Fred Jordan May 16, 1871 – March 1930

Marshal Fred Jordan Slain by Youth Officer killed on local Main Street

Gottfred Gottier, aged 17, Footville, confessed slayer of Fred Jordan, 58, Monticello marshal and deputy sheriff, in one of the most cold-blooded and inexplicable murders in the annals of southern Wisconsin police records which occurred on Main Street about 5:20 o'clock Friday morning, waived preliminary examination following his capture.

Young Gottier, who has displayed not the slightest trace of emotion over his ruthless murder of the Monticello marshal, is in the county jail at Monroe awaiting arraignment for the crime. Because a murder by a 17-year-old youth makes the jurisdiction of the crime concurrent between the juvenile court and the criminal statutes, the district attorney has not yet determined which method of several alternatives he will pursue in prosecuting the case.

Funeral Rites Monday

Hundreds of mourning citizens from far and near attended the final rites here Monday afternoon to pay tribute to a courageous officer whose life was wantonly taken while performing his duty. It was easily one of the largest funerals this little village has ever witnessed. Threatening weather, which turned to rain late in the morning and then ceased during the funeral prevented scores of other people from attending the services which were held in the home at 2:30 followed by Masonic rites at Highland cemetery where the remains were interred. Rev. A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the local Reformed church officiated, while the Masonic ritual was conducted by John J. Schneider, Monroe, assisted by T. M. Carver, Albany. All business places were closed during the services.

Myriads of beautiful floral pieces mutely but eloquently testified to the lofty esteem in which Marshal Jordan was regarded by his fellow citizens. The casket was steeped with a veritable mountain of flowers expressing the heartfelt sentiments of hosts of sorrowing admirers. Included in the floral tributes was a beautiful harp, 48 inches high, from the business men of Monticello.

Pallbearers were F. H. Steinman, H. A. Walters, Albert Knobel, P. J. Aultman, W. D. Elmer, and Wilbert J. Dick.

Native of Monticello

Mr. Jordan was a native of Monticello where he was born May 16, 1871, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Jordan. He had resided here his entire lifetime.

On May 2, 1894, Mr. Jordan was united in marriage to Miss Vola Tone, Monticello, at Belleville. For many years he conducted the local billiard parlors, disposing of the business a number of years ago. He had served as village marshal for the past 10 or 12 years and had also acted as special deputy sheriff on five different appointments, his last coming Feb. 4, 1929. He was a member of the local Masonic lodge.

Survivors. besides the widow are two daughters; Mrs. R. W. Nelson, Madison, and Miss Carol Jordan, at home; one son, C. F. Jordan, Monticello; one brother, C. A. Jordan, Monticello; and two grandchildren, Dorothy Ann Jordan, Monticello, and Carol Jean. Nelson. Madison.

Was Courageous Officer

Small in stature, but brimming over with courage, Marshal Jordan was known and respected as a fearless officer who was always anxious to perform his duty. He was afraid of nothing, and no matter what dangers might be lurking ahead, the thought of those whom he was serving came first and his own interests last.

Familiarly known as "Doc," Marshal Jordan was an ideal officer with ability in many ways much above that required of the position which he held. His unflinching courage, his keen insight into puzzling situations, his cool-headedness, and the youthful enthusiasm with which he discharged his duties would easily have qualified him for a position on a large city police force. Standing above these characteristics of the man, however, were his fairness and his faith in human nature. Although stern in the performance of his duty, Marshal Jordan was nevertheless a "square-shooter" and always treated his prisoners with kindness and consideration.

Not only was the Monticello marshal an excellent officer, but he was a worthy citizen whose untimely passing is widely mourned. Truly a village character, "Doc" Jordan was an integral part of village life and his sparkling wit and unusual ability at repartee were the daily source of much fun and laughter.

The tragic manner in which his career was brought to an untimely end came as a cruel and crushing blow to the bereaved family and has caused a veil of sorrow to hang over the entire community. There is, however, comfort and consolation in the fact that he will always be remembered as an efficient and conscientious officer, a worthy and loyal citizen, and a kind and considerate husband and father.