

Sarah Alice (Crownshield) Van Camp, (6 Oct 1865 - 1 Jan 1911), Patriot, January 2, 1911; Went To Home Of Her Sister To Die Mrs. William Van Camp Had Suffered From Melancholia – Closed Room and Turned on Gas – Her Health Had Been Impaired For Many Months

Mrs. William Van Camp, wife of Grocer **W. L. Van Camp**, 1518 North Sixth Street, committed suicide yesterday by asphyxiation at the home of her sister, **Mrs. George Springer**, of 514 Kelker Street.

Mrs. Van Camp, who had been suffering from melancholia for some time because of ill health told her husband yesterday morning that she was going to spend the day with her mother, **Mrs. Elizabeth Crownshield**, who resides at 1608 North Sixth Street, about a half block from **Mrs. Van Camp's** home. But instead of going to her mother's she secured a front door key to her sister's home on Kelker Street, that **Mrs. Springer** had left there during a recent visit. Securing all the windows and doors, she proceeded to the second floor front room and turned on the gas and laid down on the couch, where she was found by her sister a few hours later.

Mr. Van Camp, thinking that his wife was at her mother's did not worry, but when evening drew on and she did not return he became alarmed and visited her mother's home to find that she had not been there. He told his mother's guests, including **Mrs. Springer**, a brother, a brother-in-law and another relative, of his wife's actions, and they immediately formed a searching party.

Mrs. Springer suggested that **Mrs. Van Camp** might have gone to her house, so she and a neighbor who was assisting in the hunt entered the house, and in the kitchen they found **Mrs. Van Camp's** umbrella standing by the fireplace. They proceeded to the second floor, and in the front room they found **Mrs. Van Camp** lying on the couch with the gas turned on.

They immediately summoned Dr. William T. James, of 1900 North Sixth Street, who pronounced her dead. Coroner Coover was notified, who made an investigation and found that an inquest was not necessary, as it was plain case of suicide.

Mrs. Van Camp is survived by her husband, her mother, **Mrs. Elizabeth Crownshield**; three sisters, - **Mrs. George Springer**, **Mrs. Samuel D. Ensminger** and **Miss Grace Crownshield**; and three brothers, **Edward**, **Ross** and **Frank Crownshield**.

Patriot, January 5, 1911

Mrs. William Van Camp – Rev. Rene H. Williams, pastor of the Messiah Lutheran Church, officiated yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the services over the body of **Mrs. William Van Camp**, wife of Grocer **W. L. Van Camp**, of 1518 North Sixth Street. Interment was made in the Harrisburg Cemetery.

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