

## Charles Welsh ( - 21 Jun 1868)

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*The Evening Star, June 21, 1868*

### **Suicide Near the Depot**

#### **Baltimorean Jumps from a Three-Story Window and Drowns Himself in the Tiber**

This morning, about 7 ½ o'clock, there was considerable excitement in the neighborhood of the Baltimore Depot, by the discovery of a man lying in the Tiber, just south of the brick arch the stream at its intersection with Indiana avenue and the body was at once taken from the water, which is there only about two feet in depth. An attempt was made to restore life but without success. It appeared to be the body of a man of about 30 years of age, and was attired in black pantaloons, white shirt, and under shirt and boots. There was considerable conjecture as to the name of the deceased. Finally it was ascertained that a Mrs. Wight, residing on 13th street, near D had been inquiring as to the whereabouts of her son, Charles Welsh, who had arrived at her house yesterday from Baltimore, and her husband identified the body as that of her son. There was nothing found on the body to give any clue as to the identify of the deceased, the only articles found in his pockets being a pocket comb, a small miniature of a young lady, and a circular of a patent clothes boiler. The police learned that a man answering his description had been on the Island at an early hour, running into people's houses, and had been looking after him, but lost sight of him near the Depot.

Justice W.C. Harper summoned a jury of inquest, who after being sworn, adjourned to Boyles Hotel, where the evidence was then taken.

Mary Bell, a colored woman, residing in the rear of the Depot, testified that about 4 weeks since the deceased came to her house; stated that he was going to see Squire Walter; and he had a rope with which he said he was going to hang himself. She took the rope from him and he went off, but returned on Monday and asked for the rope which she refused to give up, and he again left saying that the next time she would hear of him he would be dead.

Mrs. Jones, residing nearby testified that she saw the deceased about 4 ½ o'clock this morning and he went out and sat on the curbstone where he wrote something on a paper which a gentleman afterwards picked up. He went towards the depot and about 7:25 o'clock a little girl came in and said he was in the stream. Witness went down; saw him there; thought his arm moved, and called a man to get him out, but he refused, and then a newsboy pulled him out.

Mr. Henry Wight testified that he was the step-father of the deceased, who was about 30 years of age, a tanner by trade and a resident of Baltimore; that he had been married, and his wife was divorced from him. Witness was informed about 4 o'clock yesterday by his wife that Charles (the deceased) had come, having walked from Baltimore. That the deceased occupied a room in the story of his residence on 13th street, and at 3 ½ o'clock this morning he heard a cry of something like "murder;" went to the room, found it locked and opened it when he found that the deceased had gone having jumped from the window, leaving his hat and coat in the room.

Dr. Hammond testified to trying to resuscitate the deceased and to the fact that he appeared to have been drinking to excess.

The jury after consultation returned a verdict that the deceased was a resident of Baltimore, and was temporarily visiting Washington; that he came to his death by his own hands by drowning himself in the Tiber; that he had been addicted to intemperate habits, and was laboring under a temporary aberration of mind when he committed the act.