

Raleigh F. Luckett

(10 Jan 1880 – 2 Jul 1907)

Luckett. On Tuesday, July 2, 1907 at 9:30 p.m., Raleigh F., beloved husband of Gertrude H. Luckett (nee Harlow) and son of Charles E. Luckett. Funeral services at residence of his brother, 1115 N street northwest on Thursday, July 4, 4 p.m. Interment private (Alexandria papers please copy).

The Evening Star, July 1, 1907, p. 3

Attempts To End Life

Raleigh F. Luckett Uses Revolver With Suicidal Intent

Bullet Enters His Lungs

Patient at the Emergency Hospital Under Treatment

Has Chance For Recovery

Believed He Has Been Brooding Over Domestic Trouble --

Is Separated From Wife

Raleigh F. Luckett, who is employed as an inspector by the local office of the Adams Express Company, shot himself this morning in the breast at the Garrick Club, 1347 Pennsylvania avenue, the bullet entering the right side. It did not penetrate the heart, and there is hope of recovery. He was operated upon at the Emergency Hospital at 11:20 a.m., about twenty minutes after the shooting. He is the son of C.E. Luckett, manager of the F street branch of the express company, and a brother of Joseph E. Luckett, manager of the Columbia Theater.

The reason for the attempted suicide is said to be family troubles, Luckett having been for about two months separated from his wife, formerly Miss Gertrude Harlow of Alexandria, Va., and his two children.

Raleigh Luckett is about twenty-seven years of age. He has long been a member of the Garrick Club, although he has not been a regular attendant. Saturday he went over to Baltimore and took a boat for this city arriving by way of the Chesapeake bay and the Potomac this morning. A few minutes before 11 o'clock he entered the rooms of the Garrick Club, on the second floor of 1347 Pennsylvania avenue, in company with E.F. Brown and A.E. Beitzell. He was apparently in the best of spirits, and after chatting a few moments with Manager E.S. Doughty of the club went into the front room by himself and sat down in an arm chair near the window to read a morning paper.

Report of Revolver Heard

Those in the back room, about five minutes later heard the report of a pistol, and Mr. Brown remarked:

"They are beginning the Fourth of July celebration early."

It was thought at first that the noise had come from the street, but Mr. Beitzell, stepping into the front room, discovered young Luckett collapsed in his chair with a bloody wound in his breast and a smoking revolver in his hand.

"It is all over. It is all over. Telephone Joe," the wounded man gasped.

"What did you do this for?" asked Mr. Beitzell; but the only reply was, "It is all over."

Mr. Beitzell called Manager Doughty and the others in the back room, and Mr. Doughty immediately telephoned for the Emergency Hospital ambulance, and also notified Mrs. Luckett, the young man's mother at the DeSoto apartment house. Word was sent by messenger to Joseph E. Luckett, at the Columbia Theater.

Before the arrival of the ambulance Officer Wolfe of the first precinct, who had learned of the shooting, arrived and took charge of the arrangements for removing the young man to the hospital. Luckett was conscious when taken into the operating room, and continued to repeat, "It is all over."

A few minutes after he reached the hospital his father and his brother Joseph were at his side.

At a late hour this afternoon it was stated at the hospital that Luckett was still conscious, and that there had been no change in his condition. No operation has yet been performed, on account of the low vitality of the patient as the result of the loss of blood. That the bullet entered the lungs is stated by the doctors to be practically certain. They say he has an even chance of recovery, but a turn for the worse may come at any moment.

Mind Unbalanced

About five years ago Raleigh Luckett was married to the daughter of M.B. Harlow, a wealthy real estate man of Alexandria, Va., and until the past few months they lived in perfect harmony. Of late, however, it is stated, a disagreement arose, which resulted in Mrs. Luckett returning to the home of her parents with her two boys. For the past few days she has been residing with relatives in Laurel, Md. It is believed that Mr. Luckett brooded a great deal over this separation from his wife, and that his mind was slightly unbalanced as a result of the trouble. His brother Joseph said this afternoon that he knew of no other reason that would lead to his act.

Wife Asks for Separation

Mrs. Luckett has applied for a legal separation from her husband, and it is stated he has offered no objection to the proceedings.

For several years after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Luckett resided at 401 C street southeast. The house, it is said, was a present from the bride's father. When Mrs. Luckett, on the advice of her father, returned to her parents' home, Mr. Luckett took up his residence with his mother and sister in the DeSoto apartment house.

Young Luckett has a large circle of friends in this city, and is said to be very popular. It is stated that he is not a drinking man, and was not under the influence of liquor when he shot himself this morning.

The revolver which he used was a long-barreled, 32-caliber short. It does not shoot a large enough bullet to make a very deep wound, except at close range. The police believe the young man wished to shoot himself in the heart, but that in the excitement of the attempt he forgot to place the mouth of the barrel in the proper position.

That the act was intentional is taken for granted, both by the police and the young man's friends, in view of the fact that his remarks afterward all indicated that he wished to die.

The Evening Star, July 2, 1907, p. 2

Luckett Near Death's Door

Self-Inflicted Wound May Soon Prove Fatal

Patient at the Hospital, With Little Prospect of Recovery -- Wants to Die

Mrs. Gertrude Luckett came to the city from Laurel, Md., this morning and called at the Emergency Hospital to see her husband, Raleigh F. Luckett, who attempted suicide in the front room of the Garrick Club, 1347 Pennsylvania avenue, yesterday morning by shooting himself, as stated in yesterday's Star. The wounded man was in an unconscious condition when she reached the hospital, and was therefore unable to recognize her. Earlier in the morning he was conscious, and made several labored efforts to speak to his relatives, but, it is stated, he was suffering from a severe internal hemorrhage, and the

blood was fast filling his lungs, making it impossible for him to speak. His condition became so serious that the physicians were compelled to give him an opiate before noon.

It was thought yesterday afternoon the condition of the patient would be such this morning that an operation might be performed and the bullet removed. The parents of the wounded man were given a ray of hope and were encouraged when they went home from the hospital last night. There were several turns noticed in the condition of the patient during the night, and at an early hour this morning it was realized that a hopeless fight was being made for him.

Tired of Life

The patient expressed no regret for his act, telling his relatives and friends that he had become tired of life and he wanted to die.

"I'm tired," he frequently remarked, "and all will soon be over."

His relatives sought the best surgeons and had all arrangements made for the removal of the bullet, but there came a change in the condition of the patient which rendered useless any operation. It was stated that the wife of the wounded man had not seen him since about two months ago, when she left him and went to Laurel to spend the summer, taking their two little children with her, but when she received the message telling of what he had done she hurried here this morning to see him.

Luckett lost consciousness without saying anything as to the cause of his rash act. His relatives surmise that he brooded over domestic troubles. Despite the fact that he and his wife had been separated since the last of April, it is stated, he seldom discussed his family affairs with his friends or relatives.

Shows Signs of Mental Worry

When he reached the city yesterday, it is stated, he went to the clubrooms and took a seat at the front window, saying nothing to those who entered the room and showing evidences of mental suffering. Those who entered the room while he was there noticed that he did not seem as if he wanted to converse with anybody, and they did not disturb him.

Members of the immediate family and a number of friends have been about the hospital most of the time since the wounded man reached there, all of them anxious to be of assistance. While he was conscious Luckett seemed as if the presence of his parents and brothers and sisters comforted him. He was especially fond of his brother, Joseph Luckett, the manager of the Columbia Theater, having requested that he be notified of the shooting when persons in the clubrooms went to his assistance.

The Evening Star, July 3, 1907, p. 6

Dies of His Injuries

Raleigh Luckett Passes Away While At Hospital

The death of Raleigh Luckett, who shot himself with suicidal intent, 1st Monday morning while in the rooms of the Garrick Club, occurred about 9:20 o'clock last night at the Emergency Hospital. The scene at the deathbed was a pathetic one. Mr. Luckett was conscious to the last, and it is said a complete reconciliation between the husband and wife, Mrs. Gertrude Harlow Luckett, occurred shortly before he died, when she went alone to his bedside and asked that he forgive her if there was anything she had done to offend. He made a feeble effort to put his arms around her, but sank back on the pillows. When she asked him if he were glad to see her he said: "I'm awfully glad," and she remained with him from then until the end.

His two-year-old son, hardly conscious of the tragedy that was being consummated, but realizing that something unusual was occurring, was placed near the dying man on the bed, and the faint smile of

the father and the playful approaches of the son caused the other occupants of the room to turn away their heads in tears.

At the Bedside

Others at the bedside were the wife's father, Col. M.B. Harlow; the young man's parents, his brother, Joseph Lockett, manager of the Columbia Theater, and two sisters, Miss Edith Lockett and Mrs. Virgie Galbraith.

Repeated hemorrhages are said to have hastened Mr. Lockett's death. When the surgeons announced that all was over the wife was removed to the apartments of the Lockett family, at the DeSoto. She was hysterical and her grief unconsolable. With her were her father and one of her husband's sisters.

C.E. Lockett, the father, said yesterday that the family were of the opinion that recent domestic troubles and the constant brooding about them caused a temporary derangement of the young man's mind, and that was in the main responsible for the deed.

The funeral will occur at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon from the home of Mr. Joseph Lockett, 1115 N street.

The Evening Star, July 5, 1907, p. 5

Last Rites Over Dead

Funeral Services Yesterday Afternoon Over Remains of Raleigh Lockett

Funeral services over the remains of Raleigh Lockett, who died Tuesday night at the Emergency Hospital were held yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the home of his brother, Joseph E. Lockett, 1115 N street northwest. Rev. Harry W. Pratt, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, conducted the services.

The pallbearers were Ross Vandenberg, E.C. Totten, D.L. Roseberg, Brewin Klawans, Frank Coleman and Robert McPherson. The remains were placed in a vault at the Congressional cemetery.

A floral pall of white rosebuds and lilies of the valley, the remembrance of his wife, covered the casket. There were a large number of floral offerings from friends, among them pieces from the stock companies of the Columbia, National and Belasco theaters.

The Evening Star, July 7, 1907, p. 16

Final Services Held

Interment of Remains of Raleigh F. Lockett

Many friends of the late Raleigh F. Lockett, who died at the Emergency Hospital from the effects of a bullet wound in his right chest, attended the funeral yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock from the residence of his brother, Mr. Joseph Lockett, 1115 N street. Many floral tributes attested the popularity of the deceased, remembrances having been sent from the several theaters, the stock company playing at the Columbia Theater, and the employees of Adams Express Company. Rev. Harry Wardell Prat, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, officiated, and the interment was in Congressional cemetery. The pallbearers were J.F. Coleman, E.C. Toten, D.L. Rosenberg, Ross Van Denberg, R. McPherson and Barney Klawans.