

## Edward J. Byrns ( 13 Feb 1874 – 9 Jul 1915)

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**Byrns.** Suddenly on Friday July 9, 1915, Edward J. Byrns. Funeral from chapel of Congressional Cemetery, Sunday, July 11, 1915 at 4 p.m. Remains will leave chapel of S.H. Hines & Son, 1715 14th street s.w. at 3:30 p.m. Interment private.

*The Evening Star, July 9, 1915, p. 20*

### **Fireman Kills Self With A Shotgun**

#### **Edward J. Byrns, Driver of No. 11 Company, Carries Out Threat Made a Year Ago**



Edward J. Byrns, forty-three years old, driver of No. 11 engine company and one of the most popular members of the department, ended his life in the locker room of the company's quarters this morning by blowing off the top of his head with a shotgun. About a year ago he threatened to commit suicide, and Capt. P.R. Davis took a loaded revolver from him.

Byrns had not been heard to threaten suicide since a year ago, his companions say, and no note of explanation was left by him. It was simply a case of a man becoming despondent without telling his friends why, said Capt. Davis today.

This morning about 5 o'clock Byrns left the company's quarters on 14th street, Mount Pleasant, went to a nearby restaurant and got his breakfast, his wife being away on a visit to his relatives near Culpeper, Va. It was about 7 o'clock when he returned to the quarters, went to the locker room on the second floor and ended his life. The report of the shot attracted other members of the company to the room, where they witnessed a ghastly sight. Coroner Nevitt visited the scene of the shooting shortly after it

happened, made an investigation and directed that the body be taken to the morgue. He gave a certificate of suicide, and Mrs. Byrns was notified.

#### *Was Native of Virginia*

Byrns, who was a native of Virginia, was born near Culpeper February 13, 1872. He was employed in the dairy and lunchroom of L.E. Breuninger for several years before his appointment to a position in the fire department eighteen years ago. In recommending Byrns to Chief Parris, Mr. Breuninger wrote that he was a man of good family, steady habits and honest and conscientious in the performance of his duties. Capt. Davis said today that Byrns had shown that his former employer made no mistake in the recommendation.

Several years ago Byrns married a Miss Grimm of this city. They had no children. Arrangements for the funeral are pending and will be effected tonight.

*The Evening Star, July 10, 1915, p. 10*

#### **Funeral of E.J. Byrns Tomorrow**

Funeral services for Edward J. Byrns, driver of No. 11 Engine Co., who committed suicide yesterday morning in the company's quarters will be held in the chapel at Congressional Cemetery at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Mrs. Byrns and several relatives of her husband came from Culpepper, Va. to attend the services.