

Peter M. Rodimaker, (Died 20 Apr 1908), Newspaper Clipping, The Perry Historians

Patriot, Tuesday, April 21, 1908. Man Out Of Work Committed Suicide – His wife Found Body of Peter M. Rodimaker on Her Return Home – Pulled Trigger Five Times – But the First Four Cartridges of his Revolved Missed Fire.

Peter M. Rodimaker shot himself through the head at his home, 333 Boyd Street, about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, dying almost instantly.

Since he was discharged, more than six weeks ago, from the Lucknow shops of the Pennsylvania Railroad, where he had been a wheel clerk, because there was no more work, Rodimaker had been more or less despondent. He tried daily to get another job, but without success.

Was Out of Work. Rodimaker was a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Red Men and one or two other secret organizations, and the Pennsylvania Railroad Relief, and the income he received for the latter was all that he had to keep his family going, it was said. It was this thought, and what he would do when this fund gave out if he couldn't get work that led him to take his life, it was believed at his home yesterday.

The Rodimakers have no children, and yesterday afternoon when Mrs. Rodimaker went out to visit a friend, Rodimaker remained at the home. She was returned a little before 4 o'clock. A few minutes prior to that some of the neighbors believed they heard a shot in the Rodimaker house, but paid no attention to it, as they considered it too improbable to be true.

When Mrs. Rodimaker opened the door of her home she chatted for a moment with a neighbor on the doorstep, holding the door ajar. Fumes of what she believed were gas from the stove wafted out through the door. She hurried in to see what was the supposed trouble with the stove.

Wife Found the Dead Man. On a small sofa in the kitchen, and leaning face forward on one arm, Mrs. Rodimaker found her husband. She turned him over and saw the blood clot over his forehead. On the floor lay a thirty-two caliber revolver. Rodimaker had evidently been dead for some time.

Neighbors came in to assist Mrs. Rodimaker then, and Coroner Coover and police headquarters were notified. Patrolman Van Camp, the wagon guard, reached the place a few minutes later with the ambulance, but of course was not needed.

Coroner Coover decided upon the only natural conclusion after an investigation, and an undertaker was notified.

Pulled Trigger Five Times. When the body was being placed in a better position a razor dropped from the sofa to the floor. That Rodimaker had to persevere to kill himself with his revolver was plainly evident from the condition of the weapon, which was examined by Patrolman Van Camp.

All five chambers had been loaded. On every cartridge but one there was a nick on the cap of the cartridge, but not any of the first four had been discharged. Only the last one exploded.

Patriot, Wednesday, April 22, 1908. Funeral of P. M. Rodimaker

The funeral of **P. M. Rodimaker**, who committed suicide on Monday afternoon, will be held Thursday evening from his home, on Boyd Avenue, with services by H. N. Bassler, pastor of the Second Reformed Church. On Friday morning the body will be taken to Duncannon for interment.