

William H. Crown

(- 17 May 1878)

Crown. Suddenly on the 18th of May, 1878, William H. Crown, in the 42d year of his age. Friends and relatives of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral from his brother's residence, 221 10th street s.e. on Monday, 20th at 4 p.m.

The Evening Star, May 18, 1878

Frightful Death of a House Painter Miraculous Escape of His Companion

About noon today, William Crown, a well-known house and sign painter, 40 years old, in the employ of Mr. Thomas A. Brown, fell with a scaffolding on which he was seated in company with another journeyman house painter, while engaged in painting the cornice of the Colonization building, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 4 1/2 street, a distance of about fifty or sixty feet to the pavement, and was instantly killed. They had a swinging ladder on which to work, rigged by ropes attached to two pieces of joist fastened on the roof and the ropes became detached from one of the joists. Crown gave the warning to his companion, Charles Stephenson, who threw up his hands and caught by a narrow cornice above the 4th story window, on the 4 ½ street side just in time to save himself as the ladder fell beneath him. He hung in this manner, and drawing up his legs, shoved the window sash down with his feet and gradually worked his way in the window inside, when he sank on the floor exhausted by the effort. Crown turned summersaults several times in the air before he struck the sidewalk. Striking on the left shoulder and crushing the skull on this side, and breaking his neck. He never breathed afterwards. Some bystanders who saw the accident picked him up and took him in Darby's drug store and Dr. Townshend was at once called in but to no avail. He examined him and pronounced his neck broke and skull fractured. Soon afterwards Mr. Brown arrived and the coroner was notified.

Coroner Patterson after learning the facts as above stated decided that an inquest was unnecessary and gave a certificate of death from fracture of the skull caused by accidental fall. The body was then removed by the Messrs. Zurhorst Bros., undertakers, 320 Pennsylvania ave. east.