M. two automobiles occupied by the relatives swept out of the Thirty-first Street runway. The hearse followed, and close behind it Motor Cycle Policeman John H. Howe, who had been detailed to trail the body to its destination.

The hearse did not follow the Frank party, but sped down Fifth Avenue without attracting attention, except for the motor cycle policeman, who was never more than ten feet behind, crossed Manhattan Bridge, and made its way to the Brooklyn Casket Company, 503 Atlantic Avenue, where the body was to be prepared for burial.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank declined to make any statement in reference to funeral arrangements, their object being to avoid attention. From early morning until late at night hundreds of persons stood in the streets near the three-story home of the Franks. The blue shades were drawn, but many visitors passed in to offer condolences, among them County Judge Harry E. Lewis and Rabbi Alexander Lyons of the Eighth Avenue Temple. Many flowers were carried into the house.

The committee of women, Mrs. Belle Newman, Mrs. M. Loeb, Mrs. Max Steinert, Mrs. L. Kaplan, Mrs. Lewis Levy, Mrs. Charles Horwitz, Mrs. E. Fraad, and Mrs. M. Levine, visited every house in the block and in behalf of the Leo Frank Protest League requested the residents to hang out flags at half staff. Few acceded to the request.

Mother Tells of Son's Love.

In response to many requests, Mrs. Frank granted an interview to newspaper men in the afternoon. In her grief, she recalled the days of her son's boyhood and the many ways he had of proving his love for her. He would always think of her, he would write to her, he would confide to her all his joys and his sorrows.

"This is not my son they brought home today," she said. "It is only the temporary house in which his spirit dwelt. And now his spirit is with God. If it were not for my faith in God, the God in whom Leo always believed, what could remain for us? He is our only hope. God is just and He will deal in His own way with those who have done this thing."

"I want you to know that my boy went to his Maker as pure as he was the day he was born. He was absolutely innocent. Leo never told me a lie, and I always believed his word before that of any one else."

"And what a great love he had for us all. Every day he would write to us. I don't remember that he ever missed a day. He sat up in his bed and answered all our letters. And he was just learning to walk again when they killed him."

"Do you forgive those who killed your son?" she was asked.

"Just as Leo did once before, I quote the words of the Nazarene, 'Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.' Some day they will know. But let us pass that over. I want the world to know that a great many Southern people have been very, very kind to us, and I thank them. And I thank all the newspapers that have tried so hard to get justice for my poor boy."

"Somewhere in the Bible it is written that the 'Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb.' I believe that God gave me strength so that I might face this terrible ordeal that was coming to me."

Last Letter to Parents.

The last letter received from Leo Frank by his family was written on the day before his death, and reads as follows:

Milledgeville Prison, Aug. 15, 1915.

Dear Father: I have your and dear mother's welcome letter of Aug. 12. It got here yesterday, but was handed to me today. Address letters here to Lucille, care of Captain J. E. Smith. I think we'll get the letters quicker this way than addressed to me for the time being.

I am sitting up in a rocking chair as I write this. I am very much stronger. At dinner today I sat to table with my dear Lucille. I have been sitting for an hour or so in a chair each day for the past few days. I am now gradually "learning" to walk after the long stay in bed.

The wound has now healed, except in one small place, and that will cease discharging in a day or so. Drs. Compton and McNaughton were pleased with my progress when the wound was dressed this A. M. I can move my head pretty good, considering, and this presages that I will get back to normal in the course of time.

It is hot again here, though I am standing it very well. It is today 92 in my room. My appetite continues good and I sleep well.

Mrs. Hein sent me a nice box of homemade cakes, cookies, fancy crackers, and cigarettes. I enjoyed the cakes very much. Give my regards to all inquiring friends.

With much love to you and all, in which dear Lucille joins me, I am, your devoted son,
LEO.

At the Frank home all information concerning arrangements for the funeral was refused but it was expected that, after a brief funeral service, the body would be buried very early today so as to avoid crowds of curious persons. The burial would be in Mount Carmel Cemetery, Cypress Hills.

FIND WOMAN'S SKELETON.

Body Thought to Have Been Buried About Twenty Years Ago.

The police and Coroner Dunn of Yonkers are investigating the finding of a woman's skeleton by workmen late yesterday afternoon. The officials are of the opinion that the woman was murdered, as the bones were buried only a few inches below the surface.

The men who found the skeleton were employed by Joseph Canepi, a contractor, who is building a new street near Lincoln Park Station of the Putnam Railroad. Coroner Dunn was notified, and had the bones removed to Havey's Morgue. A physician who examined the skeleton gave it as his opinion that the bones were those of a woman about 20 years old whose body was buried about ten years ago. There were no clothing, shoes, or remnants of wearing apparel near where the bones were found.