

Charles F. Triepel

(1892 – 26 Jan 1909)

Triepel. Suddenly on January 26, 1909 Charles F. Tripel, youngest and beloved son of Mrs. E.M.V. Tripel. Funeral from his late residence, 2516 17th street northwest, Friday, January 29, 2 p.m. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, January 27, 1909

Loses His Life by Drowning

Charles Triepel Goes Beneath Ice on a Pond

Little Dog Returns Home Apparently Distressed

Members of Police Force Recover Body

A fox terrier belonging to Charles Triepel, a Western High School boy, entered his master's house, 2516 17th street, late yesterday afternoon dripping wet, with muddy feet and whining as if he had been whipped. He acted so queerly that Charles' mother became alarmed. Later, when her son did not return to dinner she was extremely worried. It was the first time the boy had missed a meal at home in his life.

The harbor police found his body this morning under the ice of a skating pond near the western end of the bridge, the other end of which is at the Chevy Chase street car loop.

Charles was very fond of skating and as there has not been very much ice this winter he made frequent explorations to find good ponds. He probably walked across the bridge with his dog soon after school was out yesterday, and seeing the ice on the pond below him went down to investigate.

The ice near the edges of the pond looked safe, and he ventured out, but he had not gone more than twelve feet when it cracked. Perhaps he slipped, and the impact of the fall broke the ice. The water of the pond is quite deep--at least nine feet--and when Charles found himself submerged there was no foothold beneath him.

Wore Heavy Overcoat

He wore a heavy overcoat, and there was hardly a chance for him to save himself. He could not move freely, and the icy water benumbed his arms and legs.

It is probable that he threw his arms out on the ice in an effort to pull himself from the water. His handkerchief, found on the edge of the hole, might have been used to help get a grip on the slippery edges.

Charles' half brother, Bogart Triepel, searched for him last night. Knowing that the boy was fond of skating, he began this morning a systematic search of the skating places where Charles was known to go. It was Bogart who found the cap and handkerchief lying beside the hole in the ice.

He called up the tenth precinct and tol the desk sergeant. The later notified the harbor police. They took a small flatboat in a wagon to the pond, pushed it out on the ice, and after a short search found the body.

Pond in Deep Gully

The pond is in a deep gully, and it was a difficult matter to get the boat and the body out, but a large crowd had assembled and helped the police. The coroner had to be notified, and he quickly made out a certificate of accidental drowning.

Charles Triepel's mother is Mrs. Emma M.V. Triepel, librarian of the Treasury Department. Her husband died nine years ago.

Charles would have graduated next year. Miss Edith Westcott, principal of the Western High School, knew him well and was deeply affected by the news of his death.

"He was a fine boy," she said, "and he was a good student. We just finished his report for the half year ending this week. He never had a failure during his whole career in this school, and he stood highest in his class."

The Evening Star, January 28, 1909, p. 4

Funeral of Drowned Boy

Funeral services over the remains of Charles Triepel, sixteen years of age, who was drowned Tuesday evening in a pond near the Chevy Chase Bridge across Rock Creek, will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow morning at his late home, 2516 17th street northwest. The services will be conducted by Rev. George F. Dudley, rector of St. Stephen's P.E. Church, of which the deceased was a member. Interment will be made in Congressional cemetery. As yet the pallbearers have not been selected.