

Edward N. Jacobs

(- 19 Jan 1873)

The Evening Star, January 20, 1873

Sad Death of a Government Clerk

While Suffering from Aberation of Mind He is Frozen to Death in the Smithsonian Grounds

Yesterday morning, between 6 and 7 o'clock, the dead body of a man was found in the Smithsonian grounds, between the entrance gate of the north enclosure at 10th street and the gateway on 12th street. The body when discovered was lying under a tree some seventy yards inside the enclosure. It was in a recumbent position, attired in a black overcoat and undercoat, black vest, light pants, and neatly laundered shirt and collar. On the little finger of the left hand was a gold ring, and beside the body was the hat, in which were a pair of kid gloves and a linen cuff. Under the tree was spread a linen handkerchief, as if for the purpose of the unfortunate man laying his head upon it. When found the body was quite limber, the ears only being hard frozen. Police Officer Young picked the body up and with the aid of a colored man who was passing, placed it on his shoulder and carried it as far as the corner of Louisiana avenue and 10th street, where he met Sergeant Clayton, who assisted him in carrying the remains to the central guardhouse. Dr. J.F. Hartigan was called in as soon as possible, but too late to do any service, as the man was dead.

Coroner Patterson was notified and held an inquest at 2 o'clock. In the meantime a search of the pockets revealed the name of the dead man to have been Edward N. Jacobs, a clerk in the redemption division of the Treasury Department, and his residence to be No. 17 9th street northeast. In his pockets were found a small amount in currency, several bank notices of notes due between the 19th and 22d inst., and a diary containing principally memoranda relating to his indebtedness. On was a sheet of paper enumerating all his outstanding debts, footing up to a total of about \$900, and on the back of this memorandum were the words "important," enclosed in brackets. Word was sent to his residence, and a brother of the deceased, a clerk in the Post Office Department soon came and seemed to be in the deepest grief. He said that the deceased left home on Saturday afternoon about 5 o'clock, to attend a lecture at the Young Men's Christian Association building, and not returning his mother was in great distress as he was a man of very regular habits and very exemplary character. His mother sat up on Saturday night until midnight waiting his return, and the brother of deceased persuaded her finally to retire and he remained sitting up till nearly morning waiting for the missing man. It seems as if he attended the lecture as he had a check in his pocket entitling him to a seat. His brother stated that about one year ago deceased wandered over to Arlington, and was gone two days and nights, sleeping on the ground, without giving any reason for it. He was a very temperate man, never having been known to touch liquor. He had lately joined the Masonic order, was a member of the Civil Service Relief Society, and had an insurance policy on his life for \$10,000. Coroner Patterson held an inquest, an autopsy having been made by Dr. Hartigan on the body previous to the enpanneling of the jury. Testimony was given by Messrs. Gallabrown, Young and Dr. Hartigan, after which the jury gave a verdict that "deceased came to his death from exposure, and further, that at the time he was laboring under temporary aberration of mind." The body was then turned over to Mr. Buchly, undertaker, by direction of the relatives of the deceased. Deceased was twenty-two years of age, and unmarried.