

Robert Robey (- 18 Aug 1911)

Robey. Suddenly on Friday, August 18, 1911 at 1:40 a.m., Robert A. Robey, beloved son of William G. Robey and the late Nellie Bayne Robey in the 18th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 614 I street southeast, Monday, August 21 at 10 a.m. Interment at Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, August 18, 1911, p. 2

Puzzled By Suicide

Motive for Self-Destruction of R.A. Robey Mystifies

Girl Admits Quarrel

But Declares Misunderstanding Was Not A Serious One

Best Man That Ever Walked

Miss Marie Rodier Unable to Explain Deed of Sweetheart.

Drank Muriatic Acid

"The best man that ever walked in shoe leather."

Marie Rodier the young girl for whose sake Robert A. Robey, an eighteen-year-old newspaper employe, committed suicide this morning, uttered this appreciation of her suitor, broke into hysterical sobbing and was for a long while unable to discuss the tragedy.

She finally said that she could not understand the motive that prompted him to take his life, and declared that their quarrel--to which has been ascribed his self-destruction--was not of enough seriousness to explain the act, and was not due to any refusal by her to become his wife.

Miss Rodier is a telephone operator employed at the Union station, a position she owes to W.G. Robey, stationmaster, father of the suicide. She was interviewed this morning at her home, 1853 9th street.

At first she said that there had been no quarrel between herself and young Robey and that his suicide was an unexplainable to her as to everybody else. Afterward she admitted that they had disagreed over some trifling matter, nothing that she could regard as sufficient to move him to self-destruction.

Left Note Addressed to Her

A letter left by young Robey and addressed to her, she said, had not been delivered to her, and she knew nothing of its contents. The suicide's father, she believed, must have taken possession of it.

The mother of the young girl said Robey had been coming to her home to see her daughter for more than a year, and that she had never known them to have a quarrel.

"He was a fine young gentleman," said Mrs. Rodier. "I liked him very much."

"The other night he came to me in the dining room and asked me how I would like to lose another daughter," said Mrs. Rodier. "I told him that both he and Marie were too young yet to get married."

Relatives of the young man say he was not engaged to be married to the young lady. He was in love h=with her, however, and her refusal to be his sweetheart, it is said, caused him to become despondent.

He wrote several notes before he took the deadly muratic acid that ended his life this morning at 1:30 o'clock at the home of his grandmother, Mrs. Eleanor Walker, at 614 I street southeast. One letter was addressed to his father and another to Miss Rodier.

The notes were found on a table in the death room.

Robey, employed in the pressroom of a local newspaper, was away on vacation recently. He had arranged to spend the time at Colonial Beach, but his father says changed his mind.

This morning, after he had written the messages to his father and Miss Rodier, he swallowed the poison. Suffering intense agony, the dying youth's outcry was heard by Cleveland Smallwood, who abides in the I street house, and G.H. Moore, a neighbor.

Smallwood and Moore procured an automobile and made a quick run to the hospital with the young man. At the hospital the physicians found life extinct.

The body was placed in the hospital morgue, where it was later viewed by Coroner Nevitt. The coroner gave a certificate in accordance with the facts.

Policemen Jukes and Allen of the fifth precinct went to the house shortly after Robey had been taken away. They took possession of the message that had been left for Miss Rodier. The envelope was sealed and they did not open it.

Undertaker J. William Lee took charge of the body today. After it had been prepared for burial it was taken to the house of his grandmother, Mrs. Walker. The funeral will be held from the house Monday morning. Interment will be at Congressional cemetery.