

Mary M. Raff

(- 22 Jul 1930)

Raff, Mary M. On Tuesday, July 22, 1930, at Casualty Hospital, Mary M. Raff, beloved daughter of Charles J. and Nellie May Raff (nee Roche). Funeral from her late residence, 923 9th st. n.e., on Thursday, July 24, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, July 15, 1930, p. 1

**Veteran Shoots Girl He Loved, His Sister, Then Kills Himself
Wounded Child of 14 Reported Sinking at Hospital
Jealousy Thought Motive For His Act
Three Notes Are Left in Which His Affection Is Confessed
In Another He Says He Is Wholly Sane
Hastily Made Will Bequeaths Object of His Regard Sum of \$1,000**

Leaving three notes in which he confessed his love for a 14-year-old girl, Rosa Golden, 29-year-old World War veteran shot the girl, Mary Raff, wounded his sister, Mrs. Lula Mills, and then killed himself at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the Mills home at B street near Eleventh street northeast.

Golden, police learned, summoned the girl to his bedroom after lunch. A few minutes later, Mrs. Mills heard a violent argument, a scream, and finally a shot. She ran upstairs and met Golden at the door. She told police. Golden attempted to push her outside, and when Mrs. Mills resisted, fired a shot from his pistol, which struck the woman in the left breast.

Two Bullets Strike Girl

Two bullets were fired at the girl, one striking her in the face and the other in the chest. The child was reported to be sinking rapidly at Casualty Hospital last night. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joseph Raff of Ninth street near I street northeast and a student at Stuart Junior High School where she made high marks last year in the eighth-A grade.

The child had been living at the Mills home since school closed early in June. Both Golden and Mrs. Mills had known the Raff family for many years. Mary had always called Mrs. Mills "Aunt Lua," although Mrs. Mills was not an actual aunt, Mrs. Raff said. Golden had known the girl since she was a baby.

Mr. and Mrs. Raff said last night that they were unaware of any love affair between their daughter and Golden. The parents described Mary as a normal girl with golden hair, blue eyes and with a dimple in her cheek, loving her fun just as much as any other girl of her age.

Three Notes Left

The three hastily scribbled notes left by Golden were found on the dressing table of his bedroom where the triple shooting took place. One was addressed to his sister, but no designations were given on the other two. The one to his sister said:

"Oh, Sister Lula:"

"Please help me, forgive my bad feeling. If mother dear was only living she would tell me what to do. Please bury me in some grave with Mary when I die. I love her with all my heart, soul, and mind and thought. God knows I do."

"I am going to do this for God's sake," another note ran.

"Everybody please forgive me. I am very much sane. Don't think I was mad."

The third note said "If I could only find out what turned her against me. I now love her. She wouldn't give me satisfaction to know. Please bury her out of my compensation money."

Leaves Hastily Made Will

Golden also left a hastily made will he bequeathed \$1,000 to the girl he shot and \$2,000 each to two brothers and two sisters who survive him. Whether he has an estate aggregating this much or whether he intended the sums to come from his veteran's compensation had not been fully determined last night. Golden served in M Company of the 115th Infantry in the world War. Jealousy leading to the taking of his own life and the probable fatal wounding of the girl, is reported to have been spurred by Mary's persistent reference to a man she met at a nearby beach recently. Mrs. Mills told police that she heard the two arguing about this prior to the tragedy.

Several persons who live near the house where the attempted murder and suicide were committed criticized ninth precinct police last night for failing to respond to a complaint that was sent to the precinct regarding a disturbance at Ms. Mills' home just before the shooting occurred. One woman told a Post reported that she called the Ninth Precinct Station when loud screams were heard at the house and two children came from the house screaming loudly.

Says Complaint Was Ignored

This woman said that she called the Ninth Precinct Station and told them that someone was apparently "beating" the children. She said that the man who answered the phone at the Ninth Precinct station ignored the complaint.

A man who said that he telephoned the Ninth Precinct Station after the shooting occurred criticized the police for the time they took reaching the scene.

"I could have driven to the precinct and back twice in the period between the call and the time they arrived," this man said.

Ninth Precinct police said that they reached the house as quickly as possible after learning that a shooting had taken place. The wounded girl was taken to the hospital in a meat truck, it was learned.

The Washington Post, July 16, 1930, p. 1

Girl Shot by Suitor Faces Second Blood Transfusion Father Gives Blood to Save Victim, 14, Hovering Between Life and Death, After Soldiers, Policeman and Sister Offer Selves

Clinging to life by a slender thread. Mary Raff, 14 years old, who was shot Monday by her 29-year-old sweetheart, Ross Golden, just before he took his own life, was being prepared for a second blood transfusion at Casualty Hospital early today.

The girl received the blood of her father, Charles Joseph Raff, yesterday morning. Hospital attendants said that she showed little improvement after the transfusion and that another transfusion would be attempted when the girl accumulates sufficient strength to undergo the operation.

Several persons, including soldiers, policemen and a married sister of the dying girl, Mrs. Dorothy Harrington, 24 years old, have offered to give blood. Physicians had not decided last night who would be the next to submit to a transfusion.

The girl was shot twice – in the face and in the chest – by Golden, a World War veteran, early Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Lula Mills on B street near Eleventh street northeast. Mrs. Mills was slightly wounded when she tried to stop Golden from taking his own life just after he had shot the girl.

Golden loved the girl, he revealed in farewell notes and was insanely jealous because she spoke of another man. Circumstances preceding the tragedy disclosed that the girl repulsed persistent solicitations from Golden, police learned.

The Washington Post, July 23, 1930, p. 13

Girl, 14, Succumbs To Suitor's Shot

Mary Raff, Twice Wounded on July 15, Yields to Blood-Poisoning Made Brave Life Fight

Mary Raff, 14 years old, who was shot by a jealous sweetheart, Ross Golden, 29 year old World War veteran, died early yesterday morning at Casualty hospital.

The girl had fought against death since July 15, the day that Golden shot her and then killed himself. Mary received a blood transfusion from her father, Charles J. Raff, but this failed to check the spread of peritonitis.

Physicians had entertained hopes for the girl's recovery, but her resistance against the blood poisoning weakened in the last 24 hours. She was wounded by two bullets. One entered her face, just beneath the eye; the other penetrated the chest and lodged in the intestines. It was this latter wound that cost her life.

When Golden shot the girl, he also wounded his sister, Mrs. Lula Mills who tried to intervene. Then Golden killed himself. He left notes confessing his love for the girl 15 years younger than himself. The triple shooting took place at the Mills home, where Golden lived, on B street near Eleventh street southwest.

The Washington Post, July 24, 1930, p. 4

Funeral of Mary Raff To Be Conducted Today

Mary Raff, 14 years old, who died from bullet wounds inflicted by a jealous sweetheart, will be buried this afternoon in Congressional Cemetery after services at 2 o'clock at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Raff, of 923 Ninth street northeast. The Rev. Dr. C.S. Abbott, rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, will officiate.

The girl was shot twice, in the face and in the chest, by Ross Golden, World War veteran, on July 15 at the residence of Mrs. Lula Mills, sister of Golden, on B street near Eleventh street northeast. Golden took his own life after wounding the girl, as well as his sister, who tried to intervene. The wounded girl waged a valiant fight for life, and for a time her recovery was expected.