

Philip W. Harbin

(23 Dec 1823 – 7 Sep 1890)

The Washington Post, September 8, 1890, p. 2

Officer Harbin Dead

For years he has been a familiar figure in the Police Court. Officer Philip W. Harbin, one of the oldest and best-known policemen on the Force, died suddenly at his home at No. 724 Seventh Street southeast, about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, from heart failure. Mr. Harbin was in his sixty-fifth year, and has been connected with the police department all of his life. For the past twenty-five years he had been stationed at the Police Court. His duties were always faithfully and efficiently performed [part of his job was to convey prisoners from the Court to the jail], and by his death the police force loses one of the best of the veterans, who are now slowly passing away.

Mr. Harbin went to the Police Court yesterday morning, but was soon obliged to give up, and was removed to his home. Many expressions of sincere sorrow on the part of his colleagues were received by his family during last night.

The Evening Star, September 8, 1890, p. 3

Death of Policeman Harbin

Philip W. Harbin, a well-known member of the metropolitan police force, died suddenly at his residence, No. 724 7th street southeast, about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mr. Harbin has been on the force since September 17, 1861, and was well and favorably known as the officer in charge of the prisoners at the Police Court, to which duty he was detailed some years since. His unassuming manners and kindly dispositions gained for him the friendship and respect of all brought in contact with him. Mr. Harbin was born in St. Mary's County, Md., December 23, 1823, and in early life learned the shoe-making business with the late James Cull of East Washington. In ante-bellum days Mr. Harbin was active in the local military organizations, and for some years was the orderly sergeant of the old Walker Sharp Shooters of North Washington, and subsequently for some years was a member of Col. Tait's old company -- Company A, National Guard. A few years before the war Mr. Harbin located near Beltsville, Md., but returned to the city in 1861, and was, as above stated, appointed on the police force. He leaves a widow and two grown children. He was a member of Union Lodge, No. 11, Magenenu Encampment, No. 4, and Washington Grand Canton, and also of the Grand Lodge and Grand Encampment, I.O.O.F. The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at half-past 4 o'clock and the interment will be at Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, September 10, 1890

Funeral of Policeman Harbin

Philip W. Harbin, the veteran policeman, who died suddenly on Sunday afternoon from heart failure, was buried yesterday afternoon from his late home, No. 724 Seventh Street southeast. The funeral procession left the house at 5:20 'clock and interment took place at Congressional Cemetery. Quite a large number of the dead man's friends on the police force attended the funeral. The floral offerings were simple and appropriate. As Mr. Harbin was an active Odd Fellow, Union Lodge, Maganeau Encampment, and the Grand Encampment, attended the funeral.

The Washington Post, September 25, 1890, p. 8

A Police Sergeant Retired

Sergeant J. McL. Brill, of the Georgetown precinct, has been retired on a pension of \$50 per month, as anticipated by The Post, and a pension of \$20 per month has also been granted to Mrs. Sarah Harbin, the widow of Policeman Harbin. Maj. Moore said yesterday that he will decide upon the promotions to the vacancy that have been created by Sergeant Brill's retirement in a few days, but did not feel at liberty to announce any names as yet.

See Evening Star, June 19, 1964 for info. On his activities on day of Arsenal Funeral.