

## Harvey J. Porter

( - 7 Jul 1894)

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*The Evening Star, July 7, 1894*

### **Leaped To His Death**

#### **A Man Commits Suicide by Jumping From the Long Bridge**

This afternoon about 1:30 o'clock a neatly dressed man, who was apparently under the influence of liquor, committed suicide by jumping into the Georgetown canal from the Long bridge. Persons on their way to the races noticed the man on the bridge, and several of them saw him when he made the fatal leap. He was dressed in what appeared to be a blue serge suit and straw hat, and carried a cane. Stopping on the bridge about 100 feet, or more from the Virginia end of the bridge, the man laid down his hat and cane, climbed to the rail, and leaped into the water below.

He disappeared from the surface of the water and nothing more was seen of him. In his hat was what appeared to be the name, "A Suhiz, 634 M street northeast," and there was also a receipted bill made out in the name of John Farrell from John O'Flaherty, the tinner.

The hat and cane were picked up and taken to police headquarters, and the police notified. Policeman McNamara was soon on the bridge to investigate the affair, but he was unable to learn anything additional.

The police boat was soon near the scene of where the man committed suicide, and the members of the crew are dragging for the body.

*The Evening Star, July 9, 1894*

### **Suicide Identified**

#### **He Was a Brother of Robert P. Porter**

Saturday afternoon, between 6 and 7 o'clock, members of the crew of the police boat recovered the body of the man who committed suicide earlier in the afternoon by jumping from the Long bridge, as printed in Saturday's Star. As stated Saturday, there was a paper in his hat, on which was written "A. Suhlz, 624 M street northeast," but there is no such place as M street northeast between 6th and 7th streets, and the police have not found any such person as A. Suhlz. This, it is thought, was put in the hat by the suicide to prevent identification as far as possible. But on his shirt were the letters "H.J.P." and the initial "P." was also on his handkerchief. The body was removed to the morgue, where it was identified yesterday as being the body of Henry J. Porter, who was a brother of Robert P. Porter, ex-superintendent of the census. The identification was made by Mr. T.W. Young, brother-in-law of the deceased. Several years ago the deceased held a government position here, but he left this city and went to Boston, returning here only a few months ago. He was about fifty years old. Recently he had been engaged as an insurance solicitor, and it is stated that he has been drinking. In addition to this, he had some trouble with his eyesight, and the fear that he might become blind, his friends think, caused him to end his life. Undertaker J. Wm. Lee took charge of the body soon after the identification, and word was sent to the deceased's brother in Jersey City. The ex-superintendent of census, however, is just recovering from a severe illness, and will not be able to come here, although he telegraphed his relatives to take charge of the body. The funeral will probably take place tomorrow.