

## Walter Scott Gedney

### ( - 14 Feb 1895)

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*The Evening Star, February 15, 1895*

#### **Suicide of Wm. Gedney**

##### **Believed to Have Been Insane at the Time**

Mr. William Gedney, father of Walter Gedney, who committed suicide in Philadelphia yesterday afternoon as reported in The Star, left today to be present at the coroner's inquest and to claim the body. No information has been received by the family in this city as to the whereabouts of Mr. A.G. Gedney, who it was expected would be in Philadelphia on business yesterday. Neither has there been anything definite done as yet in regards to the funeral here.

Walter Gedney left Washington about three weeks ago and entered the employ of the F.E. Manning Electro-Photographing Company at 35 South 6th street, Philadelphia. He was considered a capable artist and designer and a sober, industrious man. He worked as usual yesterday morning. About 1 o'clock a colored porter entered the art department and found Gedney standing in the middle of the room with a wild, savage look in his eyes. The porter inquired if there was anything wrong. Without answering Gedney took a revolver from a paper box and shot himself through the head, dying instantly.

In the pockets of the deceased was found \$70. It is said that during the past week he had informed several of his fellow workmen that he was in love and wished to marry a certain girl, but volunteered no further information on the subject.

A number of Gedney's friends in this city firmly believe that he committed the rash act while temporarily insane, as he was subject to such spells.

The remains will be brought to the home of the father of the deceased, Mr. Joseph F. Gedney, 419 B street northeast, as soon as they are turned over to Mr. William Gedney by the coroner.

*The Evening Star, February 14, 1895*

#### **Walter Gedney's Suicide**

##### **It is Believed That He Was Insane at the Time**

Philadelphia, February 14 -- Walter Gedney, aged about twenty-five years, shot and killed himself at 6th and Chestnut streets at 1 o'clock this afternoon. From papers found on the suicide's person it is believed he is a brother of A.G. Gedney of 943 D street northwest, Washington, D.C.

A Star reporter who called at Mr. A.G. Gedney's late place of business, 943 D street northwest, was informed that Walter Gedney is Mr. Gedney's brother, as surmised in the foregoing dispatch. The deceased is a son of Mr. J.F. Gedney of the State Department, who resides at 419 B street northeast. Thomas H. Gedney and William E. Gedney, both employed in the bureau of engraving and printing, are brothers of the deceased, and he also has three sisters residing in this city.

Walter Gedney was born in Washington, and was employed in A.G. Gedney's engraving establishment up to about two years ago, when he went to Philadelphia. He remained in that city for some time, and then returned to Washington. After a lapse of several months, and without the knowledge of his family, he returned to the Quaker city, where he had been ever since. The deceased was employed as a draughtsman, and was unmarried.

"It may be stated without fear of contradiction," said Mr. D.W. Gregory, the successor to A.G. Gedney, to the reporter, "that Walter Gedney's mind was disordered. At times he would act very queerly, and I am positive that he killed himself this afternoon while temporarily insane."

Mr. A.G. Gedney has been in New York for several days, but it was understood that he would visit Philadelphia today and return home either this evening or tomorrow. The relatives of the dead man had received no information of the suicide up to a late hour.

*McMahan, Virgil E. The Artists of Washington, DC, 1796-1996. The Artists of Washington, Washington, DC, 1995.*

**GEDNEY, WALTER SCOTT**

Artist born in Washington, DC in 1869, the son of engraver Joseph F. Gedney. He painted in watercolor and pastel, primarily landscapes and local Washington scenes. REF: PCA (Plater T. Gedney, Arlington, VA, 1984) WCD (1891, 1894).