

## Joseph Gregory ( - 31 Jan 1914)

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### **Hangs Himself In Police Cell**

### **Joseph Gregory, Suspected of Parcel Post Stamp Theft, Ends Life**

### **His Sister is Implicated In Charge Of Offending**

### **Threat to Die Rather Than Accept Sentence To Workhouse Is Heard by Other Prisoners**

Joseph Gregory, draftsman, forty-two years old, last night committed suicide in a cell in the first precinct police station, hanging himself with his belt.

Gregory, who lived with his mother and brother at 407 6 1/2 street southwest, was arrested by Policeman Percy Elliott because he had a number of parcel post stamps in his possession. He was placed in a cell about 6:20 o'clock, the record shows. At 7:30 o'clock his lifeless body was found.

### *Implicates His Sister*

When Gregory was arrested he stated that the stamps were given to him by his sister. Mrs. S.A. Howell of Kremlin, Va, where he spent two months this winter. Mrs. Howell recently visited her mother and brothers in this city.

Other prisoners heard him protest his innocence. Ernest Graham, who occupied a cell near him, said he heard him say:

"I'll die before I'll go to the work-house."

Doorman Martin Brown, asked for a cup of coffee by another prisoner, detected the limp form of Gregory.

Gregory, it is believed, had stood on his iron cot, fastened the belt about his neck and dropped. The drop was far enough, it is supposed, to break his neck. Death resulted from strangulation, the coroner stated.

Dr. Arthur Zinkhan reached the police station while the body still was warm. He applied the pulmotor, but was unable to induce respiration. Coroner Nevitt later viewed the body and said he would defer signing the certificate until today.

### *Mother Defends Son*

Mrs. Matthew D. Gregory, mother of the dead man, who lives on 6 1/2 street southwest, who is more than eighty years old, said that the stamps her son had were given to him by his sister, Mrs. Howell a few days ago. She said the stamps got wet and that her daughter did not want to bother with them.

"If he was arrested because he was trying to sell the stamps," said his mother, "he was arrested for nothing. I can tell the police about them, and so can his sister.

Mrs. Florence E. Gregory, wife of the deceased, resides at Rockville, Md., the police were told. A receipt for a registered letter sent her two days ago was among the effects taken from Gregory when he was arrested. Gregory's body was taken to the morgue.