

Hough, James H.

(- 3 Feb 1886)

The Evening Star, February 3, 1886

Found Dead in His Room

James H. Hough, a clerk in the Treasury department, was found dead in his room at 433 G street northwest this afternoon. Hough was about 45 years of age and unmarried. He is a native of this city, but has been in the china business in Baltimore and has been living on his money until about two months ago when he was appointed to the position in the Treasury department. He complained of nervousness on Saturday, and did not go to the office on Monday. He declined to call in a physician, although being advised to do so by friends. This morning he ate a hearty breakfast and did not leave his room. When found, about one o'clock, he was lying on the floor partially dressed.

The body was found in a pool of blood on the floor, and there was a large gash in his head, which he had evidently received from a fall. It is supposed he was arranging his toilet when he fell.

The Evening Star, February 4, 1886

Shot Himself in the Head

The Suicide of a Secret Service Detective

The sudden death of James H. Hough, announced in The Star of yesterday, as having taken place at 433 G street was found upon investigation, to have been due to suicide. Hough shot himself in the head. He was boarding with his sister-in-law, Mrs. Marie V. Hough who upon going to his room found him in a pool of blood. It was given out that Hough had fallen in a fit. Lieut. Kelly, on visiting the house, found that a large bull dog pistol had been used, one chamber discharged. The coroner gave a certificate of death by suicide. The deceased was born in Fredericksburg, Va. He was engaged in the china business in Baltimore for a long time. He some time ago entered the Treasury secret service, which position he held until his death. The suicide is attributed to temporary aberration of the mind, caused by ill health.