

## William Columbus Harper

( - 15 Feb 1897)

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**Harper.** On Monday, February 15, 1897 at his residence, No. 118 5th street northwest at 1:20 p.m., William Columbus Harper in the 77th year of his age. Funeral services at St. Patrick's 10th and G street northwest, Thursday, February 18 at 10 o'clock a.m.

*The Evening Star, February 16, 1897*

### **Death of W.C. Harper**

#### **The Well-Known United States Commissioner Passes Away**

After remaining in a critical condition for several weeks, Mr. William C. Harper, for many years a justice of the peace and United States commissioner, died late yesterday afternoon at his residence, 118 5th street northeast. Mr. Harper was 77 years of age, and had been in feeble health for some time. He fell about a year ago and broke his leg and never recovered fully from the accident.

The deceased was one of the oldest and best-known justices in the District. When it was the practice, years ago, to try prisoners at the police stations, Judge Harper served at the first precinct, and later occupied the Police Court bench from time to time. He also conducted a law business having an office at 456 Louisiana avenue, and was a leading member of the local bar.

Judge Harper leaves a family of four children, three sons and a daughter. Two of the sons, Joseph Harper and N.C. Harper, are at present deputy clerks of the Police Court. Judge Harper's wife died about eighteen months ago and her demise proved a severe shock to him and it is believed, had much to do in hastening his end.

The funeral will take place Thursday morning next at 10 o'clock, from St. Patrick's Church.

The death of Judge Harper was formally called to the attention of Judge Kimball today in the Police Court by Major J. McDowell Carrington, who briefly eulogized the deceased. Major Carrington moved that the court adjourn in respect to the memory of the deceased.

"Whilst the death of Judge Harper has not been unexpected," said Judge Kimball in reply, "yet it was a severe shock to all of us. I knew him for years, as a citizen, as a justice and as a judge. He was a man among men, respected wherever he went, quiet and unassuming, and beloved wherever he was known. The court will now adjourn in respect to his memory, and the clerk is directed that it be so entered on the records."