

## William Johnson

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NEGRO IS SLAIN, POLICEMAN SHOT IN PISTOL FRAY

Patrolman Sapp Accidentally Hit By Fellow Officer

Five police bullets struck an armed negro resisting arrest here last night. The negro died three hours later. Officer Leonard C. Sapp was hit in the arm by a fellow officer's bullet which first passed through the bone and the bone was not struck.

The shooting took place near a residence at Norwich street lane and M street at 7:55 p.m.

Chief J.E. Register said the negro, Will Johnson, 40, pulled a pistol when officers observed him in a suspicious manner. Sapp grappled with the negro as he pointed his weapon toward the other officers. Several times, all bullets striking the negro and one also hitting Sapp.

A coroner's inquest has been ordered to clarify incidents leading to the shooting.

Officer Sapp gave the following account:

Officer Woodham and I were patrolling through Norwich street lane about 7:55 p.m. when we saw a negro on the street looking toward a house. The negro was acting in a suspicious manner so we went out to investigate.

We pulled up side of him and I stepped out of the car by the negro, who started walking toward the car. The negro and he put his hand under his coat. I started fighting to hold the negro and I told Officer Woodham I had a pistol.

I was trying to hold the negro's arm down as he was trying to point the pistol at Woodham. Woodham kept firing until the negro dropped the gun.

The negro asked me to let him lie down, which I did. We found that the negro's name is Will Johnson and he had a .38 calibre revolver, loaded with five cartridges.

Johnson was taken to City Hospital, where he died at 10:30. His home was at 2118 Lee street.