William Fred Lewis

(- 14 Jul 1924)

The Evening Star, July 11, 1924, p. 5

Fred Lewis Dies In 15-Foot Fall

Well Known Carpenter Had Worked Here Forty Years Without Accident Scaffold Plank Breaks

Daughter, Unaware of Death, Is Hurrying Back From Visit

For approximately forty years, Fred Lewis, one of the pioneer residents of Northeast Washington, worked in precarious places on partially completed buildings, as he plied his trade of carpenter, and during all that time he never had an accident. Although he recently passed his sixty-fifth birthday anniversary, his vigor was undiminished, and he stuck to the work he loved.

Yesterday, while engaged on one of the easiest jobs in his long and active career -- completing a back porch on a new home at 751 Kentucky avenue southeast -- a plank of the scaffold on which he stood suddenly gave way, and he fell to a pile of lumber scarcely fifteen feet below. His easiest job was his last.

Today Northeast Washington is mourning the passing of the man whose father and grandfather helped transform the northeast Florida avenue section from a wooded countryside, split by a shady stream, into the closely built-up home community it now is, and who himself saw the section grow from a sparsely populated suburb into a city division.

Lived With Daughter

William Frederick Lewis he was christened when he came into being sixty-five years ago, in a little house at 13th and I streets northeast, but everybody knew him as Fred. His wife died six years ago, and since that time he had lived with his only daughter, Stelle, and an orphaned granddaughter, Margaret Inez Clore. Miss Stelle Lewis, although totally blind for eighteen years, is an adept housekeeper, and without aid she easily got all meals, did household chores efficiently and generally managed the home at 1103 Florida avenue northeast.

Miss Lewis is out of town on a visit to relatives and does not know her father is dead. A telegram last night informed her that he was injured in a fall, and she is expected to arrive here some time this evening. She and the granddaughter will live with one of Mr. Lewis' two sons, F.E. Lewis and R.C. Lewis, it is understood.

The fall broke Mr. Lewis' collarbone and two ribs. He was rushed to Casualty Hospital, where he died about 4 o'clock this morning fro