



Burlington Police Department

Fallen Officers

James P. McGrath

Burlington Police Officer James P. McGrath was shot and killed on May 12th, 1904. As Officer McGrath patrolled Battery Street, he approached and spoke with an Army deserter from nearby Ft. Ethan Allen. This deserter, not wanting to be returned to the Army, shot Ofc. McGrath three times in the chest and stomach. Officer McGrath was rushed by horse and buggy to his home, but died of his injuries while en route. Officer McGrath was survived by his wife and children. Officer McGrath is buried in the cemetery on Archibald Street, near North Willard Street.

The suspect, Benjamin Williams, was arrested on May 13th, 1904 and stood trial for the murder. He was convicted on October 5, 1905 and remained incarcerated until his death in 1940. Williams is buried at the Lakeview Cemetery on North Avenue in Burlington.

Officer McGrath's name appears at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC. More than 17,000 officers who have made this supreme sacrifice in the preservation of freedom are honored there.

For more information about Law Enforcement deaths in the line of duty:

The Officer Down Memorial Page
www.odmp.org

Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS)
www.nationalcops.org