

James Roach

(- 27 Jun 1892)

Roach. On Monday, June 27, 1892 at 3:40 o'clock p.m., James, beloved husband of Elizabeth Roach, aged 57 years 10 months 22 days. Funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 527 Harrison street, Avalon Terrace, Thursday, June 30 at 4 o'clock thence to Emanuel Church, Anacostia, D.C. Relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend (Baltimore and Philadelphia papers please copy).

The Evening Star, July 24, 1878

**A Discouraged Workman's Attempted Suicide
Starving a Family on the "Short Time" Principle
Suffering of a Man Injured in the Public Service
His Wife at the Point of Death**

This morning, between 6 and 7 o'clock, Mr. James Roach, an employee for a long series of years of the ordnance department of the Navy Yard, who resides on 7th street, between E and G southeast, attempted suicide by cutting his throat with a razor, but fortunately did not succeed in making a serious wound. Mr. Roach, some years since, by an explosion in the yard in which two or more men were killed, was badly injured and the sight of one eye was entirely destroyed and the other affected, but he retained his position to the present time and maintained his family, a wife and eight children, on his wages. In consequence of the small appropriation made he, with other workmen who had been on "half time," was recently placed on "quarter time," by which he could earn on an average, but

Sixty Cents Per Day,

on which to support himself and large family. In consequence of this condition of affairs, together with his eyesight having become very bad, he has recently been much depressed in spirits, and for a few days past the family have been fearful that he was losing his mind. This morning when he arose he seemed to be unusually affectioned to his wife and children, and after kissing them he went upstairs, when his wife followed him, and reached the room, but not before he had time to make a quick cut across his throat with a razor. Mrs. Roach immediately fell in a spasm and the others of the family gave an alarm, which brought in the neighbors. Dr. W.H. Roberts dressed the wound on Mr. Roach's neck, finding, although it extended entirely across the neck, that no arteries had been reached, and the wound was not serious. Mr. Roach, on being questioned, would only answer "Times are bad," indicating that his mind was dwelling on that subject.

The Mother's Life in Danger

Mrs. Roach, who has 8 children, had a number of spasms--caused by the excitement--and being in a delicate situation her condition is looked on as much more precarious than that of her husband. The family have the sympathy generally of the residents of East Washington, among whom they have many friends, and it is to be hoped that some means will not only be taken to improve their condition but the condition of others who are suffering from the same cause.

The Evening Star, September 2, 1878

A Third Attempt at Suicide

Saturday afternoon, James Roach, an employee in the ordnance department at the Navy Yard, attempted to commit suicide at his house, No. 522 7th street southeast, by cutting his throat with a pocketknife, and inflicted a painful but not dangerous wound. He is supposed to be partially insane, and has been much depressed on account of his inability to support his family well, having been obliged to work on half-time. This is his third attempt in a few months past.