

Mollie Kirk

(- 2 May 1884)

The Evening Star, May 2, 1884

Why Lucy Jones Shot Herself

She Attempted Suicide Because Her Lover Served His Own Clam Chowder

Yesterday Major Dye directed Detective Block to make an investigation into the circumstances attending the shooting of Lucy Jones at house 411 14th street southwest, last Tuesday, as reported in yesterday's Star. The woman was removed to the Providence hospital by her friends immediately after the shooting, and Mr. Block had an interview with her at the hospital in which she stated that she did the shooting herself with a 22-caliber pistol, which she had kept by her for years. It appears that a party of pleasure folk of both sexes had been on an excursion to the Great Falls. The party included a young man with whom she was long on intimate terms, and who would not let her go, which gave rise to jealousy on her part. Upon the return of the part, Lucy Jones was not inclined to be amiable. The young man wanted some clam chowder served up for him, and instead of asking Lucy to serve it, he went to work himself at the job. Lucy, feeling aggrieved, went upstairs and soon afterwards the report of a pistol was heard. The young man, hastening upstairs found that she had shot herself. As he could not find a physician in the neighborhood, he took her to the hospital in a buggy. She is in a critical condition, and is not expected to recover. She is 24 years old and is from Front Royal Virginia.

The Evening Star, May 3, 1884

Death By Her Own Hand

The Shooting of Lucy Jones

The Coroner's Inquest Today

Coroner Patterson held an inquest this morning at Joseph C. Lee's undertaking establishment over the body of the young woman, Lucy Jones, otherwise Molly Kirk, who died yesterday at the Providence hospital from the effects of a pistol wound supposed to have been inflicted by herself at house No. 411 14th street southwest, last Tuesday. The jury was composed of Messrs. Herman Schmidtman, Richard Schneider, Wm. Hageman, Charles Bill, Charles Mades, and J. Arthur McDermott.

Testimony of the Man With Whom She Lived

William H. Gibson of 411 14th street southwest, with whom it was reputed the deceased was living, said when he went home last Tuesday evening the deceased and two ladies were in the yard. Witness did not see them until he got to the house. They then went in and fastened the door. This was done in play. They were laughing. Witness got in by a key. When he went in the deceased went over and fastened a bouquet on the witness' lapel. Witness went out again in a few minutes, but returned and talked with the ladies. Meanwhile he sent to the city for some clams. After the company left the deceased went upstairs, but returned in a few minutes, and then started up again. She, however, returned before reaching the head of the stairs, and coming to witness put her arms around him, and sat in the chair with him, where he was cutting up the clams. After kissing him she stated up again. Witness said to her, "Lucy, get an Irish potato, peel it, and cut it up, so it will go into a stew." She says, "It is no use cutting up a potato now to put into a stew. You have got to wait until it boils." Witness said, "All right, go ahead." She went upstairs, and it was hardly a second afterwards when he heard the report of a pistol. Then she cried out, "Billy, Billy, come up here!" Witness rushed up stairs and found her lying over the edge of the bed. Witness said, "Lucy, for the Lord's sake, what are you doing?" She

said, "Take my clothes off." Witness began removing her clothing, and because he seemed slow she said, "Get out of the way; I will take them off myself." "She did so and witness examined her to see where she had shot herself, and asked her "Lucy, for the Lord's sake, what made you do this?" She told witness to go and get Ms. Hunt, who lived across the street. Witness got Mrs. Hunt who went out and got two other ladies. Witness then went after Dr. Boarman, who told witness he thought there was little hope of her recovery, and that he had better take her to Providence hospital, and upon that advice he took her to the hospital. In the ambulance deceased told him that "Seeing you cut those clams made me feel so, that you might just as well stuck a knife into me." "She cut up those kinds of capers often," said the witness, "telling me what she was going to do. I have taken a bottle of laudanum away from her, and have taken this pistol away from her." The witness said she had threatened suicide so often that he paid little attention to her. They had had no quarrel.

"This wound was in the left side?" said the coroner, inquisitively. "Yes, sir," said the witness. "Was she a left-handed person?" "No, sir," said the witness.

Other Testimony

Miss Tenie Garrett, of 1106 C street, testified to the deceased attempting suicide by taking laudanum when living at witness' house on 13th street, about a year ago. Witness had heard her often threaten to commit suicide. She often had spells when her spirits were depressed.

Lillian Berry, who lives at 404 13th street, testified to calling on the deceased last Tuesday afternoon, and remained there till half-past six. While witness was there Mr. Gibson and witness' friend came there. When witness went away she invited the deceased to call on her the next day. The deceased said: "Perhaps there will be a crape on the door tomorrow." Witness said: "You do not expect to die so soon, do you?" and the deceased replied: "There are many deaths from one day to another."

Martha Raper, 1108 C street, testified that about four months ago she took laudanum away from the deceased, and that she had taken the pistol away from her about a year ago when deceased tried to shoot herself. The deceased occasionally drank deeply.

Detective Block testified to the statement made by the deceased last Thursday at the hospital. He went with Drs. Hamilton and Bayne. Witness represented himself as a doctor in order not to frighten her. Her statement was substantially what has been published in The Star--that she did the shooting herself. She said she shot herself with the left hand, although she was right-handed. She said Billy (Gibson) was in the house at the time, but not in the room. She declined to state the reason for the shooting. Witness asked her if there was any ill-feeling between herself and Gibson, and she said there was a little quarrel. The witness was satisfied that it was a suicide. The deceased was a woman of a great deal of temper.

Dr. J.F. Hartigan testified to the nature of the wound. The ball entered the left side of the abdomen and lodged in the spinal column. Hemorrhage and inflammation following the wound caused death.

A Verdict of Suicide

This concluded the testimony, and the jury returned a verdict that the deceased came to her death from a pistol shot wound of the abdomen, self-indicted, with suicidal intent.