

Harry P. Lashhorn

(- 5 Mar 1910)

Lashhorn. Suddenly, March 5, 1910, Harry P., beloved son of Margaret A. Lashhorn in the 28th year of his age. Funeral private Tuesday, March 8 at 2 p.m.

The Evening Star, March 6, 1910, p. 2

Suicide Left Note

Charged Brother to Care for Their Mother

Feared Blood Poisoning

Body of Harry P. Lashhorn Found Near Spot

Indicated in Farewell Message

"Dear Jesse: I have committed suicide by drowning down at the arsenal. Don't let mother worry. Comfort her. I think I would never be able to work again. My health is very bad.

"May God have mercy on me. See that mother is taken care of. I drowned myself by the red house, and look after mother.

"Your brother, Harry."

After writing the foregoing message to his brother yesterday, Harry P. Lashhorn, twenty-four years old, who was a clerk in the office of the auditor for the Post Office Department, jumped overboard near where the James Creek canal empties into the Anacostia river and was drowned.

His brother, Jesse Lashhorn, viewed the remains at the morgue later in the afternoon and had an undertaker take charge of them after Coroner Nevitt gave permission for their removal. The young man lived with his widowed mother at 102 P street northwest and had always been a dutiful son.

Found Coat and Hat

The first that was known of the drowning was when Stephen F. Stella and Henry Lee, employed at the War College, found the coat and hat of the young man on the stone wall not far from the boiler room in which they were working. In one of the pockets of the garment, they found the note he had written to his brother, a membership card in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, F.A.A.M., disclosing his identity.

Shortly before 3 o'clock the harbor police were notified of the finding of the body. They got in communication with Jesse Lashhorn and were told by him that his brother was either at work or at home.

"It must be a mistake about his having jumped overboard," the brother said. "He had no reason to commit suicide. He was single and had a good position."

The police of the harbor precinct felt satisfied, however, that the finding of the card and note in the pockets of the coat hat had been abandoned meant that the writer of the message was beneath the surface of the water. Members of the crew of the boat were summoned and the search was soon begun. Those who engaged in the search went to the vicinity of the red boathouse referred to in the written message, near which the coat and hat were found, and shortly after 4 o'clock the body was recovered.

Body Found in Canal

About twenty feet from the little house the body was located. It was in the canal and evidently not far from where the young man jumped overboard. The members of the crew returned to the river front at the foot of 7th street and turned the body over to the superintendent of the morgue.

It is stated that the young man cut his hand while opening a can of tomatoes some time ago and had experienced considerable trouble with the injury. His hand had been operated upon, the police were told, but it did not seem to get much better. Lashhorn thought, and he feared blood poisoning would follow.

Friends say that he worried so much about his hand that he had become melancholy, although he had never said anything to suggest that he contemplated taking his life.

It is thought that Lashhorn ended his life about noon, although it was not until sometime after the noon hour that the coat and hat were found. James P. Brigham of 412 2d street southwest saw the young man walking along the wall as early as 11 o'clock in the morning, and while the presence of the stranger attracted his attention, he did not have the slightest idea that he was contemplating suicide.

Coroner Nevitt was told of the finding of the note and the subsequent recovery of the body. He gave permission for the removal of the body to Wright's undertaking establishment, 1337 10th street, and will give a certificate of death today in accordance with the facts.