

# WOMAN'S FATHER HAS BEEN MISSING DURING 26 YEARS

Writes to Detective Bureau From Cheshire, England

Eleven-year-old Daughter of Vanished Policeman Forwards Pathetic Letter

Writing from her home, 11 High street, Crewe, Cheshire, England, Mrs. A. Tapley, has requested Clerk Jos. Shay, of the Detective Bureau, to institute search for her father, James Henry Lawton, whom she has not seen nor heard from in twenty-six years.

She was informed that her father conducted a saloon in this city. Inquiry made yesterday among saloonkeepers failed to secure any information concerning the missing man.

Mrs. Tapley's letter read: "Please assist me in helping to find my father, James Henry Lawton, who left Crewe, twenty-six years ago, and who, I am told, went to your city and opened a saloon. He was formerly a bricklayer. I am sure he would be pleased to know that I am anxious to learn something about him, and I hope you will be able to locate him for me."

As a result of a letter received from Gertrude A. Roberts, 11 years old, who is living with her mother and two brothers, 5 and 9 years old, at Schuylkill Haven, Pa., Clerk Shay is going to make a determined effort to find William H. Roberts, the father of his youthful correspondent, a former mounted policeman of the Sixty-fifth street and Woodland avenue station, who disappeared on September 1, 1911.

## Letter Tells of Missing Policeman

The little girl's letter, which made an impression on the detective bureau clerk, was as follows: "I have just been reading of other ones who have asked you to assist in finding their missing relatives and friends. My father, William H. Roberts, who was a mounted policeman, went away on September 1, 1911, and you will make my mother and my two young brothers and myself happy if you restore him to us.

"On the day he started from home he said he would be back in the evening to prepare to report for duty, but he never returned and we have not seen him since. he has, however, sent us letters from Columbia, South Carolina. In all of his letters he stated that his health was not good. The last letter we received was in

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# Woman's Father Has Been Missing During 26 Years

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August, 1912. In that communication he stated that he expected to be with us within a month. We are still waiting for him, and as he did not appear or write again we fear that he became ill.

"Please try and learn something about him and let us know. My mother works very hard to support me and the other two children. It is necessary for her to do so as we are very poor. Thanking you in advance for any kindness, I am, Yours truly, GERTRUDE A. ROBERTS."

## Circus Man Seeks Step-Brother

Eager to be reunited to his two step-brothers, Joseph and John Diefenthaler, whom he has not seen for twenty-four years, Francis Diefenthaler, of 812 Pine street, Camden, a former member of the Forepaugh circus, sent Clerk Shay the following letter: "I have read in The Inquirer time and again of your wonderful work in tracing missing persons, and I am going to ask you to locate, if possible, my two step-brothers, neither of whom I have seen or heard from since 1888 or 1890, when they were inmates of an orphan asylum in Philadelphia.

"For many years I traveled with the

Adam Forepaugh Circus and consequently was a wanderer. The only relatives I now have are my two step-brothers, and I hope you will succeed in locating them. I have made repeated efforts to find them without success."

Clerk Shay has been urged to institute search for Simon Demore, a springmaker, whose sister is dying in Syracuse, and who came to this city about thirteen years ago, and who at one time lived on George street. A communication the detective clerk received stated that the missing man's sister, Mrs. Mary Labby Beard, who is dying from tuberculosis is inquiring for him continuously, she being anxious to see him before she dies.

From Mason City, Iowa, a request was received to institute search for Bert Deter, a young man, both of whose parents live at Mason City, and who are dying from grief, it is said, over his disappearance. Deter, according to the letter, came here to accept a position.

At the instance of his brother, John Loeser, of 2152 North Leithgow street, Clerk Shay is making search for Lewis Loeser, who went to Chicago about four years ago, and whose father is ill.

## Montreal Policeman's Son Lost

John Corley, of Montreal, a former policeman of that city, wrote to have search instituted for his 13-year-old son, who was employed at the Montreal Stock Exchange, and who has been missing since January 17. From Montreal the boy went to New York and afterward came to this city, his father believes.

Mrs. Clifford Shinn, 307 Fairview

street, Riverside, N. J., has asked The Inquirer to assist her in a search for her daughter, Flossie May Melvin, 15 years old, who disappeared on January 25. The girl is about four feet 5 inches in height, has dark brown hair, light blue eyes, short nose and of fair complexion. At the time of her disappearance she wore a red knit jacket, red sweater, dark green skirt, tan shoes, and took with her a dark blue Norfolk coat suit.