

Leroy A. Coleman

(- 19 Jan 1904)

Coleman. Suddenly on Tuesday, January 19, 1904, Leroy A., only and beloved son of Edgar A. and the late Katie Daughton Coleman, in his 17th year. Funeral on Thursday, January 21 at 2:30 o'clock p.m. from Gurley Memorial Presbyterian Church. Interment private. Friends and relatives invited to attend.

The Evening Star, January 20, 1904

Skater Meets Death

Leroy A. Coleman the Victim of Accident

Popular High School Cadet Breaks Through the Ice at the Tidal Basin

A fatal skating accident occurred yesterday afternoon in the tidal basin near the Long bridge. The victim was Leroy A. Coleman, who lived at 604 Spruce street southwest. He was seventeen years old. The boy lost his life near the inlet of the basin where the ice was not thick enough to hold his weight, and apparently resulted from an effort on his part to reach the sea wall. It was about 3:45 o'clock when the accident happened, and the police report that the body was recovered at 5:20 o'clock. Policeman Peyton had warned the boy of the danger of skating near the thin ice, and the latter kept a safe distance from the danger points until he had almost crossed the basin.

Elliott Mason, living at 606 Spruce street, a companion of Coleman, was with him at the time of the fatal accident occurred. There were but few persons on the ice when Coleman and his companion reached there. They went first to the fish ponds, where they found the ice was too rough for good skating, and went from there to the basin. C.B. Harrington of 622 6th street and Truman Krauskopf of 629 E street were skating on the ice together when Coleman and Mason, both high school boys, came along. Harrington and his companion were skylarking when the boys appeared, and no attention was paid to the late comers until Coleman went through the thin ice. His weight broke the ice for quite a distance around him and he started to swim toward the thick ice. He lost his hat and turned to get it when Harrington called, "Let the hat go."

Harrington and Mason removed their coats and did their best to get the garments to him in order that they might be able to rescue him. Finding their efforts futile they hurried to a tugboat about fifty feet away to get a boat. There was a small craft there, but it was fast in the ice, and all the young men could get was a board. Returning to the break in the ice, they started to use the board, and it was about this time that Coleman uttered a groan and went down.

Aid Summoned

A pole with a nail driven in one end was procured, and with this Harrington was able to prevent the sinking of the body. While this was being done messages were sent in every direction summoning assistance. The police of the third and fourth precincts, the harbormaster's crew and Dr. Perkins of the Emergency Hospital staff responded. It had been impossible for Mason and Harrington to go on the thin ice to save Coleman. Policemen Peyton and Creagh cooperated with Sergeant Doyle and several volunteers. It was only after considerable difficulty that the rescuing party, by aid of a small boat, recovered the body.

Life had been extinct for so long that nothing could be done, and the body was removed to the morgue. Coroner Nevitt viewed the body, heard statements of the affair and gave a certificate of accidental death.

The coroner said he was satisfied that Coleman was frozen to death and that he was not drowned. Witnesses, he said, assured him that every effort was made to save the boy's life, and those who made the effort did succeed in keeping his body near the surface and his head out of the water until life was extinct.

Popular High School Student

The parents of the body and his many friends were shocked terribly upon receipt of the news of his death. They are deeply grateful to those who rendered aid. Many sympathetic messages from friends have been received by the parents. Young Coleman was a pupil in the Business High School and was a member of the cadet company. He was transferred there this year from Central High School. He was extremely popular with the teachers and his school companions. The deceased was also a member of the choir of the Gurley Memorial Church and was vice president of the Christian Endeavor Society of the same church. His funeral will take place from the church tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The interment will be at Congressional cemetery and will be private.

The pallbearers will be Arthur L. Reiner, Lewis Q. Doyle, James Cooper, Charles Merwin, Fred Newburg and John Goodman, all of whom are members of the church choir.

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Last Rites Performed

Funeral Services Over the Remains of Leroy A. Coleman

Funeral services over the remains of Leroy A. Coleman were held this afternoon in Gurley Memorial Presbyterian Church at 2:30 o'clock, and were conducted by Rev. J.R. Verbrycke. The services were conducted according to the ritual of the Presbyterian Church, after which "Lead, Kindly Light," was rendered by the church choir.

A company of cadets from the Business High School, of which the deceased was a member, attended in a body. The floral offerings were many and beautiful, and attested the high esteem in which the young man was held. A handsome wreath was received from his fellow-students of the Business High School.

The pallbearers were Arthur L. Reiner, Lewis Q. Doyle, James Cooper, Charles Merwin, Fred Newberg and John Goodman.

As was stated in The Star of yesterday, young Coleman met his death while skating with a companion last Tuesday afternoon on the tidal basin by breaking through the ice.

Interment was made in Congressional cemetery.