

Joseph I. Peyton

(- 24 Jan 1897)

Peyton. On Sunday, January 24, 1897 at 543 A street southeast, Joseph I. Peyton in the 50th year of his age. Funeral from family residence, 513 A street southeast on Tuesday, January 26 at 10 a.m.

The Evening Star, January 25, 1897

Committed Suicide

Joseph I. Peyton Ended His Life With a Bullet

Mr. Joseph I. Peyton, a well-known patent attorney of this city, committed suicide shortly before noon yesterday at his home, 513 A street southeast. Despondency as a result of failing health is the only reason that can be given for his act, as he enjoyed a good practice and was not bothered by business or domestic troubles.

For some time past Mr. Peyton had made his home with a brother and two sisters on Capitol Hill. Of late he had been a sufferer from asthma and dyspepsia, and for several days past he had stayed away from his office and had kept pretty close to his room. He was in a rather melancholy condition of mind, but had said nothing to lead any one to think that he was contemplating suicide.

Shortly after 11 o'clock yesterday morning others in the house heard the report of a pistol, but thought it came from the street and paid no particular attention to it. About half an hour later Miss Alice Peyton had occasion to pass her brother's room and her attention was attracted by the sound of heavy breathing. She entered her brother's room, where a shocking sight met her eyes. Her brother was lying on the bed, which was saturated with blood. A gaping wound in his forehead and a revolver lying by his side told the story. At first the family thought it was an accident but further investigation showed that the unfortunate man had deliberately sought death. On the bed lay a small hand-mirror, which he had evidently used in taking aim with the pistol. He was not dead when his sister found him, though he was unconscious and a physician who was summoned in haste saw at a glance that nothing could be done to save his life. He lingered for about three hours without recovering consciousness. He left no note or other message to his family.

Mr. Peyton was 49 years of age and unmarried. He was a grandson of Mrs. Elizabeth Peyton, and came of a family that was prominent in the revolutionary period. He was a patent attorney and had an office in Room 11, 613 Pennsylvania avenue. He was at one time a member of the firm of Baldwin, Hopkins & Peyton, and subsequently retired from the firm and practiced alone. Of late he has attended to the patent business of the firm of S.S. White & Co.