

CHESTER TIMES – October 10, 1908

ERB SISTERS TO GO TO RED GABLES – To Take Possession of the Mansion Where the Grim Death of Their Brother Occurred – Big Estate Is Denied

It is learned from a reliable source that the sisters of the late Captain Erb will take possession of Red Gables either on Monday or Tuesday of next week. This arrangement was made previous to the tragic death of Captain Erb about the time he was arranging to separate from his wife and settle a certain sum of money upon her.

Red Gables is guarded by Detectives McKenty and Long, of the McKenty and Savin agency, who were on duty last night.

Many inquiries are being made as to the whereabouts of Eugene Paulson, the colored caregiver, who first figured in the Erb troubles. It is said that Paulson is learning to be a chauffeur in a Philadelphia automobile establishment, having been placed there by Captain Erb shortly before his death. The captain had decided to purchase an automobile and he arranged to continue the services of Coachman Paulson as chauffeur.

The report that Captain Erb leaves an estate valued at \$100,000 was denied this morning by W. Roger Fronefield, Esq., one of the counsel for Mrs. Erb, who says no conference was held last night.

William I. Schaffer, Esq., who represents the estate of Captain Erb, went to Philadelphia this morning to see Mr. Junkin, an attorney, but it is understood that his visit does not concern the Erb estate.

Mrs. Erb, who is in jail with her sister, Mrs. Reisel, charged with the murder of Captain Erb, will not be at the funeral on Sunday. This was the statement of her counsel yesterday afternoon. No steps have been taken to get her out on bail by habeas corpus proceedings and until this is done counsel can see no way of her leaving the jail even to take a last look at her husband in company with one or more officers. Just when proceedings will be taken to have Mrs. Erb released her counsel has not decided. They have a right to know all of the testimony in possession of the commonwealth at this time and under the present stress of business before both Judges Johnson and Broomall it may be the middle of next week before Mrs. Erb's counsel will ask permission to break in upon the proceedings of criminal court to have the petition heard.

What promised to be an interesting episode in the hunt by the Philadelphia detectives for evidence to avenge the murder of Captain Erb was nipped in the bud yesterday by a conference which was attended by Lawyers Horwitz, Schaffer, Fronefield, Rhodes, District Attorney MacDade and his assistant, J. Rohrman Robinson. Counsel for Mrs. Erb learned yesterday that a box containing some private things of Mrs. Erb had been taken from the home of a friend of hers in Media by detectives or someone representing the commonwealth so it was stated.

This made the counsel for Mrs. Erb furious and in a short time there was talk of having not only the detectives but everybody on the other side arrested to find out who took that box. Counsel for Captain Erb's estate and the commonwealth officers were quickly communicated with an unpleasant situation was averted for the present by a quick conference at the office of the assistant district attorney. Counsel for Mrs. Erb had the key of the box and they freely assented to its contents being laid bare before the commonwealth and the counsel for Mr. Erb's estate.

"This box," said Mr. Fronefield, "contained only a few trinkets of Mrs. Erb's necklaces, medallions, keepsakes and a few innocent papers. It was brought to Media

yesterday morning and placed in the possession of one of Mrs. Erb's friends. A little later two men went to the house and said they were from the District Attorney's office, and by doing so District Attorney's office, and by doing so got the box. They took it to the District Attorney. I asked him who the men were who had done this high-handed act.

"All of this resulted in our making a demand on the commonwealth for the box, and Mr. Horowitz and Mr. Schaffer came here about it.

"At the conference the other side had a bundle of keys with which they vainly tried to open the box.

"We who have a right to the box, also have the key, I said, and I went to my office and got it and opened the box with it. They shuffled through the papers, but found only a few poor pitiful keepsakes, bills etc., of no earthly value to anyone, except Mrs. Erb, who cherished them. They were all she took from Red Gables.

"We expect to learn who the men were that wrested this box virtually from Mrs. Erb's possession. I care not whether they policeman, lawyers, or detectives, but anyone who would do a thing like that is equally guilty in my eyes.

"I cannot say what action we shall take when we learn the identity of the person. We haven't decided yet.

"What if we wanted to go through captain Erb's papers, would they give us a sight of them?

"This is a sample of the high-handed, strong arm methods the prosecution is using."

The box is now in the possession of Mr. Fronfield.

THE FUNERAL – Colonel William C. Price, Jr., and the officers of the Third Regiment, N.G.P., will attend J. Clayton Erb's funeral in a body. The official military escort will be Company F. Third Regiment (Captain Erb's old company), commanded by Captain Andrew F. Olsen. The active pallbearers will consist of eight sergeants. The non-commissioned staff and enlisted men of the regiment will attend in a body as mourners. The religious services at the house will take place at 1:30 tomorrow afternoon, and will be conducted by the Rev. Mr. Hoffman of Lutheran Church, Seventeenth and Tioga Streets, Philadelphia.

The cortege will proceed up Thirteenth Street to Walnut on Walnut to Broad and from Broad around the west side of the City Hall to the Pennsylvania Railroad