

Edward T. Krantz (- 12 Oct 1902)

Krantz. The funeral of the late Edward T. Krantz will be held from his late home, 529 4th street s.e., Wednesday, October 15, 1902. Interment at Congressional Cemetery. Funeral private.

The Evening Star, October 13, 1902, p. 12

Sexton Commits Suicide Hangs Himself in Belfry of Church Where He Had Served Ten Years

Suspended from a rope in the belfry at Trinity Methodist Church last night was found the body of Edward Krantz, who had served as sexton of the church during the past five years. That the man who had served the congregation so faithfully had deliberately ended his own life there was no doubt. There was nothing about the place of worship to indicate that he was the victim of foul play. Life had left the body sometime before 6:45 o'clock when Mr. Andrew Hancock made the ghastly discovery.

Last night was the first time in five years that Krantz had disappointed the members of the congregation by failing to open the church on time, and when Mr. Hancock found the edifice had not been lighted at the usual time he started on a tour of investigation. Naturally he started his investigations at the switchboard, and later went to the belfry. Reaching the belfry, he made a light and then discovered that he had almost walked against the dead form of the sexton. It was apparent that life was extinct, but in order that no mistake might be made a physician was summoned, and then the police were called to the church.

The body was taken from the belfry after the coroner had been notified and removed to the late home of Krantz, 520 4th street southeast. It is known Krantz had gone to the church at 6 o'clock in the morning, and it is believed he committed the deed soon after reaching there. He cut a piece from a rope he found in the church and tied it to the top round of the ladder from which his body was found suspended.

The deceased was 67 years old, and had been prominently identified with church work in Southeast Washington for a number of years. He was a man of regular habits, and it was not until one day last week that he was suspected of intemperance. There was something about his demeanor yesterday morning to indicate that he was in trouble. He was not the pleasant, talkative man he had been during all the ten years of his employment about the church. His manner caused remarks to be made by some of his friends, but nobody suspected that he contemplated taking his life. Had he not shown signs of melancholia early in the day his friends would never have believed he had ended his own life. Coroner Nevitt gave the usual death certificate.

The Evening Star, October 14, 1902, p. 11

Burial of Edward Krantz

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock over the remains of Edward Krantz at his late residence, 529 4th street s.e. Krantz committed suicide Sunday afternoon by hanging himself in the belfry of the Trinity Methodist Church of which he was sexton. The interment will be made in Congressional Cemetery.