Magdalene Breuninger

(1872 – 16 Mar 1917)

The Evening Star, March 17, 1917, p. 8 Teacher Ends Own Life With Illuminating Gas Miss Magdalene Breuninger, Depressed Because of Illness, Commits Suicide in Bathroom

Miss Magdalene Breuninger, forty-three years old, teacher in the Webster School, 10th and H streets, ended her life in the bathroom of her apartment at 1317 Rhode Island avenue yesterday afternoon by inhaling illuminating gas. She was discovered by the janitor of the apartments when he made an investigation to learn from where the odor of gas came.

Miss Breuninger, it is stated, had been in bad health during the past several months, and her condition was so serious that a trained nurse was with her most of the time. She had become greatly depressed because of her continued illness, but it is stated, she gave no intimation of an intention to end her life.

The suicide was carefully planned, Miss Breuninger attending to many minor details she knew it would be necessary to arrange after death. Her funeral clothes were carefully placed on her bed, she wrote a check to cover the expenses of the undertaker and marked almost every article in her apartment, writing the names of owners of a number of them.

In a farewell note, Miss Breuninger gave minute directions about the disposition of her effects, requested that a particular minister officiate at her funeral and that her body be cremated and the ashes buried in Congressional cemetery. Arthur Breuninger, a brother of the teacher, who resides at 160 North Carolina avenue, took charge of the body and made the funeral arrangements.