

## George Martin

( - 13 May 1903)

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**Martin.** Suddenly on Wednesday, May 13, 1903 at 1 a.m, George, beloved son of the late Thomas and Mary Martin. Funeral Friday, May 15 at 2 p.m. from chapel of J. William Lee, undertaker, 332 Pennsylvania avenue northwest. Relatives and friends invited.

*The Evening Star, May 13, 1903, p. 8*

### **Overcome By Smoke**

#### **George W. Martin Perishes In Burning Stable Had Gone Into Stall to Rescue Horses-- Cause of the Fire Not Known**

In the smoldering ashes of a fire which completely destroyed a bake house and partly consumed a stable about 12:40 o'clock this morning were found the charred remains of a man, later identified as George W. Martin, a cripple, thirty-two years of age, who lost his life while trying to save two horses from a similar fate.

The fire originated in the bake shop of Jacob B. Rohrer, back of 741 8th street southeast, and spread to an adjoining stable. The blaze was discovered by Policemen Cullinane and Gray, who sounded an alarm from box 518, corner of 8th and I streets southeast, and had gained considerable headway by the time the firemen arrived. It was therefore only by the hardest kind of work that a more disastrous fire was averted. As it was, the bake shop owned by Rohrer, was entirely consumed with its contents, and the damage is estimated at about \$500.

The flames spread to an adjoining stable in rear of 739 8th street southeast, occupied by William R. Walls, in which were stored two gasoline tank wagons, partly filled with the fluid. The structure was enveloped in flames, and it was at first feared that a serious explosion would occur.

The firemen, however, succeeded in dragging the wagons from the stable before the blaze communicated with the contents of the tanks and an explosion was averted. Two horses kept in the stable could not be reached and were burned to death. The police report that Mr. Walls sustained a loss amounting to about \$400.

#### *Search Discloses Body*

Martin, who resided with Mr. Rohrer, was not missed from his room until after the fire had been extinguished. His clothing was found on a chair in his room and a search was at once instituted for him. It was not supposed that he had perished in the flames. In examining the stable, however, his body, clad only in undergarments, was found in the stable beside the dead bodies of the horses, which he had attempted to save.

It is supposed that he was awakened before the arrival of the engines and instead of alarming other occupants of the house hastened to the stable, with the purpose of releasing the horses. The smoke, however, was so dense that he was unable to release the animals after entering the structure, and was himself overcome by smoke and fell to the ground, unable to return to the open air. He had made his home with Mr. Rohrer for the last three years.

The unfortunate man was a dealer in second-hand jewelry, and had a place of business at 815 G street northwest. Upon ascertaining the facts Coroner Nevitt decided that death was accidental and issued a certificate accordingly.

The cause of the fire is not known.