



Constable William (Will) Kinney

Preston, CT

EOW: May 6, 1918

On May 6, 1918, at approximately 1400 hours, Constable William (Will) Kinney accompanied by Mr. Herman J. Chapman went to a home owned by Chapman to serve an eviction notice to a renter of the home located in Preston, CT.

Upon attempting to meet with the home renter, the renter without warning fired a gun from inside the residence through a front window. The round struck Mr. Chapman in the abdomen, Constable Kinney tried to assist Mr. Chapman but before he could do anything for him the home renter broke out the pane of glass in the window and shot an additional three shots at Constable Kinney, striking Kinney in the chest, arm and back. It is believed Constable Kinney died almost instantly.

Chapman managed in his wounded condition to walk up the road almost to his own home before he was forced to give up because of the loss of blood. Mr. Chapman's son, seeing his father, went and helped him to the house.

According to one of the neighbors who talked with Mr. Chapman after he was shot, there was an argument between the men and without warning the home renter shot through the kitchen window, the bullet striking Mr. Chapman in the lower abdomen who died as a result of his injury weeks later.

After the shootings, the home renter fled the scene and was later apprehended in Ohio three weeks later. He brought back to Connecticut, stood trial, and was found guilty of two murders and received a life sentence.