

## John Clyde Hodge

(1896 – 14 Jul 1912)

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**Hodge.** Suddenly on Sunday, July 14, 1912 at 1:30 p.m., Clyde Hodge, beloved son of J.M. and E.M. Hodge. Funeral Tuesday, July 16 from his late residence, 1524 E street s.e. at 10 a.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, July 5, 1912, p. 16*

### **Makes Plunge to Death**

#### **Clyde Hodge Drowns in Potomac River, Near the Highway Bridge**

Clyde Hodge was drowned in the Potomac river near the Highway bridge yesterday afternoon, and in attempting to save his companion from drowning, Henry A. Melcher had a narrow escape. He managed to swim ashore however, although he was almost completely exhausted when he reached the sea wall.

Hodge, who was fifteen years old and a member of the Y.M.C.A., resided at 1524 E street southeast. His father, John Hodge, is a painter. Melcher, who is seventeen years old, resides at 1522 E street southeast.

### *In Quest of Pleasure*

Yesterday morning about 11 o'clock the boys hired a skiff at French's boathouse at Twining City and started on a trip in the direction of the upper Potomac, donning their bathing suits while moving up the river. When about 200 yards from the Highway bridge they decided to take a dip in the water, and Melcher, the swimmer, was to determine the depth of the water. He went overboard from the stern, but before he had time to advise Hodge of the danger the latter jumped into the water from the bow of the small craft.

Melcher hearing his companion struggling in the water, went to his assistance, first throwing him an oar. He caught hold of his companion and they disappeared beneath the surface of the water together. After going under a second time the youths became separated, and Melcher, who was almost exhausted, saw nothing more of Hodge.

### *Body Recovered by Police Boat*

When Melcher had partly recovered from the effects of his exciting struggle he returned to the water, but was unable to locate Hodge. It was about 1:30 o'clock when the drowning occurred, and about one hour later the harbor police recovered the body.

The body was taken from the morgue to the Hodge home after Coroner Nevitt had made an investigation and given a certificate of accidental death.