

Susan Glaspell (1876-1948)

Dramaturga, novelista, escritora de relatos, biógrafa, actriz y periodista. Susan Glaspell fue todo esto y más; una defensora de los derechos de las mujeres en los Estados Unidos en un tiempo en el que las mujeres no podían votar, ni tener un jurado de pares ni, por supuesto, denunciar malos tratos.

Sus obras fueron su arma más poderosa.



Glaspell junto a la chimenea. Foto cedida por Drake University Archives & Special Collections.

Susan Glaspell y el caso Hossack

Como joven reportera del *Des Moines Daily News*, Susan Glaspell cubrió el asesinato de John Hossack y el posterior juicio a su mujer, Margaret, escribiendo más de una veintena de artículos entre el 3 de diciembre de 1900 y el 11 de abril de 1901. Supuestamente, John fue asesinado de dos hachazos en la cabeza mientras su esposa dormía, sin despertarse, a su lado. Este brutal suceso, y su contacto directo con Margaret Hossack, inspiró a Glaspell a escribir dos magníficas joyas de la literatura estadounidense: la obra teatral *Trifles* (1916) y el relato "A Jury of Her Peers" (1917).

Los artículos del *Des Moines Daily News* de esta exposición han sido digitalizados y cedidos por Drake University Archives & Special Collections

BRIDE'S CHARGES
 MARRIAGE OF MRS. CANTLEY
 STATEMENT UNDER ARGUMENT.

STATE OFFICIALS HAD MONUMENTAL NERVE

PHILLIPS BOBS UP
 FLUTTER NOW THE
 OVER BELLEBRER CO.

What Tell How the Woman Will
 of Miss Marriage Write the
 Story of the Fight.

MURDER NEAR INDIANOLA

PROMINENT FARMER ROBBED AND KILLED.

Supposed the Burglars Assaulted
 Farmer Hossick—Coroner Holding
 an Investigation Today.

INDIANOLA, Dec. 3.—(Special.)—A foul murder was committed Saturday night near Medford, fifteen miles southwest of Indianola. A farmer named Hossick was struck over the head and killed by unknown parties, at his home a few miles out from Medford.

The assault was probably committed by burglars, though of this the officers are not yet sure. Sheriff Lew Hodson and Dr. Harry Dale, coroner, went to the place Sunday, and subpoenaed a jury which was called to meet this morning for an inquest. Mr. Hossick was an early settler, a prominent farmer, highly respected. He was about 60 years of age and leaves a wife and large family.

Accepted the Rule of Law,
 and the Director of
 Man to Women.

... (Left column text, partially legible) ...

... (Right column text, partially legible) ...

Des Moines Daily News, 3 de diciembre de 1900

John Hossack es asesinado con un hacha mientras duerme en la noche del sábado. Se sospecha que han sido unos ladrones, según informa Susan Glaspell en su primer artículo sobre el caso.

BLEEDING FILES
 All Other Forms of the
 ...

SQUARE THING IS DONE BY HIS
 PERSISTENCE.
 KLONDIKE GOLD DIGGERS BEAT
 THE YAK MAN.
 BULLET THROUGH HIS HEAD.

... (Right column text, partially legible) ...

TRA
TAKEN
Admits the
With Habel
Boothfield
NOT GADDRITY
on a Charge
committing
Perjury.
UNDER BOND
and Committees
making Elsewhere
Man seen by
Aljst.
FROM COLFAX
Who Saw the Body
the River and Can Show
Who Committed the
White Man's Progress
Dedicated Looking
For the "Bent" Man.

ADMISSION OF MRS. CANTLEY'S
STATEMENT UNDER ARGUMENT.
Witnesses Tell How the Woman Did
It By Her Marriage With the
Story of the
CANTLEY'S, who had
been married to a man
named Habel Boothfield,
and who had been living
with him in the city of
Chicago, Illinois, for
some time, were called
to the stand in the
court room of the
Illinois Supreme Court
at Chicago, on Monday
last, to testify in the
case of the State vs.
Habel Boothfield, who
was charged with the
murder of a man named
John G. Gadrity, who
was killed in the city
of Chicago, Illinois, on
the 15th of August, 1891.
Mrs. Cantley's
statement, which was
read in court, was to
the effect that she had
been married to Habel
Boothfield, and that she
had lived with him in
Chicago, Illinois, for
some time, and that she
had seen him on the
day of the murder of
John G. Gadrity, and
that she had seen him
leave the city of
Chicago, Illinois, on
the day of the murder.
The jury, after hearing
the testimony of Mrs.
Cantley, returned a
verdict in favor of the
State, and Habel
Boothfield was
convicted of the murder
of John G. Gadrity.

MONUMENTAL NERVE

Knew All Along Titus Amendment Was Defective, but Hoped

PLATES NOW THREATENED
WEEK DECEMBER COIN.
Facing the Bill of Lumber
December - Colony
to Workers.
The bill of lumber
which was introduced
in the House of
Representatives on
Monday last, and which
is now before the
committee on commerce,
is a measure which
will have a great
influence on the
lumber trade of the
country. It is a bill
which will give the
lumbermen a great
deal of power, and
which will be a great
benefit to the
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MRS. M
SENSATIONAL TURN
INDIAN
Concerns July Returns
The Marriage Was
Thought to Be
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La familia Hossack en su granja cerca de Medora, Iowa, en 1892. De izquierda a derecha: Will, Johnnie, Jimmie, John (sentado), Cassie, Ivan, Margaret (sentada), May, Louie, Annie.

And All Other Terms of the Question
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SHERIFF AFTER MRS. HOSSACK

SENSATIONAL TURN TAKEN AT INDIANOLA,

Coroner's Jury Returns Its Verdict This Morning—Mrs. Hossack Thought to Be Crazy.

INDIANOLA, Dec. 5.—(Special.)—The Hossack murder case took a sensational turn today when the sheriff went to Medora for the avowed purpose of arresting Mrs. Hossack, wife of the murdered man. The departure of the sheriff was kept a profound secret for a time, but eventually some of the county officials were induced to reveal to your correspondent that the object of the trip was the arrest of Mrs. Hossack.

The evidence is by no means conclusive of Mrs. Hossack's guilt, but the testimony before the coroner's jury was such as to raise a suspicion of guilt and her arrest was decided upon as a matter of precaution.

Members of the Hossack family are understood to have testified before the coroner's jury that the blood on the ax found under the corn crib was caused by chopping off the head of a turkey the day before the murder. It is now reported that a child admitted on cross-examination that he himself placed the ax in the corn crib the evening before the murder and that at that time there was no blood on it.

Friends of Mrs. Hossack are beginning to suggest that she is insane and that she has been in this condition for a year and a half, under the constant surveillance of members of the family.

The robbery theory has been wholly abandoned, as absolutely nothing was taken and no suspicious characters were seen in the neighborhood prior or subsequent to the murder.

The most suspicious circumstance in connection with the crime is the testimony of Mrs. Hossack that she lay in bed by the side of her husband while his skull was crushed in two places, and was not awakened in time to see any one leave the house.

The developments, since the murder that the members of the Hossack family were not on pleasant relations with each other is a complete surprise, as Hossack was not supposed to have an enemy in the world.

The verdict of the coroner's jury found this morning was as follows:

"We do find said deceased came to his death by two blows upon the head; one with a sharp instrument and one with a blunt instrument. (Signed) C. D. Johnson, Fred Johnston, T. W. Passwater."

Des Moines Daily News,

5 de diciembre de 1900

Cuatro días después del brutal asesinato, el Sheriff de Indianola se desplaza a la granja de los Hossack para arrestar a la señora Hossack.

Se dice que la acusada podría sufrir algún tipo de locura.

Debajo: reproducciones del arma del crimen y del cadáver de John Hossack.



The ax which it is supposed to have been used in murdering John Hossack. The cut shows the blood spots on the handle.



THE MURDERED MAN.

Sketched from flashlight photograph of the dead man now in possession of the county attorney. The sharp edge of the instrument laid the skull open. The mark near the eye was caused by blunt portion. Other newspapers tried to obtain access to this photograph but failed.

SHE PREPARES TO FIGHT

MRS. HOSSACK WILL RESIST
CHARGE OF MURDER.

Was Locked Up in Indianola Jail
Last Night—Public
Against Her.

The wife of John Hossack, arrested on charge of having beaten out his brains with an axe, has employed Henderson and Berry as her attorneys and is preparing to fight the case to the end.

She was locked up in the county jail here last night at 8:30. She manifested no emotion, took her arrest calmly and absolutely declined to make any statement concerning her guilt or innocence.

Members of the Hossack family are standing by her solidly, but public sentiment is overwhelmingly against her.

Though past 30 years of age, she is tall and powerful and looks like she would be it aroused to a point of hatred. It is claimed by the prosecution that she and her husband quarreled violently over their second son, John Hossack, Jr., because the father was unwilling to overlook his son's shortcomings.

An effort was made at the coroner's inquest to bring out that Mrs. Hossack had threatened her husband's life and had indicated to Edna Haines that she would like to get her husband out of the way. Haines only partially corroborated this story.

Hossack owned 200 acres of fine land, and was considered well-off. It is charged, however, that the farm was in his wife's name and that possession of it could have furnished a motive to the crime. Deceased, however, carried \$2,000 in life insurance, made payable to his wife.

Des Moines Daily News,

6 de diciembre de 1900

Tras su primera noche en prisión, Margaret contrata a los abogados Henderson y Berry. Se especula con la violencia de género en el hogar de los Hossack y se menciona que la propiedad de 300 acres de los Hossack estaba a nombre de Margaret, por lo que se desestima que éste sea el motivo.

Des Moines Daily News,

11 de diciembre de 1900

Margaret Hossack rechaza el juicio preliminar y Glaspell comenta que se espera que la dejen en libertad bajo fianza pronto y que el interés suscitado por el caso aumenta.

NOW BEFORE GRAND JURY

MRS. HOSSACK WAIVED PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

Alleged Murderess May Be Released Under Heavy Bonds—Not Yet Decided—Interest Intense.

TREATED WELL
BY UNCLE SAM

SQUARE THING IS DONE BY HIS
PENITENCE.

FAVOR THE RESERVE FUND.

Don't Buy Camp, Wagon, Woodshed.

Save Annual Unemployment.

Buy Your Own Home, Buy Your Own

Home, Buy Your Own Home, Buy Your Own

Home, Buy Your Own Home, Buy Your Own

Home, Buy Your Own Home, Buy Your Own

Home, Buy Your Own Home, Buy Your Own

NOT GETTING
THE FULL DUE

ALCIBIUS GOLO BIGGERS BEAT
THE TAX MAN.

BULLET THROUGH HIS HEAD.

Chicago Cash Market.

Chicago Cash Market.

Chicago Cash Market.

Chicago Cash Market.

Chicago Cash Market.

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Chicago Cash Market.

Chicago Cash Market.

Chicago Cash Market.

DES MOINES DAILY NEWS.

NO. 21. DES MOINES, IOWA, WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 3, 1900. LAST EDITION.

ING BRIDE'S CHARGES
MENSION OF MRS. CANTLEY'S
STATEMENT UNDER ARGUMENT.

STATE OFFICIALS HAD

Knew

STATE'S WARRANT. HERALD PRINT.

STATE OF IOWA,)
WARREN COUNTY,) ss.

To the Sheriff of Warren County, Greeting.

WHEREAS, The Grand Jury, in and for said County of Warren, and State of Iowa, selected, empaneled, viewed, viewed and sworn according to the statute in such cases, made and proceeded at the January Term of the District Court of said county, in the year of our Lord, one thousand ~~and~~ hundred and one, A.D., at said term, first and present in open Court, an indictment against Margaret Hossack

of the county and State aforesaid, for Murder in the first degree in said county, near about the 2^d day of December A. D. 1900, contrary to the statute, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Iowa. These are therefore commended unto you to proceed forthwith to arrest the above mentioned Margaret Hossack

and safely keep her, and have her before our District Court, of the next term thereof, and not to be excused a day of the first day thereafter, to answer to said charge, and have her then and there full out of your power.

Without bail

In testimony whereof I hereunto subscribe my name and affix the seal of said District Court of my office in Indiana, this 17th day of January A. D. 1901.

R. S. Eason Clerk.

Second Arrest Warrant for Margaret Hossack (January 17, 1901) after indictment by Grand Jury

PHILLIPS BOBS UP
FLUTTER NOW THREATS
OVER BELLEMEER COON.

AVE
Hoped

Range of Prices

Wheat	1.15	1.14
Barley	1.10	1.09
Oats	1.05	1.04
Hay	1.00	0.99
Stocks	1.00	0.99

El 17 de enero de 1901 el gran jurado acusa formalmente a la señora Hossack del asesinato en primer grado de su marido y se le deniega la posibilidad de salir en libertad bajo fianza.

TREATED WELL BY UNCLE SAM
SQUARE THING IS DONE BY HIS PENSIONERS.

FAVOR THE RESERVE FUND.
Don't Buy Cheap, Buy Good.

NOT GETTING THE FULL DUE
ALONZO GOLO BIGGERS BEAT THE TAX MAN.

Chicago Cash Market
Wheat 1.15, Barley 1.10, Oats 1.05, Hay 1.00, Stocks 1.00.

SURPRISE IS EXPECTED

**RUMORED DEVELOPMENTS IN
HOSSACK MURDER CASE,**

**Counsel For the Prisoner Claims to
Have Discovered New and Val-
uable Evidence.**

23 de marzo de 1901

DES MOINES, IOWA, TU

HOSSACK TRIAL ON IN EARNEST

**TAKING TESTIMONY AGAINST AL-
LEGED MURDERESS BEGUN.**

**Full Jury at Last Empaneled—Both
Sides Profess Great Confidence—
Talk of Insanity Plea.**

2 de abril de 1901

TESTIFY FOR MRS. HOSSACK

**DEFENSE IN INDIANOLA'S MUR-
DER TRIAL HAS A TURN.**

**Tries to Show Secret Enemy Doped
the Dog and Murdered the Farm-
er—Prosecution Confident.**

6 de abril de 1901

TWENTIETH YEAR ALLEGED HAINES WAS MURDERER

**STARTLING POSITION OF ATTOR-
NEY IN HOSSACK CASE.**

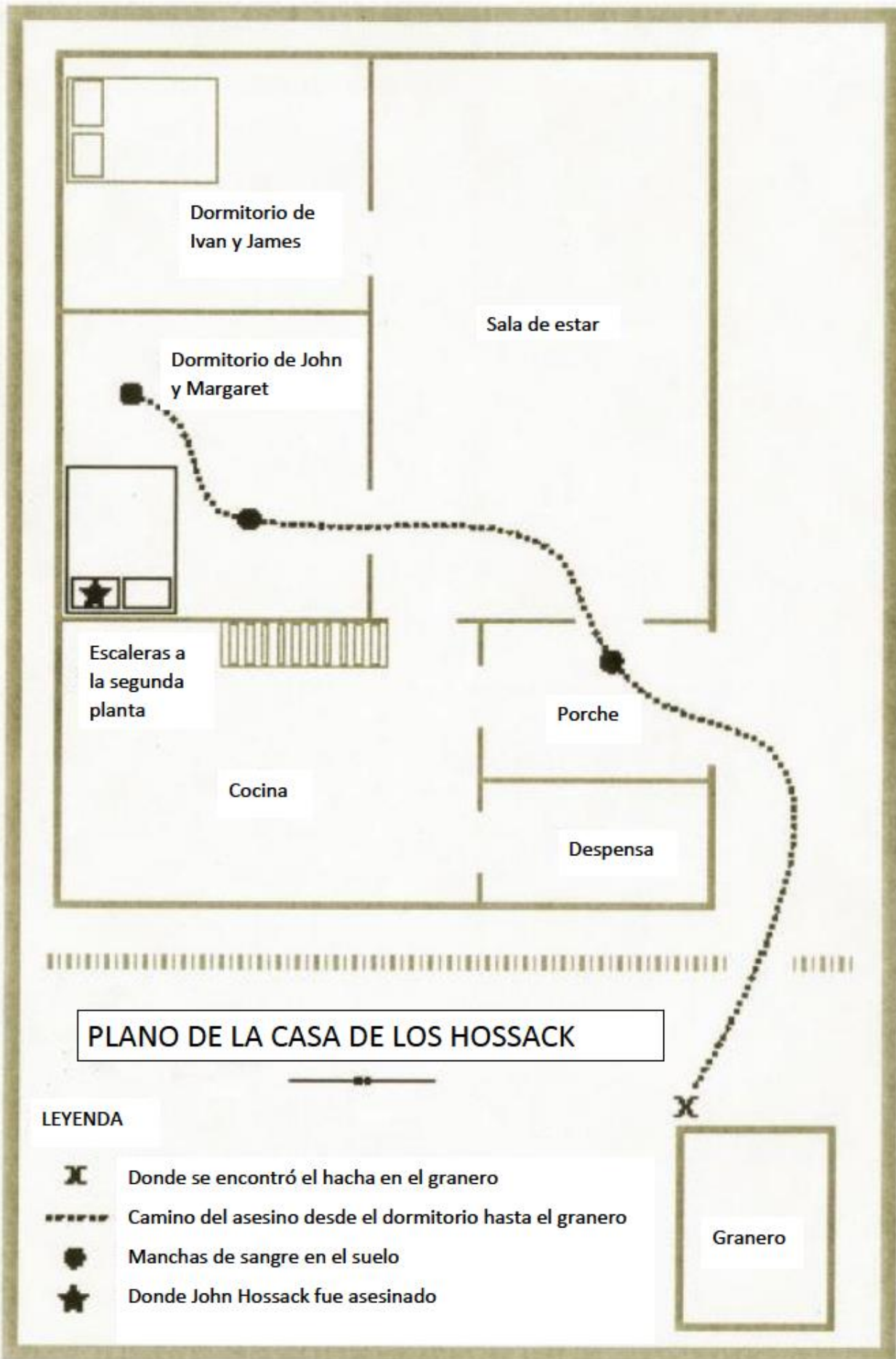
**Senator Berry Says Insane Man is
Guilty—Hundreds in Tears—Con-
viction Predicted.**

9 de abril de 1901

Des Moines Daily News,

23 de marzo-9 de abril de 1901

Glaspell informa del sorprendente hallazgo de nuevas pruebas que pueden cambiar el rumbo del juicio. Haines, el vecino de los Hossack que iba a testificar que Margaret le había ofrecido dinero por matar a su marido, ha enloquecido y ha sido internado en un sanatorio y parece ser que el perro de la familia fue drogado la noche del crimen. Aunque en un principio la defensa se planteaba recurrir a la enajenación mental de Margaret, en el alegato final se decanta por señalar a Haines como culpable.



Reconstrucción del asesinato, adaptado de Patricia Bryan y Thomas Wolf, *Midnight Assassin* (2005)

MRS. HOSSACK A MURDERESS

JURY SAYS SHE IS THE SLAYER
OF HER AGED HUSBAND.

Sentenced to Penitentiary for Life—
Prisoner Receives the Sad News
In Half Fainting Condition.

INDIANOLA, April 11.—(Special.)—Mrs. Margaret Hossack must pay the penalty for the murder of her husband. The jury has just now returned a verdict of guilty as charged in the indictment. Judge Gamble has sentenced her to the penitentiary for life. The court room was packed when it was reported the jury had reached a conclusion and was ready to make known the fate of Margaret Hossack. The latter sat calmly in her seat, the rigid expression which she had carried all through the trial, changing to that of earnest expectation of either good or evil news. Slowly the twelve men filed to their seats in the jury box. The foreman delivered the verdict to the bailiff, who handed it to the clerk. The latter stood erect. A death-like silence pervaded the room.

"We, the jury, find the defendant, Mrs. Margaret Hossack, guilty as charged in the indictment," he read. The silence continued several seconds giving way to a low murmur plainly audible around the court room.

The aged prisoner sat looking helpless and in a sort of dazed condition at the clerk. Then, suddenly seeming to realize the meaning of the verdict, she sank back in her chair and for the first time during the long and trying ordeal, gave completely away to her feelings.

She was surrounded by her friends whose sobbing could be heard through the hall and into the open court yard, continuing until Sheriff Hodson led the prisoner back to the jail awaiting final judgment. Senator Berry announced that he would move for a new

Des Moines Daily News,

11 de abril de 1901

El Juez Gamble declara a Margaret Hossack culpable del asesinato de su marido y la condena a cadena perpetua.

Debajo: la señora Hossack durante un momento del juicio.



MRS. HOSSACK.

