

## Thomas F. James ( - 12 May 1896)

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*The Evening Star, May 13, 1896*

### **One More Fatality**

### **Dead Man Found at the New City Post Office**

### **Must Have Fallen From the Fourth Story Some Time Yesterday--**

### **Was a Discharged Workman**

Another fatal accident occurred at the new city post office yesterday afternoon, though it was not discovered until today. Shortly after 12 o'clock this afternoon one of the workmen, who was down in the basement, found the dead body of a man lying inside of one of the turrets on the west side of the building.

The body was identified as that of Thomas F. James, a laborer, who had been employed for some time in the work of "pointing up" the plaster on the outside of the walls. He had been on the work for about six weeks, but was discharged Monday morning. Yesterday afternoon, about 2 o'clock, he made his way to the fourth floor of the building and across the iron beams to where the man who is in charge of that portion of the work was standing. He asked to be put back at work, but the foreman told him that there were no vacancies. James acted as though he had been drinking, and for this reason especially the foreman ordered him down from that dangerous height.

A few minutes later the man attempted to get out onto the scaffolding where a number of men were engaged on the walls, but they refused to allow him to do so. No one saw him after that, but it is supposed that he made his way into the turret, from the windows of which a fine view could be had of the parade on the avenue. The girders are farther apart there than in other portions of the structure, and the supposition is that he missed his footing and fell through to the ground, some feet below the level of the street. The workmen on that part of the building were watching the procession, and did not see the accident, and they all took it for granted that the man had made his way down in safety. From the character of the injuries about the head and body it is evident that the man must have been instantly killed. The body was well dressed, as James had left off his working clothes and was enjoying a holiday.

This is the fifth fatal accident that has happened since work on the building was commenced. James was about thirty-three years of age and was unmarried. He lived on North Capitol street. The body was removed to the morgue and the coroner notified.