

Ernest Prosser Holcombe (- 13 Apr 1914)

Holcombe. On April 13, 1914, at the National Hotel, Ernest Prosser, youngest son of the late Matilda Lee and J. Royall Holcombe. Notice of funeral hereafter.

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Suicide By Shooting Is Verdict of the Coroner Violent Death of Ernest P. Holcombe, Indian Service Employee, Changed to Despondency

"Suicide by shooting" was the verdict of Coroner Nevitt yesterday afternoon after he had investigated the violent death of Ernest Prosser Holcombe, fifty-three years old, chief supervisor in the Indian service, whose body was found in a room at the National Hotel.

Clutched in his right hand, the police state, was the weapon with which the supervisor had shot himself in the head. A domestic in the hotel discovered the dead body in the room notified a clerk and the latter summoned a policeman.

Coroner Nevitt later visited the hotel, made an investigation and reached the conclusion that Holcombe had committed suicide. No note of explanation was left by the dead man, so far as the police were able to ascertain, although it is possible that he wrote messages to his wife and others and mailed them shortly before he took his life.

Holcombe came here last Thursday to transact business with the Interior Department officials relative to his duties. It is stated, and official papers found in the room were sealed by Coroner Nevitt and turned over to government officials.

Native of Alexandria

Maj. James McLaughlin of the Indian service and Mr. Halcombe occupied the room in which the tragedy was enacted. He was shocked when he learned of the tragic death of his friend and was unable to suggest a reason for the deed. He thought Mr. Holcombe was preparing to return to Denver, Col., where he was stationed, and where his wife last night was notified of his death.

The deceased was a native of Alexandria, Va. He had been in the government service for twenty years, it is stated, and was at one time connected with the main office of the commissioner of Indian affairs. Friends say the recent despondency and suicide probably resulted from illness.

Miss Elizabeth Holcombe, a sister of the deceased, residing at the Riggs apartments, near 15th and P streets northwest, was notified of the tragedy. She notified a brother in New York, and the latter came here today to arrange for the funeral.