

GIRL MURDERED IN BREWSTER.

The Murderer Drowned Himself in a Pond.

The quiet town of Brewster was startled Sunday morning by one of the greatest tragedies Cape Cod has ever known, rivalled only by that in Osterville last summer, when Lizzie Coleman was shot and her murderer suicided.

Sadie Hassard, the 25-year-old daughter of John Hassard, was shot and killed by Frederick S. Alexander.

The first warning of the crime was just as the venerable Mr. Dawes, pastor of the Unitarian church, was finishing his opening prayer, when pistol shots and shrieks were heard, and when the people rushed from the church, the body of the victim was found lying on the sidewalk within a hundred yards of the Baptist church, with blood trickling from a bullet hole under her right ear.

The victim had been living in the household of Rev. Mr. Dawes for the past two years, and she was alone in the house with her little sister, the rest of the family being at church. The murderer went to the house and finding the doors locked, attempted to enter through a window. Failing in this he managed in some way to drag her through the window near which she was standing, and fired the first shot at her as she was passing through the front gate, after clearing herself from him. She started on a run toward her father's house, which is situated on the lower road near the cemetery. Alexander followed her and fired three more shots and on her falling on the sidewalk he ran up to her, and placing the pistol at her head, fired the fifth and last shot. He then ran across the hills towards South Brewster.

The murderer and his victim were both young people, the former living with his family in West Brewster and working on cranberry bogs and doing other work around the village. He has always been a steady boy with no bad habits. Jealousy is the cause of the crime so far as known.

The young lady was a very pretty girl, and a general favorite. Some years

ago Alexander began keeping her company and was her recognized companion, and it is reported that she promised to marry him. Some months ago she began to tire of his attentions and this provoked him. She seemed to prefer no one else to Alexander, but simply did not want him. He was understood to make several threats, but her family, not wishing the notoriety a complaint would cause, did not make complaint.

Her family consists of a father and mother, and four sisters. The only brother was accidentally shot some six years ago. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to the family, and the family of the young man is not forgotten. Never has there been such an awful shadow fallen over the peaceful village which lies upon the waters of the Bay, and it will be long before the old rest and quiet will pervade.

As soon as the first shock was dispelled search was made for the murderer under the leadership of John H. Clark, Esq., who is Chairman of the Selectmen of the town, who, upon the arrival of Deputy Sheriffs Alfred Crocker and George H. Cash of Barnstable, turned the case over to Mr. Crocker.

Previous to Mr. Crocker's arrival Alexander's hat was found on the shore of Snow's Pond, about one mile south of the village, with the revolver with which the deed was done, and 25 cartridges in it. Mr. Clark had already sent for a boat and grappling and Mr. Miller B. Bassett, Chester Hopkins and Deputy Crocker swept the pond but failed to raise the body. Continued search by Messrs. Bassett and Crocker revealed the body about 100 feet from the shore in about 5 feet of water.

In the pockets of the suicide was found a bottle of strychnine, match box, picture of himself and brother and a piece of paper directed to Rev. Thomas Dawes, evidently written Sunday, saying he was going to kill her during church service and would not be taken alive, but if he was cornered he would make it hot for some one. The body was removed to Snow's undertaking rooms where Medical Examiner George H. Munsell of Harwich will view the body this Monday morning. Dr. Munsell held an autopsy upon the body of Miss Hassard Sunday afternoon.

BREWSTER.

The funeral of Sadie Hassard, the murdered girl, occurred at the Baptist church on Wednesday. Long before the hour of service the church was filled with people from this and adjoining villages. The remains were encased in neat a broadcloth casket, which was literally covered with floral offerings from sympathizing relatives and friends. The service was conducted by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Martell, assisted by the aged preacher in whose family Sadie had long lived, Rev. Mr. Dawes, who offered a very fervent prayer for divine aid and benediction upon the sorely wounded hearts. The pastor announced as his topic for the occasion, "The city of the no-more sea," taking as a text Revelations xxi, 1. He dwelt upon the thought that no murderer would enter that city of which John had such a sublime vision. The pall-bearers were Albert Barnes, Freeman Atwood, John Kennedy and Everett Rogers. The remains of the unfortunate girl were interred in Greenwood cemetery. The school-house flags were kept at half-mast during the service, indicating the universal sympathy and sorrow through the town.



*Cheap, unauthorized
Internet screen grab of a
pretty Irish girl
like Sadie Hassard*

