

## Harry G. Vogel

( - 27 Jul 1918)

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**Vogel.** On Saturday, July 27, 1918, at 6:30 a.m., at 1422 C street southeast, Henry G. Vogel, aged fifty-one years, beloved husband of the late Marie Vogel and father of Mrs. Jule Young, Mrs. Margaret Martin and the late Henry G. Vogel, jr. Funeral (private) from residence of brother, Frank Vogel, 1533 B street southeast, Monday, 3 p.m.

*The Evening Star, July 27, 1918, p. 1*

### **Kills His Brother, Then Takes Poison**

### **Harry Vogel Wounds Sister-in-Law's Father; Shoots at Her, Too**

#### **Cause: Family Discord**

"Family trouble" was the statement of Mrs. Louise Catherine Vogel, 1422 C street southeast, explaining a tragedy in her home this morning shortly before 7 o'clock. Her husband, John Edward Vogel; thirty-nine years old, was shot in the body by his brother, Harry Vogel, forty-nine years old, and killed almost instantly.

Mrs. Vogel was pursued to the bathroom on the second floor, where her brother-in-law kicked a panel from the fastened door and shot at her. He then shot Karl Schorb, sixty-five years old, Mrs. Vogel's father, in the leg; swallowed poison, went about one hundred feet from the back gate and dropped dead.

The two Vogels and Frank, a third brother, were employed as wagon drivers for the Carry Ice Cream Company.

Early in the week John made an accusation against his brother Harry, and ordered him from the house, the latter leaving Wednesday and returning the next day to get his effects. Nothing further was heard from him until this morning, when he appeared at the house and asked for some tools, wanting to get them before John's family moved from the house today, he stated. The household effects were packed ready to be moved to Congress Heights, where Mrs. Schorb, mother of Mrs. John Vogel, resides.

#### *Unable to Warn Husband*

John Vogel was seated in the rear room, used as kitchen and dining room, when his brother appeared. His wife admitted the brother Harry.

John directed his wife to go upstairs and get the tools. As the wife passed her brother-in-law she saw in the latter's hands a revolver, but was unable to warn her husband before the shooting started. The first bullet probably ended John's life.

Mrs. Vogel ran through the hallway and upstairs to the second floor, entering the bathroom and closing and fastening the door behind her. An instant later Harry kicked out a panel of the door, reached through the opening and fired one shot at his sister-in-law, who had sought refuge in a corner between the tub and rear wall.

Mr. Schorb, who was just getting up, secured a water pitcher and went in defense of his daughter, meeting the armed man and smashing the pitcher over the head. Harry Vogel fired one shot at Schorb, the bullet entering his leg and inflicting a painful wound.

Leaving the house Harry Vogel went out the back way, having previously taken poison, it is believed, as he was holding his hand on his stomach and displaying evidences of severe pain. Neighbors ran to the scene of the shooting and one of them telephoned police headquarters and the fifth precinct, Capt.

Mulhall, Sergt. Ryan and detective Waters responding from the precinct and Detectives Boyle and Burlingam from headquarters.

"I saw him going across the lot," Joseph Howard told the three officers from No. 5, and search for Vogel in the thick weeds quickly ended in Waters finding the dead body.

#### *Taken to Hospital*

A physician from Casualty Hospital examined Harry Vogel's body and pronounced life extinct. He then went to the house, pronounced John Vogel dead and took the wounded father of Mrs. Vogel to the hospital, where the bullet was removed from his leg.

Coroner Nevitt visited the C street house and examined the bodies of the two men on the floor in the kitchen. Harry's body having been taken there from the lot where it was found, and read two notes taken from the pocket of the slayer, a statement in one of them that he "had ended it all" convincing him that the slaying was premeditated.

Dr. Nevitt said he was certain John received three wounds, however, one in the right side and two in the shoulder. The .38 caliber weapon was held directly against the shirt when the wound in the side was inflicted, he stated, powder marks on the shirt so showing. Dr. Nevitt said he would make a further examination of the bodies at the morgue later in the day, as the wounded man in the hospital may be able to tell enough of the tragedy to enable him to give death certificates without the formality of an inquest.

"There probably is nothing to be gained by holding an inquest," the coroner stated, "as the slayer undoubtedly committed suicide."

#### *Devoted to Daughter*

The house in which the Vogels resided is owned by Schorb and was rented from him by his son-in-law. Schorb was devoted to his daughter and her three children, it is stated, and when not working at his trade, that of carpenter, most of his time was spent about the house. Following the family trouble early in the week, the Vogels packed their effects and were prepared to move today.

Mrs. Vogel left the house with her three children as soon as she was satisfied her brother-in-law had disappeared and that her life no longer was in danger. She took her three children to the home of a neighbor, where she remained until she could go to her mother's later in the day. Her three children were in the house when the shooting took place, but because of their age, were unable to understand what it all meant.

Karl Edward Vogel, the eldest child, is four years old. The next is Elizabeth Catherine, two years, and the third is Juanita Iris, two months old. Numerous neighbors offered to assist in the care of the young woman, who had been made a widow by the tragedy, and her three children.

The Vogels were natives of this city and residents of Southeast Washington since their boyhood days. Harry Vogel's wife died about twenty years ago, relatives stated, and a grown son died only a few months ago. Funeral arrangements for the brothers have not been made.

*The Evening Star, July 28, 1918, p. 2*

#### **Double Funeral For Dead Brothers**

#### **Slain and Slayer to Rest in Congressional Cemetery, Harry Vogel Beside Wife**

Resting side by side in Zurhorst's undertaking establishment last night were the bodies of John Edward Vogel and Harry Vogel, brothers who yesterday morning figured in the tragedy enacted in the home of the former, 1422 C street southeast.

There was no mark upon the face of John Edward Vogel to show that he had been shot to death by his brother. There was no trace of poison about the body of the slayer, who took his own life.

Only a few squares distant, in Casualty Hospital, Karl Schorb, John Vogel's father-in-law, who was shot while defending his daughter from attack by Harry Vogel, was resting quietly under the care of hospital surgeons.

"He is doing nicely," said a nurse at the hospital.

Coroner Nevitt yesterday afternoon had a policeman interview Schorb in his room at the hospital. The policeman learned from him the story of the affair so far as he knew it, his statement relating to the troubles between the two brothers and of Harry Vogel's attempt to kill Schorb's daughter in the bathroom, where she sought safety.

In view of the statement of Mrs. Vogel and her father, Dr. Nevitt decided it was unnecessary to hold an inquest and gave certificates finding Harry Vogel to be a murderer and suicide and the slain man to have been murdered.

The pistol with which the shooting was done was new, according to the police, and probably was bought for the purpose for which it was used yesterday morning. Examination of the weapon showed five shots had been fired. It was retained by the police and will be turned over to members of the slayer's family, should they claim it.

#### *Double Funeral*

Arrangements were made last night for removal of the bodies of the Vogels to the residence of Frank Vogel, their brother, 1533 B street southeast, where the double funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon. It is probable that the same pallbearers will serve for both. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

It is probable that the body of the slayer will be interred beside that of his wife, who died nineteen years ago. The body of John Edward Vogel will find a resting place in the family burial lot.

Frank Vogel, in the employ of the Carry Ice Cream Company, was on his wagon yesterday morning when the shooting took place. As soon as he learned of the affair, however, he arranged for the undertaker to prepare the bodies for burial and remove them to his home.

Mrs. Louise Catherine Vogel, widow of the slain man, was among the relatives who yesterday, visited her father in the hospital.