

Mrs. Mary Grusenmeyer

Peace in Death

Mrs Mary Grusenmeyer Lays Down Her Burden of Life

Was a Tragic Suicide

At Three-Score and Ten Her Troubles Were More Than She Could Bear

The body of Mrs Mary Grusenmeyer was found lying in the Wabash river, about fifteen feet from the South bank and three or four hundred feet above the Burlington avenue bridge, at an early hour Sunday morning. The starting discovery was made by Dan Douglass who was walking along the bank of the river and saw an object lying almost submerged at a shallow place in the water. He made a closer inspection and found to his horror that what had at first seemed but a bundle of some kind was a woman's body. Mr. Douglass did not attempt to take the body from the water but at once notified the police, and within a few minutes a small crowd collected at the spot and the dead woman was taken out and carried to the undertaking establishment of Kroegler & Strain, there being no one present who could identify the remains.

Coroner Downey was notified at once and viewed the body, making a close examination for marks of external violence. There were no bruises nor marks of any sort to be found and it is certain that death was caused by drowning, and that it was the dead woman's intention to end her life in that way, as the water at no place in the vicinity is more than three feet deep. All the circumstances taken together indicated that she deliberately waded out into the river, probably at a point near the bridge on Burlington avenue, and there laid down and allowed her lungs to fill with water. The face was not drawn nor contorted as is usually the case where death is violent and painful. On the contrary her features bore a peaceful expression as though she had simply sunk to sleep, with never a thought of death.

Deceased was past seventy years of age, and lived at 308 Burlington avenue, her step-daughter, Miss Caroline Artzner, a child of her second husband, living with her. There are circumstances connected with Mrs. Grusenmeyer's life in the past few months which strengthen the belief that she had thought well of the step she was taking and sought relief from the troubles which assailed her in a watery grave. Some three months since her husband, Joseph Grusenmeyer, died, leaving a small estate in which his widow was given a life interest in the residence property where she lived, and a third interest in the proceeds of a farm. This disposition of the property did not suit the widow, who brought suit to break the will and have the court set off to her a third interest in the estate as allowed by law where no will, is made. Since her husband's death this trouble has weighed upon her and she has been subject to sleeplessness and its attendant melancholia which it is thought induced her to end her existence as she did.

At the coroner's inquest held yesterday afternoon it developed that sometime during the night, Saturday night Mrs. Grusenmeyer left her bed unknown to her stepdaughter, who awoke about 2 o'clock Sunday morning to find her gone. Miss Artzner supposed her stepmother had been attacked by one of her spells of sleeplessness and had gone down-stairs to sit up for a time, and as she had frequently done this before she thought nothing of the matter. About 7 o'clock Sunday morning Miss Artzner arose and on going down-stairs found the back door open and a lamp on the mantle lighted. She still did not think much of her stepmother's absence as she was in the habit of going to a neighbor's during the night to sit up with the sick daughter of Mrs. Homburg, the neighbor. When informed by Mr. Douglass of the finding of the body in the river, she became convinced that something was wrong, and being afraid to go to the undertaking establishment to identify the remains, Anthony Grusenmeyer was sent for, and when he saw the body identified it as that of his stepmother.

Mrs. Grusenmeyer was well thought of in the neighborhood in which she lived and her tragic death shocked the entire community. She leaves but one child, a daughter, Mrs Valentine of Rochester. The Funeral will be held at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning from the St. Joseph church, the Rev. Father Koehue conducting the services interment will be made in Mt. St. Vincent.

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