

July 20, 1910

Racine Daily Journal

Railway Head Is Killed By Robber

Chicago, July 20—Ira G. Rawn, president of the Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville railway (the Monon route) was shot through the heart and instantly killed at 1:30 this morning by a burglar who entered his summer home in Winnetka, a suburb 15 miles north of Chicago.

The burglar forced open the basement door and was heard prowling about the first floor by Mr. Rawn, who went down stairs to investigate. Members of his family heard him say; "What do you want here?" and a shot was fired immediately afterward. When they hurried to the first floor Mr. Rawn was lying dead at the foot of the stairs with a bullet through his heart. The murderer or murderers escaped.

The fact that the murder was committed by a burglar was established by the finding of "jimmy" marks on the door, which had been forced open. The assassination is the climax to a reign of crime that has driven residents of the north shore suburb almost to a frenzy.

The story of the shooting of Mr. Rawn was told by Ralph G. Coburn, son-in-law of the victim.

"Mr. Rawn was awakened by sounds on the first floor of the house," he said. "He insisted upon going down to ascertain the cause, although Mrs. Rawn tried to persuade him not to do it.

"He descended the stairs and had barely reached the landing when everyone in the house was awakened by the roar of two shots fired in quick succession.

"I rushed out, as did the others. We found Mr. Rawn lying in his night clothes. Blood was trickling from his breast.

"He struggled, turned over, tried to speak, and could not. We sent in hurried calls for a doctor. Mr. Rawn died within five or six minutes after the shot had been fired. He did not regain consciousness.

"We immediately summoned the Winnetka police and it was they who found the marks on the door which established the fact that the crime had been committed by a burglar. Other than that we have no clue.

"The house was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Rawn, their daughter, Mrs. Bigelow, and my wife and myself and our two children. There were also three servants in the house, the cook, Mrs. Rawn's maid and Mrs. Bigelow's maid. None of the rest of us heard the burglar."

Only one bullet took effect. The other went wild.

A half hour after the murder had been committed; detectives were hired by relatives of the dead man.

"We will offer a reward," said Mr. Coburn, "and spare no expense to capture the assassin."

Last April the Rawn's moved from their residence in Schiller street, Chicago to the gay residence on Pleasant street in Winnetka. They had rented it for the summer.

Mr. Rawn has three daughters, all married. They are Mrs. Robert C. Brinkley, Mrs. Ralph C. Coburn and Mrs. D. N. Bigelow. Mr. Rawn was fifty-five years old, having been born August 20, 1855, at Delaware, Ohio. He entered the railway service in 1870, beginning as a telegraph operator for the Big Four. After rising to be trainmaster with that road, he went to the

Kentucky Central railway in 1887 as master of transportation. Two years later he became division superintendent and superintendent of transportation of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. In 1890 he was made general superintendent of the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern. He became general manager of that system in 1904 and in 1907 was made vice president in charge of operation of the Illinois Central lines. About a year ago he was elected president of the Monon.

A revolver with one empty cartridge was found near Mr. Rawn's body. No trace of the second bullet could be found and the police believe that Mr. Rawn wounded his assailant. Two shots were heard, but it is impossible to determine whether Mr. Rawn or the murderer fired first.

Belief that the murderer was wounded by Mr. Rawn was strengthened when the police found a trail of blood about 100 feet along a stone walk east of the Rawn residence.

The inquest begun shortly after eight o'clock.

After taking Mr. Rawn's family history, Coroner Hoffman postponed the inquest until July 28.

July 21, 1910

Anaconda Standard

Railroad President Is Called A Suicide

Chicago, July 20—Ira G. Rawn, president of the Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville (the Monon route), died of a bullet wound at his summer residence in Winnetka, 15 miles north of Chicago, early today.

Members of the Rawn family say he was killed by a burglar. The police are working on a theory that Mr. Rawn killed himself. As a basis for their suicide theory, the police point to the fact the Mr. Rawn was operating vice president of the Illinois Central railroad at the time several car contracts were put through, and that recently he has been drawn into the Illinois Central graft investigation as a chief witness. They say the action of Mr. Rawn's relatives in refusing to aid the Chicago detective department to search for the alleged murderer is suspicious.

They declare there exists a lack of convincing evidence that an intruder had actually been in the Rawn residence.

Mrs. Rawn, the widow; R. G. Coburn, his son-in-law; Mrs. Coburn and two children and three maids were in the house when the tragedy occurred. Mrs. Rawn says her husband was aroused from sleep at 1:30 o'clock in the morning by a noise on the first floor of the residence. She says Mr. Rawn picked up a revolver, started downstairs and was shot while on a landing halfway down. Both Mrs. Rawn and Coburn say two shots were fired. A minute search of the front hall and adjoining rooms of the residence, however, show but one bullet that fired from Mr. Rawn's revolver and which apparently had passed through Mr. Rawn's body just below the heart.

Coroner Peter Hoffman took personal charge of the investigation into the death. He said powder marks had been found on Mr. Rawn's nightgown indicating that the revolver from which the fatal bullet was fired was discharged at close range.

Friends and business associates of Mr. Rawn say he has been looking badly for several weeks. Some though he was worrying over the investigation of the conspiracy by which the Illinois Central railroad claims it was mulcted of thousands of dollars.

On two successive days last week, Mr. Rawn begged for and secured a postponement of his examination as a witness on a plea that his wife was ill. His examination was scheduled to be taken up again Tuesday.

Mr. Rawn left the Illinois Central railroad in November, 1909 and became president of the Monon. Early this spring the Illinois Central fraud came to light.

At the first hearing before master in Chancery Thomas Taylor Jr., Mr. Rawn testified that the contracts all came under his supervision. He admitted he was responsible for farming out the cars to the various repair companies.

Mr. Rawn's son-in-law, R. G. Coburn and R. C. Brinkley assumed command of the investigation of his death from the start. A number of detectives from a private agency were summoned hurriedly to Winnetka early this morning. A number of these were stationed at various points in the house and grounds. They were told to give no information to any persons making inquiries.

This situation was further complicated tonight when a squad of employees of a second detective agency arrived in Winnetka. These men stated they had been ordered to make a full inquiry into the death. Mr. Coburn and Brinkley told the second squad they were not wanted at the residence and had not been ordered.

It is not known who is responsible for the engaging the second detective agency.

For a time it was rumored that insurance companies carrying risk on Mr. Rawn's life for \$100,000 were the employers. This report, however, was denied. It was then stated that the detectives had been employed by railroad interests.

Several neighbors in the vicinity of the Rawn residence state they heard a single shot close to 10 o'clock on Tuesday night. None has been found who heard a shot Wednesday morning.

July 21, 1910

Lincoln Evening New

Police Scoff At Burglar Theory

Chicago, July 21—Further police investigation into the mysterious shooting of Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railroad, at his Winnetka summer home is at the end as far as at least as the police of Chicago are concerned. After a day of thorough investigation, Assistant Chief Schuettler and Captain Stephen Wood, of the Chicago detective department, announced today that they were through with the case, as they have rejected all theories of Rawn being killed by burglars, hired assassins or a private enemy. The only conclusion reached by them is that Rawn took his own life.

The attitude of the Rawn family, who, the police say, did everything they could to hamper a thorough investigation, helped considerably in reaching this conclusion, but the Chicago police say there was nothing found that would bear out the story told by members of the family that two shots were fired or that forcible entry had been made to the house.

The family, however, still maintain that Rawn's death was not by his own hand, but that he was killed in a struggle with a burglar.

The police say that no trace of a second bullet can be found and that the bullet which killed Rawn fits the revolver which he carried and from which one shot had been fired. The

marks on the doors, which at first were supposed to have been made by a burglar's jimmy are found to be on the inside instead of the outside, and the supposed bloodstains on the pavement outside prove to be nothing more than red paint.

President Rawn was facing an investigation by the Illinois Central railroad into car repair frauds aggregating \$1,500,000 perpetrated while he was operating vice president of that road.

At the present time there are civil suits pending against some of the Illinois Central officials and Rawn was the star witness in these cases. He gave preliminary testimony but, at his own request the investigation had been delayed from time to time.

In the suit filed against the Illinois Central officials, Rawn was not named.

Rawn was shot about 1:30 o'clock Wednesday morning. His body was found at the foot of the stairway in his home by his wife and son-in-law who were aroused by the shot or shots, as they claim. Coroner Hoffman declares it impossible for the bullet which ended Rawn's life to have been fired from the angle on which is based the burglar theory. On Tuesday morning, while coming into the city, Rawn confided to J. Allen Haines, a close friend, that he had heard burglars in his house on the previous night and had frightened them away with his revolver. When the police arrived on the scene, the members of the family declared there was nothing to investigate and dismissed them.

Rawn's close business associates declare positively that there was nothing in his business affairs that would cause him to take his life. On the contrary they point to a letter written late Tuesday in which Rawn asked for transportation for his private car over the Northwestern lines to Cisco lake, where he intended taking his family.

R. G. Coburn, Rawn's son-in-law, says that it is utterly impossible that it is anything else but a murder, he says that the insinuations and assertions of suicide are absurd that the Pinkerton detectives will do all that is necessary in the way of an investigation.

"It is untrue that during the last few months Mr. Rawn had taken out \$110,000 life insurance," declared Coburn. "I think he had \$20,000 or \$25,000 worth at the most which is not unusual for a man in his position."

"Rawn did not act like a man who contemplated suicide," said General manager Taylor, of the Monon railroad. "On Monday at lunch we talked over affairs of the road and he arranged for trips with me to several points to be taken within a few days."

It was reported this afternoon that civil suit for a large sum rumored in some quarters to be \$1,000,000, was about to have been filed against Rawn, just before his death, in connection with the Illinois Central car repair scandal. The same rumor is to the effect that the suit will be filed against his estate.

Police At Winnetka Coincide

Chicago, July 21—The Winnetka authorities now agree with the Chicago police that Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railroad, was not killed by a shot from a burglar's revolver but was a suicide. This afternoon they withdrew from further investigation of the case and will wait the verdict of the coroner's jury next Wednesday.

President Greely, of the Winnetka town board, today telephoned Assistant Chief of Police Schuettler, of the Chicago police force, that he was satisfied Rawn committed suicide and that his police would make no further investigation.

The attorneys for the big life insurance companies in a number of which Rawn held policies, today set their investigators at work to get at the truth of Rawn's death. One of these

men started today that Rawn carried over \$100,000 insurance. Many of the companies in which Rawn was insured have a suicide clause in their policies. They will conduct a thorough examination.

All suicide theories are based on the assumption that Rawn dreaded the result of the coming probe of the Illinois Central car repair graft cases. The Illinois Central officials today declined to discuss the case further than to say that Rawn's name had not been mentioned in the graft cases.

Prominent railroad men from all parts of the country have been asked to act as pall bearers at the funeral which will be held Friday afternoon from the Winnetka residence. The burial will be a Rose Hill cemetery.

July 21, 1910

Lowell Sun

Suicide Story—In Case of Ira Rawn is Doubted

Chicago, July 21—The rumor later yesterday that Ira Rawn, late president of the Monon railroad, found fatally shot in his home here early yesterday morning was not killed by a burglar, as first reported, but committed suicide is apparently contradicted by the last letter Mr. Rawn wrote. It was addressed to W. A. Gardner, vice president of the Chicago & Northwestern asking him to handle his private car between Chicago and Cisco Lake next Saturday. Mr. Rawn's friends say that this letter is proof that he had no idea of taking his own life.

Monday afternoon a friend of Mr. Rawn related a long conversation with the late president of the road which bore upon the theory that Mr. Rawn was in splendid spirits.

"The talk was largely personal," said this friend, "and Mr. Rawn disclosed that he and Mrs. Rawn were arranging a 'honeymoon trip' to Europe late this fall and were keeping it a secret. He told me that when he was married he was too poor to take a wedding trip and that ever since his marriage he had been too busy to take one. 'Although Mrs. Rawn and I have had great opportunity for making trips,' he said to me 'it dawned upon us suddenly that we had in reality never had a trip all alone. It seemed that on every occasion we had a guest or two and that we never had an old fashioned trip together. We agreed that it was about time that we had our honeymoon trip and decided to take it after all these years. So we have planned to steal away later in the fall after I have got the road in good shape, take a steamer in New York and go to Europe to wander around for a while with no one to molest us.'"

July 21, 1910

Waterloo Reporter

Murder Theory is Dropped by Chicago Police

Chicago, July 21—"Ira G. Rawn committed suicide, and the Chicago police will drop the investigation and search for a supposed murderer," said acting chief of police Schuettler today.

Schuettler announced his decision after a long conference with the detectives who had investigated the tragedy. All indications point to suicide, according to the detectives.

Notwithstanding this private detectives employed by the Rawn family continued their investigation and steadfastly declared Rawn was killed by a burglar. The bullet hole in Rawn's night gown was carefully examined and the police declare its appearance leads to suicide belief. The hole surrounded by bloodstains in which there are particles though to be powder marks. If they prove to be powder marks, there will be little doubt but Rawn killed himself. While private detectives announced yesterday they expected to make an important arrest today no on so far has been taken into custody.

"My men have told me that so far as they could learn only one shot was heard by the Rawn neighbors," said Scheuettler, "they also told me that the muzzle of the revolver was covered with blood and the flesh near the wound had been burned, which would indicate the shot was fired only a few inches from the body. We found nothing that would indicate murder."

Private detectives have nothing new on the murder theory, according to Ralph G. Coburn, son-in-law of the dead man. "We have heard nothing new and there is nothing further to be said," said Coburn. The Rawn funeral has been set for tomorrow afternoon.

July 22, 1910

Newport Daily News

Both Sides Think Murder Is Proved

Chicago, July 22—Coroner Peter Hoffman announced today that he had received information which lead him to believe that Ira Rawn was murdered for revenge. Coroner Hoffman announced that there would be an arrest before 2 O'clock this afternoon.

"I have obtained a new clue in connection with the death of Mr. Rawn," said Mr. Hoffman, "and my information looks very good. I also have information concerning the identity of the alleged slayer, but I do not care to make my information public, until after my conference with the chief of police."

Mrs. Rawn was reported seriously ill today. It is said it is doubtful that she will be able to attend the funeral today.

The discovery of a second bullet in the grate at the home of the late Ira G. Rawn, members of the family today declare, removed the last doubt as the circumstances of his death. It is the clinching argument, they believe, that Mr. Rawn's revolver was discharged at the burglar and that it was the bullet from the intruder's revolver which took his life.

Insurance officials who are investigating the case independently, because of his \$147,000 life and accident insurance refused to voice any definite opinion. If their investigation should disclose that Mr. Rawn ended his life the accident policies, aggregating \$105,000, would probably become worthless.

The bullet was found, according to C. F. Hatley, who is conducting the investigation, in the ashes in a fireplace almost in direct line of fire from where Mr. Rawn's death resulted.

Whether Mr. Rawn was killed by a burglar, or whether as is stated by the Chicago police, he committed suicide, railroad men assert that his death occurred on the eve of what may be one of the greatest scandals in railroad history. Questions asked Rawn at a hearing July 7 in the Illinois Central car repair cases, all were planned, it is said, by the attorney with the intent to incriminate Rawn as responsible for the losses to the road. Rawn, it is asserted, knew of the purpose of counsel for the road and had sought by every legal means to delay the progress of the

examinations. Twice on personal pleas he had obtained postponement, but the last effort for delay had failed, and his examination would have been continued next Tuesday.

July 22, 1910

The Mansfield News

Paint Rawn In Blackest Hues—Death of Late Monon President Not Held Sacred by Railroad Attorneys—Named As Brains Of Fraud

Counsel for Illinois Central say they expected suicide not only of Monon President, but of another former officer in company as result of car repair scandal—Detectives find evidence to prove that Chicagoan was murdered.

Chicago, July 22—Coroner Peter Hoffmann announced today that he had received information which led him to believe that Ira G. Rawn was murdered for revenge. He immediately went into conference with Herman Schuettler, acting chief of police. Mr. Hoffman said he would tell more after the conference.

“I have obtained a new clue in connections with the death of Mr. Rawn,” said Mr. Hoffman, “and my information looks very good. I also have information concerning the identity of the alleged slayer but I do not care to make my information public until after my conference with Acting Chief Shuettler.”

Mrs. Rawn was reported seriously ill today. She was too ill to make a statement desired by an attorney. It is said that it is doubtful that she will be able to attend the funeral today.

While the police were investigating the clue found by Mr. Hoffman the funeral services of Mr. Rawn were held.

Mr. Hoffman would advance no further information concerning his new clue. He held a conference with Acting Chief of police Schuettler but refused to say anything concerning the conference except that he expected an early and important arrest.

While the Rawn family has held consistently to the theory that Mr. Rawn was murdered, Ralph C. Coburn, a son-in-law of the dead man scouted the idea that revenge was the motive behind the murder.

“I know of no negro with whom my father-in-law ever had any difficulties,” said Mr. Coburn. “I cannot think of any person who would seek to avenge any wrong, real or fancied, by killing Mr. Rawn.”

Chicago, July 22—That Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railway, was not a suicide, but was the victim of a midnight marauder, is the deduction made following late developments in the case. One of the most important new features is finding the second bullet. This is highly important as showing that Mr. Rawn fired at the intruder. Failure to find this bullet and the fact that but one chamber of his revolver was empty has done much to sustain the theory of suicide.

Still another important development was a private examination of the servants and neighbors by detectives said to have been employed by insurance companies. These men, after many hours' work, announced they had no doubt Mr. Rawn had been murdered and that the insurance companies would not contest payment of his policies.

Against all these features which indicate that he was slain by an assassin—either a novice whom he surprised in his home or someone prompted by revenge or a deeper motive, as no

robbery was attempted—is the statement by attorneys for the Illinois Central that Mr. Rawn was on the verge of being exposed as the head and front of the conspiracy to loot the company of \$1,500,000. None of the men making these charges will stand for them over his signature, but all talk freely of the case and say the evidence was overwhelming.

He was to have appeared for examination Tuesday of this week, and it is claimed that on that occasion the attorneys would have fastened upon him the responsibility for the Illinois central graft conspiracy. Whatever the outcome, it was stated authoritatively by the Illinois Central attorneys that Rawn's estate would be tied up in the courts in the effort to reimburse the road for its losses. The amount of his estate is not exactly known, but it is thought he was worth, aside from his life insurance, fully a million dollars.

Attorneys connected with the Illinois Central graft inquiry painted Rawn as the head, front and brains of the \$1,500,000 conspiracy. Some of them went further and said they had expected his suicide, and that they are even now expecting the suicide of another former and prominent official of the road who has not thus far been mentioned in connection with the graft case.

July 22, 1910

Waterloo Reporter

Coroner Has Clue—Believes Ira Rawn Was Killed By Enemy For Revenge (Except)

The Coroner intimated that Rawn's murderer was a negro, but would give no further information. It is said an important arrest will be made soon. Ralph C. Coburn, the son-in-law scouts the revenge theory and clings to the burglar story.

In support of the murder theory, there was produced by the family a fragment of lead alleged to be the bullet fired from Rawn's gun, which has been hitherto unaccounted for.

This piece of lead was said to have been found in the fireplace about 3:00 o'clock in the afternoon by C. Furness Hatley, foreman of the coroner's jury, friend of the Rawn family, opponent of the local police. In the evening newspaper men were sent for, the bullet was exhibited, and a demonstration was made of the supposed scene when Rawn was shot.

The piece of lead was found by taking the ashes to the basement and sifting them. No mark was found in the grate showing where the bullet had struck. The piece of lead is claimed by Hatley and the family to prove conclusively that the bullet from Rawn's gun was directed at an intruder in a line between the stairs and the fireplace, and that the bullet which killed him came from that intruder.

July 23, 1910

The Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette

Arrest Negro For Killing Rawn

Chicago, July 22—Ernest Hoffman, a negro chauffeur formerly employed by Mr. Rawn, was arrested here late today as a suspect in connection with the railroad president's death.

Hoffman was discharged December last and as late as last May is declared to have threatened Mr. Rawn's life.

The arrest of Ernest Stevens, also known as Hoffman, was made on information supplied by H. P. Cullen, president of the Commercial Mercantile Company, of Chicago, a friend of the former Monon president. Cullen swore to an affidavit to the effect that he heard the negro, referring to Mr. Rawn, say;

"I'll get that white man, d—m him; I'll get him."

Stevens was employed by Mr. Rawn from May 1906 to December 1909, when it is said he was discharged for disobeying orders.

Assistant Chief of Police Schuettler said that aside from this the detectives had secured no evidence against Stevens.

Chicago, July 22—Although too ill to attend her husband's funeral, Mrs. Ira G. Rawn, widow of the late president of the Monon railroad, late today made a detailed statement to a stenographer of the shooting of Mr. Rawn at his summer home in Winnetka early last Wednesday morning.

In a general way this statement bears out the stories of the death of Mr. Rawn as told by the dead man's son-in-law, R. G. Coburn. Mrs. Rawn says she and her husband were awakened by a noise on the first floor of the house; that Mr. Rawn picked up his revolver and started downstairs. Then, says Mrs. Rawn, she heard a noise of some sort, apparently on the stairway, and a shot, or shots.

The police however have seized upon three points in Mrs. Rawn's statement that they consider of importance in connection with the investigation of the mysterious death. The first is the declaration by Mrs. Rawn that she is certain of having heard but one shot; the second is her assertion that Mr. Coburn, her son-in-law, preceded her downstairs, and that he had turned on the lights before she reached her husband's body, and the third is the statement that Mr. Rawn was found lying squarely on his back.

The police say these three points support their statement that Mr. Rawn killed himself. Friends of the Rawn family insist that Mrs. Rawn's description of what occurred Wednesday morning is further evidence that Mr. Rawn was murdered.

The following question was put to Mrs. Rawn regarding the point of hearing a shot or shots fired;

"You say you are not clear as to whether you heard one shot or two shots?"

"I could not tell you. I heard a shot and then screamed, and I don't know whether it was one or two. I could not tell you about that. I know I heard one shot."

Mrs. Rawn said that on the night previous to the shooting she and her husband had heard a noise similar to the one which she says aroused them Wednesday morning.

"The noise on the first night was something like the shutting of a door," said Mrs. Rawn. "On the second night there was sort of a creeping sound, whether it was the sound of walking I cannot tell you.

"I told my husband not to go down. He didn't pay any attention to me, but kept on walking through the dark, it was very dark; you couldn't really see, but I could hear him walking, and so I got up and sat on the edge of the bed. It didn't seem a second when I could hear him creeping down, and he had time to get to the first landing when I heard a terrible scuffle. So then I jumped and screamed I heard a shot. I was so dazed that I couldn't move for a second and before I got down there my son (Mr. Coburn) got down in the dark and he turned on the lights."

Detectives in the employ of insurance companies were present at Mr. Rawn's funeral today and several of them remained in Winnetka over night.

July 23, 1910

The Racine Daily Journal

Coloring Matter On Sidewalk Not Blood

Chicago, July 23—Stains on the cement sidewalk near the home of Ira G. Rawn, the railroad president, who was found shot to death in his summer residence was declared today by chemists to be caused by some coloring matter in a watery solution, and not blood stains of the supposed murderer, as believed by the slain man's relatives and friends. This decidedly weakens the theory of murder held by the relatives of Rawn.

Ira L. Rawn, a nephew of the decedent has offered a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties the relatives believe killed Rawn.

July 25, 1910

The Fort Wayne Sentinel

Guard In Rawn House—Effort has been made to suppress material evidence.

Chicago, July 25—A guard with instructions to preserve all evidence as it stands in the case of the late Ira g. Rawn, was placed in the Rawn residence today by order of Samuel H. Greely, of Winnetka. In an explanatory letter to Mrs. Rawn, Mr. Greely explains that the guard is necessary because, he says, effort "has been and may be made to suppress material evidence as to the facts concerning his (Rawn's) death."

The place will be kept under surveillance until the inquest next Wednesday. The authorities declare they expect to prove that Mr. Rawn committed suicide rather than face charges of having participated in a conspiracy by means of which the Illinois Central is said to have been swindled out of many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

July 26, 1910

Racine Daily Journal

Ira Rawn Left Will—Document discovered yesterday leaves \$2,000,000 to widow

Chicago, Ill., July 26—With the discovery Monday of the last will of the late Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railroad, came the declaration from detectives who have been investigating that his estate would total \$2,000,000.

Insurance companies carrying \$135,000 on the life of Mr. Rawn today refused to issue loss sheets to Attorney Burns, who wished to offer proof of death. He was told that no death claims would be considered until after the inquest Wednesday.

The Rawn will was found in the vault of the Commercial National bank of Chicago, and was filed for probate in the afternoon. It left everything to the widow.

July 27, 1910

The Daily Press

Hunt for Two Rawn Slayers—Chief of Detective Agency Scouts Suicide Theory

Chicago, July 27—two men are sought by Pinkerton detectives in furtherance of the belief that Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railroad, was murdered as he descended the stairway of his home in Winnetka early Wednesday morning a week ago. The suicide theory, which has been accepted by police and others in view of Rawn's alleged connection with the Illinois Central railroad graft scandal, will be overturned, the Pinkerton operators contend, by solving the identity of two mysterious men who are known to have been in Winnetka and one of whom arrived at the north shore suburb at 12:30 a.m. the night before the shooting.

According to Joseph H. Schumacher, superintendent of the Pinkerton agency, there has never been any ground for belief in the theory of suicide.

Two men were seen in Winnetka a few days before the shooting. They inquired their way to Rawn's house, getting directions from a chauffeur. The chauffeur has given the detectives descriptions.

With the discovery in the vault of the Commercial National Bank of the will of Ira G. Rawn came the declaration from detectives who have been investigating that his estate would total \$2,000,000.

July 28, 1910

The Nebraska State Journal

Rawn Inquest Is Begun

Winnetka, Ill., July 27—The coroner's inquest into the death of Ira G. Rawn, former president of the Monon road who died of a bullet wound at his summer residence last Wednesday, was opened today by Coroner Hoffman in the Winnetka village hall shortly after 8 o'clock tonight. Four witnesses, including Mrs. Rawn, had been examined up to 11 o'clock, but little that is new in the mysterious case was brought before the jury.

Despite the late hour Coroner Hoffman said he would attempt to complete the taking of evidence tonight.

July 28, 1910

The Newark Advocate

Believe It Was Suicide

Chicago, July 28—That Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railroad, committed suicide was made practically certain at the first session of the coroner's inquest, which did not end until early today. Pinkerton detectives, hired by the family to discover clues of the supposed murderer, admitted that they had no evidence to substantiate such a theory and that the shooting could not have been accidental because of a safety clutch on the revolver.

Mrs. Rawn, the widow, declared for the first time that she believed Rawn met death from his own gun while struggling with an intruder, but admitted there was no evidence of the doors or windows having been tampered with.

No mention was made of the alleged connection of Rawn with the Illinois central R.R. car repair graft and that will probably be taken up tonight when the inquest is resumed.

While on the way to the inquest at Winnetka in an automobile five men, three of them insurance men, were injured when their machine was struck by an electric car.

July 29, 1910

Olean Times

Rawn Was Shot By Own Hand—So says jury and insurance Co. will contest \$500,000 claim

Chicago, July 29—A coroner's jury sitting in the case of Ira Rawn, the former president of the Monon system, returned a verdict at four o'clock this morning, after many hours of debate that Rawn killed himself but whether by accident or design the jury is unable to determine.

As a result of the verdict the insurance companies which wrote insurance on Rawn's life to the extent of five hundred thousand dollars, will refuse to pay. The matter will be taken to the courts.

Rawn was found dead in the hallway of his summer home and it was given out that he was killed by robbers.

July 30, 1910

Galveston Daily News

By His Own Hand—Coroner's jury's verdict doesn't specify Rawn's death as being suicidal or accidental

Chicago, Ill., July 29—The coroner's jury impaneled to inquire into the death of Ira G. Rawn, late president of the Monon Railroad, returned an open verdict at 8 o'clock this morning, but found he died from a shot fired from his own weapon by his own hand.

The verdict is as follows;

“We, the jurors sworn on oath to inquire into the death of Ira G. Rawn, at his home in Winnetka on July 20, find that he came to his death at 1:20 o'clock on the morning of July 20 from shock and hemorrhages caused by his own hand, but whether this was accidental or with suicidal intent this jury cannot determine, except that the location of the wound and the type of revolver render the accident theory less probably.”

The coroner's jury early today returned a verdict that Ira Rawn died from a shot fired from his own weapon by his own hand. Whether accident or suicide the jury was unable to determine. The verdict was so worded as to show that Rawn was believed by the jurors to have been responsible for his own death, but the question of suicide or accident was left to be fought out by his family and the insurance companies. It took several hours' deliberation to reach a finding. One of the chief points involved in the long discussion was how to word the document in such a manner as not to deprive Rawn's family of any legal rights the members might have under the \$110,000 of accident insurance policies left by him. Two of the six jurors held out for a lone time for a verdict of suicide; two others held to the accident theory. The verdict was a compromise between these divergent views. Representatives of the Illinois Central Railroad decline to testify, and put the refusal on the ground that to give information would imperil pending litigation.

August 3, 1910

Janesville Daily Gazette

Pathetic Figure In Rawn Inquest

Chicago, Ill.,--The inquest to determine how Ira Griffith Rawn, president of the Monon railroad, met his death, is divided. The family and certain private detectives believe he was killed at the hands of a burglar or assassin. The police believe he committed suicide.

Mrs. Rawn, the widow, together with the beautiful daughters, all of whom have been social favorites for many years, present a most pathetic side to the heartless investigation. Mrs. Rawn all-but collapsed on the witness stand and is in an extremely nervous condition.

Upon the result of the inquest will rest to a large extent, the legality of \$100,000 accident insurance.

August 4, 1910

Nashua Reporter

\$5,000 Reward in Rawn Tragedy—Former chauffeur proves himself innocent and is freed

Chicago—The family of Ira G. Rawn, the former president of the Monon system, is more firmly convinced that Mr. Rawn was the victim of a burglar's bullet than ever before following the release of his former chauffeur and the discovery that the "blood" spots in the vicinity of the Rawn home were nothing more than splotches of red paint.

Within an hour after the release of Ernest Stevens, the negro chauffeur arrested Friday night, they announced an offer of a reward of \$5,000 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons supposed to have broken into his home and to have fired the shot that resulted in his death.

In the midst of these developments a new theory was offered as a possible solution of the mystery, that Mr. Rawn met his death accidentally. It was pointed out by Charles L. Schaeffer, superintendent of a local detective agency, that a plausible solution was on the theory of accident.

Mr. Rawn might have slipped on the highly polished stairs or on his dressing gown, Mr. Schaeffer said, and discharged his revolver and killed himself, in his haste to discover the source of the noise that had awakened him.

The will of Mr. Rawn was filed for probate Monday. Mrs. Florence Willis Rawn, the widow, is given all the property, estimated to be worth about \$1,000,000 and is made executrix.

J. T. Harahan, president of the Illinois Central railroad, joined forces with the Chicago police in their efforts to solve the mystery surrounding the tragic death of Mr. Rawn.

In a conference with Assistant Chief of Police Herman Schuettler, President Harahan turned over all of the evidence in the Illinois Central graft investigation that involved Mr. Rawn.

As a result the assistant chief said there is little doubt that the verdict at the inquest to be held Wednesday will be suicide.

August 15, 1910

Waterloo Reporter

Robbers Were After Ira Rawn Effects—Break into residence of late railroad president's son-in-law

Chicago, Aug 15—A new chapter was added to the “strange case of Ira G. Rawn” yesterday. It became known that the Winnetka police were told that the residence of Robert C. Brinkley, son-in-law of the late Monon railroad president, had been entered by burglars and the Rawn effects ransacked Saturday night.

The Brinkley family is in Virginia and the house is vacant. Although the intruders found thousands of dollars' worth of silverware and other valuables, investigation has failed to discover that a single article of value is missing.

Ralph G. Coburn, another son-in-law of Mr. Rawn and the only member of the family in Winnetka, reported the burglary to the police. He said the house, which stands at the corner of Elm and Walnut street, was entered between 7:45 and 8:45 o'clock. The burglars, he said, forced a front window to get in and left by a rear door after searching only the upstairs rooms.

A number of mystifying circumstances which attended the intrusion led friends of the Rawns to believe there might have been some motive other than robbery for forcing entrance to the house.

February 21, 1911

Bismark Daily Tribune

Sues To Recover Insurance Money

Chicago, Ill., Feb 20—Suits aggregating \$175,000 were filed against ten life insurance companies by Mrs. Florence Willis Rawn, widow of the late Ira G. Rawn, president of the Monon railroad and a former official of the Illinois Central railroad, in the circuit court here today. The suits were filed to recover insurance policies on Rawn's life, payments of which are said to have been withheld because of the suicide clauses in them.

May 10, 1913

Waterloo Times

Mrs. Ira Rawn Is Winning Her Suits

St. Louis, Mo., May 9—A verdict for \$20,300 was returned today in favor of Mrs. Ira G. Rawn, widow of a former Vice President of the Illinois Central railway and later President of the Monon railway, against one of a number of Insurance companies she is suing to collect policies on her late husband. Rawn died at his country home near Chicago, the widow contending he was shot by burglars, the insurance companies that he committed suicide. The verdict was the second in favor of Mrs. Rawn.

The trial of the first case resulted in the jury granting the widow \$14,600.