

MURDOCK DENIES HIS WIFE'S STORY

**Never Agreed to Swap Wives with
Edey, He Swears as Wit-
nes at the Inquest.**

WENT TO TEXAS FOR PLEASURE

**Mrs. Edey Followed Him, but He
Sent Her Home on Next Train—Not
to be Charged with Conspiracy.**

Special to The New York Times.

SAYVILLE, L. I., Jan. 11.—Coroner Moore to-day closed his inquest into the deaths of Henry C. Edey and his wife, who were shot in their home in Bellport two weeks ago, with the verdict that Mrs. Edey was slain by her husband, who then killed himself.

Gardner Murdock, the former Bellport liveryman, was one of the last witnesses. He flatly contradicted the sworn testimony of Mrs. Murdock that he and Edey had arranged to swap wives.

Murdock told the story of his life so far as it related to his connection with Edey and his wife. It was seven years ago when he first met Edey, he said, when the latter came to his livery stable to see about boarding his horses there. Two years later he met Mrs. Edey. "She wanted to learn horseback riding," he said, "and I taught her."

After that the families met in a social way, visited each other's homes and spent many evenings with music and card playing. There came a rupture to these pleasant relations, he testified, when in August last Mrs. Murdock left him and went to the home of her parents.

It was then that Murdock left for Texas, and their affairs became a subject for newspaper publicity. The trip to Texas, Murdock said emphatically, was a pleasure trip, and he went there alone. Mrs. Edey appeared when he was in Galveston. Murdock told of meeting her at the railroad station.

Mrs. Edey, he said, confided to him that it was her husband who sent her to Texas. This surprised him very much, and it was upon his advice that she took the next train back home. She remained in Galveston only an hour. She remained there long enough, however, to tell the liveryman her observations regarding the conduct of her husband and Mrs. Murdock.

Murdock said that the bringing of an alienation suit against Edey was in his mind before he departed for Texas. He had seen things that made him think he was justified in the bringing of such a suit. Four days after he left Bellport, and just before he started for Texas, Murdock asserted, he saw Mrs. Edey. She was then staying at the home of an aunt in Harlem. He declared he did not tell her where he was going, though he admitted he had told the aunt.

After his return to New York, he said, he spent two months with his brother in New Haven. From there he went to New York, and later to Staten Island. He did not live with his wife after he left Bellport, though she had stayed at the home of her brother near New Haven, while he was there, and she afterward went to Staten Island with their son and stayed at the Terra Marine Inn, where he is employed.

The witness was questioned as to a

possible cause for the tragedy. He said that Edey was very quick tempered and made threats of bodily harm against his wife. On various occasions, he testified, he had seen Edey strike his wife.

Mrs. Murdock had had, he said, when she testified at a previous hearing that she was to have received a share of the damages asked for in the suit. She had told him that Edey induced her to leave home, and had made an affidavit to that effect before lawyers in New York. He contradicted the testimony of his wife on several points. She had become angry at Edey, he said, and urged him to bring the suit.

After the hearing District Attorney Greene said that the testimony given by Murdock and his wife had been so conflicting that there appeared to be no grounds for a charge of conspiracy, and he would let the matter drop.