

Mary Lizzie Shipley

(- 9 Feb 1911)

Shipley. Suddenly on Thursday February 9, 1911 at 12:20 a.m., Mary Lizzie, the beloved daughter of John and Elizabeth Engel in the 34th year of her age.

Many sad things in this world of ours
But the saddest of all is to part
For the tongue cannot tell when it utters farewell
Of the sadness it leaves in the heart.

By Her Mother

Funeral Sunday February 12 at 3 p.m. from parents residence, 323 M street southwest.

The Evening Star, February 9, 1911, p. 4

Slayer Kills Self

Samuel Shipley Commits Suicide After Shooting Wife

Child the Only Witness

Fourteen-Year-Old Boy Unable to Prevent Tragedy

Couple Had Lived Apart

Husband and Father Drunk and Had Been Arrested on Non-Support Charge

Following a quarrel with his wife, from whom he had been separated for several years, Samuel Shipley, a boilermaker, fatally shot her last night and then fired a bullet into his head, dying almost instantly. The tragedy occurred at 11:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Shipley, who with her four children lived at 514 9th street southeast.

William Shipley, the fourteen-year-old son of the couple, witnessed part of the tragedy, but was unable to prevent the double killing. The boy let his father into the house about two hours before the shooting occurred. Shipley used his revolver shortly after his wife returned home.

Coroner's Inquest Held

A verdict of suicide and murder was reached by a coroner's jury at the morgue today.

William Shipley, the son, was the most important witness at the inquest.

The boy said his father was asleep when his mother returned home. His mother, he said, scolded him because he had let his father in.

"When she woke him up," the boy said, "he looked at her hard."

Witness was sent upstairs. He heard his parents engaged in a quarrel, his father making use of an oath.

"When I heard the shots," he said, "I started down the steps and fell. My father went in the other room and shot himself."

"Was your father a drinking man?"

"He used to drink a good deal."

"Was he intoxicated when he called at the house last night?"

"He was not real full."

Dr. Charles S. White, deputy coroner, described the wounds received by the husband and wife, and Dr. O.J. Posey told of the death of the woman at the Casualty Hospital.

Policeman Wise told the jury that he had been Shipley in the police station several times. On one occasion, he said, Shipley was locked up for alleged non-support, and on another occasion he was charged with drunkenness. Witness saw him Monday night and he appeared as if he had been drinking.

It is probable that the body of the woman will be interred in Congressional cemetery, while the body of the husband will probably find a resting place in Glenwood cemetery.

Had Been in Panama

Shipley, who was a boilermaker and expert mechanic, had been separated from his wife for more than a year and had been before the Juvenile Court for alleged failure to support his family. He recently returned from Panama, where he went to work on the canal. He was permitted to go away because of a promise he made Judge DeLacy that he would send part of his earnings to his wife and children.

When he returned to Washington he displayed a desire to see and return to his family. His conduct, however, was not such as to induce Mrs. Shipley to believe she would receive better treatment from him than she had received before he deserted her and went to Panama. It is said she had not the slightest idea of being a party to a reconciliation. In addition to his other faults, it is stated, Shipley had been indulging in strong drink and his wife feared he would harm her.

Whistled for His Son

Mrs. Shipley was way from home last night when her husband called. His efforts to bring one of the children to the front door to answer the bell proved futile, and the man, under the influence of liquor, with a loaded revolver in his pocket, went to the rear of the house. Climbing the back fence, Shipley came to the rear door and whistled, as he had done in his happier days when he wanted to attract the attention of his children.

His son, William recognized the whistle and went to the lower floor to ascertain what his father wanted, not stopping to dress himself.

"I'm wet and cold," said the father in response to the child's inquiry, "and I want to come in to get dry and warm."

His plea induced the boy to open the door and admit him to the house. A short conversation was engaged in by father and son and the latter returned to his bed in a room on the second floor. When he reached his room he recalled that he had been told not to admit his father to the house, and he felt uneasy. Finally he got up and went downstairs, accompanied by Villa, his nine-year-old sister. The children remained there only a few minutes, returning to the upper floor and retiring shortly before the return of their mother. When Mrs. Shipley reached the house she was surprised to find her husband there. He was lying on the couch in the back room, not having given any thought to a hat his wife had left on the couch when she left the house earlier in the night.

Not Bothered About Hat

Mrs. Shipley was not pleased to find her husband in the house, and she soon called him to account for having ruined her hat. The intruder was not bothered about the hat, he said.

With little, if any warning, the boilermaker drew his weapon from his pocket and fired at his wife.

Before Mrs. Shipley had fallen to the floor, the son, who had admitted his father to the house, rushed into the room. He saw his mother fall to the floor, he told the police last night and he also saw his father commit suicide.

William and the other children screamed with fright. It was but a few seconds before a number of neighbors reached the house. They found the body of Mrs. Shipley stretched upon the floor of the parlor, while in a rear room was the lifeless body of the husband. Ms. Shipley was dying. Policemen from the fifth precinct soon reached the house and took charge of the premises. They sent the

wounded woman to the Casualty Hospital. Coroner Nevitt directed that the body of the man be taken to the morgue.

Unable to Find Letter

Shortly after reaching the 9th street house the assistant morgue master learned that the woman had died, and he went to the hospital, taking both bodies to the morgue. While the assistant morgue master was at the house making an investigation he was told by the boy that his father had written a letter while waiting for the return of the wife and mother, but no trace of a letter was found.

"I saw papa write the letter," declared the frightened child, "but I don't know where he put it."

The police had a bright light in almost every room and the boy requested that some of them be lowered.

"If you burn so much gas the bill will be so big that we will not be able to pay it." the child exclaimed, not knowing his mother was dead.

Shipley kissed William and his sister farewell just before the latter went upstairs, telling them they would not see him again. He also said something about their mother being taken care of.

When the assistant morgue master reached the morgue with the bodies of the victims of the double tragedy he made a careful search of the pockets in the an's clothing, but found no trace of the letter his son said he had written. He did find a photograph of Mrs. Shipley, a government employment certificate, membership card in Boilermakers' Union No. 459, and 5 cents in cash in his pockets.

Four children survive the dead couple. They are William, fourteen years old; Ethel, eleven years old; Villa, nine years old, and Alfred, seven years old. Thomas Engel, residing at 323 M street southwest is the father of the slain woman, while Samuel Shipley, father of the man who used the revolver, lives at 1741 8th street northwest. It is probable the grandparents will take care of the orphan children.