

## David N. Oliver

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### **Commits Suicide In Cell At Jail**

### **David N. Oliver Hangs Himself With Noose Made of Towel and Necktie**

### **Fellow-Prisoner Not Awakened By His Act**

### **Stonecutter Was Awaiting Trial on Charge of Attempting to Asphyxiate His Two Sons**



David N. Oliver and his sons, Howard and Norman, for the near asphyxiation whom he was awaiting trial in the District jail.

David N. Oliver, a stonecutter, who was awaiting trial in the District Jail for attempting to asphyxiate his two sons committed suicide last night by hanging himself in his cell. He made a noose of a towel and a necktie and his lifeless body was found shortly after 11 o'clock by James S. Walters, a guard.

That Oliver had planned the deed with much forethought is conceded by the guards at the jail. He waited until his cellmate, Neal H. Clark, a former New Yorker, had gone to sleep before he made the attempt, and so noiseless was his actions that none of the other prisoners in adjacent cells heard him. Shortly before 11 o'clock the guard on his tour of inspection saw Oliver in his cell. The guard had occasion to pass the cell again shortly after 11 o'clock and discovered the body dangling from the grating in the lavatory to one side of the cell. He cut it down and summoned a physician, but life was pronounced extinct.

### *Was Regarded as Paranoiac*

At the jail it was stated that Oliver recently had shown signs of restlessness, Coroner Nevitt, who reached the jail shortly after midnight, was told by officials that the prisoner was regarded as a paranoiac, although no more had been made looking to his transfer to the Government Hospital for the Insane. He would soon have been put on trial for assault with intent to kill his children, it was stated and his mental condition could then be passed upon.

Neal H. Stark, who was Oliver's cellmate, is awaiting a trial on a charge of false pretenses. He was arrested on complaint of Stephen J. Coster, treasurer of a Washington theater, and charged with having passed a worthless check. He was arrested in New York and brought here by a United States marshal.

### *Said Wife Deserted Him*

David Oliver was in jail because he had tried to asphyxiate himself and his two boys February 4 at the home of William Lindgren, 215 1st street northwest. He had been out of work, and he claimed his wife had deserted him. Altogether, his attempt was one growing out of complete despondency. The two boys, Howard and Norman, eight and six years old, were unconscious when found early on the morning of February 4, and by their side was the father, also unconscious.

Oliver was placed under arrest by Policeman Saunders of the sixth precinct station, who said that Oliver had admitted trying to kill himself and the boys with gas. He also said that his wife, who was Tillie Weichman of Portsmouth, Ohio, had returned to her parents and had refused to live with him.

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**Prison Cell Suicide Subject For Inquest**

**Coroner to Summon Jury to Pass on the Death of David N. Oliver**

Coroner Nevitt is to conduct an inquest tomorrow morning over the body of David N. Oliver, a stonecutter, who late Saturday night committed suicide in a cell in the District jail, where he was held awaiting a trial for alleged assault to kill his two sons, Howard and Norman, eight and six years old, by turning on the gas in his room at 215 1st street northwest, February 4.

It had been the intention of the coroner to pass the case without holding an inquest, but he later deemed it advisable to have a jury upon the circumstances surrounding the suicide. Only a few weeks ago a Chinaman who was held in jail as a prisoner, committed suicide by hanging.

Oliver's body was taken to the city morgue. It will be kept there until after the inquest, it is stated, and will then be buried at the expense of the District unless relatives claim it.

The morning that Oliver and his two boys were found in the room with the gas turned on, it is stated one of the boys was critically ill. Father and children were treated at Emergency Hospital and the children were later transferred to Children's Hospital.

Later they were taken before the grand jury as witnesses. Louis Weichmann, their grandfather, took charge of him after they had given their testimony and they are now at his home in Portsmouth, Ohio.