

Richard M. Downer

(- 7 Apr 1863)

Downer. On the 7th inst., Richard M. Downer, son of the late Joel Downer in his 39th year. His funeral will take place from his late residence on 13th street, No. 503 this day at 3 o'clock. His friends are invited to attend without further notice.

The Evening Star, April 7, 1863

Death of Ex-Sergeant Downer

Richard M. Downer, ex-Sergeant of the fifth precinct Metropolitan Police, died this morning, of diphtheria. He was an old member of the Franklin Fire Company and the flag of their engine house has been therefore placed at half-mast, and the bell is being solemnly tolled.

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Funeral of Ex-Sergeant Downer

The funeral of Richard M. Downer, late sergeant of the fifth precinct Metropolitan Police takes place this afternoon from his late residence, on Thirteenth street, near Ohio avenue. Though the deceased had been sick a long time, he looked very natural in death, the swelling about his throat caused by diphtheria (which was the immediate cause of death) making a slight disfigurement.

His remains lie in a fine coffin of black walnut, lined with white satin, and adorned with silver-mounted handles, (three on each side). The screws are also silver-mounted. Otherwise the coffin is plain. The funeral services will be conducted by Rev. Dr. Samson, and the remains interred in Glenwood Cemetery.

The funeral is to be attended by such members of the fifth precinct police as are off duty, and by a great number of the members of the Franklin fire company of which deceased was an esteemed member. It was the original intention of the company to attend the funeral in a body, but in accordance with the wishes of Mrs. Downer, this public demonstration is to be dispensed with.

Sergeant Downer leaves a wife and two children to mourn his early death.