

Scoville, Squire C.

Scoville, Squire Chase
 Born: February 8, 1845
 Birth Location: Watertown, Jefferson Co., New York
 Died: September 30, 1881
 Location: Reno, Nevada
 Inscription: Major Squire Chase Scoville Feb. 8 1845 Oct. 3, 1881
 Section: 1F Row 11 Plot 11

Military Data:

10th N.Y.H. Art'y, Co. A
 Rank In: Pvt
 Rank Out: Pvt
 Film Number: M551 Roll 125

Census Data:

1880 – Ormsby Co. – Carson
 Age: 34
 POB: New York (self and parents)
 Profession: Clerk
 Wife:
 Child: Amy G. (1)



*Note date on headstone is three days after announced death.

Death of Major Scoville

The Morning Appeal, Tuesday, October 1, 1881

Major S. C. Scoville, shot in the Reno affray on last Tuesday, died yesterday at 11 o'clock, A.M. But slight hopes were entertained of his recovery from the first, and the news of his death yesterday caused sorrow but no surprise. We have been unable to learn any particulars on his early life, as no one here seems to know where or when he was born. We should judge, however, that he was an Eastern man, and about 35 years old or upwards. He served creditably in the late war; and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a member at one time, we believe, of Custer Post No. 5 of Carson. In 1869 he went to Sacramento, from some of the Eastern states, held a clerical position in the office of the C. P. R. R. and came to Carson in 1875, where for a time he held the place of Chief Clerk in the freight department of the V. & T. R. R. He afterwards was bookkeeper in this city for Yerington, Bliss & Co. From here he went to Reno, where he held the position of Secretary of the N. & O. R. R. up to the time of his tragic taking off. He leaves a wife and two young children, Mrs. Scoville being a daughter of Major M. C. Gardner of this place. He was a man of good moral character, strong in his friendships, and had many friends here who sincerely regret his death and its cruel cause. The funeral will take place to-morrow at 2 o'clock at Reno from the Episcopal Church.

Scoville, Squire C. – News Article

RENO SHOOTING AFFRAY

Conflicting Statements in Regard to the Affair
Scoville and Balch Supposed to be Mortally Wounded—Judicial Examination Today
Morning Appeal, September 29, 1881

Since our issue yesterday we have received the Reno papers, the *Gazette* of the 27th and the *Journal* of the 28th instants, giving lengthy but very contradictory accounts of the shooting affray at Reno on Tuesday last, in which D. W. Balch and S. C. Scoville were wounded.

There has been bad blood of late between the two factions trying to obtain control of the Nevada and Oregon Railroad, and the murderous work of Tuesday last was no great surprise to those familiar with the sharp legal practice resort to by both parties. The *Gazette*, speaking of the meeting of that day, and other matters, says:

“It seems that Trustees McMechan, Coffin, Wheeler and Sunderland issued to themselves 50,000 shares of stock, at a recent meeting. Contractor Moore thereupon brought suit and enjoined them from voting or transferring that stock. The case was then transferred to the United States District Court. When the meeting was called to-day, E. B. Wheeler had in his pocket an order from the United States District Court, E. W. Hillyer presiding, modifying the injunction that issued from the First Judicial District Court some days ago, enjoining Wheeler, Coffin, McMechan and Sunderland from voting their stock at the stockholders meeting that was to have been held to-day, so far as the voting of the stock went, and allowing the defendants to vote their stock, but he did not produce it or mention it in the meeting.”

The *Gazette* give three versions of the shooting affray, all differing in every important particular, and each colored in the interests of one or the other of the parties to the shooting.

The *Journal* says: “At the appointed time the Wheeler crowd were in the railroad office, waiting for the Moore faction to show their hands and then euchre them. Judge Wheeler, as President of the N. and O., sat at the desk prepared to preside over the meeting. The other side presented themselves, and Mr. Fowler of New York, who is the largest stockholder in the company, requested all persons not stockholders to retire from the room. He looked at the Wheeler crowd, but none of them moved. He repeated his request. Judge Wheeler rapped on the table, and said: ‘The meeting will come to order.’ Just about this time a man named Cogan, Moore’s Superintendent of Construction, and some eight or ten other men filed into the room from the outer office, and somebody grabbed Mechanan. In a second a pistol was fired, and shooting commenced. The Directors who hadn’t expected this fled from the room as quickly as possible, and there was a general hurrying to and fro. Balch and Scoville were the only two found to have been injured.

Scoville and Balch, both of whom are supposed to be mortally wounded, made ante-mortem statements. Balch declared to a friend, with whom the writer spoke yesterday, that Wheeler shot him, repeating the statement three times as he held the hand of his friend. Wheeler denies having done any shooting, and says he had no pistol. Scoville says he was shot by Coffin. Four pistols are in the possession of the officing done any shooting, and says he had no pistol. Scoville says he was shot by Coffin. Four pistols are in the possession of the officers, three of which are loaded, the other one showing only three chambers discharged. There must have been some clever juggling performed soon after the shooting, as the *Journal* accounts for eight bullets, as follows: Two in Balch, one in Scoville, one picked up by Sunderland, one by Allen, one went through a windows, and two were imbedded in the partitions of the railroad office.

Major M. C. Gardner, father-in-law of S. C. Scoville, went to Reno yesterday by special train, on the strength of a telegram stating that Mr. Scoville was fatally wounded and might live two or three days.

Transcribers notes: the shooting, the coroner’s report, and the entire trial transcripts are available (starting date: September 27th) in the Reno Evening Gazette – very interesting reading!

IN MEMORIAM.

The Sad Death of one of the Victims
of Last Tuesday's Work.

Squire Chase Scoville died at his residence on Ralston street at 10:55 this morning of a wound received on Tuesday last at the meeting of the Nevada and Oregon railroad stockholders. Last night the District Attorney called and he made his dying statement, but it is impossible to learn what it contained. The manner of his hurt will doubtless be settled in the courts.

The bedside of the dying man was attended by his aged father and mother, who have lived together over fifty years, and by his young wife and his doctor. Consciousness never forsook him until his life was entirely extinct. He recognized friends up to the last moment, and as the poor wife laid her head upon the pillow touching his it was a picture of pathetic sorrow.

Mr. Scoville was born in Watertown, Jefferson county, New York, February 8, 1845. He was well educated at the public schools. In 1863 he enlisted in the Tenth heavy artillery, which was made up of 2,600 young men of his stamp, and served until the war closed. He came to this coast in 1869, and was chief clerk for J. R. Watson, the purchasing agent for the C. P. R. R. at Sacramento for eight years. About 1877 he came to Carson and kept books for Yerington and Bliss. Last January he came to Reno and was connected with the Nevada and Oregon R. R. until his death. In Carson he married Miss Helen Gardner, who has borne him two children, one about two years, the other three months old. Mr. Scoville was an excellent business man, and the books he had collected spoke a mind of high culture and discrimination. He was a Major on General Batterman's staff, and made a request that he be buried in his uniform. He was a quiet and sober man, of a good disposition, fond of his friends and a pleasant and hearty entertainer. His house was always popular with young people, and he will be greatly missed.

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Reno Evening Gazette 9/30/1881