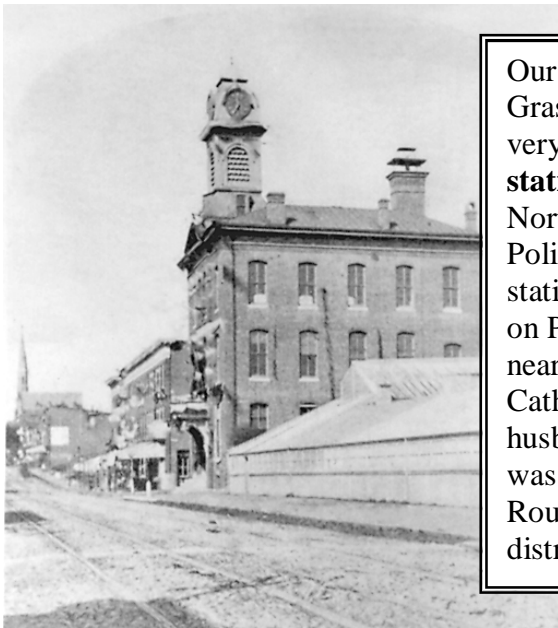


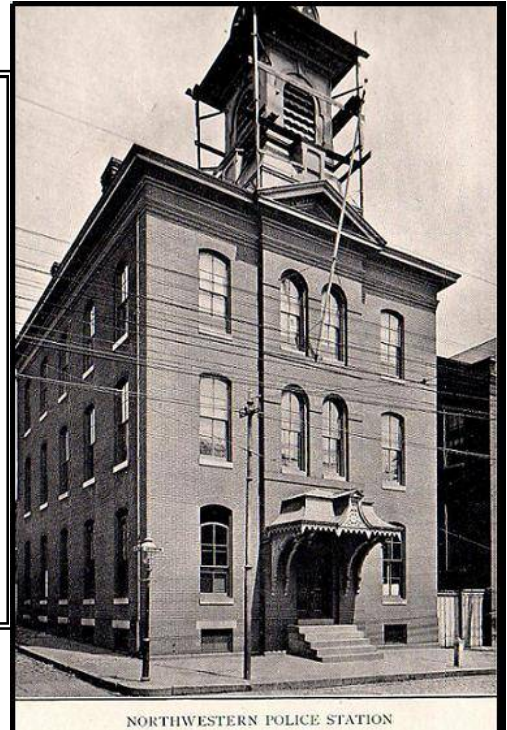
## Police Sergeant Slunt – One of the Family

Catherine Coffay was the second daughter of John and Catherine Coffay. She was born in Kiltewan, Roscommon, Ireland, and ended up on Grasshopper Hill with her family. In 1870, Catherine married a Baltimore City police officer, Charles Slunt, from the Northwestern District, which covered the Grasshopper Hill area.

During his career Charles Slunt was promoted to Sergeant and then Round Sergeant while he was with the Northwestern District. Charles Slunt must have been aware that several of his wife's family were taken in to the station house by his fellow officers. His sisters-in-law, Mary Coffay Lee and Mary Manion, were brought in several times. His nephews, William, Michael, Frank and Robert Manion/Mannion were brought to the station repeatedly along with other Grasshopper Hill residents.



Our ancestors from Grasshopper Hill were very familiar with the **station house** of the Northwestern Baltimore Police District. The station house was located on Pennsylvania Avenue near Dolphin St. Catherine Coffay's husband, **Charles Slunt**, was Sergeant and then Round Sergeant in this district.



Our ancestors were brought to the police station in a patrol wagon sometimes referred to as the "Paddy Wagon." An officer could call to the station for help with a call box. There was one on North Avenue near Grasshopper Hill.



POLICE PATROL WAGON.  
Central District.



George W. Miles.  
OFFICER SIGNALING CENTRAL STATION.

Night December 8<sup>th</sup> 1884.

Wm Manion 12<sup>o</sup> a.m Brown

charged with wilfully disturbing a neighborhood by loud and unseemly noise fined \$10.00 and cost. and committed to jail for 20 days.

Edward Weeks ..  
John Martin ..  
James Price ..  
12<sup>o</sup> a.m. warrant.

Sergeant Slunt  
" "  
" "  
off. Slunt

Each charged with disorderly conduct and disturbing the peace. each committed for a hearing Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 1884 at 11 a.m.

On this page from the Baltimore Police Station Northwestern District, 1884, you can see that **Wm. Manion** was arrested by Officer Brown. On the same night, William's uncle, **Officer Slunt**, was on duty and made an arrest.

### Sergeant Slunt – Victim of Police Department Corruption

Prior to 1896 the Baltimore Sun covered many of Officer Slunt's accomplishments during his time on the Baltimore Police Force. In 1896, though, police corruption charges took over the headlines. Months of accusations against Slunt and others, resulted in a hearing.

**Feb 7, 1896, THE SUN A GIVER OF BRIBES** Wm. A. Herrlich, Former Police Backer, Tells His Story **HE MAKES STARTLING CHARGE**  
Says **He Gave Money Regularly** to Police Captain Shultz and **Round Sergeant Slunt**

**Both Officers Deny These Statements** at a Hearing Before the Police

...Herrlich stated that he had paid hundreds of dollars to the two officers for the privilege of keeping policy-books at various places in the northwestern district... the money was paid to them for a number of years prior to 1892.

To **Sergeant Slunt**, he gave \$10 a month and a box of cigars...which were regularly sent to his home at 536 Dolphin Street..."I always gave him this sum and a box of cigars about the first of every month. I put the money in the cigar-box and either gave it to him at his house on Dolphin street, just around the corner from the station-house, or sent it there by my son, Joe. I first went to see him and fix him because I was told that **Slunt** was a terror and would run me out of business. **Slunt** was at my house only once as far as I remember. This was at the time when he wanted to be made sergeant. He came there to ask me to see some people downtown for him and get their influence."

Joseph Herrlich corroborated his father's statements about the delivery of money to **Slunt**. "When I took **Slunt's** cigars and he was not at home I saw his wife (**Catherine Coffay Slunt**) She was much obliged and seemed as if she was used to getting such presents."

Charles Slunt's wife, **Catherine (Coffay)**, and daughter, **Emma Slunt**, were made to testify.

**Baltimore Sun, Feb. 8, 1896 - BEFORE THE COMMISSIONERS**

Mrs. Shultz and **Mrs. Slunt** Deny That They Received Money...

The Accused Captain and Sergeant Say They Took No Bribes for the Protection of Gambling...

Captain Shultz and Round Sergeant Slunt denied under oath before the police board yesterday the charges of William A. Herrlich that they had taken money from him to protect him in keeping policy-books... Their wives denied that they had received any money for bribes at the homes of the two officers... Sergeant Slunt's wife and daughter, **Mrs. Kate Slunt** and **Miss Emma Slunt** testified that they were not acquainted with Wm. A. Herrlich or his son Joseph, who was said in the testimony to have been the one who took the alleged bribes to the homes of the two officers. They denied positively that any envelope or box had ever been given to them in this way for either Shultz or **Slunt**.

This was the outcome:

**March 5, 1896, THE SUN**

**POLICEMEN ACQUITTED**

Captain Schultz, **Sergeant Slunt**, and Lieutenant Carter

Revenge Declared to Have Had a Part in the Charges

Statements that bribes were paid for protecting policy-players are deemed Unworthy of Credit

**April 23, 1897, THE SUN** - Charges of inefficiency have been filed with Commissioner Johnson against **Round Sergeant Slunt**, of the northwestern district. It was stated to the commissioner by Captain Baker that **Slunt** was not fitted for the position of round sergeant. It is understood that his case will be given an early hearing.

**May 12, 1897 THE SUN THE SERGEANT IS DISMISSED**

**Round Sergeant Charles Slunt**, northwestern district, against whom charges of incompetency were preferred by Captain Baker, was yesterday dismissed from the force by the police board.

*(Charles Slunt was defended by Police Commissioner Schryver):*

"I have known **Sergeant Slunt** ever since he went on the force," said Commissioner Schryver, "and have always found him an exemplary officer. I live in the northwest district and have had plenty of opportunity to judge of his merits or shortcomings. When the late Captain Droste took charge of the northwestern district it was in a chaotic condition. He asked that a number of changes be made, as he wanted men particularly adapted to police work. **Slunt**, at that time a patrolman, had attracted attention and Captain Droste at once asked that he be made a sergeant. After the appointment he repeatedly told me that **Slunt** was one of the shrewdest and most efficient men to be had. During his service **Sergeant Slunt** has been commended by this board. His character is of the best, his industry as been frequently remarked, and he was never known to take a drink. His name appeared a number of times on the commendation lists. His subordinates speak in the highest terms of him, and while he as always treated them with kindness, still his conduct has been governed by an unswerving firmness and in strict accord with the required discipline. It will certainly be a great hardship after such a record to be disgraced by reduction or dismissal, and I will not vote for either. I do not think he should be so humiliated. I will vote to transfer him to some other district."

This link takes you to Google Newspaper Archives and the Baltimore Morning Herald - May 11, 1897. On page 11 you can read about Sergeant Slunt's story and there is even an illustration of him!

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=GDxFAAAIBAJ&sjid=irsMAAAAIBAJ&pg=6468,1624996&dq=charles+slunt&hl=en>

A vote was taken whether to transfer or to drop Slunt from the force, and the majority voted for him to be dropped. After he left the Baltimore City Police, Charles Slunt went into private practice as a detective until he retired in about 1920.