

Joseph Kennedy

(- 15 Feb 1866)

Kennedy. On the 12th inst., at his residence on New York avenue, Joseph Kennedy, in the 38th year of his age. His funeral will take place at 12 o'clock m. tomorrow at his house. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

The Evening Star, February 14, 1866

Suicide of Joseph Kennedy--The Inquest

This morning, Coroner Woodward held an inquest in view of the body of Joseph Kennedy, who shot himself yesterday at his residence on New York avenue, between 4th and 5th streets. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased lived very happily with his family, but was subject to fits of despondency; and any little trouble would overcome him. Several times in the last six years he has been heard to say that he was tired of living. His eldest daughter, a young lady of sixteen years, testified that yesterday he appeared to be very cheerful, and a few moments before his death, was with her and her mother in the kitchen, and went upstairs. She heard the pistol, ran upstairs with her mother, and found her father had seated himself by the bed and shot himself. He lived about an hour, but without speaking. Dr. Prentiss probed the wound. The ball entered the right temple, and passed through the head and out of the left side entering the north wall of the room. It was ascertained that the deceased had been greatly harassed by creditors and the jury returned a verdict that he came to his death by a shot from a pistol in his own hand, while laboring under despondency.