

John R. Crozet

(- 13 Aug 1883)

The Evening Star, August 14, 1883

Found Dead in Bed

An Overdose of Chloral

Joseph R. Crozet, a man about forty years of age, was found dead in his bed at his boarding place, No. 322 C street northwest, about 5 o'clock this morning. At first it was thought that he had committed suicide, but an investigation showed that he had died from an overdose of chloral, administered probably for the purpose of obtaining relief. He had been dissipated, and it is thought had drank considerable lately. He wrote prescriptions himself and obtained chloral on them several times during the past week. Yesterday he obtained a drachm and a half of the drug from Christiani's drug store on a prescription which appears to be signed "Cole." Crozet once studied medicine, and, though he never took his degree, has occasionally prescribed for people in cases of necessity. It appears that he took all the chloral he obtained yesterday, which was enough to kill a man in his condition. The body was removed this morning to Henry Lees' Sons, undertaking establishment, Pennsylvania avenue. Coroner Patterson made an investigation, which resulted in his giving a certificate of death from an overdose of chloral, accidentally taken. Dr. Patterson said he thought no blame could be attached to the druggists, as anyone would have issued the drug on such prescriptions as Crozet furnished. Crozet talked with some of his fellow-boarders at nine o'clock last night. It is thought that he took a part of the chloral, which stupefied him. Then waking he took the rest of the chloral, which put him into a sleep from which he will never awake. He was living here alone. Formerly, it is stated, he was a lieutenant in the revenue marine service. It appears that he has been an unfortunate victim of an appetite for drink. Last September he was arrested here on a charge of forgery, preferred by Wm. Hughes. It was claimed that he had obtained goods on forged orders, having represented himself as a naval officer empowered to obtain supplies. When investigated, however, the charge of forgery was not made out, and Crozet was released. His desire to get liquor, it is said, got him into the scrape.

The Evening Star, August 16, 1883

The Late Joseph R. Crozet

The funeral of Joseph R. Crozet, who died from the effects of an overdose of chloral, Tuesday, took place last evening at five o'clock from 322 C street northwest. Last fall, as stated in The Star, Mr. Crozet was apprehended on a charge of forgery, but upon examination the charge proved to be groundless. Mr. Crozet was educated in the U.S. navy and served sixteen years. He fought hard and gallantly before Fort Fisher, where he received severe and dangerous wounds. In 1873 he resigned from the navy and entered the revenue marine service, where he served with distinction. He resigned in 1879. Soon afterwards, meeting domestic afflictions and losing his property, he had recourse to the wine cup for relief. This soon became a habit, but with which he struggled to the end. He had no relative, having lost his father and two brothers in the late war.