

## Mary A. Dorsey ( - 29 May 1906)

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*The Evening Star, May 30, 1906, p. 16*

### **Crushed By A Piano**

#### **Mrs. Mary A. Dorsey of Buena Vista Heights Killed**

When J.H. Dorsey, who is employed as a salesman of the commission house of Robert L. Anderson, went to his home at Buena Vista Heights late yesterday afternoon he received the sad information that his wife, Mrs. Mary A. Dorsey, thirty-eight years of age, had been killed while planning a surprise for their little daughter and himself. It was to have been given them in the form of a piano, and it was while Mrs. Dorsey was assisting her son to remove the instrument from a wagon to their home that the heavy instrument fell upon her and so seriously injured her that she died soon afterward while being taken to Providence Hospital.

Mrs. Dorsey visited the District building yesterday and paid her taxes. While on her way home she was attracted to an auction house by hearing the auctioneer telling of the good qualities of a piano he was trying to sell. The bidding was lively, but Mrs. Dorsey was willing to pay more than the others. She was made happy by the auctioneer accepting her bid and turning the piano over to her when she had made the cash payment. Then she hurried home for her wagon, being anxious to get her purchase home before the return of her husband.

#### *Heavier Than Was Expected*

Upon reaching the front of her house she had the wagon back as close to the door as possible, and her son and other boys proceeded to remove the instrument from the vehicle to the house. It was found heavier than they had anticipated and Mrs. Dorsey thought she would render them what assistance she could. When the heavy burden slipped from the hold of the boys Mrs. Dorsey thought she could prevent it from falling to the ground. Her strength was not sufficient, however, and she fell to the ground, the weight of the piano crushing her chest. Neighbors responded when they heard the children crying for help and lifted the piano from the unconscious woman.

The patrol wagon was summoned from the Anacostia station and the police hurried her to Providence Hospital, hoping they would reach there in time for the surgeons to save the life of the woman, but life was extinct when the hospital was reached. The police removed the remains to the family home and Coroner Nevitt gave a certificate of accidental death. Her husband and five children survive Mrs. Dorsey. Arrangements have been made to inter the remains tomorrow.