

## William W. Wirt

(1839 – 3 Nov 1884)

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*The Evening Star, November 4, 1884*

### **The Suicidal Mania**

#### **Wm. W. Wirt, A Treasury Clerk, Supposed to Have Drowned Himself**

A well-dressed man, about 45 years of age, started for Alexandria on the ferry boat City of Washington last evening at 6:30 o'clock. He remained in the bar-room for awhile, and then ascended to the upper deck, where he paced back and forth in a preoccupied manner. When the boat, was opposite Giesboro he stepped upon the rail and threw himself into the water. Every effort was made to save him but of no avail. His hat was recovered, and inside of the crown were the letters "W.W.W." No one on the boat was acquainted with the suicide. This morning Mr. Clay Douglas visited police headquarters and stated that the drowned man was supposed to be his brother-in-law, Mr. William W. Wirt, who for years resided at No. 432 H Street northwest, and was the son-in-law of the late William Douglas. Wirt was a man about 45 years old, of medium build, with gray whiskers, and he dressed well habitually. He has not lived with his wife and family for several years. For some months past he roomed at No. 457 G street, but left there about two weeks ago on a spree, and has not returned since. He was employed as a clerk in the Treasury, but had not been at his post for a similar period. His body has not yet been recovered. The hat which was recovered is a brown derby, and it has been identified as belonging to Mr. Wirt. Wirt was last seen on Sunday night, at the residence of his aunt, Mrs. Cook, No. 300 H street northwest.

*The Evening Star, November 28, 1884*

### **W.W. Wirt's Body Recovered**

About 8:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon the body of W.W. Wirt, who committed suicide about two weeks ago by drowning himself by jumping off a Washington and Alexandria ferry boat, was found floating in the river near the magazine by Richard Lawrence. It was towed to the Arsenal wharf and turned over to M. Joseph C. Lee, the undertaker. Yesterday Coroner Patterson viewed the body and gave a certificate in accordance with the facts.