

## Thomas Hunter Ware

( - 26 Mar 1895)

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*The Evening Star, March 27, 1895*

### **Despondent Over Love**

### **Hunter Ware Ended His Life by a Pistol Shot**

### **Religious Differences Prevented His Happiness--**

### **Well-Known and Popular Resident of Anacostia**

T.H. Ware, familiarly known as Hunter Ware, committed suicide yesterday afternoon about 4 o'clock, in the office of C. Dodge's livery stable, on Harrison street, in Anacostia. Death resulted from a pistol shot, the bullet passing through his heart.

It is the old story of a disappointed lover, despondent, and caring not to live. The deceased came to Anacostia about three years ago, and after being engaged in driving one of the Anacostia cars, went into the business of horse dealing. He was a young man of exemplary habits, and until a year ago had nothing to trouble his mind. About that time, however, he noticed for the first time a pretty brunette, petite in figure, and with large, expressive dark eyes, jet black eyebrows and curly black hair. The young lady's acquaintance was sought, and as she was the niece of Mr. J.F. Feddon, an Anacostia merchant and a friend of Ware's, it was not long before the young people were well acquainted. The girl's name is Miss Cora Lane, and she is the daughter of Rev. William Lane, who is assistant pastor of the Methodist Church South of West Lombard street, Baltimore. She is just eighteen years of age, and Ware was twenty-three. A bar to their courtship was found in the person of Mr. Isaac Lane, the uncle of Miss Lane, with whose family she lived, at 1008 M street southeast. Her uncle refused to allow her to have company, and Ware was compelled to meet her clandestinely. Correspondence was carried on through the medium of a little colored boy, a protégé of Ware's. In every instance the letters to Miss Lane were addressed to "No. 25." The uncle and aunt soon discovered the state of affairs, however, and refused to allow her to see Ware. It was at this time that he proposed marriage. Miss Lane communicated with her father, and her reply was a set-back to young Ware. Born of Catholic parents, reared a Catholic and imbued with Catholic ideas, Ware was suddenly confronted with a condition, viz., that he leave his church and become a Methodist. Miss Lane's father could not consent to her marrying a Catholic, she would not disobey him, and Ware said he would be true about it, the Catholic ideas were something that, try as he might, could not be changed. For a short time there was little change in the condition of matters, Ware still meeting her, renewing his vows and pressing his suit. On more than one occasion he threatened to commit suicide because of her refusal, but was persuaded not to do it.

### *The Girl's Story*

A Star representative saw Miss Lane at her home on M street yesterday afternoon, a short time after the suicide, and she related the story of the whole affair, corroborating the above facts. She stated further: "He met me in Anacostia this afternoon, and came over on the care with me and walked to the gate. He renewed his proposition, which I was compelled to treat as before. He threatened to commit suicide and I endeavored to persuade him not to. On another occasion he said he would do so, but my aunt, who saw him at the door, reminded him of his mother, father and family, and kept him from the act."

Leaving Miss Lane, Ware yesterday returned to Anacostia, and at the livery stable of Mr. Dodge saw George Green, his little colored boy. He told George to remain around the stable, as he might have something for him to take over in the city. Entering the office of the stable he sat down and commenced writing. The note finished, he suddenly thrust it in a stove which contained no fire. It read:

"Mr. Dodge: I have given George my key to my trunk and he will give it to you, and I don't want you to give it to no one but my mother, and tell her that my letters in my trunks for not to let no one see them." In the office were Herbert Martin, a white boy and Ed. Ferguson, a colored boy. Taking a pistol from his pocket, Hunter Ware pointed it to his head and said he was going to shoot. "For God's sake, don't," said Martin, and for the moment the question turned upon the pistol, which was a thirty-two caliber, with six chambers.

Apparently changing his mind, Ware next put the pistol to his side. A report, a puff of smoke, and Ware fell forward on his face. Dr. H.V. Pyles and Dr. James Watson responded to a call. Dr. Pyles arrived in time to discover the clothing still on fire from the blaze of the pistol. After six or seven gasps the young horse trader was dead. The shooting spread through the village, and when it was known that it was Hunter Ware, a messenger was immediately dispatched to the home of John Ware, father of the deceased, who resides in Prince George's county.

### *Business Reverses*

Coroner Hammet was summoned, and after viewing the body, and hearing the statement of the witnesses, decided death to be suicidal, and gave a certificate accordingly. The remains were turned over to Sanderson & Scott, who will have charge of the funeral arrangements. Acquaintances of Ware told of reverses in his business. Not over a week ago a valuable horse of his died, and recently a more valuable one went lame. Inquiry at the boarding house of Mr. Sears, where Ware lived, showed that on two former occasions he had endeavored to commit suicide. Sunday before last one attempt was made, but Sears prevented him by securing the pistol. Last Sunday he again attempted to end his life, but was prevented in the same way.

The father of the deceased is well known in Prince George's county, and is a prominent republican of the Oxon Hill district.

Arrangements for the funeral of the deceased have been made. It will take place from the office of Sanderson & Scott, on Monroe street, Anacostia. This is because of the rule of the Catholic Church prohibiting services at the church, and there will be no service, owing to similar doctrines. The funeral procession will leave Anacostia at 2 o'clock, and interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, March 28, 1895*

### **Young Ware Buried**

#### **Laid Away in Congressional Cemetery Without Presence of Priest**

The funeral of Hunter Ware, who committed suicide Tuesday afternoon in Anacostia, took place this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the office of Sanderson & Scott, undertakers. The pallbearers were Messrs. Charles R. Dodge, James Swift, Charles Campbell, John Fowler, William Grimes and Gibbons. The interment was in Congressional cemetery. An effort was made to secure the services of Father Hughes of St. Teresa's Church to officiate, but he had left for the city, and the rector of the Catholic Church of Prince George's county was ill in bed. The friends of the deceased were prepared to prove to the minister that the act was one of insanity, which would permit of a funeral service by a priest, but no priest could be found in time.

*The Evening Star, March 30, 1895*

### **The Ware Suicide**

#### **Some Letters Found Which Start a New Rumor**

Three letters found among the effects of the late Hunter Ware, who committed suicide in Anacostia recently, throw new light on the cause of the deed. In the first interview with The Star reporter Miss

Lane acknowledged that she had maintained a correspondence with Mr. Ware, each signing themselves by numbers. The newly found letters are two from Miss Lane and one a returned letter from the deceased to her. The two from the young lady are addressed to "My dear husband," and signed "Your loving little girl wife, No. 25." Ware's letter to Miss Lane was addressed to "My darling wife," and signed "Your husband, No. 18." These letters were found in the trunk of Hunter Ware at the boarding house of Mr. Thomas Sears, at Jefferson and Fillmore streets, Anacostia, and were the remains of a correspondence of 200 letters, which were burned the day of the suicide. Miss Lane did not deny writing the letters signed "Your darling wife," but excused her action by a statement that through fear of her life being taken she had acquiesced in Ware's request to do this, and also stated that Ware had once threatened to kill her if she did not marry him.