

Lemuel W. Boyd

(- 13 Jan 1864)

The Evening Star, January 14, 1864

Distressing Suicide

About 8 o'clock last evening a distressing suicide took place at Lincoln hospital, the victim being a young man named Lemuel W. Boyd, who has been in conjunction with Mr. W.H. Mason, keeping a sutlers' stand at that place form some time past. The deceased committed the deed with a single barreled Wayson pistol, the ball entering below his left nipple, causing his death in a few moments. He was about twenty years of age and has hitherto borne a high character. Yesterday he appeared in his usual spirits, but the following letter shows that he must have made up his mind to destroy himself sometime before the commission of the deed. The letter was sent by him yesterday afternoon through a soldier to Miss Emma Kelly, a young lady of the First Ward, and in compliance therewith she hastened to the spot in company with her brother Michael, but found that he had already committed the act which put an end to his life:

Lincoln Hospital, January 13th, 1864 -- Emma Dear: If you wish to see me and hear a dying man's love come and see me immediately or you will not see me at all.

Get your father or some one to come with you: do not come alone, and oblige.

Your only true, Lemuel Boyd.

Farewell Emma, and may God bless you.

L.W. Boyd.

You will please look in my coat pocket and get a letter.

This letter, we hear, was sent late in the afternoon, and as the carriage containing the lady and brother was approaching the deceased was standing at the door of his establishment, and seeing them he retired into the back room, and in a few moments a report of a pistol was heard, when the bystanders rushed in and found the young man in a dying condition, with a wound as above described, which caused his death in a few moments.

The following is a copy of the letter found in his pocket:

January 13th, 1864, Lincoln General Hospital -- I, Lemuel W. Boyd, of Washington, do hereby give this building and one-half of what is in it to Mrs. Ann C. Craig; of the following articles that will be found with this. I do this to keep all persons from taking what's in the building.

Lemuel W. Boyd

January 13th, 1864

The deceased was about twenty years of age, and has heretofore resided with his mother, near Ford's Theater. He is a member of the Franklin Fire Company. The surgeons at the hospital were promptly on the spot, and did all in their power to save his life. Officer Keating this morning went out and brought in the witnesses, who made affidavit before Justice Cull, and the body is awaiting the inquest of the coroner.

The Evening Star, January 15, 1864

Inquest.

Coroner Woodard yesterday afternoon held an inquest on the body of Leonard W. Boyd who killed himself as stated in the Star yesterday and after examining the witnesses, a verdict was rendered that he came to his death from a wound by a pistol in his own hands.

The Evening Star, January 18, 1864

Funeral

Saturday, the funeral of the late L.W. Boyd, the circumstances attending whose death have already been published in the Star, took place from his mother's residence on Tenth street and was attended by the family and friends, among whom was a delegation of the Franklin Fire Company, whose bell was tolled in respect to his memory. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. John Thrush, and his remains were interred in the Congressional Cemetery.