

Today in Columbus History:

On March 31, 1875, a story appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* with the headline "Killing of O. S. Holland" that reported on the coroner's inquest into the death of Orlando S. Holland, held on March 30.

The *Columbus Daily Times* and the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* took different sides in the case. The *Times* used incendiary headlines like "Another Street Murder!" and "Policemen Murder a Citizen!" on March 30. While the *Enquirer-Sun* supported the police. The proprietor of the *Times*, J. B. Wright swore out the warrants for the arrest of policemen W. L. Cash and Thomas McEachern and Cash's brother, the suspects in the altercation. Although, the men had surrendered to the police immediately following the incident. The *Enquirer-Sun* remarked at the end of their coverage on March 30 that there was no need for a coroner's inquest. The *Times* posted a separate article the next day proclaiming, "The Coroner Right" defending the coroner's decision to hold it.

The inquest examined the facts behind the death of Holland on March 29, 1875 on Broad Street in downtown Columbus. According to the testimony, Holland was walking down Broad Street when he exchanged a few words with policeman W. L. Cash. The conversation concerned a message Holland had for A. R. Calhoun, the proprietor of the *Enquirer-Sun* that Cash did not want to deliver. They met a second time, a short while later. This time Cash's brother Edward, known as "Babe" Cash was present and interrupted the discussion. All three men drew guns and began firing. Officer McEachern approached during the shootout and joined in. In the end, Babe Cash received a couple of superficial wounds while Holland lay dead in the street. At the inquest, Drs. Johnston and Grimes discussed only three wounds. Holland was shot once in the left breast, near the heart, once in the shoulder and right arm pit. Other wounds were noted but not examined. The jury found that Holland died of gunshot wounds inflicted by W. L. Cash, Thomas McEachern and Ed Cash. They remained in custody until released on bond on April 3.

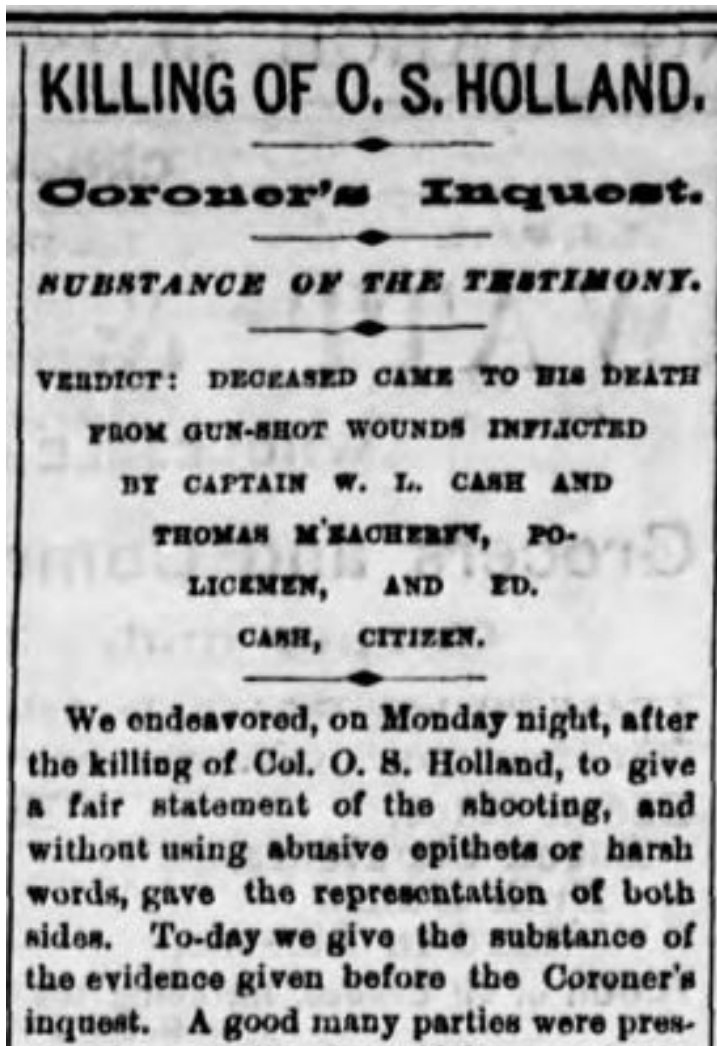
This was not the first time that W.L. Cash or Thomas McEachern gunned down someone on Columbus' streets. The *Times* noted that W. L. Cash shot two people to death previously and McEachern had just killed L. M. Bagley three months earlier (see Today in Columbus History – January 27). The *Enquirer-Sun* noted that Holland had also "killed two or three men and was regarded as a desperate man." On June 21, a jury found W. L. Cash guilty of voluntary manslaughter and the judge sentenced him to ten years of hard labor to which he filed an appeal.

This story does not end here. The 1878 murder of W. L. Salisbury, the next proprietor of the *Enquirer-Sun*, involved some of the minor players and unfinished business from this drama. The bad blood continued into the next generation with Harry Holland, the son of Orlando Holland. In 1884, he shot and killed Tiff Moore, the acting Sheriff at the time of the early trials of his father's murderers (see Today in Columbus History – October 7).

Compiled by Daniel A. Bellware, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

Our weekly snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.



Headline from the story on the Killing of Orlando S. Holland. The claims of fairness and civility are directed at the *Times* for their use of inflammatory language, from the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, March 31, 1875, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.



Orlando Stinson Holland from FindAGrave.com.

Another Street Murder!

Cold Blooded Assassination

COL. O. S. HOLLAND MURDERED!

Excitement Extraordinary!

The Third Victim of W. L. Cash!

Policemen Murder a Citizen!

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR THE CONDUCT OF THESE MEN?

THE PEOPLE OUTRAGED!

Shot to Death After Down!

Sensational headlines in the *Columbus Daily Times*, March 30, 1875,
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.



Grave of Orlando S. Holland in Linwood Cemetery, from FindAGrave.com

The Coroner Right.
Coroner Lloyd acted according to the law in holding an inquest over the body of Col. O. S. Holland yesterday. The statute reads: "When persons have come to death by violence and there are witnesses to it and the person accused is under arrest and has undergone an examination before competent tribunal, there need be no inquest." The accused in this case had undergone no examination. The Coroner's duty was plain and he did it. The law is recorded. Quibbling and groundless objections don't affect it at all.

The response to the *Columbus Daily Enquirer's* assertion that no inquest was needed from the *Columbus Daily Times*, March 31, 1875, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.