

It will never be known if the incidents related in *Visions of Gerard* are fact or fiction. Even though Jack was “memory babe,” the recollection of the most sensitive of four-year-olds would be fuzzy. It may be, as Pauline Coffey suggests, that Gabrielle, overwhelmed by grief and survivor guilt, filled Jack with exaggerated stories about Gerard.

Gerard died on Wednesday, June 2, 1926 at 11:45 PM of purpura hemorrhagica with endocarditic and myocarditis, or in laymen’s terms, massive subcutaneous bleeding with deterioration of the heart muscle resulting from a six-month bout with rheumatic fever. The attending physician was Nathan Pulsifer. The undertaker was N. Bilodeau and burial was in St. Louis de Gonzague Cemetery in Nashua, NH on June 4, 1926. The above information is found on the death certificate.

The obituary appeared in the *Lowell Sun* on Friday, June 4, 1926:

KEROACK— The numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Leo A. Keroack will be sorry to learn of the death of their son. Gerard F. Keroack, which occurred Wednesday night at the home of his parents, 34 Beaulieu Street, aged 9 years, 9 months and 27 days. He was a pupil at St. Louis School and was popular among all the pupils and with the teachers. Besides his parents, he leaves one sister, Caroline and a brother Jean Louis, all of Lowell. The body will be forwarded to Nashua, N.H., for burial in St. Louis de Gonzague Cemetery by undertakers Napoleon Bilodeau & Son.

Around 1966, Gabrielle told Carl Adkins that Gerard’s cat Nanny disappeared the day of Gerard’s funeral and was never seen again.