

Was Self Defense John Helhorst Justified in Shooting Wilmerink. Verdict Of The Jury Which Coroner (News Article)

Date: 1903-03-09; Paper: Grand Rapids Press

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WAS SELF DEFENSE

John Helhorst Justified in
Shooting Wilmerink.

VERDICT OF THE JURY

Which Coroner LeRoy Sum-
moned to Hold Inquest.

Case Against Prisoner Will Have to
be Ground Through the Courts
to Clear Record.

John Helhorst, who shot and killed John Wilmerink in a saloon row at 133 Butterworth avenue Friday night last, was exonerated this morning by the coroner's jury impaneled by Coroner Simeon LeRoy. The inquest was held in the Farmers' club room in the county building and Helhorst was taken to the room by Deputy Sheriff Barker. Helhorst was the first witness.

John Wilmerink, cousin of the dead man; Harry E. May, Orrie Helhorst, James Ripels, John Skelley, Daniel Malervy, Edward Troy, Patrolman Duga, Detective Jerry Darr, Frank Hendricks, Coroner Hilliker, Dr. Chamberlain and B. John Wilmerink were among the other witnesses who gave testimony before the jury. Rev. Henry Schuman was also introduced as a witness on the part of Wilmerink, and after a few minutes of deliberation the jurors returned a verdict in which they found that the shooting of Wilmerink was one of justifiable homicide.

The jury in its formal verdict stated that Wilmerink came to his death from a revolver shot fired by Helhorst and that Helhorst fired under provocation sufficient to make the shot necessary for purposes of self-preservation.

There was a cheer and much hand-

clapping when the verdict was read by the foreman, Captain Bellaire, and the mother of Helhorst wept unrestrainedly. Helhorst controlled himself only with a supreme effort and turned to be congratulated by his friends and counsel, Attorney George Thompson.

Helhorst was taken back to the jail. Prosecuting Attorney Brown stated at noon today that a complaint would be issued, charging Helhorst with murder, and that he would be taken into the Police court for an examination. While the state attorney does not doubt the wisdom of the coroner's jury in returning its exonerating verdict, Helhorst will have to be given a formal examination at least in the lower court, for the purpose of clearing the record. In view of the testimony introduced this will probably be as far as the case will go, and it will in all probability be thrown out of the courts by Judge Haggerty.