

## Rogerie Davis

### ( - 17 Jun 1895)

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*The Evening Star, June 16, 1895*

#### **Death Was Accidental**

#### **Davis and Phillips Built the Defective Scaffold**

Deputy Coroner Glazebrook today held an inquest to determine the responsibility for the death of Rogerie Davis and Robert Phillips, the cornice workers who fell from a scaffold and were almost instantly killed yesterday morning while at work on house 1124 12th street northwest.

The jury, consisting of Pliny M. Hough, George J. Ott, Charles C. Langley, Julius Ruth, B.T. Litze and Larionce A. Latchford, after hearing the testimony of a number of witnesses, returned a verdict attaching no blame to anyone.

#### *The First Witness*

Edward Robinson, who worked with the two cornicefitters, said that one of the beams had a knot in it. The men built their own scaffold, erecting it about ten minutes before 9 o'clock yesterday morning.

Lee Lawson, an apprentice boy, in the employ of Mr. Reavis, stated that he was at the building helping the men. Davis was holding the cornice in position and Phillips was about to secure it with a nail when the scaffold gave way.

A.S. Reavis, the employer of Davis and Phillips, stated that it was the custom of his men to build the scaffolds they worked on. They had been doing so for several years and had never before met with an accident.

The funeral of Davis will take place from his late residence, 636 H street southwest, tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock, and interment will be made in Congressional cemetery. Services are to be held over the remains of Phillips at 500 6th street northeast tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The body will be interred in Glenwood cemetery.

*The Evening Star, June 17, 1895*

#### **Both Men Killed**

#### **Another Tragedy Due to an Insecure Scaffold**

#### **Two Workmen Fell Twenty Feet on Their Heads--**

#### **Father of a Family and Well-Known**

An insecure scaffold--the old story--this morning almost instantly caused the death of two white men, both in the prime of life and heads of families. The unfortunates were Rogerie Davis, 55 years of age, who resided at 636 H street southwest and Robert Phillips, 39 years of age. No information in regard to the latter could be obtained from his employer or fellow-workmen, but at a late hour this afternoon the police were successful in locating the family of the dead man at 4th and E streets northeast.

The victims of the unfortunate accident were from workers, in the employ of A.S. Reavis, a cornicemaker, whose establishment is at 632 K street southwest. Both had been working for Mr. Reavis for over three years, and during the last two weeks were engaged in fitting galvanized iron cornices on the building now in course of erection for Mr. Ferdinand Smith, at 1124 12th street northwest, directly north of the Ascension Church, and separated from that edifice by an alley.

On reaching the scene of their labors this morning Davis and Phillips constructed a scaffold about a bay window projecting from the second story near the rear of the building on the alley side. They then began to fit a galvanized iron cornice about the roof of the bay window. At 9:20 o'clock both men were at work at one end of the scaffold when the beam directly beneath them parted and they were precipitated to the ground, their heads striking first on the hard paving blocks. The falling cornice and the shattered timbers made a loud crash and attracted a large number of persons to the scene. Other workmen rushed to the assistance of the injured men, several physicians residing in the vicinity were summoned and the police ambulance sent for. Just as the wagon arrived, about fifteen minutes after the fall occurred, the men expired, neither having uttered a word. The bodies were removed to the morgue and work on the building suspended for the remainder of the day.

A message to the effect that Davis was badly hurt was sent to his home, and his two sons hastened to the sixth precinct station and there learned the sad news of the death. Later the wife and daughter of the deceased were informed of the awful occurrence and were prostrated with grief thereat. The body was removed from the morgue to the home of the family and prepared for burial. As stated, Davis leaves a wife, a grown daughter and two sons, aged 25 years and 16 years respectively. A nephew also resided with the family.

Davis was an inventor of some note, and himself and family have been held in high regard by their neighbors. Mrs. Davis and her daughter were preparing to attend the funeral of a friend when the news of the death of the husband and father was broken to them.

Deputy Coroner Glazebrook will hold an inquest over the remains of one of the men tomorrow morning, at 11 o'clock, at Lee's undertaking establishment.

*The Evening Star, June 20, 1895*

#### **Funeral Services**

Funeral services over the remains of the late Rogerie Davis, who lost his life on Monday by the fall of a scaffold, were held yesterday afternoon at his late residence, 636 H street southwest. At the Congressional Cemetery, where the interment was made, the members of Rescue Lodge, No. 5, I.O.G.T. conducted the burial service, Chief Templar, H.P. Thomas officiated.