

Charles Ceas (- 15 Jan 1910)

The Evening Star, January 16, 1910

Found Dead in Chair

Suicide of G.P.O. -- Mind Temporarily Affected

Charles Ceas, forty-one years old, committed suicide yesterday afternoon in his room at the house of Harry Riley, No. 658 12th street northeast, by shooting himself through the heart. It is thought that his mind was affected by reading religious books.

Ceas was employed as a laborer in the government printing office. He was a native of this city, but was away from here several years. Coroner Nevitt was told last night that he had been employed as attendant at a local reformatory and later at the Government Hospital for the Insane.

The coroner learned that Ceas had suffered from mental depression, and that only a few weeks ago he spent some time in a sanitarium in Maryland. Yesterday afternoon he failed to appear on the lower floor of the house at the usual hour and Mr. Riley went to his room to inquire the cause of the delay.

On a chair near the bay window was the dead body of the man, while on his lap was a .38-caliber revolver. Ceas was in his shirt sleeves when he fired the shot. He had bared his chest by opening his shirts, the powder stains showing that he had pressed the pistol against his chest.

Friends of Ceas told the police and coroner that Ceas had read a great many religious books during recent weeks, and the reading seemed to have affected him. He was despondent, they said, but none of them had ever heard him say anything about killing himself, and his death came as a shock to his friends and relatives.

The coroner gave a certificate of suicide, and the body was turned over to an undertaker to be prepared for burial. The deceased is survived by two brothers and a sister.