

Marie Kraemer Wolff

(- 22 Sep 1891)

The Evening Star, September 24, 1891

The Suicide's Funeral

Marie Kraemer Will Be Buried This Afternoon in Congressional Cemetery

The Certificate Given as Maria Wolff--Further Gossip is to Her Relations With Wolff--His Wife and Two Children--Miss Kramer Expects Him at the Funeral

Conflicting stores are being told of the suicide of the young woman, Miss Marie Kramer or Mrs. Marie Wolff, an account of whose sad death was published in yesterday's Star.

An acquaintance of the editor of the Illinois Staats-Zeitung said to a Star reporter this morning that Wolff undoubtedly had a legal wife and two children. From his observations he thought that the children who had been off to school for some time had returned to their mother, and they were of that age when she could no longer conceal the real facts of their father's absence from them and for their honor and good name he returned to them.

On the other hand, it is claimed by Mrs. Kramer, so a reporter learned today, that Marie and Paul Wolff were married and she had no doubt as to her daughter being his wife.

Whether they were really married or not the records of the health office will show her name as Marie Wolff, and under that name her remains will be consigned to the ground this afternoon, when the last chapter of the woman's varied life of happiness and despair will have ended.

Wolff's Letter and Picture Under Her Pillow

The letters which play such an interesting part in the history of the case are in possession of the dead woman's mother. They are written in German and were translated by a German lady, the wife of a prominent hotel keeper. When Marie died the last letter she received from Chicago together with a picture of Paul Wolff was found under her pillow.

The letter was a lengthy one, so persons say who heard of its contents, and among other things in it were instructions as to what she and her mother should do. It is said that he instructed her to turn over to her mother the household furniture and she (the mother) was to rent a large house on Capitol Hill, while Marie was to eventually come to Chicago where Wolff was.

But the telegram received later played as important part in the transaction and only added to confirm the woman's suspicions of Wolff's desertion.

Preparing For Burial

Undertaker John M. Mitchell has had charge of caring for the body since Tuesday, when the unfortunate woman died, and owing to the purging of blood from the mouth no one has been permitted to look through the glass casing of the ice chest.

Her face has been entirely hidden from view by a bandage of white cotton, which covered her face and neck and which showed plainly the stains of the blood.

This morning the undertaker went to the health officer with the death certificate and procured the necessary permit for the interment of the body in Congressional cemetery this afternoon.

To Be Buried As Marie Wolff

The certificate of death given by Coroner Patterson gives the name of the deceased as Marie Wolff and her age as 31 years. Her occupation was given as that of a housekeeper and Germany as her

birthplace. Narcotic poison--suicide--was mentioned as the cause of death. The certificate also gave the information that the deceased was married.

This afternoon the body was prepared for burial and placed in a handsome cloth-covered casket, on the lid of which was a solid silver plate bearing the inscription:

Marie Wolff,

Died September 22, 1891

Aged thirty-one years.

And at either end was a sheaf of wheat in silver.

The Funeral

The funeral services will be conducted by the pastor of the German Lutheran church on Capitol Hill, as Mrs. Kraemer, the suicide's mother, is of that faith, although her daughter was an Episcopalian. Four o'clock is the hour set for the ceremonies at the house, which will be private, only relatives and a few intimate friends of the family to be permitted to be present.

Maj. T.B. Kirby, Messrs. F.P. Ferris, John P. Miller, W.C. Willenbucker, Kraeter and Dr. J. Cooper, McGinn will serve as pallbearers.

Mrs. Alice Gilman of New York, a married sister of the deceased, reached here last night.

Mrs. Kraemer Expects Wolff

Paul Wolff has not been heard from since he was notified of Marie's death, although Mrs. Kramer still expects he will reach here in time for the funeral ceremonies. Among the stories told by one of the neighbors this morning was one to the effect that Marie was not the first woman who had taken her life because of her love for Paul Wolff. Mrs. Kramer stated, so the story goes, that when Paul Wolff came to this country he left a sweetheart behind him, who sought peace of mind in a similar manner.

Marie's Last Will

A sealed envelope was found in Wolff's collar box, indorsed: "Last will and testament of Marie Kramer."

Upon opening the envelope it was found to contain the following, written upon a half sheet of paper.

Washington, D.C., Sept. 21, 1891

I, Marie Kramer, leave everything in my possession to my mother, Christine Kramer. Paul Wolff is to pay all expense for funeral and house.

Marie Kramer (Wolff)

The Evening Star, September 25, 1891

Marie Kraemer Wolff's Funeral

The Services Performed by a Methodist Minister--

A Large Attendance

The remains of Mrs. Marie Kraemer Wolff were laid in Congressional cemetery yesterday afternoon. The funeral services were held at the house a little after 5 o'clock, a delay of more than an hour having been occasioned by the failure of the minister to attend. The pastor of Concord Lutheran Church had been engaged to conduct the services. He was at the house during the day and though he showed some disinclination to conduct the services, he said that he would be back at 4 o'clock and officiate. He did not again appear. The pastor of Christ Episcopal Church refused to read the burial services, because, he said, the laws of his church would not permit it over the body of a suicide. The services were finally

conducted by Rev. W.M. Osborne, a Methodist minister. A large number of ladies, matrons and their daughters, who had met Mrs. Wolff through introductions by her husband and had become her intimate friends, and gentlemen, who, as friends of her husband, had met her and learned to have a high regard for her, attended the services both at the house and at the cemetery. The casket was covered with flowers sent by her lady friends and by members of the press and their wives, who had been acquainted with her in life.