

Edward R. Taylor

(- 19 Apr 1908)

Taylor. On Sunday, April 19, 1908, at 9:30 p.m., Edward R. Taylor, in his twenty-five year. Notice of funeral in morning's Post.

The Evening Star, April 20, 1908, p. 7

Tragic Sound By Telephone

Young Woman Hears Sister's Sweetheart Kill Himself

Edward R. Taylor Fires Several Shots Into Ceiling and Then One Through Brain

With details decidedly out of the ordinary, Edward R. Taylor, twenty-eight years of age, last evening committed suicide. It was his intention to have his sweetheart, Miss Regina Georgius, residing at 1919 Pennsylvania avenue, hear the fatal shot by telephone, but she happened to be away from home when he called up. Her sister, Miss Lillian Georgius, answered the phone bell however, and heard the reproduction of the report of the revolver. She also heard five other sounds. When the report of the last shot had died away all was silent, and although Taylor had said he intended to kill himself, Miss Georgius thought he was joking and did not realize the seriousness of the situation until she was told he was dead.

It is said that Taylor had been despondent because of business troubles during the past week. He called at the Georgius residence yesterday and remained until after dinner, saying he would see Miss Regina last night. During the late afternoon and early evening he kept the telephone busy calling Miss Regina Georgius. He wanted her to meet him at Pennsylvania avenue and 9th street, but she declined to comply with the request, saying there was no good reason why he should not call at the house. It is believed that he did not want to go there, however, because he had been drinking. When he had conversed with the young lady several times his nephew, William E. Barber suggested that he "cut out" the telephone business for the night.

Shots in Rapid Succession

Taylor again called over the telephone about 8:45 o'clock and asked that Miss Regina be summoned to the instrument. George Rouzee, who answered the telephone, assured Taylor that Miss Regina was out, but Taylor thought his informant said that because the young woman did not want to be bothered by him again.

"Miss Lillian is here," Rouzee explained.

"Then," Taylor said, "have her come to the phone."

Miss Lillian Georgius then went to the receiver and heard what Taylor had to say. It appears that Miss Regina had an earnest conversation with Taylor as to his alleged intemperance, and he is said to have remarked that she would be sorry for what she stated to him. Over the telephone he told Miss Lillian that Miss Regina would be sorry for what she had said to him when she should read of what he had done, and concluded the brief talk by directing her to listen. An instant later she heard the report of a pistol. Four other reports followed in rapid succession. There was a pause and then the fatal shot was fired.

Efforts to Prevent Tragedy

William E. Barber, the nephew, was trying to prevent the tragedy, but the armed man drove him away by threatening to shoot him. When Taylor pushed his nephew aside, in the hall where the telephone was located, he turned the weapon toward his temple and fired the fatal shot. Taylor then released his hold on the telephone, dropped the revolver and fell upon the floor.

Barber hurried from the house and summoned a policeman. A call was sent to the Casualty Hospital. Dr. Conklin responded, made an examination of the body and found life was extinct. Capt. Mathews called Miss Georgius by telephone and informed her of what Taylor had done. Miss Regina, her mother and sister were almost prostrated by the affair. Coroner Nevitt heard what witnesses had to say and gave the necessary death certificate.

Edward R. Taylor was manager of the saloon at 1st and H streets for his brother, William C. Taylor. Another brother, Samuel A. Taylor, is in business at 212 9th street.

The body was removed today to the home of a brother of the deceased, 6th and G streets southwest. The funeral will take place from there.

The Evening Star, April 21, 1908, p. 20.

Funeral of Edward R. Taylor

Funeral services over the remains of Edward R. Taylor, who committed suicide last Sunday night by shooting himself in the head with a revolver while at his place of business, 101 H street southeast, were held this afternoon in the chapel at Congressional cemetery. The interment was in that cemetery.