What Became of Mary Ellen

By Samuel Minter Peck

Mary Ellen was married and lived in a comfortable little house that stood back of the three other cottage homes of the pond's edge. She was as slender as a reed and as fair as a flower. Her eyes were bright and her smile was as sweet as a song.

The pond was small but beautiful, and in the summer of that year it was the center of much activity. The children of the neighborhood gathered there to fish and swim, and the womenfolk came to bathe and enjoy the cool water.

Mary Ellen, however, was not one to enjoy these pleasures. She preferred to stay at home and tend to her garden. She was a good gardener, and her flowers were the envy of the neighborhood.

One day, as she was tending to her garden, she suddenly felt a sharp pain in her side. She dropped to the ground, unconscious.

The womenfolk of the neighborhood were alarmed and quickly gathered around her. They called for a doctor, but when he arrived it was too late. Mary Ellen had passed away.

The cause of her death was never known. Some said it was a heart attack, while others speculated that it was caused by the heat of the summer months.

Mary Ellen's death was a great shock to the neighborhood, and her loss was deeply felt. She had been a good neighbor and a kind soul, and her memory lived on in the hearts of those who knew her.