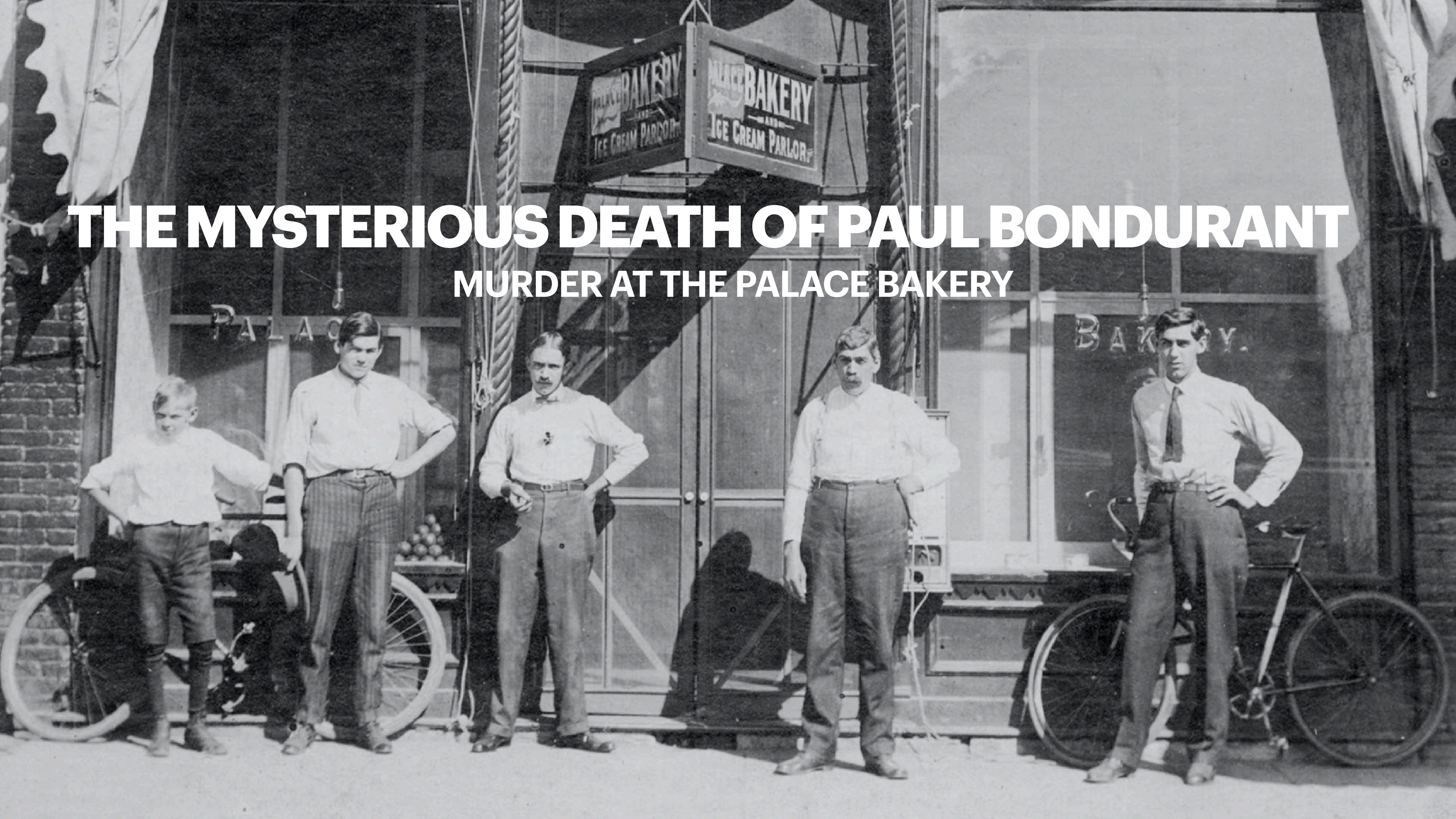


THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF PAUL BONDURANT

MURDER AT THE PALACE BAKERY



BONDURANT FAMILY IN MISSOURI

FROM BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA TO DOWNING, MO

- **David Garrett Bondurant is the son of David Bondurant & Polly Garrett of Buckingham County, VA**
- **He moved to Shelby County, KY and married Almira Hope**
- **They moved to Downing, MO and establish a farm arriving in 1853**
- **They have five children**



David Garrett Bondurant



Almira Hope Bondurant

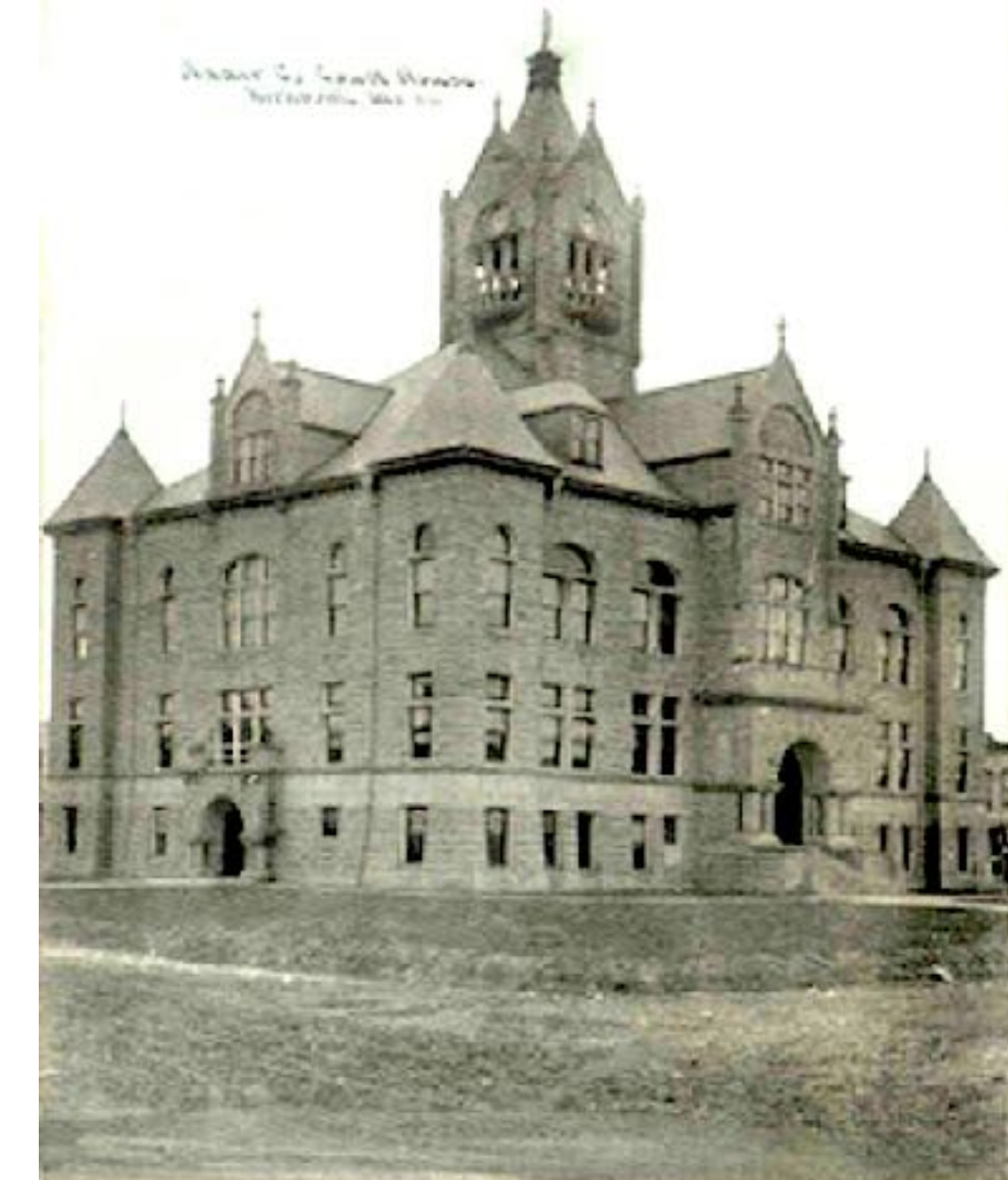


Thomas Nelson, William Hope, Margaret Ann, James David, Marion Lee

KIRKSVILLE, MO

COUNTY SEAT OF ADAIR COUNTY, MO

- Largest Town in NE Missouri (Population 6,000 in 1900)
- Primarily Agricultural Area
- Home of Kirksville Normal School, a teachers college
- Home of American School of Osteopathy, the first College of Osteopathy



Adair County Courthouse - 1899



East Side of the Square - 1893

KIRKSVILLE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

FOCUSED ON TEACHER EDUCATION

- **Founded in 1867**
- **Now Called Truman State University, the Leading Public Liberal Arts College in the Midwest**



AMERICAN SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHY

THE FIRST OSTEOPATHY SCHOOL IN AMERICA

- **Founded By Andrew Taylor Still in 1892**
- **Taught Unique Homeopathic Medicine Based Upon Spinal Manipulation**



ASO



Property of Museum of Osteopathic Medicine

AT Still Teaches Medical Students

JAMES DAVID BONDURANT

FOUNDER OF PALACE BAKERY IN KIRKSVILLE, MO

- Brought Family to Kirksville from Downing
- Goal was to Educate Family and form a Family Business
- Founded Palace Bakery in 1907
- Palace Bakery, Ice Cream, Dairy, and Soft Drink Business Became one of the Largest Businesses in NE Missouri



*JAMES DAVID BONDURANT (1859-1932)
farmer; stockman; hardware merchant
Downing, Mo.; retail bakery, 1907, which
he expanded into large wholesale bakery
ice cream, dairy products and soft drinks
bottling works, and cold storage plant
Kirksville, Mo. Was city commissioner, two
terms, acting mayor first Armistice Day
Nov. 1918. Deacon and pres. of church
board and pres. of School Board.*

JD BONDURANT FAMILY

JD married two wives:

Louisa Mety Norton Bondurant (died Aug 7, 1900)

Rose Missouri Barker Bondurant



Bondurant Family Picture , About 1914

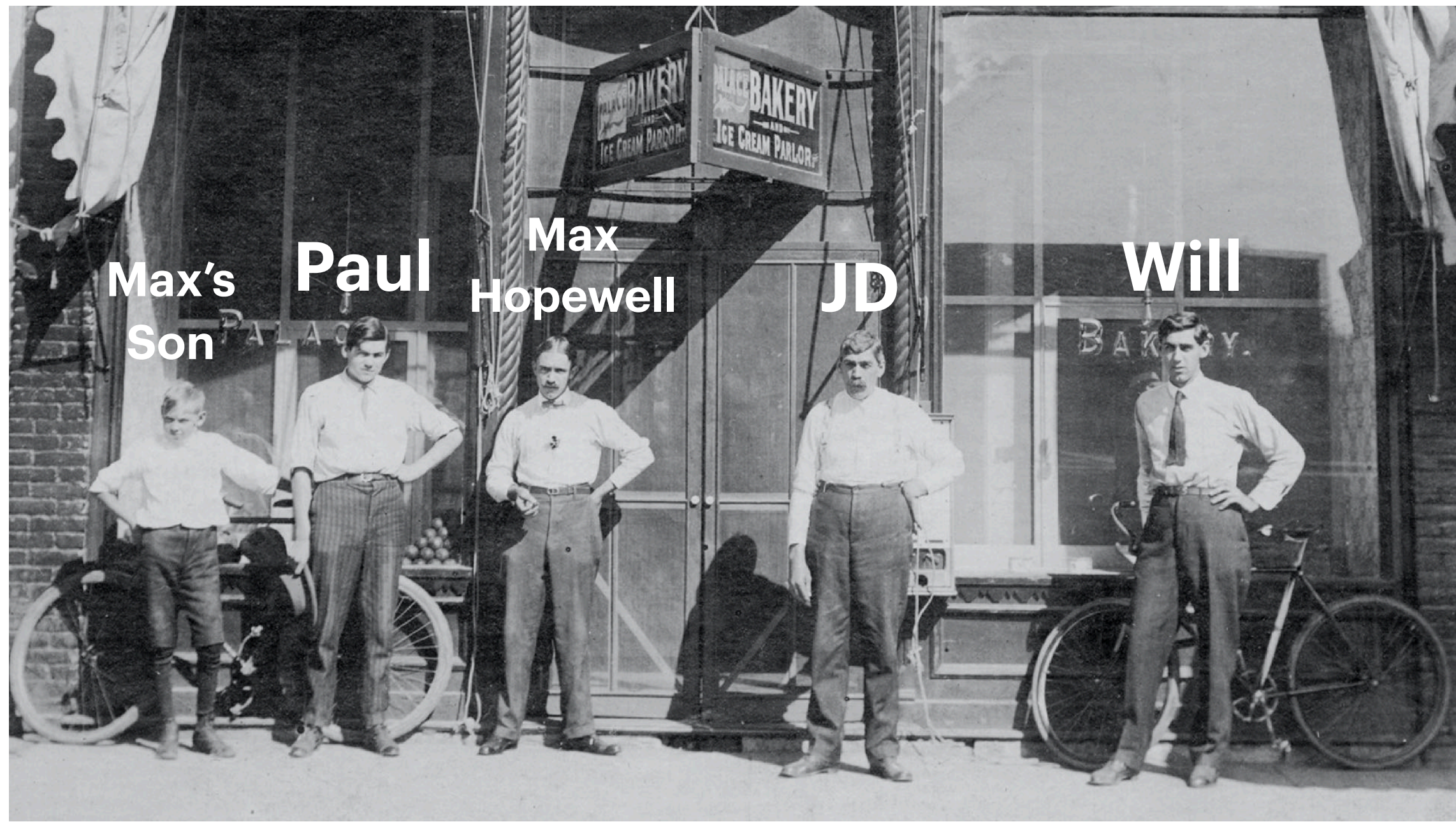
Front Row: James David Jr. with Baby Brice, Lyda (his wife), James David Sr.

Rose (his 2nd wife), Ethel, and Edith

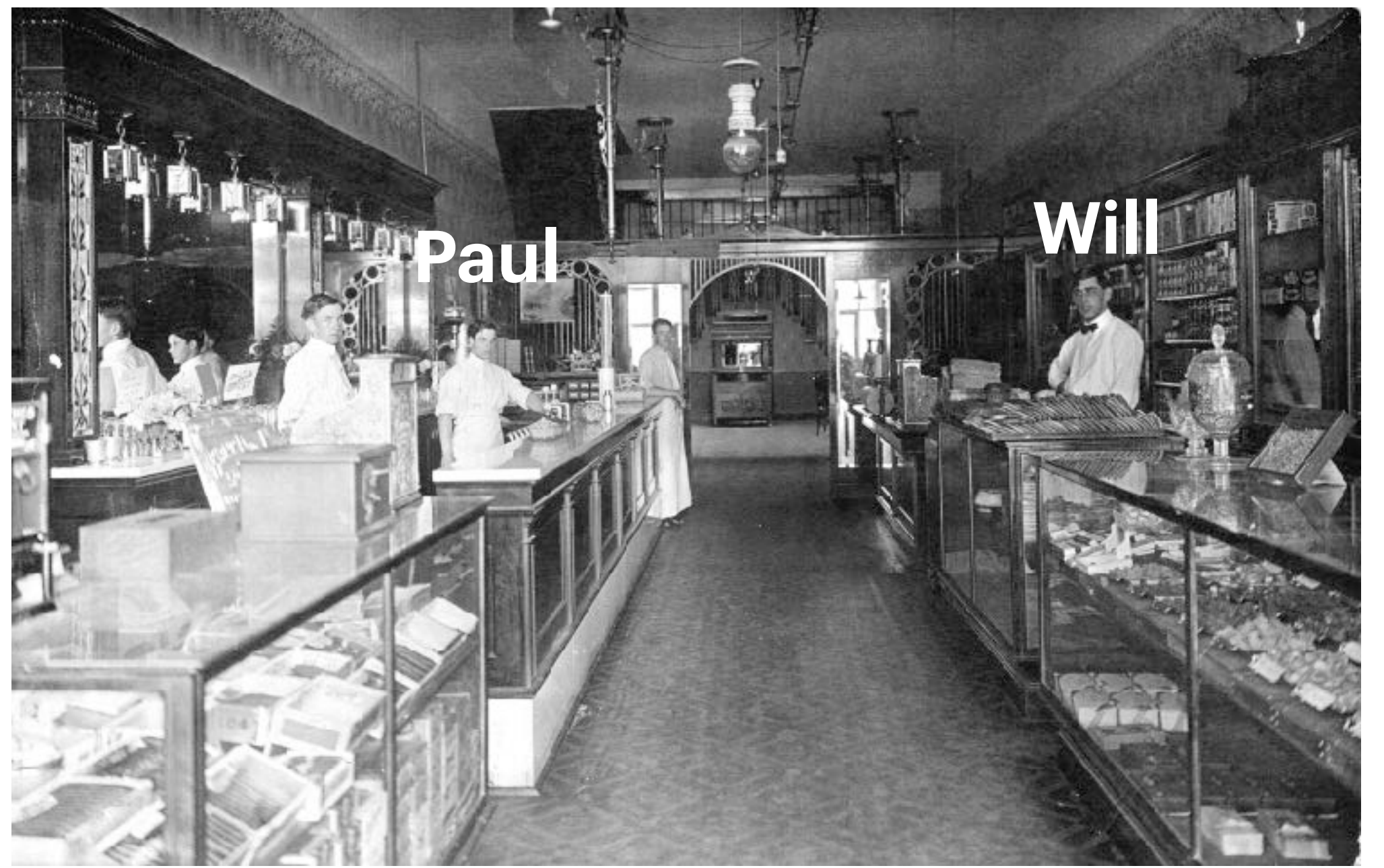
Back Row: Paul, Ruby (his wife), Price, Minnie (his wife), William,

Georgia (his wife), Earl, Lois, Edsel (Rose's son), Lloyd

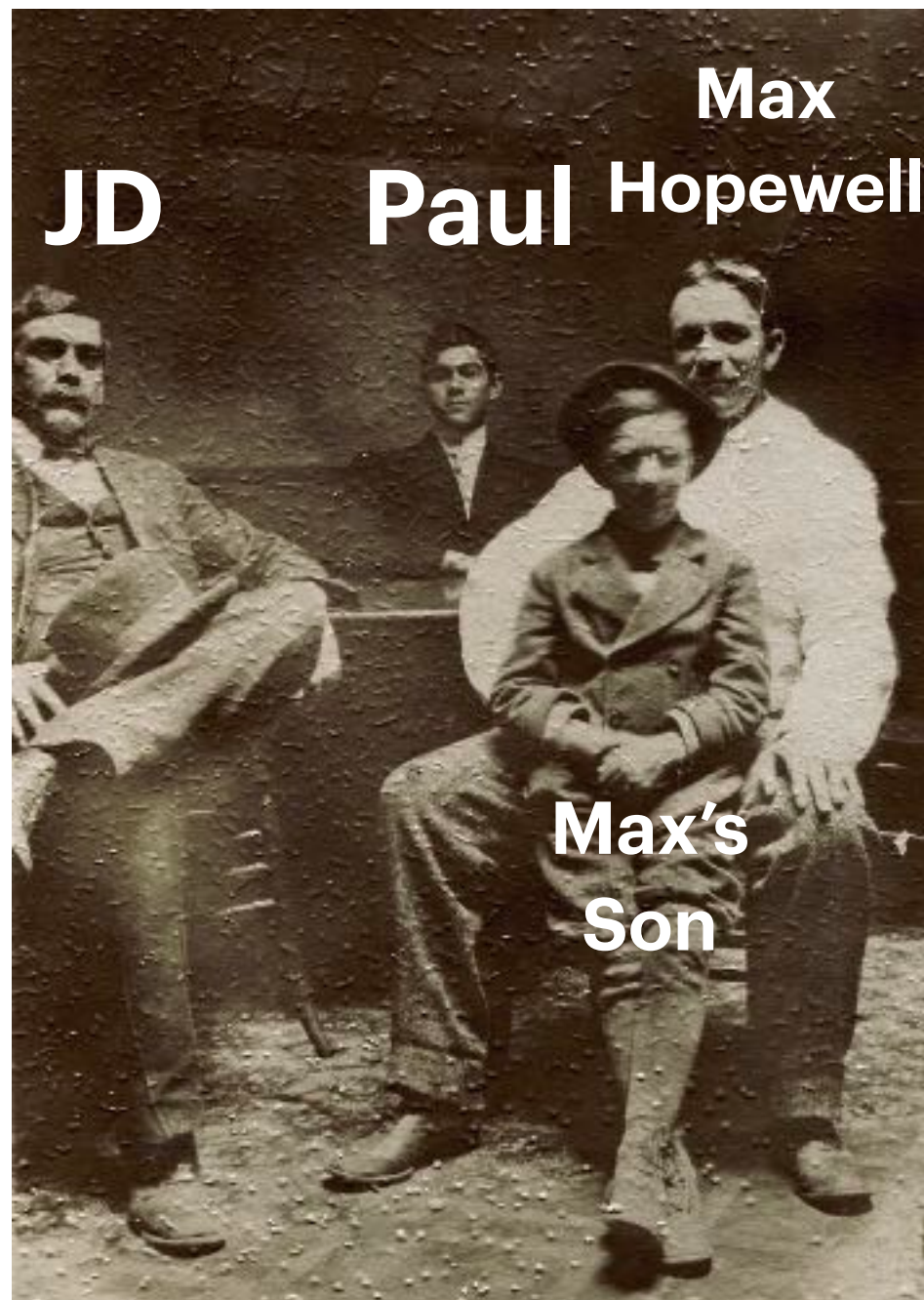
Not Shown: John who died in 1908



Palace Bakery - 1907



Retail Bakery & Ice Cream Parlor



Palace Bakery

Wants the Student Trade
in the line of

**Bread, Pastry
Pasteurized Milk and
Ice Cream**

==

Our Ice Cream Parlor is cool
and you are served to suit your
own taste. A cordial invitation
to you there.

==

EAST SIDE OF SQUARE



Palace SLICED BREAD

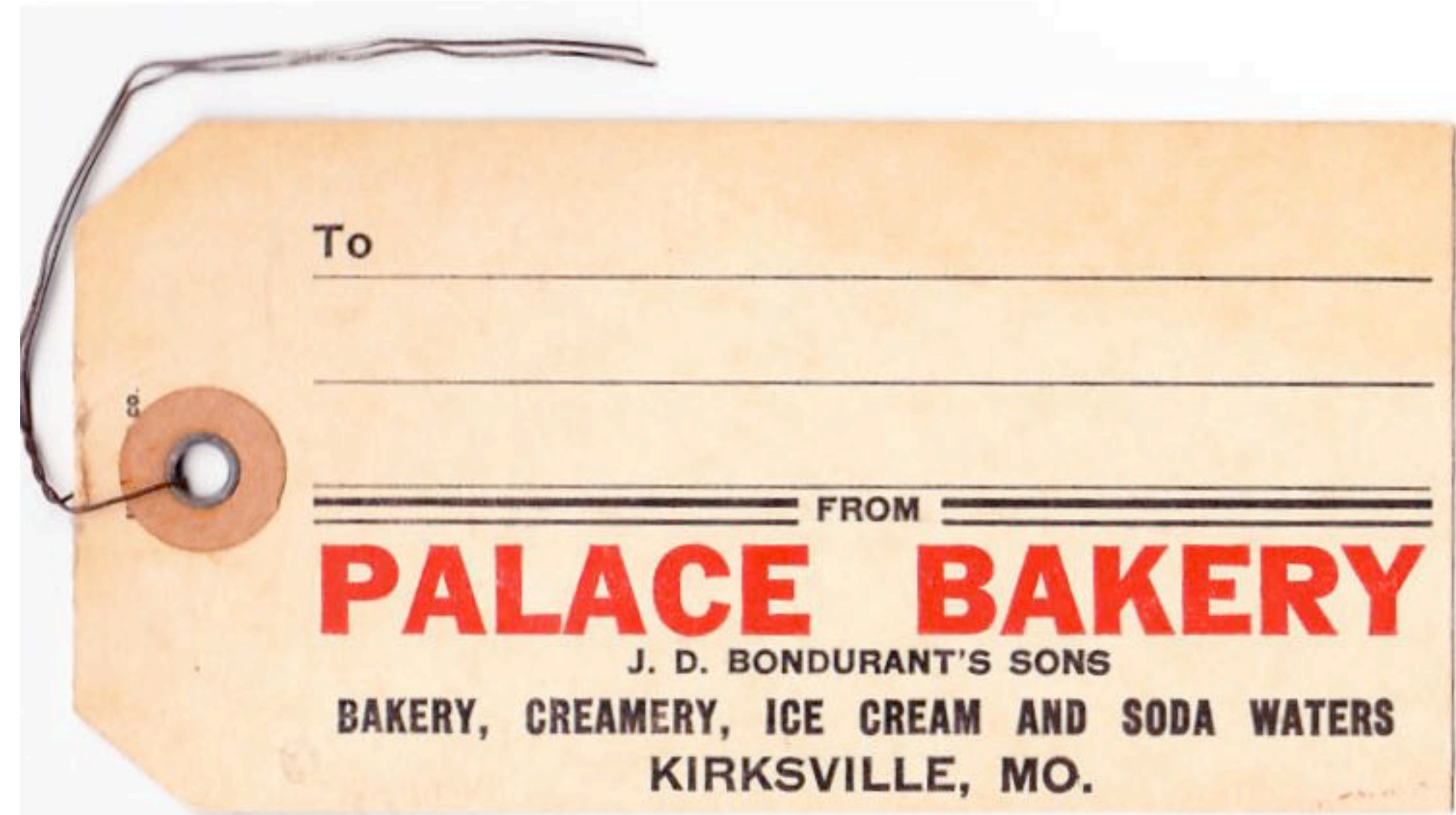
SAVES YOU

TIME AND WORK

AND

DOES NOT DRY OUT

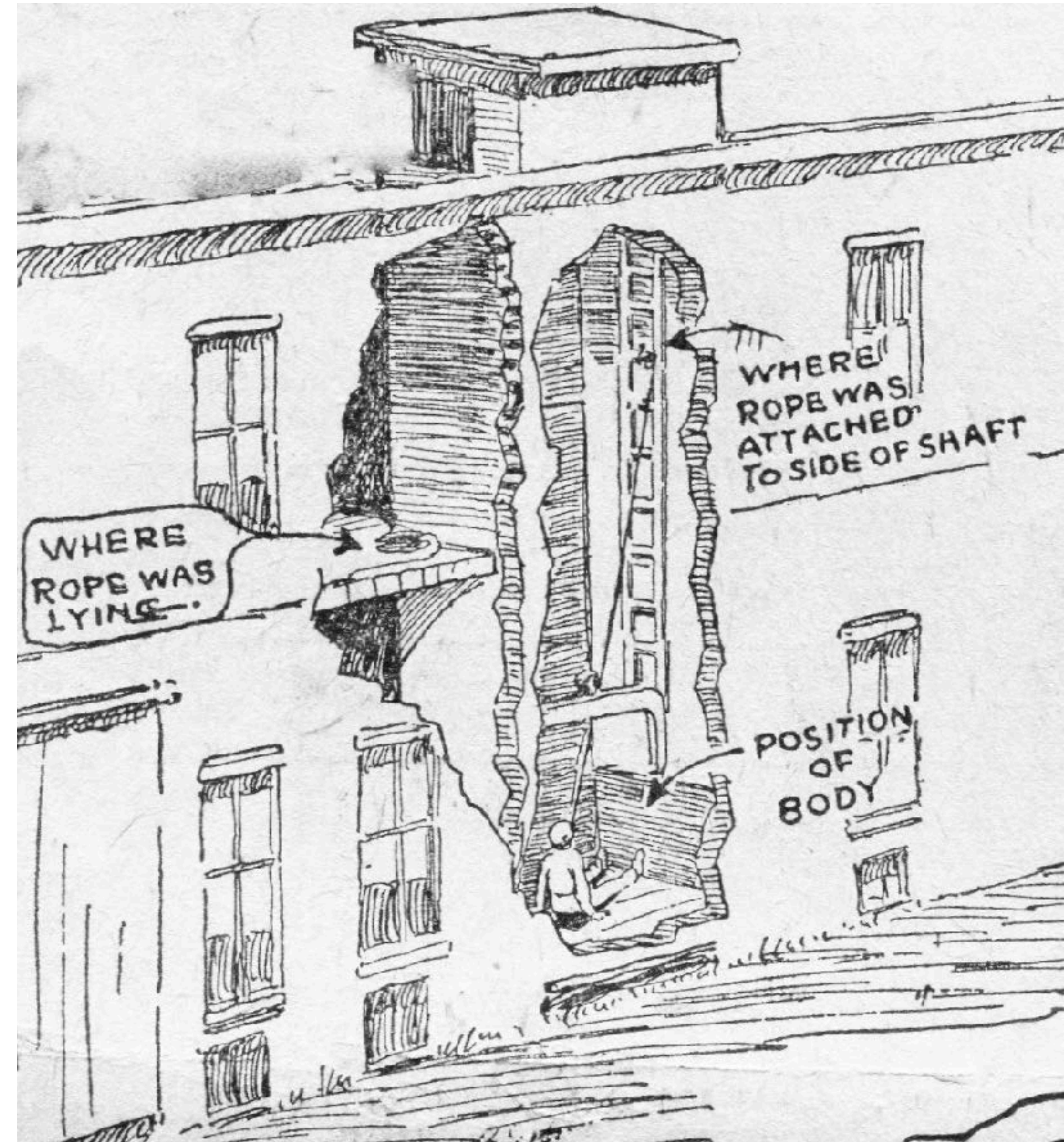
Get It At Your Grocers



THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF PAUL BONDURANT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1915

Paul Bondurant was working in the office of the Palace Bakery in downtown Kirksville when Walter Seale, the baker, left for dinner. When he returned at 6:30 pm, he found Paul Bondurant dead and sitting in the elevator with rope around his neck. The rope was connected to a ladder on the second floor of the building.



KIRKSVILLE DAILY EXPRESS

JANUARY 19, 1915

- Brother Jim called to Palace Bakery
- Sheriff and Coroner Called
- At 9:30 pm, Coroner assembled an Inquest. Three witnesses called. Inquest declares death a suicide. Finds broken neck, rope burns on hands
- Funeral is held at Father's house at 2:30 pm Monday

VOLUME 44

PAUL BONDURANT KILLED SELF AT PALACE BAKERY

HUNG HIMSELF IN ELEVATOR
SHAFT AT WHOLESALE
HOUSE

CAUSE OF DEED UNKNOWN

FUNERAL THIS AFTERNOON AT
HOME OF FATHER ON SOUTH
OSTEOPATHY

This community was startled Sunday evening with the announcement that Paul Bondurant, one of the city's best known and highly esteemed young business men, had committed suicide. It was such a shock and surprise that many people refused at first to believe it. There have been many conjectures and theories in regard to the cause of the rash act, but it seems to be a profound mystery.

FAMILY DISCOVERS SIGNS OF MURDER

PINKERTON AGENT CALLED TO INVESTIGATE FURTHER

- At the funeral, Price Bondurant observes bruising and indentations on Paul's head.
- Dr. William Hope Bondurant, Paul's Uncle inspects wounds. Believe these are signs of an assault.
- Family calls Pinkerton Investigative Service of Chicago.
- D. N. Gillison, a Pinkerton investigator arrives on January 20



DETECTIVE FINDS EVIDENCE OF FOUL PLAY

MORNING NEWS, JANUARY 22, 1915

- Lack of Motive - Paul was to become Junior Warden of Masonic Lodge on Monday after death. Paul was to become part-owner of Palace Bakery with his brothers.
- Marks of Assault on Paul's Skull
- Dust on Ladder not disturbed by climbing the ladder
- Rope tested, could not have stretched enough to allow hanging
- Finger marks on Ladder sent to US Government lab for comparison to Paul's finger marks on glass.
- Rope marks on Paul's hands were simply soot from working on furnace before closing.
- Paul's clothing was clean, no sign of falling from second floor

DETECTIVE SAYS BONDURANT WAS FOUL PLAY VICTIM

AFTER AN EXAMINATION STATES
THEORY OF SUICIDE IS
WHOLLY IMPOSSIBLE

WOUND WAS FOUND ON HEAD

SKULL APPARENTLY CRUSHED
AND MIGHT HAVE CAUSED
HIS DEATH

It was announced yesterday that the family of Paul Bondurant, becoming convinced that he had not committed suicide but had been the victim of foul play, had hired detectives and started a thorough investigation of the matter. The fact of it is, they state, that none of the members of the family have ever believed that Paul took his own life, despite the verdict of the coroners jury. Will

FAMILY MOVES FOR SECOND INQUEST

DAILY EXPRESS, MARCH 9, 1915

- Attorney for Bondurant Family had verdict in former Inquest set aside in Circuit court
- Body Exhumed, Second Autopsy performed
- Dr. George Still, son of AT Still of ASO Hospital leads the second autopsy
- Autopsy finds Paul's neck was not broken and no signs of suffocation.
- Bruising on Skull did not fracture skull or cause hemorrhaging.
- No cause of death identified.

PAUL BONDURANT AUTOPSY SHOWS STARTLING FACTS

Neck Found Unbroken and
No Signs as To How Young
Man Met His Death.

INQUEST TO BE FRIDAY

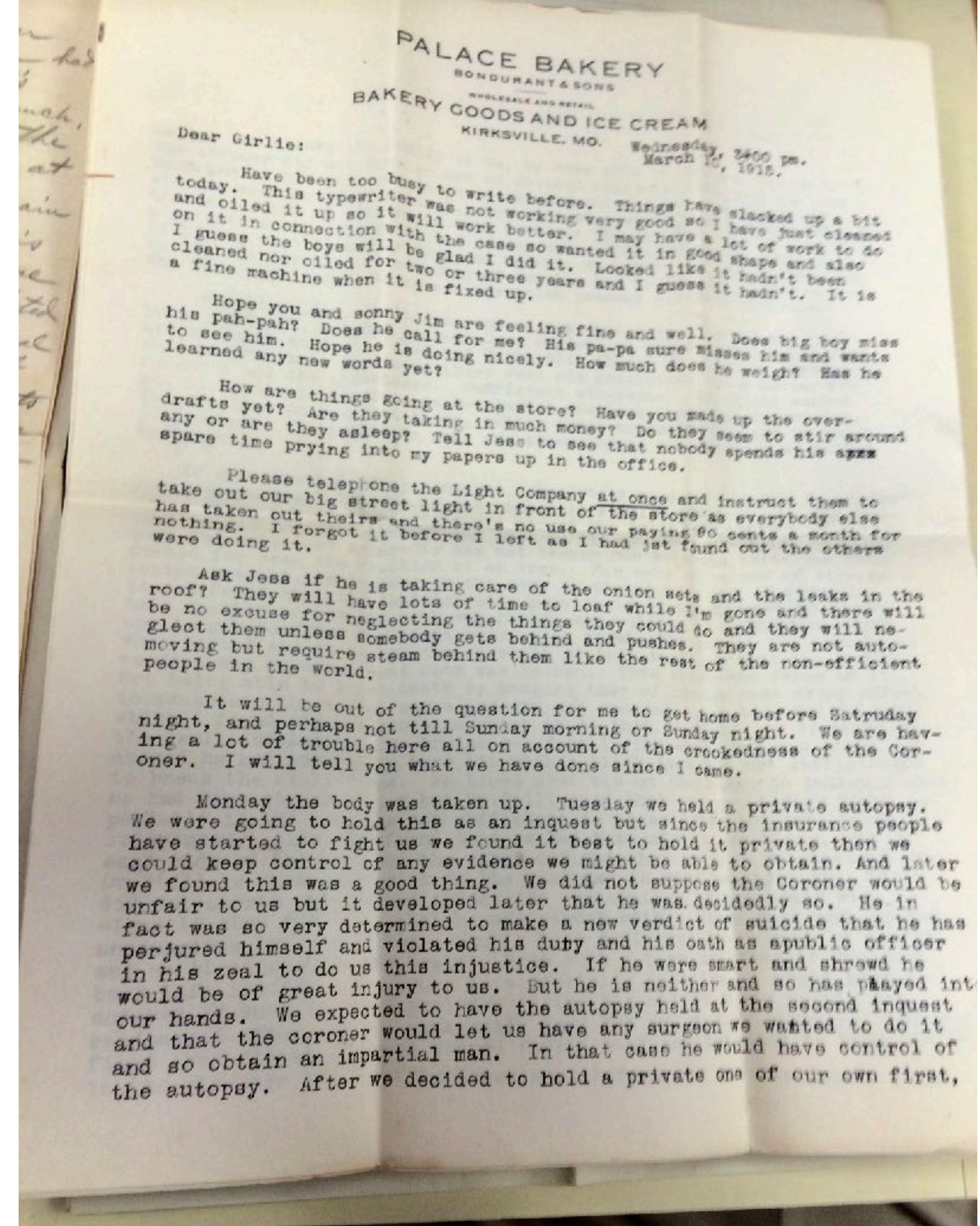
Pathological Tests To Be
Used on Marks Found on
the Flesh.

Important facts brought out yesterday in the autopsy held over the body of Paul Bondurant will be introduced at a new inquest to be held Friday, and there is every reason to believe that if the facts develop as is indicated today, the verdict as to how the young man met his death on January 17, will be changed from suicide to murder.

JD BONDURANT LETTER TO JOAN BONDURANT

CORONER ACCUSED OF BRIBE FROM INSURANCE COMPANY

- JD Bondurant wrote letter of his niece in Nebraska on March 10
- Expressing frustration with Coroner, feels he has been bribed by Insurance company to continue finding of suicide
- Coroner set aside new Inquest jury in favor of same original jury
- Concerned of jury being railroaded



SECOND INQUEST HELD MARCH 12, 1915

DEATH FROM CAUSES UNKNOWN TO THE JURY

- Dr. Still testified neck not broken, no signs of strangulation. Head wounds could render unconsciousness but not death.
- He stated that Paul Bondurant was murdered
- Jury found Death from Unknown Causes. Pinkerton evidence not presented

PAUL BONDURANT SLAIN, TESTIFIES DR. GEO. STILL AT THE INQUEST TODAY

Surgeon Who Conducted Autopsy Tells How Death Might Have Occured---Little Difference in Testimony of Doctors.

The second inquest over the body of Paul Bondurant, who was found dead at the end of a rope on the night of January 17, was begun in the grand jury room in the courthouse this afternoon and as far as the testimony of doctors went, although it was strong against the suicide theory, it is not likely that the real cause of death will be clarified. It appeared today that the inquest would last several hours, and if an adjourned session is not held tonight, the inquest may last over until tomorrow.

broken. Dr. Parrish attended the autopsy, and took notes of the findings.

Dr. E. S. Quinn was the next witness and testified that when he arrived after the body was found, he noted that the body was resting on the hips, with the upper part of the body extended by the rope. He saw no protrusion of the tongue, and said the eyes were closed and the face little, if any, discolored. At the autopsy, he saw no evidence of injury to the spinal cord or vertebrae or the mus-

BONDURANTS OFFER REWARD FOR MURDERER

DAILY EXPRESS MARCH 13, 1915

- Bondurant family offer \$1000 reward for capture of the murderer of Paul Bondurant
- Additional Evidence revealed to press
 - Seales heard steps on second floor and found elevator door to roof ajar
 - J.M. Whitlock, a realtor passing by Palace Bakery observed man coming out of elevator about time of murder. Provided a description of the man.

BONDURANTS WILL OFFER REWARD FOR MURDERER

Inquest Verdict Is "Death Was from Causes Unknown to Jury."

HAVE SOME EVIDENCE

Detective, in Guise of Insurance Man, Fooled Many Kirksville People.

A reward of a thousand dollars for evidence leading to the conviction of the slayer of Paul Bondurant will be offered shortly by members of the Bondurant family and the State of Missouri, as a result of the verdict of the coroner's jury yesterday, which shattered the theory of suicide held by the first jury.

ly that the man was not Paul Bondurant, although he did not think it was. Paul had on his coat when the body was discovered.

This testimony connected closely with that brought out by J. D. Bondurant, Jr., as to how a man could have entered the building by climbing a light pole in the rear and coming down through the elevator shed on the roof. The door in this shed was found ajar after the tragedy. Also, it is stated, that someone had rubbed the flour dust off a door between the bakery establishment and the students' club room, as if someone had tried to peer in through the glass. None of the employes had done this, they testified.

Dr. W. E. H. Bondurant, uncle of the deceased, who first discovered the marks on Paul's forehead, just before the funeral, testified to the belief that Paul was killed by a blow on the

FINAL THEORY OF MURDER PUBLISHED

KANSAS CITY STAR, MARCH 19, 1915

- Unknown man, 180 lbs, with a high forehead enters building through roof elevator door.
- Paul Bondurant while closing Bakery for evening is attacked on second floor and knocked unconscious.
- He is dragged to elevator, assailant attaches rope to ladder nearby and brings elevator to 1st floor
- Attaches noose around Paul Bondurant's neck to simulate hanging.
- Hearing noises outside, walks out of elevator and is seen by bystanders. He goes to 2nd floor and exits via elevator door when baker returns.
- The murderer was never caught and motive for the crime was never determined.

