

Henry D. Anderson

(- 1 Mar 1910)

Anderson. Suddenly on Tuesday, March 1, 1910, Henry D. Anderson, beloved husband of Susie Anderson. Funeral will take place on Thursday, March 3 at 2 o'clock from his late residence, 1236 Pennsylvania ave. southeast.

The Evening Star, March 2, 1910, p. 16

Loses Life in the River -- Henry D. Anderson Drowned in Eastern Branch Coroner Decides His Mind Was Diseased--His Death Not Caused by Suicide

Henry D. Anderson, fifty-eight years old, and a former employee of the Navy Yard, was drowned in the Eastern branch, near the foot of D street southeast, yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock. His body was recovered by Robert Ratherdale, who is employed on the grounds at the Washington Asylum, and Noel Slater of 407 Kentucky avenue. The drowning occurred under conditions which were particularly distressing and, it is stated by his friends, might easily have been prevented had proper precautions been taken by persons who saw him lingering about the river.

Mr. Anderson lived with his family at 1236 Pennsylvania avenue southeast. Several months ago he lost his position in the Navy Yard and since that time his mind seems to have been affected. He worried over the loss of his position, and was in bad health. His relatives feared the time would come when they would be compelled to have him sent to the Government Hospital for the Insane.

Family Calls on Police

The unfortunate man dressed himself and went out for a walk yesterday morning about 5 o'clock. When he had not returned about noon his family became alarmed and asked the police to make an effort to find him. He was subject to spasms, they informed the police, and it was feared he had been taken ill. Following the drowning his relatives were told that several persons employed in institutions about the eastern section of the city had seen the missing man in the water a number of times during the day, but they had not regarded it as necessary to notify the police. Anderson's actions, his relatives state, must have marked him as a man who had completely lost his reason and they are sure he did not realize what he was doing. Their information is that he waded out into the water several times, returning ashore each time, but remaining about the wharf as if it had been summer weather.

Shortly before 4 o'clock Ratherdale and Slater saw Anderson wade from the direction of the jail to the channel of the stream. They hurried to his assistance, thinking they might be able to rescue him. They were unable to do so, however, as Anderson went beneath the surface and disappeared before they got to him.

Body Recovered

The young men had the harbor police notified of the incident, and the crew of the police boat hurried to the scene to drag for the body. Ratherdale and Slater had dragged and recovered the body before their arrival and the police removed it to the morgue.

Relatives of the dead man went to the morgue later in the day and identified the body. Coroner Nevitt also viewed the remains and heard statements of the conditions under which the drowning occurred. He concluded that the actions of Anderson indicated a disordered mind and was satisfied his drowning was not the result of an intention to commit suicide. The body was removed from the morgue this morning to be prepared for burial.

