

## **J. Reinold Schorn** **( - 29 Mar 1878)**

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*The Evening Star, March 12, 1878*

### **Shot Himself in the Head with a Rifle**

#### **Was It An Accident or a Suicidal Attempt?**

Last night about 11 o'clock, a boarder in the Imperial hotel named B.S. Schorn shot himself in the head, with a new rifle he had purchased, inflicting a bad wound in his forehead, which it is believed by his attending physician, Dr. Stanton, will prove fatal. The guests were startled at the report of the firearm and ran to his room--No. 82--when the unfortunate man was found on the floor with the rifle beside him. On examination it was found that the ball entered above the left eyebrow, taking an upward direction, tearing the skin and flesh and fracturing the skull, and lodged in the ceiling above. Mr. Schorn is about forty years of age, a Dane by birth, and for several years has been employed in the Third Auditor's office, but had been recently without employment. There seems to have been no reason for an act of suicide, and the belief is that it was accidental. The weapon was a repeating rifle, made by Evans, of Mechanic's Falls, Me. He stated to Col. Pierce, a friend, that he was in the act of loading his rifle when the charge exploded. He was alive and conscious at 9 o'clock. Later in the day his condition was thought not to be dangerous.

*The Evening Star, March 30, 1878*

### **Died of His Wound**

J. Reinold Schorn, who shot himself on the 12th inst., died yesterday at the Imperial hotel. He had been improving since the accident, until last Thursday night, when a relapse took place, and, although everything possible was done by his physician, he sank into a stupor and died. The remains were turned over to W.R. Speare, the undertaker, and the funeral took place this afternoon. As Mr. Schorn has no relatives in this country, his remains will be placed in the vault of the Causten family at the Congressional cemetery until a message can be received from his parents in Cologne, Prussia, of their wishes regarding the disposition of the body. The deceased was 37 years of age, and a great favorite with his fellow clerks. Since the shooting, the mind of the deceased has been so impaired that his friends refrained from talking of the occurrence, and therefore it will never be positively known whether the shooting was accidental, as it is supposed to have been, or a suicide.