

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 707

H. P. 182

House of Representatives, March 7, 1935.

Reported by Mr. Lindsay from Committee on Claims and laid on table to be printed under Joint Rules.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, in Favor of Daisy B. Blackman, Widow of the Late Reuben Blackman.

Daisy B. Blackman, compensated. Resolved: That there be, and hereby is, appropriated the sum of \$4000, to compensate Daisy B. Blackman, of Whitefield in the county of Lincoln, for the death of her husband and for money expended and expenses required by reason of her husband, Reuben Blackman being killed on May 5, 1933 while in the performance of his duty as a deputy sheriff for Lincoln county; said sum to be paid from the general state funds.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On May 4, 1933, Reuben Blackman was a deputy sheriff for Lincoln County, Maine, serving under Sheriff Arthur R. Greenleaf. Mr. Blackman resided in Whitefield and was court officer on duty at a session of Superior Court being held at Wiscasset. On the afternoon of May 4th, Sheriff Greenleaf received complaints from Somerville against Gilbert and George Bowman, two brothers who lived together in Somerville, alleging that they were disturbing the peace of the community. Sheriff Greenleaf ordered Mr. Blackman to take Deputy Sheriff Baker, from Edgecomb, out to his home on the evening of May 4th and remain over night with him and the next morning, when they came back to court, to bring the Bowman brothers to his office. Deputy Sheriff Baker accompanied Deputy Sheriff Blackman to his home in Whitefield on the afternoon of May 4th and remained over night and the next morning they went to the homestead of the Bowman brothers. Gilbert Bowman was an ex-convict, having served a portion of a term in the State Prison at Thomaston on the charge of murder and was pardoned during the war and went into the service. The two deputy sheriffs had been informed that the Bowman brothers had firearms in their home. They drove to the back door of the Bowman homestead and Mr. Blackman knocked on the door and George Bowman answered and invited them into the house. Mr. Blackman proceeded ahead and Mr. Baker in the rear. Deputy Sheriff Blackman was not armed but Deputy Sheriff Baker was. Gilbert Bowman was in the house and wanted to know what they wanted. Mr. Blackman said that Sheriff Greenleaf wanted them to come over to his office at Wiscasset.

Gilbert Bowman stepped into the next room, got a double barreled shotgun, stepped out into the hall, kicked open the door, and fired both barrels into the body of Deputy Sheriff Blackman, who fell dead instantly.

Deputy Sheriff Baker, who was in the rear, saw Bowman break the gun down to reload and he fired and killed Bowman instantly.

The sudden death of Deputy Sheriff Reuben Blackman of Whitefield, Maine, was a great shock to his widow, Daisy B. Blackman, and it also deprived her of her means of support. She was obliged to raise money to pay for the funeral expenses, bills against the estate and a mortgage on the farm, and this left her in straightened circumstances. It was supposed that her husband was covered by compensation, but it was found that the policy covering Lincoln County employees did not cover deputy sheriffs.

Mr. Blackman had been in the service of the County and State as a deputy sheriff for a number of years, and was killed in the performance of his official duty. His widow asks the State to reimburse her for what she would have received had her husband been covered under the Lincoln County Compensation Policy.