

## Elizabeth Harbin ( - 13 Jan 1909)

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*The Evening Star, January 14, 1909*

### **Murder and Suicide**

#### **Kramer Prevents Mrs. Harbin's Return to Husband**

#### **He Had Broken Up Home**

#### **His Partner Left Wife Because of His Attentions**

#### **She Was Mother of Seven**

#### **Woman, 41 Years Old, Slain by 23-Year-Old Admirer When**

#### **She Plans to Go Back Home**

A double tragedy was enacted late yesterday afternoon at 1109 N street southeast, when Frederick Kramer, a tinner, shot and killed Mrs. Elizabeth Harbin and then shot himself. Mrs. Harbin died instantly and Kramer a few minutes after the shooting.

Mrs. Harbin's announcement to Kramer that she intended to return to her husband, from whom she had been separated for three months, is the cause of the deed. Mrs. Harbin was the wife of Daniel Harbin, a machinist in the navy yard. She was the mother of seven children.

Mrs. Harbin, who was 41 years of age, resided with several of her children at 1109 N street southeast. Kramer, who was only 23 years of age, made his home at 1314 11th street southeast.

Some years ago he and Harbin were partners in a wood and coal business, but later dissolved. Harbin secured employment at the navy yard.

The husband for a time paid no attention to the frequent visits of his former partner to his home. Then he told his wife he would obtain lodging elsewhere and would see that the children were provided for.

### *Plea Fails; Bullet Succeeds*

He told several friends recently that he was going to return to his wife. The news reached Kramer. He went to Mrs. Harbin and demanded an explanation.

The woman told him she was tired of the estrangement and meant to live with her husband. Failing in his efforts to obtain Mrs. Harbin's promise to remain away from her husband, Kramer grew desperate. The shooting followed.

The husband had called to see his wife about 3:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon at her home. Both agreed to forget their differences and live peaceably together. He left shortly before 4 o'clock to go to the navy yard.

No sooner had he left than Kramer put in an appearance. He went to the door of the house and rapped. Mrs. Harbin responded. They stood talking a few minutes at the door and then entered the house.

What happened in the room before the tragedy occurred will never be known, as no one else was present. John J. Welsh, who occupies a room on the second floor, was the only other adult in the house. Several of Mrs. Harbin's children, however, were in another part of the house.

### *What Probably Happened*

It is thought that Kramer pleaded with Mrs. Harbin to remain away from her husband. Shortly before 5 o'clock she left the house and walked a few blocks in the vicinity of her home, probably hoping Kramer would leave. She later returned.

About 5:15 o'clock Welsh, who was in his room on the second floor, heard two shots fired in rapid succession. After an interval of possibly a minute there was another shot.

Welsh walked downstairs and looked into the street and into a rear yard. He had heard Mrs. Harbin leave the house, but did not hear her return. Therefore, he did not think of opening the door leading to her apartments. He returned to his room.

Within a few minutes two of the children, Eugene and Ethel, entered the house. Going to their mother's room, they found her and Kramer dead, lying across the bed.

Mrs. Harbin's shirt waist was soiled from two wounds in her breast. A wound was in Kramer's head.

Eugene pushed his little sister from the room and closed the door. He ran from the house crying. Policeman Wood of the fifth precinct learned from him what the boy knew. He called an ambulance and then went to the house.

Dr. Moffit arrived with the ambulance of the Casualty Hospital. The man and woman were already dead.

#### *Harbin Hurries Back*

Mr. Harbin was at work at the navy yard when a friend told him of the shooting. He returned to his home, to find his wife, whom he had left but a few hours before, cold in death. The weapon, a five-chamber .32-caliber revolver, was found near the two bodies. Three discharged shells were in its chambers.

Her husband and seven children, Mrs. John Gregg, Wilmer Harbin, nineteen years of age; George, sixteen; Eugene, fifteen; Ethel, fourteen; William, eleven, and Virginia, four years of age, survive Mrs. Harbin.

The remains were turned over to Undertakers Thomas R. Nalley & Sons, 1231 11th street southeast, to be prepared for burial. The funeral is to take place Saturday afternoon from her late home. The funeral of Kramer will be held Sunday afternoon from his late home.