

Henry Berry (- 12 Nov 1912)

Berry. Suddenly on Tuesday, November 12, 1912, Henry Berry, beloved son of John Berry and the late Mary A. Berry, aged 30 years. Funeral from his late residence 1643 Half street s.e. on Thursday, November 14 at 3 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, November 12, 1912, p. 1

Life Is Crushed Out By Fall Of Iron Beam

Accident at New Post Office Site Results in Death of Henry Berry

The breaking of a heavy iron ring on top of a derrick at the new city post office building, Massachusetts avenue and North Capitol street, this morning, caused an iron beam to fall, resulting in the death of Henry Berry an iron worker.

The accident occurred shortly after 8 o'clock, near the Union Station side of the building. Berry, who resided at 1648 Half street southwest, was in the basement. He had given a signal to a man above to have several iron beams hoisted to the floor above. As the heavy load was about ten feet above the first floor the iron ring parted.

Weight Breaks Rivets

The Wooden beam which was part of the derrick and about one foot square crashed down upon an iron girder, which had been set in place on the first floor. The weight of the beam broke the rivets which held the girder, and the girder crashed to the basement.

Berry attempted to reach a place of safety, but he was caught by the falling girder. His entire scalp was torn off. Fellow-employes ran to his aid and a telephone message was sent to Casualty Hospital. Berry died, however, in the ambulance, while on the way to the hospital.

The wooden beam which struck the girder was broken in two by the fall, while the iron beams which were being hoisted fell to the basement. News of the accident spread through the building and the fifty or more ironworkers, following their custom in cases where a fellow-workman is killed, immediately quit work for the day.

Coroner Will Investigate

Coroner Nevitt ordered the body removed to the morgue, and an inquest will be held at 11:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Berry had been employed at the place for two weeks. His father, mother and three brothers survive him. They were notified of his death shortly after the accident.