

Jacob Engle

(2 Jan 1871 – 17 Oct 1905)

The Washington Times, October 18, 1905

Terror of Fits Caused Suicide

Jacob Engle, Strong Man Feared Epilepsy

Shot Himself Four Times

Bullets Went Through Roof of Mouth to Brain--

Death Came Slowly

Melancholy and despondent because of the belief that he had become subject to epileptic fits, Jacob Engle, thirty-four years old, employed at the National Capital Brewing Company, ended his life by firing four bullets into the roof of his mouth while standing in front of a mirror in his room at 521 M street northeast, about 4:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He did not die immediately, but lingered for several hours at the Casualty Hospital.

Engle left no notes to explain his actions, but his relatives and friends, who noticed the remarkable change that came over him after he was released from the Casualty Hospital about two weeks ago, know he ended his existence because of brooding over the fact that he had fallen in a fit and was told to be careful or others would follow.

Four years ago Engle, who was born in Germany, came to Washington and accepted a position in a local bottling works, and later went to the National Capital brewery. There he was regarded as a perfect specimen of manhood, and one of the strongest that had ever been employed in the place.

Yesterday his sister was surprised when he told her that he did not intend going to work. About 9 o'clock he left the house, and is believed to have purchased the revolver while out. Shortly after 3 o'clock he returned to his house and went to his room on the second floor.

Soon after Engle came home his sister went upstairs to see if he was ill. She rapped on the door of his room several times, but received no response.

Thinking he was sleeping, she returned to the dining room. Half an hour later she heard four sharp reports of a revolver, and ran to her brother's room. The door was still locked, and although Engle groaned several times, evidently in an effort to reply to her calls to him, he made no coherent answer.

The sister rushed to the street and summoned Policeman Miller of the Ninth precinct, to the house. He threw his shoulders against the panels of the door and burst it open.

The sister and policeman entered immediately, and found Engle lying on the carpet in front of the bureau. Blood was flowing from his mouth and the back of his head. Near his right hand lay the .38-caliber revolver with which he fired the four shots into his brain.

Engle was unmarried, and so far as the police were able to ascertain, the sister was the only relative he had in the United States.

The Evening Star, October 18, 1905, p. 8

Takes His Own Life

John Engle Shoots Himself Four Times in Mouth

John Engle, an employee of the National Capital Brewing Company, shot himself four times in the mouth late yesterday afternoon and died several hours later at the Casualty Hospital. He is believed to have been suffering from temporary aberration of mind.

Engle resided at 521 M street northeast and was thirty-four years of age. The shooting occurred at his home, and he was unconscious when he was found by Policeman Miller of the ninth precinct. He did

not go to work yesterday, as he informed his sister he had some business to transact. He went out and did not return to his home until about 3 o'clock, when he went directly to his room on the second floor and locked the door. About 4 o'clock his sister was startled by hearing four pistol shots fired in rapid succession. She rushed to her brother's room, but finding the door locked went to the street and called for help.

Policeman Miller responded. Forcing the door, he found Engle lying on the floor near the foot of the bed. Blood was pouring from his mouth, and on the floor near his right hand was a 38-caliber revolver with four chambers empty. The wounded man was hurried to the Casualty Hospital, but it was found that the wounds would prove fatal and his death soon resulted. Later Coroner J. Ramsey Nevitt issued a certificate of death from suicide.

John Engle was unmarried and was born in Germany, but came to this country when a young man, and has lived in Washington about four years. Arrangements for the funeral are being made today.

The similarity of this case in some respects to the shooting of Maj. C.J.F. Pierce recently was remarked by the friends of Engle. It is said he read the newspaper accounts of that affair and seemed to be somewhat impressed by the failure of Pierce to kill himself after firing seven shots against the back of his head.