

James W. Mugg (- 30 Jun 1907)

Mugg. Suddenly, June 30, 1907, James W. Mugg, beloved son of John H. Mugg. Funeral from J.H. Bradley's undertaker, 447 7th street southwest, Tuesday, July 2 at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

The Evening Star, July 1, 1907, p. 16

Swallows Laudanum

James W. Mugg Dies After Removal to Hospital

James W. Mugg, twenty-nine years of age, who was employed as a bartender at the place of business of his father, John Mugg, 515 7th street southwest, committed suicide last night by taking laudanum. He was at the house of Mrs. Lula Steele, 353 K street southwest, when he swallowed the drug.

"We have no statement to make," a woman at the house said this morning. "Don't come in here; go on out."

The police of the fourth precinct learned of the affair last night, when a message was sent to the Emergency Hospital for assistance. It was stated over the telephone that a man had taken poison and that he was in a critical condition. The information caused the driver of the ambulance to make a quick run. Mugg lived only a short time after he reached the hospital.

The police were unable to ascertain just why the young man committed the act. It is believed that he took the poison to the house with him, having given the question of taking his life some thought before going there. Coroner Nevitt made an investigation this morning and gave a certificate in accordance with the facts. An undertaker removed the body to 443 7th street southwest, from which number the funeral will occur.

The Evening Star, July 10, 1907, p. 7

Druggist Fined \$5

Had Sold As Liniment Laudanum Used For Suicide

Holding that the exception in the new drug law, allowing the sale of preparations containing opium and similar substances to be used as a liniment or ointment, did not apply to pure drugs such as laudanum. Judge Kimball in the Police Court today held Charles S. Walters, a druggist at 901 4 1/2 street southwest, guilty of violating the drug law in selling, without a prescription, laudanum to James Mugg, by which he later committed suicide, and fined the druggist \$5 for the offense.

In the trial of the case it was shown that the druggist thought he was acting under the exception of the law when he sold the laudanum to Mugg, and put on the bottle "For External Use Only." A statement was presented to the court from the Health Officer Woodward declaring that pure laudanum is never used as a liniment or ointment by itself, and on this statement the decision of the case largely rested.

"It would practically nullify the whole law if I should hold that the contention of this defendant was right," said Judge Kimball. "The law makes an exception in cases of preparations containing opium or laudanum, when such preparations are to be used as ointments or liniments, but it says nothing about the pure drugs. If pure drugs were allowed to be sold for external use all those who wanted the drugs would buy them for external use, but would use them internally."

This definition of the law is regarded as important, as this point has been doubtful since the passage of the act.

Mugg. The remains of James W. Mugg, beloved son of John H. Mugg will be taken from the vault and interred in Congressional Cemetery, July 12, 1907 at 5 p.m. Services at the grave. Friends and relatives invited to attend.