

Mollie E. Boardman

(- 9 Sep 1887)

Boardman. Mollie E., daughter of George W. and the late Harriet Boardman. Funeral private from her late residence, 1408 N street northwest at 11 o'clock Friday morning, September 9, 1887.

The Evening Star, September 8, 1887

Driven to Suicide

A Woman Made Insane by Sickness

Ends Her Life in the River

Tuesday evening a telephone message was sent to the different police stations notifying the officers ""to look out for a lady twenty-seven years old, five feet five inches high, pale face, auburn hair, wore a black dress and sailor hat; has been missing from her home, No. 1408 N street, since Monday, at 2 p.m.; she is supposed to be out of her mind.""

The dispatch referred to Miss Mary Elizabeth Boardman, sister of Policeman Boardman, who lives at the number stated. She has been sick most of the summer, and recently has been greatly depressed in spirits, and, it is said, had made known her intention of committing suicide. Sunday afternoon, while walking out with a female companion, her mind seemed to be wandering, and she spoke of ending her life by jumping from the Aqueduct bridge, but her companion talked to her and persuaded her to change her mind. They separated in the evening, and her companion was to call the following evening.

Her Departure From Home

Sunday afternoon Miss Boardman left her home, saying she was going to visit her grandmother, who lives near 13th and I streets, but she did not go there, and did not return Monday night. When she failed to return home her mother became alarmed, and suspected that her daughter had ended her life. Her brother, Officer Boardman, was granted a leave of absence by Lieut. Amiss, and visited Rock Creek and the Potomac River in the vicinity of West Washington, but did not discover any traces of his missing sister. While the unfortunate young woman's mother was firmly convinced that her daughter had committed suicide, she thought it possible that she might have paid a visit to some of her friends. These were called on, but none of them had seen nor heard from the missing woman.

The Body Found

This morning, about 9 o'clock, the body of a woman, supposed to be that of Miss Boardman, was found floating in the river opposite West Washington. As it was quite certain that it was her body Lieut. Amiss broke the sad intelligence to the girl's mother. Mrs. Boardman said to a Star reporter this morning that her daughter had been sick all summer; that her eyes were affected in some way, and being a very proud girl it seemed to prey upon her mind, until it drove her insane. Her daughter, she said, was certainly insane, and if she had been in her right mind would never have ended her own life.

The remains of Miss Boardman were viewed by the coroner this afternoon at the seventh precinct station, and he gave a certificate of death from drowning with suicidal intent. Subsequently the body was turned over to Gawler, the undertaker.