

John VanArsdale

(– 8 Jun 1872)

The Evening Star, June 8, 1872, p. 4

Who Is The Unfortunate?

An Unknown Man Found Dead with a Bullet Hole Through the Head

This morning between 7 and 8 o'clock two boys discovered the dead body of a white man in Young's woods, just beyond the national race course, across the Eastern branch. The body was in the woods about one hundred yards from the road. It was that of a young man, and was genteely dressed in a full suit of black, and gaiter shoes. There were gold studs in the shirt bosom and a black felt hat was lying near the body. A pistol was grasped in the right hand of the corpse, and there was a bullet wound through the head. Life had apparently been extinct for some days, as the body had become very offensive. The coroner was notified.

Later

Acting Coroner Hartigan repaired to the spot and found the body as above described, and papers on his person showing that his name was John VanArsdale, a member of the Columbia Typographical Society, and recently employed at the Government Printing Office. His mother is an inmate of the Insane Asylum, and two of his brothers died of mental diseases. An inquest will be held this evening.

The Evening Star, June 10, 1872, p. 4

Condensed Locals

An inquest was held by Dr. J.F. Hartigan on Saturday on the body of John VanArsdale, found dead in the woods near the National racecourse, (as stated in Saturday's Star,) and a verdict rendered that the deceased came to his death from a wound by a pistol ball fired by his own hand while suffering from temporary aberration of mind.