

John Philip (- 18 Oct 1868)

The Evening Star, October 15, 1868

Shocking Suicide

A few minutes past one o'clock today, a young man, named John Phillips, about twenty-seven years of age, committed suicide, at Mrs. Cudlipp's boarding house, No. 427 Pennsylvania avenue, between 3d and 4 1/2 streets, by cutting his throat.

A short while before the occurrence, while at lunch, he was handed a letter, and taking the same proceeded to his room, upstairs to read it. In about the time it would have taken to peruse its contents, a loud noise was heard as if some solid parcel had been thrown on the floor; but no attention was paid to the circumstance, till a few minutes afterwards, when a servant girl took a small table to his room, and found the deceased lying on the floor dead, with his throat cut from ear to ear, and his head and body weltering in the blood. She immediately communicated the fact to the family, and Lieut. Noonan, of the police, was sent for, who repaired to the scene of the suicide and took charge of the body preparatory to holding an inquest over it this afternoon. Mr. Phillips is an Englishman by birth, but had been employed at the Freedmen's Bureau in this city for the past six months, which position he lost about ten days since. He had been somewhat dissipated lately, but recovered from a spree a couple of weeks since, and has remained sober.

The contents of the letter had not been made known up to the close of this report; but it is believed to have something to do with the sad occurrence.

The Evening Star, October 16, 1868

Coroner's Inquest

A jury of inquest on the body of John Philip, an account of whose death by suicide appeared in yesterday's STAR, was summoned yesterday by Justice Charles Walter, acting coroner, and after the evidence adduced, the jury found, "that the said John Philip came to his death on the 15th of October, 1868, by cutting his throat with a razor." Deceased was a member of the Masonic Order, and having no relations in this country, it is probable the Order will take charge of his effects and provide for the interment.

The Evening Star, October 17, 1868

The Suicide

The body of Mr. John Phillip, an account of whose death by suicide on Thursday has been published, has been placed in charge of Mr. A. Buchly, undertaker, who has prepared it for burial, and tomorrow morning it will be interred by a number of his associates. A young lady, residing in the First Ward, to whom the deceased was engaged to be married, heard of his death last night, having been on a search for him for several days, supposing that he was on a spree, called at Mr. Buchly's this morning, appearing to be greatly affected.