

THE MURDEROUS RAMPAGE OF ALFRED HARRISON

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE EVENTS OF JANUARY 31, 1908

By Bellbrook Gazette

BELLBROOK, PA - It has been one year since the murderous rampage of Alfred Harrison shocked the small community of Bellbrook, Pennsylvania. There are still many unanswered questions.

Alfred Harrison was 72 years old and a longtime resident of Bellbrook. He was a retired metallurgist who had worked at the United States Mint in nearby Philadelphia. He was a tall and well-built man who appeared in good health.

By all accounts, he was a friendly and upstanding member of the community.

His wife, Sarah, had passed away several years ago. Despite this, he remained generally upbeat and enjoyed working in the shop attached to his home. He had regular correspondence with his adult son who lived in California and a daughter who lived in Maine. He looked forward to their visits.

According to a neighbor, Alfred had received an unexpected visitor about two years ago. After the visit, he had told the neighbor that he had been hired to make some "unusual" coins. Alfred was excited because he would be using some new techniques and material. He also mentioned that he was a little concerned about the subject matter.

Alfred spent most of the next year in his workshop. While previously talkative and friendly, he became isolated and seemed to avoid contact with his neighbors.

Occasionally the visitor would return and leave with small boxes.

On January 31, 1908, Alfred's workshop caught fire and spread to his home.

While neighbors attempted to put out the fire, Alfred was seen walking towards town with a large metal rod in his hands.

When he reached the corner market, he began savagely beating the clerk with his metal rod. A young man attempted to hide in the back of the store. After finishing with the clerk, he turned his attention to the young man. Both did not survive their injuries.

Alfred started towards the town square and encountered a lady on the sidewalk. He struck her once in the head. She did not survive.

Upon reaching the square, he came across a man who had seen what took place. The man attempted to disarm Alfred, who appeared "possessed" and attacked the man. He also did not survive.

At this point, a local police officer confronted Alfred. He refused to drop the metal rod and charged the officer who then shot Alfred. It took several shots before Alfred went down. Before he died, witnesses said Alfred began whispering frantically to the officer who had bent down next to him.

Four persons were killed by Alfred Harrison on January 31, 1908.

After the fire had been put out, police gathered several items from his home.

Newspaper staff later sifted through the debris and saw various coin molds, dies, and other equipment that had been apparently broken and then melted in the fire.

The detective in charge of the case had been unable to locate the stranger who had visited Alfred. Alfred's son also could not be located and his daughter did not have any relevant information.

The detective showed newspaper staff the remains of a notebook and a broken metal die.

On a page that did not burn, there was a drawing of strange symbols and a monstrous creature. A broken piece of a coin die had what appeared to be a tentacle on its face.

The detective initially suspected that Alfred might be involved in the occult. However, there was no other occult items in his home and coupled with his standing in the community, led him to conclude that he experienced a mental breakdown due to the death of his wife and isolation from his children.

The detective said that the officer who shot Alfred could not hear what he was whispering.

It appeared Alfred had been making coins with occult like symbols and images.

History professor Robert Bleakly of Pennsylvania State University was asked for his opinion on what these coins could be used for. He said that people who believe in certain entities could be using them as a means of worship, a symbol of allegiance, to curry favor, or as a means of protection.

Despite this newspapers investigation, there are still many unanswered questions.

Who was the visitor to his home? Where is his son? Why was he making these coins? What was he trying to whisper to the officer? Why did he go on this rampage?

More information will be provided as it is uncovered.

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