

Grover Hummer

(- 15 Jan 1894)

Hummer. Departed this life suddenly on January 15, 1894, Grover Cleveland, beloved son of L.M. and G.A. Hummer, aged 9 years 2 months and 11 days.

The Lord knows only, and we know not.

Give us strength, O Lord, to bear our lot.

Funeral from his parents' residence, No. 1207 K street southeast, Wednesday, evening at 3 o'clock.

Relatives and friends invited to attend.

The Evening Star, January 15, 1894

Killed Instantly

Nine-Year-Old, School Boy Shoots

Himself Before His Teacher

Little Grover Hummer The Victim

Almost a Panic Created Among the Pupils

It Was An Accident

A shocking accident, resulting in the death of Grover Hummer, aged 9, occurred this morning in the Cranch public school building, at the corner of 12th and G streets southeast. Shortly after 9 o'clock the building rang with the report of a pistol and the pupils of the third grade came rushing panic stricken down the stairs. Grover Hummer, while exhibiting a revolver, accidentally shot himself in the forehead and died almost immediately.

The last bell for the assembling of school had rung and the pupils were in their seats when Grover Hummer entered the school room with a large revolver in his hand. The teacher was in the hall at the time. The little fellow stood at the heater and proudly held the weapon aloft. One of the pupils rushed into the cloak room and called for the teacher, exclaiming: "Grover Hummer has a pistol." When the teacher appeared the little fellow, either through fear or by accident, raised the pistol and pulled the trigger. The ball entered the forehead about the central pint, and he fell to the floor with blood gushing from the rugged wound. The teacher ran at once to the tiny form and tried to stay the crimson flow. In a moment the school was in an uproar. Fifty little boys and girls ran panic stricken from the room, crying aloud.

A Panic Averted

Realizing the awful results of a panic the teacher left the prostrate form and rushed to the head of the steps. She called at the top of her voice to the supervising principal, Mrs. Peabody, and told her what had happened. All of the pupils in the building by this time were aroused at the hurrying sounds and frightened voices of the little ones upstairs and rushed to the doors. The teachers, however, were prepared--calmly and deliberately they barred the entrance and ordered the children in stern tones to return to their seats, adding that only an accident had happened upstairs to one of the boys and that the building was all safe. But for this prompt action a frightful catastrophe might have resulted. The children returned to their seats with the exception of those in the school room where the accident occurred. They rushed pellmell down the staircase and stood huddled together at the door like so many frightened sheep. Miss L.J. Burroughs, the teacher of the school, sent word to the children to repair to the play room. She called to three of the boys and dispatched one for a doctor, one for a policeman and the other for the little boy's father. Dr. John E. Walsh responded at once, but when he arrived life was

extinct. Supervising Principal Freeman was also sent for and he conveyed the remains to the little fellow's home, 1207 K street southeast.

An Accident

Deceased was one of the brightest pupils in his class, endowed with a sunny disposition and a universal favorite with both pupils and teacher. There is no doubt that the shooting was an accident. The little fellow was the son of George Hummer, the well known butcher in the Center Market. When a reporter of The Star visited the home of the bereaved family he found the mother wild with anguish. The father stated, in reply to a question, that the pistol with which his son shot himself was one of the Smith and Wesson pattern, 32 caliber. He kept it locked up in a bureau drawer. The little fellow had evidently found it this morning and took it to school to show the boys.

Coroner Woodward viewed his remains and after questioning the teacher and several of the pupils, decided that an inquest was unnecessary and gave a certificate of death due to an accident.