

William Grant Roe

(- 10 Nov 1902)

Roe. On Monday, November 10, 1902, at 9 o'clock a.m., William Grant Roe, late husband of Sadie M. Roe (nee Trazzare). Funeral Wednesday, November 12 at 2 p.m., from 720 4th street southeast Services private.

The Evening Star, November 10, 1902, p. 16

Druggist's Suicide

Dr. William Grant Roe Takes His Own Life

Ill-Health Attributed as the Cause--Coroner Certifies That Death Was Self-Inflicted

"Suicide by Shooting" was what Coroner Nevitt wrote on a death certificate this morning after he had viewed the body of Dr. William Grant Roe, the druggist, who carried on business at 1034 7th street northwest and 1801 Vermont avenue. Dr. Roe killed himself at his 7th street store about 9 o'clock this morning. The bullet from the weapon entered his right temple. Ill-health is the cause attributed for his unusual conduct. Dr. Roe reached the store but a few minutes before he fired the fatal shot. He remained in the store, apparently looking about to see if everything was in order, and, walking out the back door, he entered a narrow passageway leading to the toilet room. He went thence to a room on the second floor and got the weapon, and, returning, stretched himself upon the floor of the narrow passage, aimed the revolver at his right temple and pulled the trigger. Life was no doubt extinct before the smoke of the weapon had died away.

The clerk who was on duty in the store at the time ran in the direction whence the sound came, and finding the dead body of his employer on the floor, went to a neighbor and summoned assistance. Second precinct policemen responded, and the coroner reached the store before 10 o'clock. This official heard statements of several persons and issued the certificate stated.

Had Threatened Suicide

Dr. Roe had frequently discussed the question of suicide with friends. His manager had discussed the matter with him and had succeeded, as he supposed, in persuading the druggist out of his purpose. More than two years ago Dr. Roe threatened to kill himself, and several times since then he spoke of the subject in a way which indicated that he had not abandoned the idea. He was in bad health, it is stated, suffering from a nervous disorder. In June of this year he married Miss Sadie Marie Trazzare, daughter of Mr. Thomas Trazzare, the carriage maker at 456 Pennsylvania avenue northwest. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J.C. Nicholson. Dr. Roe recently spent a little time on the eastern shore of Maryland, and had been living at the home of his father-in-law, 720 4th street southeast, since his return to the city. The deceased was thirty-seven years old. He came here fifteen years ago from Illinois and was doing a prosperous business. He had no financial troubles, his friends say, and was making preparations to visit Europe. An undertaker took charge of the body and removed it from the store to prepare it for burial.