

[Smith, Maude]

PROBE DEATH OF MILLINER AT HENDERSON
Mrs. Maude Smith ends Life by Hanging—Used Sheet as Rope
ILL WITH NERVOUS TROUBLE
Was Visiting at Friend's Home at Harbor—District Attorney Investigates
(Special to the Standard)

HENDERSON, June 15.—Mrs. Maude Smith, well known local milliner, ended her life this morning by hanging. She had been staying at the home of Mrs. Harriet Montague at Henderson Harbor and this morning arose as usual, dressed and combed her hair. She left the room where she had slept but returned there. She fastened a sheet into a rope, affixed it to a rafter and tied a noose under her neck. Then she jumped from the bed.

The house was undergoing repairs and a rafter in the bed room had been left exposed while repairs were being made. It was to this [rafter] that the sheet was affixed.

Mrs. Montague entered the room shortly afterwards and found the body of her friend, which was suspended but a few inches above the floor.

Mrs. Smith had a home and millinery store here but was passing some time with Mrs. Montague. For a long time she had suffered from extreme nervousness. She was not eccentric, it is said, but had been despondent over her health.

She was a native of this place and resided here all her life except for a few years passed in Rochester with her husband, Charles Smith. She had not been living with her husband for some time.

District Attorney E. R. Wilcox, of Watertown, was notified and came here with Undersheriff Brumley C. Wilde to make an investigation.

The district attorney directed Dr. Goss, of Adams, to act as coroner's physician. The body was afterwards taken care of by Undertaker F. L. Burnham of this place.

Mrs. Smith was regarded as a very capable woman and was well liked here. For some years she had operated her millinery store with success. She was a member of the local Universalist church.

It was known generally that she suffered acutely from nervous trouble, and this is the reason ascribed for her act, which nevertheless comes as a great shock to residents in this village.

Mrs. Smith, who was 52 years of age, had suffered the past week very serious nervous disorders and had consulted physicians, who directed that she go to the State Hospital at Ogdensburg for treatment. It was this which caused her to end her life. Dr. Goss, as coroner's physician, reported the case as suicide.

She had hanged herself at 5 A.M. and it was 8:30 when the discovery of the body was made. The district attorney, the undersheriff and the undertaker removed the body.

Watertown Daily Standard, Watertown NY, Fri. 15 Jun 1923