

Josephine K. Hale

(- 13 Oct 1910)

Hale. Suddenly on Thursday, October 13, 1910 at 8:30 p.m. Josephine, beloved daughter of Josephine and the late John W. Hale. Funeral will take place from her late residence, 128 E street southeast, Monday, October 17 at 8:30 a.m.; thence to St. Peter's Church where mass will be said for the repose of her soul.

The Evening Star, October 14, 1910, p. 14

Freed At Inquest

Jury Releases Man Who Accidentally Killed Sister

Testimony of Relatives

George R. Hale Too Nervous To Tell Story Of Shooting On Stand

Was Cleaning A Revolver

Pistol Suddenly Went Off and Girl Fell Across Table,

Dying in Few Minutes

George R. Hale, thirty-two years old, was at the morgue this morning to hear testimony given by witnesses before a coroner's jury to explain the conditions under which the young man last night accidentally shot and killed his sister, Miss Josephine Hale, twenty-seven years old, at the home of his mother, Mrs. Jennie Hale, 128 E street southeast. The shot was fired while Hale was handling a revolver that he was cleaning for his mother.

Two sisters and a young nephew of the prisoner told the story of the shooting to the coroner and a jury, a number of friends and relatives of the Hale family being in attendance. Mrs. Hale, mother of the victim, was at the hearing, but did not testify.

Hale, who was in an exceedingly nervous condition, did not make a statement. His counsel, Attorney James L. Smith, said he had no objection to his client telling the story of the shooting, but that his condition was such that it would be difficult for him to do so.

The jurors said they were satisfied with the testimony they had heard and reached a verdict of accidental death without retiring from the room. Hales was released from custody.

As yet the funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Hale's Story of Accident

"I would rather have killed myself than to have shot my sister," said Hale to a Star reporter this morning.

The young man was in the witness room at the fifth precinct station when he made the statement, Acting Capt. Duvall having had him made comfortable there instead of putting him in a cell. As he told the story of the shooting his condition showed he was under severe mental strain.

"Mother had asked me about two weeks ago to clean the old pistol she had," he said. "I told her I would take it home with me some day and look it over. Last night I went to the house to pay my sister \$25 that I owed her."

He put on his hat, he said, and was ready to leave his mother's house, after paying his sister the money, when his mother called to him to know when he was going to fix her pistol.

"I'll get it for you now," said Miss Josephine Hale, leaving the dining room and going to the room of her mother for the weapon.

Examines the Weapon

The weapon was handed to the brother, and he broke it, removing the cylinder to examine the cartridges and chambers.

“There’s nothing the matter with this,” he remarked. “The cylinder is rusted a little, but that’s all.”

The cartridges were removed from the chambers of the cylinder and the rust cleaned off. Then the bullets were returned to the chambers and the young man was about to put it together to hand it back to his sister to put away, when suddenly the hammer fell and exploded a cartridge.

“My God!” CRIED Miss Josephine putting her hands to her chest.

“What’s the matter?” asked the brother, who had rushed around the table to ascertain what had happened.

Miss Hale made an effort to speak, but her strength failed. She fell forward on to the table at which she was seated. George tore open her waist and saw a spot of blood just above her heart. Realizing that the wound was serious, he called for water with which to bathe his sister’s head and directed that a physician be summoned.

Physicians Find Girl Dead

Mrs. Hale became hysterical. Her cries attracted the attention of neighbors and they rushed to the house to assist in first-aid treatment until the arrival of Dr. J.S> Harrison. Dr. Albert Tibbetts later arrived with the ambulance from Casualty Hospital. The physicians found that life was extinct and were unable to perform any service.

Coroner Nevitt gave permission for Undertaker J. William Lee to prepare the body for burial. This morning the body was taken to the morgue in order that Deputy Coroner White might perform an autopsy.

George Hale remained at his mother’s house until the arrival of the police from the fifth precinct station, when he was taken to the station to be held until he could be taken to the inquest this morning.

George Halle is an ice dealer and resides at 475 C street southwest with his wife and four children. His father was John, more familiarly known as “Jack,” Hale. He was employed in the fish salesroom of R.A. Golden at the foot of 12th street for many years. He died about sixteen years ago.