

Frank S. Byron (- 15 Jun 1912)

Byron. Suddenly on Saturday, June 15, 1912 at 5 a.m. at his home, the Nantucket, Frank S. Byron. Funeral (private) Monday, June 17 from Lee's undertaking establishment.

The Washington Post, June 16, 1912, p. 2

Cheats Cell By Death

F.F. Byron Corpse When Police Call to Arrest Him

Bad Check In The Case

Marblecutter Sought by Richmond, Va., Authorities

Takes His Life With Gas. Was Also in Bad Health –

Daughter Finds His Body on Kitchen Floor. Apology in Note

Believed by the police to be aware that he was being sought by detectives in connection with the alleged forging of a check for \$10 in Richmond, Va., and despondent from ill health, Frank F. Byron, 52 years old, formerly well known in Washington as a sculptor of tombstones and monuments, ended his life in a room at the Nantucket apartment house, 1418 W street northwest, yesterday morning by inhaling illuminating gas. Byron's body was found on the floor of the kitchen in his daughter's apartment by Miss Elizabeth N. Byron, about 5:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Acting Coroner White, after an investigation, issued a certificate of death by suicide.

Traced to the Nantucket

Central Office Detective Patrick O'Brien, after tracing Byron to the Nantucket late Friday night, learned of Byron's death when he called at the apartment yesterday morning to make the arrest.

According to the police, Byron left Richmond several weeks ago, where he was the proprietor of a marble yard, and came to Washington. After staying here a week he left town. Yesterday a telephone message was received at police headquarters here from the chief of police at Richmond saying that Byron was wanted in that city. Detective O'Brien learned that Byron had returned to Washington, and traced him to the Nantucket. He decided to defer making the arrest until yesterday morning, and it is believed that Byron learned that he was under surveillance.

Left Note of Apology

According to his daughters, Byron retired about midnight. Early yesterday morning, Miss Elizabeth Byron was awakened by the strong odor of escaping gas, and going to the kitchen found the body of her father stretched upon the floor, with gas pouring from open burners on the range. Dr. Reed, of the Emergency Hospital, who responded to a telephone message, pronounced life extinct. A note was found on a table near the dead man, asking forgiveness of his children for the pain his last act would cause them.

Byron is survived by two daughters, Miss Elizabeth and Miss Josephine Byron, both of whom said they had no knowledge of the Richmond charge.

"I know that our father was very anxious to get to Washington." said Miss Elizabeth, "and the money he is alleged to have obtained was no more than sufficient to pay his way here. He told us that he had tried to obtain the money from a friend of his in Richmond, and that the man had refused to loan it to him.