

Margaret Everett (- 18 Oct 1905)

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A Double Tragedy

Man Kills His Wife and Himself

Uses A Revolver

Resorts to a Ruse to Carry Out Plans

Infatuation of married Woman for

Unmarried Man Cause of Trouble

The strange infatuation of a married woman for an unmarried soldier, according to evidence in possession of the police, was the cause of a double tragedy yesterday evening in West Washington. Harry J. Everett, a carpenter, 34 years old, while in a frenzy of jealousy, shot his wife, Margaret, and then turned the weapon on himself and committed suicide. The shooting took place in house 3042 M street northwest, where the alleged faithless wife had been rooming.

The woman received two bullet wounds through the breast, just above the heart, and died in the arms of Policeman McDermott in the patrol wagon while being hurried to the Georgetown University Hospital. The man shot himself twice in the mouth and died on the operating table at the hospital. The double tragedy occurred about 6:20 o'clock last evening.

The husband resorted to strategy in order to carry out his purpose of doing away with both his wife and himself. It appears from statements made to the police that the couple had been married about a year, and that some trouble had come into their lives, due principally to jealousy. About four weeks ago the wife deserted her husband and went to live at the above number with Mrs. Morton, who is said to be married to a soldier. When the wife left the home her husband had provided for her she informed him of her infatuation for the soldier, said to be Louis Hilt, a private in the 13th Cavalry at Fort Myer. She afterward said she engaged at the M street house in order to be near the fort.

Everett had been searching for his wife ever since she left him, and yesterday he traced her to her abode in West Washington. He made several unsuccessful attempts to see the woman, and finally succeeded, after resorting to a trick. Soon after 6 o'clock he rang the doorbell at the house 3042 M street. Stella Patten, daughter of the landlady, responded and, although Everett had been to the house several times before yesterday, Miss Patten did not recognize him in the dim twilight. Everett walked into the hallway and asked if Mrs. Everett lived there. Being informed that she did he handed Miss Patten a folded piece of paper and requested her to take it to Mrs. Everett's room, adding, "There is no answer."

The young woman hurried up the stairs to Mrs. Everett's apartment, but failed to observe that the man was following stealthily behind her. The lamp in the hallway had not been lighted and the place was quite dark. When the girl reached Mrs. Everett's room she was lying on the bed, but when Miss Patten said she had a letter for her Mrs. Everett sprang up with the remark: "I guess it is a note from Lou."

As she stepped into the hallway to take the note a shadowy form sprang forward. It was her husband. He grasped her by the arm and pulled her toward him.

"So this is where you are!" he exclaimed. "You won't come to live with me, will you?"

Tried to Break Away

Mrs. Everett screamed and tried to break away from her husband, and Mrs. Morton quickly closed and locked her door. Miss Patten ran screaming down the stairs. There was a short struggle, and as

Miss Patten reached the floor below there were five rapid reports of a revolver. She ran to a front window and yelled for help.

The screams of "murder" were heard by Policemen Farquhar and Porter, and they ran to the house. Rushing up the stairs they found two prostrate forms lying on the landing close together in a great pool of blood. The man and woman were unconscious, but were breathing heavily. The policeman sent in a hurry call for the patrol wagon, and in less than ten minutes both victims of the tragedy were at the hospital.

Mrs. Everett, who had been lying in the lap of one of the policemen in the wagon, died before the hospital was reached. Opening her eyes for the last time, she whispered faintly: "This is the end of love; he has killed me." She then fell back lifeless into the patrolman's arms.

The husband was removed to the operating room, but the surgeons saw that he was past human aid, and his death soon followed that of his wife. Two bullets had entered his brain through the roof of his mouth, and hemorrhage of the brain resulted. The revolver used was of 38 caliber.

When the policeman found Mr. and Mrs. Everett lying in the dark hallway gasping in agony, the woman was lying on the floor on her back, while the husband lay across her feet. The empty revolver was close beside them.

Found Two Notes

The police found in the pocket of the dead man, two notes written on a telegraph blank. One of them read: "I, Margaret, agree to die with my husband this day. Please bury us together. This is all I ask of the living." It was signed "Margaret." The other note read as follows:

"This man and woman is Henry and Margaret Everett. We were married on September 23, 1904. We lived together until September 13, when she deserted me for a soldier named Louis Hilt, a soldier in Troop F, 13th Cavalry. They lived together and broke my heart, as I loved her. She said she could not give him up for me, so this is the consequence for being unfaithful; death I hope." This note was signed "Henry J. Everett, 3418 New Hampshire avenue northwest."

It is the opinion of the police from the tenor of the notes that Everett decided to kill his wife and himself and make it appear that their deaths had been mutually agreed upon by both.

On the fourth floor of the M street house where the tragedy occurred, Mrs. Everett and a friend, Mrs. Florence Morton, who is said to be married to a soldier, had two rooms. Mrs. Everett went to the house about two weeks ago. She became ill and was taken to Columbia Hospital for treatment last Saturday. Since leaving the hospital she had been weak and delicate and remained in her room most of the time.

When her husband made his first call at the M street house, about 9 o'clock yesterday morning, he saw Stella Patten, the daughter of the landlady. He asked to see Mrs. Everett, but the latter told Stella to inform the caller that she was not in. The wife became greatly excited when she learned that the caller was her husband and fell in a faint. Mr. Everett called twice again yesterday, but met with no better success than at the first visit. As he was leaving after his third call he said emphatically: "Well, I will see her." On his next visit the shooting followed.

Lieut. Schneider of the seventh police precinct said to a Star reporter this morning that he had succeeded in locating the mother of Mrs. Everett. She is a Mrs. Hale and resides at 215 15th street southeast. She said to the lieutenant: "So my daughter is dead. Well, she led an evil life and was beyond redemption."

Lieut. Schneider also said that Mr. Everett had an excellent reputation and was well liked by all who knew him. He was until a short time ago employed as a carpenter by the Washington Traction Company, and his father, who lives in Mount Pleasant, is employed by the same company as a blacksmith. At the time Everett married the woman he killed he was divorced from another whom he had married when he was a young man.

He had several children by his first wife, but none by the second. After his marriage to the second they lived in a house in Northeast Washington, and it was from there that Mrs. Everett left him. Since that time he had been boarding at the house on New Hampshire avenue.

The remains of the husband and wife were viewed at the morgue by Coroner J. Ramsey Nevitt, who gave a certificate of suicide in the case of the man and homicide in that of the woman. The bodies were today turned over to relatives for burial.

Lieut. Schneider denies that Everett was assisted in carrying out the details of the murder and suicide by an accomplice.