

## John H. Strickhart

( - 21 Nov 1906)

---

**Strickhart.** Suddenly, November 21, 1906, John H. Strickhart, in the twenty-eighth year of his age. Funeral Friday, November 23, at 2 p.m., from his late residence, 312 Delaware avenue northeast.

*The Evening Star, November 22, 1906, p. 3*

### **Takes His Own Life**

#### **J.H. Strickhart, Railway Employee, Hangs Himself**

John Henry Strickhart yesterday morning constructed a noose of a piece of sash cord and hanged himself. Although his body dangled from a projecting hinge in his room at the home of his aunt, Mrs. J.P. Smith, 312 Delaware avenue northeast, nearly all day, it was not found until after 5 o'clock in the afternoon. William Moxley, a friend of the deceased, thinks he knows the motive for the suicide, but he positively refused to tell the police what it was. In the absence of any other information the police suggested that his suicide was because of a love affair or financial matters.

Strickhart, who was twenty-eight years of age, was an inspector of air brakes for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, and he boarded at the home of his aunt, where a number of other railroad employees lived. Three of the men -- Strickhart, Moxley and one other -- roomed together, but as they worked during different hours they seldom occupied the room at the same time. Tuesday night Strickhart was at work as usual, returning home early yesterday morning. He gave no indication to any one in the house that he contemplated ending his life, it is said, although it is believed that he had previously given such an intimation to a companion.

After leaving the breakfast table yesterday morning Strickhart went upstairs to his room. It is thought that the hanging occurred shortly after he reached the room as his body was cold and rigid when examined. The discovery of the suicide was made by Miss Dora Copley, a boarder in the house.

#### *Fails to Respond*

The young woman went to the room to call Strickhart, and when he failed to respond to her calls she pushed open the door. It was with considerable difficulty that she was able to open the door, the heavy form of the dead man resting against it at the time.

Miss Copley hurried from the room as soon as she learned what had occurred and called loudly for assistance, but those who responded to her calls, two members of No. 3 engine company and others, found life extinct. It was evident that Strickhart had been dead several hours. The firemen cut down the body and placed it upon the bed.

Coroner Nevitt went to the house last night and made an investigation. The facts elicited made it clear that Strickhart had taken his own life and the coroner gave a certificate accordingly.

Precinct Detective Vermillion made an investigation of the affair, but was unable to ascertain what was the motive for the deed. He interviewed Moxley this morning, but the latter declared he would not tell what he knew of Strickhart's possible motive.

"We had been friends for a long while," he told the precinct detective, "and I don't want to say anything about him."

Strickhart was a native of this city and was unmarried. It is stated that he had been in the employ of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad for about ten years. During the war with Spain he enlisted in the 25th Infantry and subsequently spent about two years in the Philippines. It was stated by relatives of the dead man this morning that they had noticed a change in him during recent weeks.

"At times," remarked one of the relatives, "he appeared foolish, but I never suspected anything like this."

It was suggested by some friends of the dead man that his Philippine experience had probably affected his mind and caused him to take his life. Undertaker E.M. Boteler prepared the body for burial and arrangements have been made to have the funeral take place at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.