

## Lloyd Augustus Dement

(15 Apr 1883 – 12 Apr 1922)

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**Dement.** Departed this life April 12, 1922, at 10:30 a.m., Lloyd A. Dement, beloved son of Ella T. Dement and the late Edward Dement, in the 39th year of his life. He leaves to mourn their loss his mother, brothers, sisters and a host of friends. Funeral services at his mothers residence, 1208 6th st. n.w., Saturday, April 15, at 2 p.m.

*The Evening Star, June 16, 1911, p. 11*

### **Run Down By Automobile**

#### **Bicyclist May Die As a Result of the Collision**

Lloyd Dement lies insensible, with his life despaired of in Emergency Hospital, as the result of a collision between the bicycle he was riding and an automobile.

Dement who is 30 years of age and dwells at 938 B street s.w. at about 1:25 o'clock this afternoon was run down by an automobile driven by J. Schriver. Dement was knocked insensible and has not regained consciousness. His condition is serious.

*The Evening Star, July 18, 1911, p. 16*

### **Young Wife Tries Suicide**

#### **Mrs. Dement Despondent Because of Husband's Disappearance**

Nellie Dement, nineteen years old, despondent because of the recent disappearance of Lloyd Dement, her husband, drank a quantity of creosote last night about 9 o'clock while at her home, 129 Q street southwest. She fell heavily to the floor, and her father, George Lewis, hurried to her room to ascertain the cause. He promptly sent for an ambulance and had his daughter taken to the Emergency Hospital. Her condition was not critical, and the physicians say she will recover.

Lloyd Dement disappeared from home last Friday. He had been employed as a collector for a furniture house, and had been hurt by being thrown from his bicycle while at 6th street and Pennsylvania avenue about a month ago.

Dement's head was injured. His wife thinks he suffered from concussion of the brain, and his disappearance resulted from an unsettled condition of his mind. The police were asked last week to find him.

*The Washington Post, July 19, 1911, p. 2*

### **Letters Goaded Wife**

#### **Anonymous Writer Caused Her To Take Poison**

#### **Told Of Husband's Plight**

#### **Missives Cited Other Woman's Power, Declares Mrs. Dement – Nineteen-Year Old Wife, After Futile Attempt to Commit Suicide by Drinking Creosote, Tells How She Waited for Spouse**

The brooding over two unsigned letters, in a man's handwriting, warning her that her husband was "in the clutches of a dangerous woman," who had drugged him and intended to take him away from her forever, was admitted by Mrs. Nellie Dement yesterday to have been the cause of her attempt at suicide at her father's home, 129 Q street southwest. Mrs. Dement is only 19 years old.

Although weak from the effects of the creosote she had swallowed, Mrs. Dement was removed to her home from Emergency Hospital, and for the first time explained the reason for her act. She described how her husband had rented a house across the street from her father's home, last Friday; how she had waited there for him to return, and how, finally, instead of her husband, there came the following dramatic letter:

You need not wait. Your husband will be compelled to go away for a long time. You might as well give up all hope of waiting, for you will never see him again.

That brief note, Mrs. Dement said, was the beginning of the anguish that finally drove her to attempt her own life.

### *Could Not Stand Suspense*

"I could not stand the doubt and suspense," she sobbed. "I read one letter Sunday. The next came Monday afternoon. I tried to forget them—to think there was nothing in them. But still my husband remained away. When night came I couldn't shake off the feeling that maybe something had happened – maybe he had left me of his own accord, or maybe, as the letter said, he was helpless. I wanted to die, to get away, since he had gone. Oh, God, bring my husband back to me."

Police have been called upon to ascertain the identity of the writer of the two anonymous letters.

According to the father and daughter, Lloyd Dement, the girl's husband, was last seen by them on Friday afternoon. He told his wife that he had completed arrangements for the lease and asked her to be ready to move in on the following day.

He also told them that he had obtained employment with a furniture house, and would receive his salary in time to pay the first rent on their new home. At his suggestion his wife opened the vacant house the following morning and had it made ready for them. She remained there all day waiting for her husband to come. That night when he failed to appear, the disappointment and anxiety brought on a nervous chill that compelled Mrs. Dement to take to her bed. She was slightly improved Sunday. Then the first of the unsigned letters came.

### *Then the Second Letter Came*

Late Monday afternoon another letter came. It read substantially as follows:

Dear Mrs. Dement: This is to warn you that your husband is in the clutches of a dangerous woman. She has him locked up in a room. He is drugged and cannot get away. She has been an influence in his life for a long time, and she has absolute control over him. In a short time she will take him to West Virginia, and you will never see him again. This is the last warning you will receive.

Brooding over this message, which she did not show either her father or mother at the time, the girl became fearful that some harm has befallen her husband. Twice during the day she asked her father if he would not try to learn Dement's whereabouts. Mr. Lewis assured her that Dement would put in an appearance in a short time.

### *Father Makes Investigation*

The girl's despondency grew with the passing hours. At 9 o'clock, while her parents were away, she drank a quantity of creosote and was found by her father half an hour later. She was unconscious. Near her lay the second letter. Evidently she had re-read it before attempting to end her life. The mother found it and locked it up.

The girl's father began an investigation yesterday and found that her husband had been discharged from the furniture company Saturday. Since then he has not been heard from. He is not at the home of his mother, Mrs. Ella Dement, who lives at 934 B street southwest.

“My daughter and her husband,” Mrs. Lewis said last night, “had been married about two years. Dement had been out of employment much of the time, but he and my daughter had been happy. There had been no quarrel between them.

“I’m going to find out who sent those contemptible notes to my daughter if it takes a year. And when I find that man things will go hard with him. It was a cowardly attempt to frighten a girl already sick with disappointment.”

#### *Sorry She Took Poison*

The girl is anxious that nothing further be done in the matter.

“I’ll never do a thing like this again,” she said last night, “no matter what happens. It was foolish and I realize it now. I think I must have been unnerved from illness, so that when the letter reached me it had a greater effect than it would have had ordinarily. I’m trying to forget all about the whole affair.”

An investigation will be begun by central office officials as soon as they receive the letters now in Mrs. Lewis’ possession.