

Robert V. Harrison

(- 29 May 1877)

Harrison. On the morning of May 29, 1877 at 6 o'clock, Robert Harrison in the 48th year of his age. Funeral on the 31st inst. at 4 o'clock. Friends are respectfully invited to attend without further notice from his late residence, No. 1429 Ohio avenue.

The Evening Star, June 6, 1877

The Late Bob Harrison

His Eccentric Life, Lonesome Death, and the Estate He Left

Mr. Robert V. Harrison, for many years known to our citizens, especially as having been an active member of the old volunteer fire department, attached to the Columbia engine, and for about six years a member of the old Auxiliary Guard--the police force of Washington at one time--died on the 29th of May at his residence on Ohio avenue, between 14th and 15th streets, having been sick for several days. The deceased had lived alone in the house where he died for some years past, and it is thought that he was sick for about ten days previous to his death, and was doctoring himself. He, however, became so weak that he made his way downstairs to the front door, and calling some of his neighbors they discovered his condition and took him back to bed, and Dr. J. Frank Hartigan was summoned and attended him. While he was on his death-bed there was some talk about there having been several hundred dollars about the house. After his death, Mr. F.W. Gollady, who resides in that neighborhood, suggested that as there were no relatives near that he would apply for letters of administration, but after the funeral, which was conducted by Mr. R.W. Barker, undertaker, Dr. Hartigan applied to the Probate Court of letters of collection which were granted. Dr. Hartigan found that the estate was much larger than any of the friends of the deceased supposed. He ascertained that Golladay had deposited to his own credit, in Riggs & Co's bank, about \$5,000 in gold; also that the deceased held U.S. registered bonds to the amount of several thousand dollars. Yesterday, by his attorney, Mr. J.G. Payne, D. Hartigan petitioned for a rule on Golladay to show cause why the money should not be transferred from the account of Golladay to his (H's) account, and service was made yesterday. The Probate Court has already directed publication to be made, in order to find the legal heirs. The deceased, was the reputed son of Mrs. Harrison who kept a house at the corner of 10th and C streets, and who died several years since, leaving, it is stated, the bulk of her estate to the deceased. The deceased learned in early life the trade of a blacksmith, and after obtaining majority he served six years on the police, but since then has been engaged in no particular business, evidently having enough of this world's goods to live on. Although in some respects a singular man, averse to speaking of his business, he was one who secured many friends, and was familiarly known as Bob Harrison.

The Evening Star, June 12, 1877

The Late Bob Harrison's Estate

Today, in the Probate Court, Mr. F.W. Golladay, on whom a notice was served to show cause why certain money alleged to have been in the house when Harrison died should not be turned over to the collector appointed by the court, filed his answer. He states that after Harrison's death, he (Golladay) having assisted in nursing the deceased, took the money (\$4,001) and a check for \$107.88 and deposited it with Riggs & Co. for safe-keeping, and that he has transferred it to the collector.

The Evening Star, February 7, 1880

**The Robert V. Harrison Estate
A Decision for the Casseens**

Yesterday Judge MacArthur, before whom the second contest for the estate of the late Robert V. Harrison was argued about six weeks since, (As reported in The Star at the time) made a decision. It will be remembered that the decedent, the reputed son of Mrs. Harrison, who for years kept houses on C and 13th streets of questionable character, died on Ohio avenue in May 1877, leaving a personal estate of some \$6,000 and the real estate property on which he died. Dr. J.F. Hartigan, who attended him in his illness, as a creditor obtained administration of the estate and advertised for the heirs. Miss Hamilton and sister put in a claim that Mrs. Harrison was a daughter of Edward Hamilton, a brother to their father, Eben T. Hamilton, of Loudon county, Va. The government claimed that Mrs. Harrison was "Cinthy" Ashford, of Alexandria, who with her sister fell into loose ways while working at the cotton factory near Four Mile Run; that she became the mistress of Mr. Harrison, and after living with him a few years in Alexandria, came to this city and opened a house of assignation, and that her younger sister was the mother of the deceased by Robert Rutherford, and she being poor, let Bob with Mrs. Harrison to raise. This case was decided by Judge Olin, December 31st, 1878, adversely to Miss Hamilton and sister. The present claimants--Murphy et al. then petitioned for the estate, claiming that Jane A. Murphy, Mary F. Fox and Anna Caseen are the children and heirs at law of Rachel Caseen, daughter of Thomas Ashford, brother of Nancy Ashford. Nancy, they claim, was Mrs. Harrison. A large amount of testimony was taken. The case was argued before Judge MacArthur in December last by the Messrs. Claughton for petitioners and Wells for the government, and yesterday the court decided that the proof showed that Robert Harrison was the son of Cynthia Ashford, who intermarried with one Harrison, and that the female petitioners were the grandchildren of Thomas Ashford, the brother of Cynthia Ashford, and they were entitled to the estate. District Attorney Corkhill noted an appeal to the General Term.