

# Surprise Sprung by Introduction Of Character Witnesses by Defense

Alfred L. Lane, who stated that he lives in Brooklyn, and is a merchant of New York city, was the first witness to take the stand to swear to the good character of Leo Frank, and so quietly was he introduced that not until the defense had asked him several questions did it become known what was about to take place.

"You came here yesterday afternoon especially to testify about Mr. Frank, did you not?" asked Mr. Arnold after he had established the identity of the witness and drawn from him the statement that he had known Frank for about fifteen years.

"Yes, I came here for that purpose," Lane replied.

"Where did you first know Mr. Frank and when?" asked Mr. Arnold.

"I knew him when we were in school together, from 1898 to 1902, at Pratt institute, a high school in Brooklyn," replied the witness.

By this time it had begun to dawn on the spectators and lawyers that the defense was introducing the character of the defendant.

"Your honor, I can't see why this testimony is relevant, unless they are getting to put up the defendant's character," said Mr. Dorsey.

"That's exactly what we are going to do," replied Mr. Arnold.

"Mr. Lane did you go to Cornell university?" Mr. Arnold continued.

"No."

"Did Mr. Frank?"

"Yes."

"Do you know his character?"

"Yes."

"Was it good or bad?"

"I consider it good," replied the witness.

The state attempted no cross-examination, and the witness left the stand.

Other Character Witnesses.  
Phillip Nash, of Bridgewood, N. J.,

who declared that he is a clerical engineer, followed Lane. He also stated that he had come to Atlanta for the specific purpose of telling of the good character of the defendant.

"Did you go to Cornell with Mr. Frank?" Mr. Arnold asked, after the usual questions as to who he was.

"I did for four years."

"What was your age then?"

"I was 20 years old when I graduated."

"Do you know the general character of Leo M. Frank?"

"I knew it then," he replied.

"That's what I want to know; was it good or bad?"

"It was good."

Mr. Nash was excused without cross-examination.

He was followed by Richard A. Wright, of Brooklyn, who stated that he was a consulting engineer and a graduate of Cornell.

"Do you know Leo M. Frank?" he was asked by Mr. Arnold.

"Yes."

"How long?"

"For six years."

"Where did you first know him?"

At Same School and College.

"At Pratt institute."

"Were you in his class?"

"I was in a class one year ahead of him."

"Did you have an opportunity to know him?"

"I did."

"Did you go to Cornell?"

"Yes."

"Did Frank go there?"

"He did."

"How long did you know him there?"

"Three years."

"Do you know his general character?"

"I do."

"Is it good or bad?"

"It is good."

He was then excused.

"No."  
"Does hascaline ever get on the floor?"

"Yes, frequently."

Floor Never Scrubbed.  
"Has the floor ever been scrubbed since you remember?"

"No."

"Did you ever see the hair?"

"Yes."

"Could you tell what color it was?"

"No."

"Is there any place near the lathes where the girls dress their hair?"

"Yes, a gas jet is about ten feet away and they often dress their hair there."

"Isn't there a window nearby from which the breeze might blow stray hairs towards the lathes?"

"Yes."

"What was the day on which you saw Mary Phagan last?"

"On Monday before the murder."

"Did you ever see Frank speak to her?"

"No."

"What time did you get up Saturday morning?"

"At 7 o'clock."

"Did you go to see Frank?"

"Yes."

"What was your idea in going there?"

"I went to see Schiff."

"Was he there?"

"No."

"Was the door open or closed?"

"Open."

"Did you see Conley?"

"No."

"Did you see Mary Phagan?"

"No."  
"Did you see Monteen Stover?"

"No."

Frank in Office Alone.  
"Did you see Leo Frank?"

"Yes."

"Was the door to Frank's office open?"

"Yes."

"Do you recollect how the safe door was?"

"I think it was open."

"What time were you there?"

"About 12:20 o'clock."

"Did you see anybody else in there besides Frank?"

"No."

"What was he doing?"

"Writing."

"What did you say?"

"I said 'Good morning,' and he said the same."

"Anything else?"

"I said, 'You can't keep me away, even on holidays.'"

"How was Frank dressed that morning?"

"In a brown suit; he had his coat off."

"Did you see any blood around the metal department Monday?"

"No."

"Did you see any place where blood had been washed up?"

"No."

"Did you ever see any blood in the metal room where Jim Conley says the body was found?"

"No."

Court then adjourned for the noon lunch hour, with Quinn to be further examined later.