

George E. Cook (- 14 Oct 1912)

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Capt. Cook Found Dead In Gas-Filled Room

River Master Believed to Have Committed Suicide Because of Ill Health

Capt. George Cook, well known about the river front, was found dead in bed in his room at 1124 Robinson street southwest this morning about 5 o'clock with gas flowing from an open jet. His mother, Mrs. Mary Cook, detected the odor of gas and going to his room found him lifeless.

It is believed that Capt. Cook had become despondent because of bad health. He had been ill since the Christmas holidays last year, and had been confined to his home most of the time. Yesterday, it is stated, the question of sending him to a hospital was discussed by members of his family, and the captain is said to have objected to going.

Was Alive at 2 O'Clock

As late as 2 o'clock this morning, Capt. Cook was seen by a member of the family, and it is supposed he turned on the gas shortly after that time. It was three hours later when his mother went to his room.

The deceased was a native of this city, and was forty years old. He was thoroughly familiar with the Potomac river from its source to its mouth and had served in different capacities on many of the steamers, having been captain of the River Queen and Harry Randall. His mother and two daughters survive him. His wife died about ten years ago.

Coroner Gives Certificate

Coroner Nevitt viewed the body this morning and heard statements of relatives of the deceased. He was told that Cook had displayed evidences of mental aberration, and that some time ago he came near destroying the house by fire.

The coroner reached the conclusion that the gas was turned on by Cook for the purpose of ending his life.

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Funeral of Capt. Cook

Harry Randall and Other Well Known Boatmen to Be Pallbearers

Funeral services for Capt. George Cook, who ended his life yesterday morning by inhaling illuminating gas because he feared he would have to go to the Government Hospital for the Insane, will be held at his late home, 1124 Robinson street southwest, tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Following a brief service at the house, the body will be taken to Gorsuch Church, 4 1/2 and L streets southwest, where a final service will be conducted by the pastor. Those who will serve as pallbearers are Capt. Harry Randall, Marion Good, Capt. Al Richards, Charles Cogswell, Capt. George Baggett and George Jones. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery.