

James W. Sampson

(- 6 Nov 1913)

Sampson. Departed this life Thursday, November 6, 1913, James W. Sampson. Funeral (private) from his late residence, 818 North Carolina avenue s.e. Saturday, November 8. Interment at Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, July 21, 1908, p. 16

Fails At Suicide

Sampson Turns on Gas, But Will Recover

James Sampson, a painter, thirty years old, was in a critical condition last evening when he was taken to the Casualty Hospital from his home, 317 G street northeast, suffering from gas poisoning. Consciousness was restored later in the night and relatives were assured that he was out of danger.

Policeman Wilson of the ninth precinct, who was summoned to the G street house, was told that Sampson had inhaled gas after a quarrel with his wife. Mrs. Sampson left home late in the afternoon, and when Leonard Hoffman, who occupies the upper portion of the house, came home Sampson uttered several threats of suicide.

At first Hoffman did not take the remarks seriously, but later he went to the Sampson apartment and found his neighbor seated on a chair with the end of a gas tube in his mouth. The cock of the gas fixture was open and gas was flowing freely. Mrs. Sampson went to the hospital in the evening and learned that her husband was on the road to recovery.

The Evening Star, October 31, 1913, p. 3

Victim of Poison Changes His Mind

James W. Sampson, Who Took Bichloride of Mercury, Is Now Anxious to Live

Suffering from the effects of bichloride of mercury, taken, it is stated, with suicidal intent, James W. Sampson, a painter, thirty-three years old, is a patient at Casualty Hospital. He has changed his mind about wanting to die, it was stated at the hospital this morning, and is anxious that Dr. W.L. Kelly, who has charge of the case, should save his life.

Dr. Kelly fears he will be unable to save the patient's life if the report that he took forty grains of the poison is true, although it is yet impossible to tell the true condition of the painter.

"He may die within forty-eight hours, or he may linger ten days," said the physician, "and he may recover. His condition is not promising."

Sampson's conduct last night created some excitement in the vicinity of 818 North Carolina avenue southeast, the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mattie Payne, where he and his wife have been, residing recently. The poison was taken in the presence of the wife and her mother, the husband, it is stated, declaring he wanted to die.

Objecting to what he termed outside interference, it is stated, Sampson became belligerent, and when Dr. Kelly tried to take charge of him he attacked him with a fork. In the ambulance on the way to the hospital, it is stated, Sampson became troublesome and tried to take an additional amount of poison.

Submissive at Hospital

When the hospital was reached the patient became more submissive, taking antidotes without objection and obeying the physician's instructions. He related the story of the family troubles that led to last night's attempt to end his life, and concluded by expressing sorrow for his conduct.

Sampson told Dr. Kelly that he left the city following domestic trouble and that he recently returned and found his wife had broken up housekeeping and returned to her mother. Last night he went to his mother-in-law to effect a reconciliation and the taking of the poison was the result

"I am in, what are you going to do about it?" Mrs. Payne declared Sampson said as he walked into the kitchen of her home last evening. She said she told him he had better leave the house as he had been placed on "his personal bonds to keep away from her home."

"When he saw his wife in the kitchen," Mrs. Payne said, "he took a small bottle from his pocket and poured six tablets on the kitchen table."

"You take six of these and I'll take six," Mrs. Payne said the husband told his wife.

Wife Refused Tablets

Mrs. Sampson, however, refused to do so, and the husband walked to the sink, where he secured some water in a glass. "He then placed his hand to his mouth, and I think he swallowed the other six tablets," said Mrs. Payne. "In a few minutes he said he was burning up."

Neighbors were summoned and they remained until Dr. Kelly responded with the ambulance. Sampson declared he would not go the hospital. He had taken the poison to end his life, he declared, and he did not want to have the physician save his life.

He then tried to use the fork to prevent Dr. Kelly from taking him out of the house. He was soon overpowered, however, and placed in the ambulance. Before the vehicle had gone far he took tablets from his pocket, tried to take them and started a fight in which the physician and driver took an active part.

Sampson finally reached the hospital. Antidotes were administered and the stomach pump applied but the patient, it is stated, displayed unmistakable symptoms of the poison soon after he reached the hospital.

About two months ago Mrs. Payne had Sampson arrested on a charge of threatening her life. She told the judge in the Police Court that Sampson came to her home and threatened to kill her with a shotgun. Sampson's personal bonds were taken for him to stay away from his mother-in-law's home and not to trouble her anymore.

Mrs. Payne declared that Sampson has not complied with the order of the court, and said that he frequently came to her home and demanded admittance.

The Evening Star, November 3, 1913, p. 18

Physicians Not Sure of Sampson's Condition

Painter Who Took Poison With Suicidal Intent May Lose His Life

Physicians at Casualty Hospital are not yet able to tell the actual condition of James W. Sampson, the painter, who took poison following a visit to the home of his mother-in-law Mrs. Mattie Payne, 818 North Carolina avenue southeast, and his failure to effect a reconciliation with his wife.

Sampson changed his mind about wanting to die, according to statements made at the hospital the night he took the poison, and is anxious to recover.

Mrs. Sampson and the children have visited him at the hospital several times. He seems to realize that his duty to his family can only be fulfilled by his recovery.

Sampson complains of a burning sensation in his throat and other symptoms of the poison. It is thought his condition is critical, although it may be several days before the physicians can determine if he is likely to die.

The Evening Star, November 7, 1913, p. 5

James W. Sampson Dies From Mercurial Poison

Bichloride Tablets Claim Painter Who Wanted to Die a Week Ago, But Recanted

James W. Sampson, painter, thirty-five years old, who took poison a week ago because of his failure to effect a reconciliation with his wife, Mrs. Nettie Sampson, at the home of her mother Mrs. Mattie Payne, 818 North Carolina avenue southeast, died at Casualty Hospital yesterday afternoon.

Sampson made a strenuous objection to being given treatment for the poison when taken to the hospital.

He quickly changed his mind, however, and after effecting a reconciliation with his family he was anxious to get well.

A week ago last night Sampson went to the home of his mother-in-law and saw his wife.

Offered Dose to Wife

It is stated that he offered her a dose of the poison and suggested that each take a similar quantity, but the suggestion was spurned and the husband took enough of the poison to kill an entire family.

Dr. W.L. Kelly experienced considerable trouble with Sampson in an effort to get him to the hospital, but soon after pressed a desire to get well and after his wife and children had visited him he was more anxious than ever to recover.

Coroner Nevitt gave a certificate of suicide and the body was turned over to an undertaker. It is probable that the funeral will take place tomorrow.