

WOMAN'S WIFE TO TELL STORY

WHY NICOLAI DE RAYLAN PASSED AS A MAN TO BE REVEALED IN CHICAGO—WAS REALLY A RUSSIAN WOMAN OF NOBLE BIRTH WHO FLED IN DISGRACE—DONNED MALE ATTIRE IN AMERICA TO CONCEAL HER IDENTITY.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Why Nicolai De Raylan posed for years as a man, although really a Russian woman of noble birth is to be told in the probate court, it is said, within a few days. The explanation will be made by Anna Davidson, a chorus girl, who married De Raylan two years ago. Miss Davidson is reported to have been taken into De Raylan's confidence but is now forced to tell the real story that Harry George De Raylan, the dead woman's son, may come into his inheritance. This boy has been known as Mrs. De Raylan's son by a former marriage.

The story as it has leaked out, is that De Raylan, the daughter of a Russian admiral, fled to this country following the secret birth of a son 13 years ago. Harry De Raylan is a few months more than 13 years old. In this country De Raylan donned man's attire, secured employment as a clerk in the Russian consulate in Chicago, married, was divorced, married again, held a commission in a Chicago militia company, sought to enlist in the volunteer service during the Spanish-American war and died recently of consumption at Phoenix, Ariz.

Sex Revealed.

It was then that her sex was revealed. But for her death far from home her secret would have gone to the grave with her. Her will provides that Mrs. Anna De Raylan shall prepare the body for burial, and a few hours before her death she urgently asked that Mrs. De Raylan be sent for. De Raylan left an estate valued at \$10,000 or \$15,000, of which one-third goes to Mrs. De Raylan, and the rest to her "beloved son."

The court demands proof of death and it will be impossible to show that a dead woman is the decedent unless the secret of her life is told.