

## Winfield W. Hopkins

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### **Finds Brother's Body Hanging To Banister**

### **Miss Edith Hopkins First to Discover Suicide of Young Man in Home**

Winfield W. Hopkins, twenty-one years old, committed suicide, at his home, 1517 Gales street northeast, yesterday by hanging. His body was found suspended from a banister when his mother, Mrs. Ida Hopkins, and his sister, Miss Edith Hopkins, returned home late in the afternoon.

Their failure to receive a response to their knocks made at the front door caused the mother and daughter to become suspicious.

Miss Hopkins who was first to see her brother's body on entering the house, became hysterical and excited, and her screams attracted the attention of Henry M. Miller, occupant of the adjoining house. Mr. Miller called the police and the body was cut down and a physician summoned from the Casualty Hospital.

### *Strangled to Death*

It was found that life had been extinct for several hours, the young man probably having hanged himself shortly after his mother and sister went to their places of employment. He had fastened the rope about his neck, tied it to the banister and then kicked a chair from beneath him, slowly strangling to death.

Hopkins mind, it is believed, had been affected for a number of months. It was suggested last night that his inability to get employment had made him despondent. His father, it is stated, committed suicide several years ago, and his death, it is thought, probably affected the son.

About three months young Hopkins created excitement in the vicinity of his home by shouting fire. He imagined his home was burning, and he ran to the quarters of No. 10 engine company to summon the firemen to his home.

"Come quick," he shouted when he reached the quarters of the fire company. "My house is burning and they'll all be burnt to death if you don't hurry."

Mrs. Hopkins followed her son to the fire company's quarters and reached there in time to save them from making a useless run. She explained that her house was not burning and that her son was suffering from nervousness.

### *Became Troublesome*

Young Hopkins protested that his house was burning, pointed in the direction of it and asked if the firemen could not see the blaze. He became so troublesome that it was necessary for the police to take charge of him. Insanity proceedings would have been instituted had not Mrs. Hopkins begged that the son be turned over to her.

Coroner Nevitt visited the Gales street house, made an investigation and gave a certificate of death by suicide. The coroner was told that Hopkins had been a patient at the Washington Asylum Hospital about seven months ago, having been treated for mental disorder.