

Sally's Death Certificate

-Wyoming State Archives

The Levin Tragedy was discovered by the upper picture kneeling at the place where Sam Levin shot his daughter and then attempted to kill himself. They are Frank Baird (left) and Francis Stamy. In the lower picture Detective Harvey Jackson points to a bullet hole in the windshield of the car in which the man and his daughter drove to the outskirts of the city. The hole was made by the bullet that creased Levin's scalp. Another hole in the rear window was made by a bullet that he fired at himself and missed.



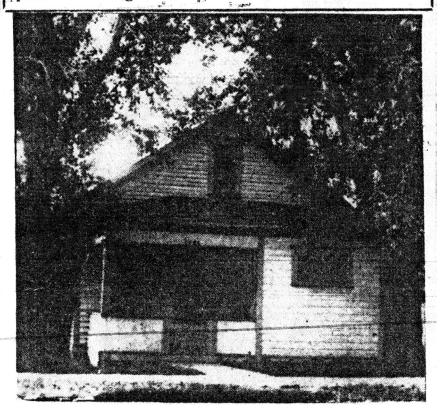
-The Wyoming Eagle, August 18, 1937



-The Wyoming Eagle, August 18, 1937

Eagle Photo and Engraving

A House of Tragedy is the building pictured here. This is the house at 1001 E. 20th owned by Sam Levin, Cheyenne merchant who fatally wounded his daughter and then attempted to commit suicide after making a mercy death pact with the girl.



-The Wyoming Eagle, August 18, 1937



Sally's Grave Marker

7311

CITY OF CHEYENNE, WYOMING BURIAL PERMIT

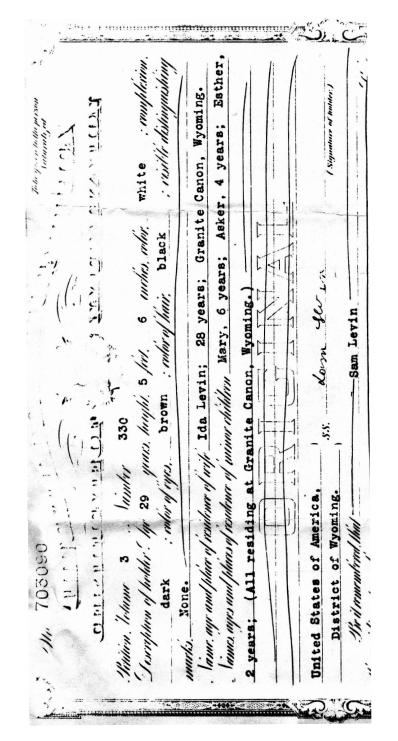
	Cheyenne, Wyo., Aug	ust 18, 1937
The City of Cheyenne hereby grants	permission to Paul H. "orland	
	Jewish	
Sally Levin	Age 16	Sex Female
	Gunshot wound in head and ch	
Date of Death August 16, 1937	Place of Death Cheyenne,	Wyoming
Attendant Physician Paul H. Worla	nd, Coroner Undertaker Paul	H. Worland
Received \$ None payment in full for opening and closing grave in City Cemetery.	Opening and closing by man people as caretaker in thei	
JKStoddad Assistant City Tree		City Clerk

Sally's Burial Permit

-Dorothy Feldman, Mt. Sinai Congregation

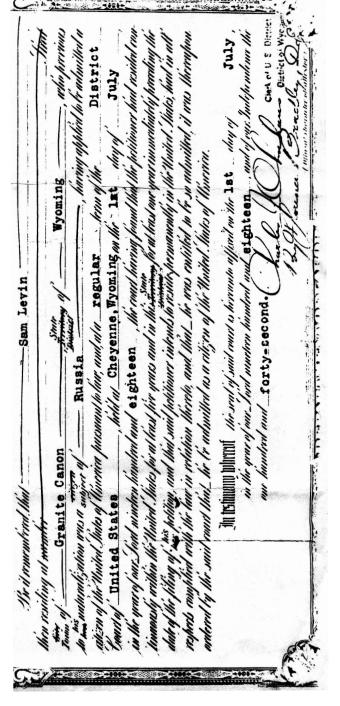


Family Photo - Date Unknown



Naturalization Certificate

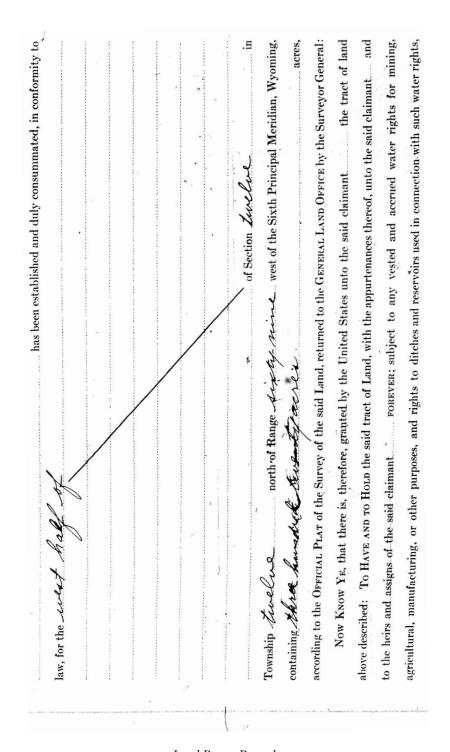
-Wyoming State Archives



o'clock H.M., and is duly recorded in Book 219 on Page , A. D. 19.20 , at 10.30 Ha H. Hahaham County Clerk and ex officio Register of Deeds This Instrument was filed for record on the 30 THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, TO COLUMN TO THE NEW TO THE TENT RECORD THE STATE OF WYOMING, SECOUNTY OF LARAMIE, day of Ftoler By THE UNITED STATES LAND PATENT CHEYENNE O20124

Whereas, a Certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Cheyenne, Wyoming, has been deposited in the General Land Office, whereby it appears that, pursuant to the Act of Congress of May 20, 1862, "To Secure Homesteads TO ACTUAL SETTLERS ON THE PUBLIC DOMAIN," and the acts supplemental thereto, the claim of Janes Levens

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:



Land Patent Record

-Wyoming State Archives

as may be recognized and acknowledged by the local customs, laws, and decisions of Courts; and there is reserved from the President of the United States of America, have caused these letters to be made , and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred nine hundred and Recorder of the General Land Office patent; and the seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the Gara or Washington, the Luchate - second lands hereby granted, a right of way thereon for ditches or canals constructed by the authority of the United States. J. g. C. Lauran Aptended in the year of our Lord one thousand IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I, Mondrow Mil, Secretary Recorded: Patent Number 774378 BY THE PRESIDENT: ModO OFFICE. ND STATES GENERAL

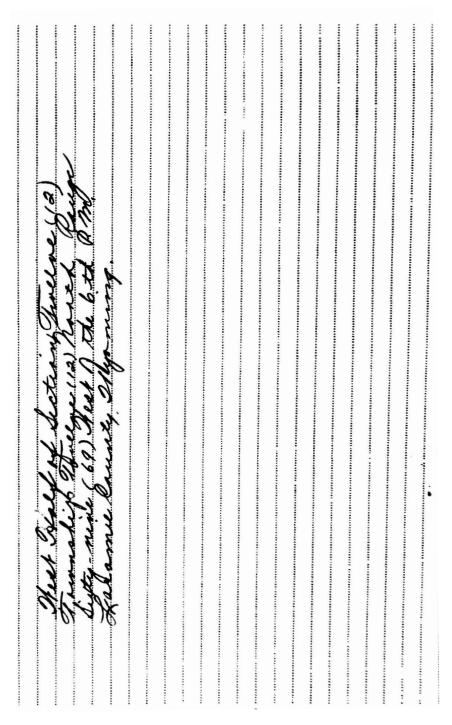
Land Patent Record

-Wyoming State Archives

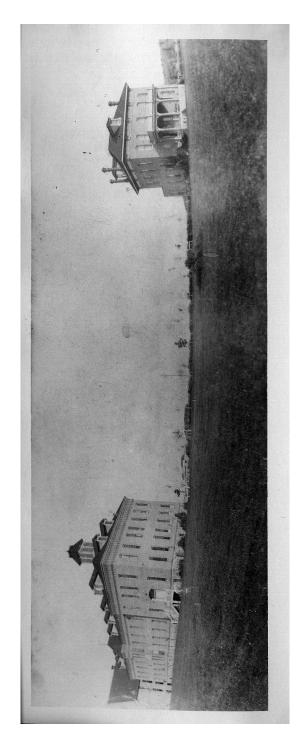
No /# 056

WARRANTY DEED

County of Leramic,	This Deed This Deed Was fled for record at 2 o'clock M, on the	A. D. 19.215, and duly seconded in Book 251 on Fage. Z.	By.	THIS DEED, Made this have day of day of the Hundred asset that between the sail that the the that the theorem	The Harrison Lase Stock Company a Hypering Conferential	WITNESSETH, That the said part scrottly first part for and in consideration of the sum of All All All (11,00)	confessed and acknowledged, hy self granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and unto the self by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey and unto the second part, and unto the second part and unto the
WARRANTY DEED	lyon Juni	Lake Learned	The Harren Lais Stock	THIS DEED, Made this Nine Hundred Ass. Leasternty . Library between	The Harran Lan Grek Con	WITNESSETH, The Maniel particulate for part for	confessed and acknowledged, hy-AL granted, bargained, sold and conconconcy unto said part of he second por land, situate, lying and being in the County of haramie and

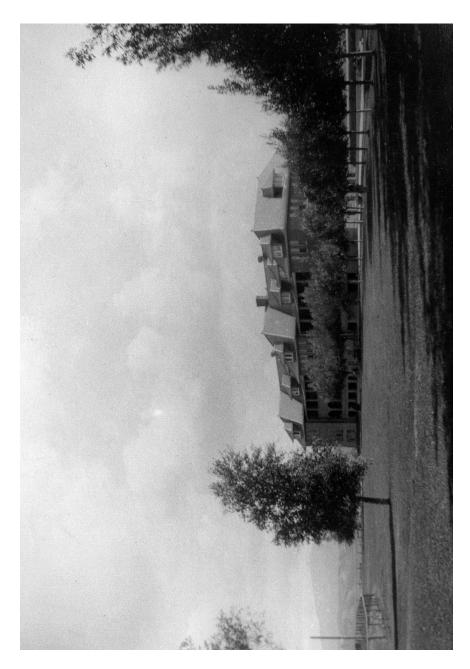


And the said part Ald. of the first part hereby expressly waive... and release... any and all rights free fit of the first part for the first part of the first part for the first part under and by virtue of any and all statutes of the State of Wyoming, providing for the exemption of homesteads from sale on execution or otherwise. and that And the heard, good and lawful right to sell and convey the same. And the said part Added of the first part will, andheirs, executors and administrators shall,Warnarr and Durund the same against all lawful claims and demands whatso and ... Sharken Harken ay ... Shark Attel Attel 2 9 P agescent and extended terms Learn transment and transment and and the and the section when they well seized in the said premises, in and of a good and indefeasible estate in fee simply and he with the the state of the international wife who when the wither the second second with the second second And that they are free from all incumbrances whatsoever .. Bushland are more the remove Membershammer days where white of whether we betrick the Dolandaniand Arst part, for their m Care . Warranty Deed



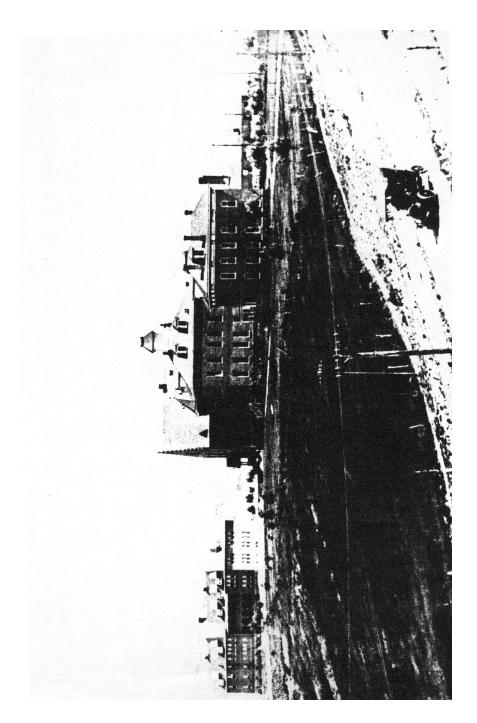
Wyoming State Hospital

-Courtesy of Evanston Public Library



Wyoming State Hospital

-Courtesy of Evanston Public Library



Wyoming State Hospital

-Courtesy of Evanston Public Library

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE

DISTRICT OF WYOMING.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FILED NOV 9 1937

Charles J. Ohnhaus Clerk

vs.

CRIM.

SAMUEL LEVIN.

> for violation of Section 453, Title 18, USCA. Manslaughter committed within limits of a Military Reservation.

TRUE

Foreman of Grand Jury.

CARL L. SACKETT, United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming. .

JOHN C. PICKETT,
Asst. United States Attorney for
the District of Wyoming.

Grand Jury Verdict, Cover Page -The National Archives, Federal Records Center

WITHIN THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE UNITED STATES.

In the District Court of the United States for the District of Wyoming, said district being a part of and within the Tenth Judicial Circuit of the United States, at a regular term of said District Court begun and held at the City of Cheyenne, in the County of Laramie and State of Wyoming, in the District of Wyoming and Judicial Circuit aforesaid, on the eighth day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seven:

The Grand Jurors of the United States of America, good and lawful men, summoned from the body of said District of Wyoming within said Tenth Judicial Circuit of the United States, then and there being, and then and there being duly impaneled, sworn and charged by the Court aforesaid, to diligently inquire and true presentment make for said District of Wyoming, in the name and by the authority of the United States, upon their oaths do find, charge and present:

That heretofore, towit, on the sixteenth day of August, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirty-seve at a point or place located within the limits of that certain Wilitary Reservation known as the Fort Francis E. Warren Military Reservation, a place then and there within the exclusive jurisdict of the United States of America, in the County of Laramie, in the District of Wyoming, within the boundaries of the State of Wyoming within said Tenth Judicial Circuit, and within the jurisdiction of this Court, one SAMUEL LEVIN, then and there being, did wilfully, knowingly, unlawfully and feloniously, without malice, and in a sudden heat of passion and in the commission of an unlawful act,

Grand Jury Verdict, Page 1

-The National Archives, Federal Records Center

make an assault in and upon one Sally Levin with a deadly weapon, commonly called a gun, the same being then and there charged and loaded with gunpowder and bullets, and then and there being held in the hands of the said SAMUEL LEVIN, and the said SAMUEL LEVIN did then and there feloniously, wilfully, knowingly and unlawfully, without malice, and in a sudden heat of passion and in the commission of an unlawful act, point at, discharge and fire at, against and upon the said Sally Levin the said bullets so discharged and fired from said gun, and did thereby mortally wound the said Sally Levin in such a manner that the said Sally Levin died a short time thereafter; and the said SAMUEL LEVIN, in the manner aforesaid, did then and there wilfully, knowingly, unlawfully and feloniously KILL the said Sally Levin, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the United States of America.

United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

OFFICE OF PROBATION OFFICER

DISTRICT OF WYOMING

OFFICER

FILED

NOV 17 1937

Charles J. Ohnhaus Clerk

LEVIN, Samuel, Crim. #4267.

CHARGE: Manslaughter.

SOCIAL HISTORY Your Probation Officer visited Levin Sunday, November 7, 1937,

and talked with him alone.

Age 48. Born in Russia. Entered the United States at Galveston, Texas, 1911. Came to Wyoming in 1916. Naturalized in 1920 at Cheyenne.

Educated in the Hebrew schools in Hussia.

FAMILY

Married Ida in Kussia in 1909. Children are:

Mary, daughter, born in Russia, 27, married, in Los Angeles

Archie, son, lives in Los Angeles

Esther, daughter, 22, employed as bookkeeper

Sally, 16

Max, son,

17, in high school.

Mary, Archie and Esther graduated from Cheyenne high school,

Archie had one year in the university of wyoming.

WORK RECORD In Cmaha, worked 21 years for Swift & Company Work 2 years for Union Pacific Railroad Co.

came to Cheyenne, 1916, and worked for U. P. 5 years. In the meantime took up a homestead 16 miles southwest of

Cheyenne, and then engaged in the furniture business up to

the present.

MELICION

Jewish. Was last year President of the Jewish Council in

Cheyenne.

MILITARY

Registered for the World War but was not called.

SERVICE RESOURCES

In addition to the store, until recently owned two houses,

1901 and 1905 East 20th Street.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

Family have enjoyed good health with the exception of Sally who experienced a physical and mental break about July 1,

1937.

INSTANT

Probation Officer visited Levin in his home and he gave in CASE .

substance the following statement regarding this trouble:

Probation Report, Page 1

The beginning of Sally's mental turn occurred about July 1st. They felt it was both a physical and mental break. She had had a serious fall when she was about six years old, and the parents took her to Dr. Day for physical exemination. They insisted on an X-ray, and Dr. Day took her to the Burton clinic, but the X-ray failed to show any difficulty.

Dr. Bunten diagnosed the present case as dementia praecox, and stated that she would not likely improve. It was suggested that they take her to Dr. Hilton, a specialist in Denver, who corroborated Dr. Bunten's diagnosis. Her condition by this time had grown more serious, so they placed her in a private sanitarium in Denver where she remained one week. They then brought her home.

Levin states that Sally was in a great mental disturbance over the fact that they felt she would never be well again, and made several attempts to take her own life, once by turning on the gas, and second with a butcher knife.

Fapers were then made out for her commitment to Evanston, to which she protested and begged her father to end her life rather than put her away. Levin stated that in im his disturbed condition over her he had a feeling that perhaps he was going the same way, and this feeling grew in intensity. Sally finally proposed that if he would not put her out of the way that he go with her. The time had come for the completion of the papers for her commitment and go to ir. Shingle for his signature. He claims he was without sleep for a week or ten days, and when Sally protested against going to Evanston, and insisted on the compact to end her life, Levin agreed, and instead of going to Dr. Shingle, drove to the edge of town where the deed was committed.

Levin states that when he came to and found himself in the hospital on a cot beside the cot on which Sally lay and heard the doctor announce that she was dead, that he experienced a sense of relief that he did not know how to described, and which he was sure if he did, noe one would understand. He had carried out her desires and his only disappointment was that he had failed in his attempt to go with her.

This story as given to the Frobation Officer corroborates in all important particulars the facts brought out at the coroner's inquest.

Probation Officer also contacted Mrs. Levin who states that her husband has always been a kind, gentle man, fond of his family, that he talked little but kept his troubles to himself.

Frobation Officer contacted Esther, who corroborated her mother's statement that her father was always kind to his family and very fond of all his children.

Levin, Samuel, Crim. #4267. concluded.

Contact was also had with Rabbi Krasch, who came to the Probation Office and discussed the case. Rabbi Krasch explained that Levin had been Fresident of the Jewish Council the past year, and had enjoyed a good reputation among the Jews. The Rabbi was on his vacation when this tragedy occurred, and states that he believes if he had been here, in his extremity Levin would have come to him and he would have been diverted from carrying out his decision.

Rabbi Krasch stated that insanity seldom occurrs in Jewish families, and is considered a very great misfortune.

NOT PSYCHO-PATHIC Only one other instance that could be in any way significant was discovered in the Levin family; that of the oldest daughters marriage to a gentile sometime ago. Levin was greatly disturbed over it. According to Rebbi Krasch, he felt that a marriage outside of the fold was a reflection upon the family and that her family could never be accepted into the Jewish households. He was very critical of Mary, to the extent that he in turn was severely criticized by other members of the Jewish congregation.

Probation Officer asked Dr. Andrew Bunten if he felt that the emotional flare expressed at the time of Mary's marriage had any connection with this disturbance in the way of a general psychopathetic condition or a diseased mind. Dr. Bunten stated that he did not believe there was any connection between the two, that each instance grew out of the circumstances surrounding these two matters.

Dr. Bunten further states he did not believe Levin would be psychopathatic and that he did not believe there is any danger of a repetition of a trouble of this sort. He based his statement on the attitude of Levin immediately after the tragedy. He stated that in a psychopathic condition would have found Levin highly emotional, whereas in this instance he seemed calm and resigned.

U. S. Arbbation Officer

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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UNITED STATES)							Clerk
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)							* *
CARTET TETITAL	3							

By the Court on Application for Probation.

The case now before the Court is of a strange paradoxical nature and therefore the more difficult to dispose of. It can probably be most aptly described as one which is sometimes called "Mercy homicide." There are those who openly espouse the legitimacy of such a method of ending human suffering. No doubt most people are strenuously opposed to it. A goodly number may be in doubt when the most favorable circumstances lend strength to its humane purpose. Perhaps no one would favor an indiscriminate ratification of the aim based solely upon the mental operation of the agent who seeks to accomplish the desired end in the relief of the afflicted. Certainly all would agree that "carte blanche" justification of this type of homicide would be exceedingly dangerous.

It is beyond the province of the Court I take it, in a time like the present to attempt a philosophical discussion and a determination of the correct answer to the question.

In this case there has been an indictment returned by a Grand Jury which charges this defendant with the crime of manslaughter. The finding of this body is exclusively within its own province. If one should feel that the charge should have been murder in the first degree it is no answer here. In the ordinary understanding the charge of manslaughter means the taking of human life with a

Judgment on Application for Probation, Page 1

-The National Archives, Federal Records Center

degree of mitigation, but without complete justification. The Grand Jury therefore must have felt that the crime revealed to them had elements which partook of a form of mitigation or quasijustification. At least all that we have before us is an indictment for manslaughter to which the defendant has entered a plea of guilty and has presented application for Probation.

The term probation is comparatively new in the jurisprudence of the Federal courts and is perhaps generally somewhat misunder-It is not essentially intended to be made applicable to the crime committed but more especially to the person who commits the crime. Its objective is restitution and recongunstruction of character in the individual whose background, temperament, previous conduct, and moral and economic sense of responsibility seem to justify it. Hence we see those entering pleas of guilty to the same class of crime treated differently; some being favored with probation and others committed to institutions. This must be the rule or else the Probation System would be but a farce. And whenever it is seen that probation is not indulged when applied for in good faith, it certainly means that that individual has developed in the investigating and administering officers no hope for reconstructed character either on account of previous misconduct or mental and moral irresponsibility. Frequently by straining our hope without the ordinary background, we are met with disappointment and defeat and sometimes our best judgment is shockingly upset.

On account of the serious nature of the crime in the instant case, the matter has been investigated with more than the usual care by the proper officials, to bring forward all points which bear upon this particular feature of the case. As the picture has been presented to me, the defendant is or was the father of a family consisting of both boys and girls. One of these, a girl aged about 16 years, became afflicted with a disease which thorough research,

competent investigation and adequate treatment was thought to be both incurable and progressive. The daughter was aware of her condition and implored the father to end her suffering and what to her was felt to be a disgrace. This so preyed upon the father's mind that the only way out seemed to be the mutual ending of their double misery in a joint death. This was attempted by the defendant with a successful result as to the child, but with a serious but not mortal wound as to the father. At least it can be said that he himself tried to keep the faith. But he is now here to answer to the almost unforgivable offense of himselain his own offspring.

His life up to the time of that overwhelming crises had been normal so far as investigation reveals; a good husband; a natural and loving father; a good business-man; a man who paid his honest debts; one who took pride in the rearing and equipping of his children with an adequate education; one respected by his fellow-citizens and by those of his class and association, recognized by being placed in positions of responsibility, respect and honor. Being of the Jewish faith, it may be said with at least a degree of plausibility that this great sorrow which so strangely entered into his life found its expression in the strong family ties predominating this proud race.

If the picture be painted without the absolute character of the crime itself, the background is as perfect for the indulgence of a probation plea as one could well find. Does this element destroy it? No man can answer that question with a degree of certainty. Minds differ as they depend upon many varying phases of physiological reactions. Certain it is that no system of administrative criminal justice should condone the act here charged or ratify its commission. Nor does this Court. But in the philosophy of the Probation theory, this would not appear an insurmountable obstacle.

With one who was so obessed with the love for his child that he himself would lay down his own life with hers, it can scarcely be said that he is devoid of the sensibilities of life; that he is possessed of genuine criminal instincts; or that there is in him a remote degree of danger of future lawlessness along this or other lines. This then must be the measure of the Court's judgment, against whose fallibility there is no insurance, in this as in all human affairs.

The sentence and judgment of the Court is that the defendant be committed to an institution to be designated by the Attorney General for a period of five years, but that the sentence be suspended and the defendant be placed on probation with the duly designated Probation Officer of this Judicial District for a period of five years.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

FILED NOV 17 1937 Charles J. Onahaus Clerk

-0-

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,

VS.

No. 4267 - Crim.

SAMUEL LEVIN,

Defendant.

SENTENCE AND JUDGMENT UNDER PROBATION ACT.

At this day comes Carl L. Sackett, Esquire, District Attorney, who prosecutes the pleas of the United States in this behalf, and the defendant, Samuel Levin, in his own proper person and by Clarence A. Swainson, Esquire, his attorney, also comes.

The defendant, Samuel Levin, having been indicted and arraigned and having plead "Guilty" to the crime of manslaughter committed within limits of a Military Reservation, in violation of Section 453, Title 18, U.S.C.A., is then asked by the Court if he has anything to say why the sentence and the judgment of the Court should not be pronounced against him, to which the defendant replies that he has and thereupon makes a statement to the Court.

Court that the said Samuel Levin be committed to the custody of the Attorney General of the United States, or his authorized representative, to be confined in an Institution for the period of five (5) years from this date, but it appearing to the Court that it would be proper in the premises to place said defendant on probation, under the Act of March 4, 1925, for the period of said sentence, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that said defendant be, and he is hereby, placed on probation for said period of five (5) years, or during good behavior, under the care and custody of Joseph B. Lutz, United States Probation Officer, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and that during such probation period he shall comply with the general conditions of probation as fixed by the Attorney General of the United States, said defendant to remain at all times subject to the jurisdiction of the Court under the provisions

Sentence and Judgement, Page 1

-The National Archives, Federal Records Center

of said statute.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a certified copy hereof be delivered to the said United States Probation Officer.

Dated this 17th day of November, A. D. 1937.

Sentence and Judgement, Page 2

-The National Archives, Federal Records Center

"I Feel Better Today than I did yesterday."

express himself yesterday morning after Federal Judge T. Blake Kennedy placed him on probation for the mercy slaying of his 16-year-old daughter, Sally. Mrs. Levin said she was pretty happy also. The 48-year-old furniture dealer is shown here in the first picture ever taken of him for publication.

Photo by Prencis Brammar



-The Wyoming Eagle, November 18, 1937

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49	vs.	No. 4267	Crim.
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Discharge from Probation, Page 1

-The National Archives, Federal Records Center

PROBATION SYSTEM, U. S. COURTS

IN AND FOR THE

District Court of the United States

u e		STRICT OF WYOM	TMC I	FILED	
, -	DI	STRICT OF. WYOM	100		
THE UNITED STATES				V 24 1942	
vs.			Char	les J. Ohnhaus Clerk	
SAMUEL LEVIN Division	*		L	O160.1K	
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1. COMES NOWJO	SEPH B. LUTZ	PROBA	TION OFFICE	R OF THE COUR	TS
presenting an official report upon				N 101 10	
			*	3	10
2. PRAYING THAT THE	COURT WILL	DISCHARGE PROB	ATIONER FROM	FURTHER	
		SUPERVISION.			
		••••••		*	
3. RESPECTFULLY RELA	TING THAT	THE PROBATION	ERSamuel L	evin	
was placed on probation by the E	Ionorable T. Bl	lake Kennedy			
sitting in the court atCheyenn who fixed the period of probation	supervision at	five (5) year	oilovemb	er 194	1937
general terms and conditions of	probation thereto	fore adopted by the	court and also	imposed special co	ne n-
ditions and terms as follows:		140			
4. RESPECTFULLY PRE FOLLOWS:	SENTING PET	TITION FOR ACT	ION OF COUR	T FOR CAUSE A	ß
(If shor	t insert here; if lengt	hy write on separate shee	et and attach)		
That said probations	er was permit:	ed to go to Cal-	ifornia and h	as heen under	
the supervision of t	the Probation	Officer there w	ho states that	t probationer	
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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

FILED

NOV 24 1942

Charles J. Ohnhaus

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

No. 4267 Criminal

SAMUEL LEVIN,

Defendant.

ORDER DISCHARGING DEFENDANT FROM PROBATION

At this day comes Joseph B. Lutz, Esquire, Probation Officer for the District of Wyoming, and presents his officiel report on the conduct and attitude of probationer Samuel Levin, defendant herein, advising the Court that the period of probation of said defendant has expired, and that said defendant has not violated his probation and that his conduct has been reported as satisfactory.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that said defendant, Samuel Levin, be, and he is hereby, discharged from such probation.

Dated this 24th day of November, A.D. 1942.

Judge

Discharge from Probation, Page 3

-The National Archives, Federal Records Center

אֵל מָלֵא רַחֲמִים, שׁוֹכֵן בַּמְּרוֹמִים, הַמְצֵא מְנוּחָה נְכוֹנָה עַל כַּנְבֵּי הַשְּׁכִינָה, בְּמֵעְלוֹת קְדוֹשִׁים וּטְהוֹרִים כְּזְהַר הָרָקִיעַ מַזְהִירִים, אֶת נִשְׁמִת שָּׁרָה בַּת שְׁמוּאֵל שֶׁהָלְכָה לְעוֹלָמָהּ, בְּגַן עֵדֶן הְּהֵא מְנוּחָתָהּ, לָכֵן בַּעַל הָרַחֲמִים יַסְתִּירֶהָ בְּסֵתֶר כְּנָפִיו לְעוֹלָמִים, וְיִצְרוֹר בִּצְרוֹר הַחַיִּים אֶת נִשְׁמָתָהּ, יְיָ הוּא נַחֲלָתָהּ, וְתָנְוּחַ בְּשָׁלוֹם עַל מִשְׁכָּבָה. וְנֹאמַר אָמֵן.