

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Law Enforcement Memorial



James Skelley
Officer
New Britain
Died: 10/12/1924

Officer James Skelley, an 18-year veteran of the Department, was mortally wounded on October 12, 1924, when he responded to a call reporting two intruders on the premises of a store. This murder attracted national attention because one of the accomplices in the crime was Gerald Chapman who was public enemy #1 at that time. Officer Skelley's murder was just one crime in Chapman's long criminal history. Although he maintained his innocence in this case, a jury found him guilty and he was sentenced to death for the crime. Chapman was hanged in Connecticut State Prison in 1926.