

William R.M. Offutt

(- 16 Jun 1859)

Offutt. On the morning of the 16th instant, at 11 1/2 o'clock, Wm. R.M. Offutt, aged 29 years. His funeral will take place from his late residence on I between 4th and 5th streets, on Friday afternoon, at 3 o'clock; where the friends of the family are invited to attend.

The Evening Star, June 3, 1859

Horrible Accident--One Man Killed, Another Seriously Injured

Yesterday afternoon, at 6 o'clock, as the mechanics at work on Willards' Hotel building were about leaving for the day, two of them, Geo. O. Streeks and Wm. R.M. Offutt, in attempting to lower their kettles from the swinging scaffold on which they had been at work, accidentally caused the scaffold (a ladder) to turn inwards, precipitating them both to the ground. Streeks fell, with his head foremost, a distance of about 27 feet, to the ground, and was so badly injured as to preclude all hope of his recovery; he died about 1 o'clock last night, remaining insensible from the time of the accident. Offutt fell on Streeks, and had his jaw-bone slightly fractured, and his breast-bone, with one of his ribs and legs broken. He slept very well last night and this morning conversed quite freely; last night he expressed great anxiety for his fellow workman, and told them not to mind him, but to attend to Streeks for he thought he would die.

The manner in which the accident occurred, as well as we can ascertain the facts, is this: Streeks, at the time referred to, went and stood upon the inner edge of the ladder, took a rope and tied his kettles to it for the purpose of letting them down on the ground. Offutt standing by and holding on to the rope. Streeks at that time was in a stooping position. On lowering the kettles, he raised himself, and, in doing so, his back struck against the wall, which, pushing the ladder out, caused him to lose his balance. Offutt then, in an attempt to save him, let go the rope that he had hold of; but his efforts were unavailing and he fell with Streeks.

Each of them is a married man. Streeks leaves a wife and two children. Offutt has no children. They were both painters, and worthy men, and in the employ of Parker & Spaulding, who were soon on the spot and rendered every assistance. They have taken charge of Streeks' body. The proprietors of the hotel were unremitting in their efforts to relieve these poor sufferers.

The Evening Star, June 16, 1859

W.R.M. Offutt

This young man, a victim of the unfortunate accident at Willards' Hotel, by which his fellow-workman, George O. Streeks was hurried into eternity, died this morning at the Infirmary, about 11 1/2 o'clock. A few moments before his death we visited the Infirmary. The scene in the chamber was truly sorrowful; near his bedside in silent grief sat his wife, his sister and his mother-in-law; near the door stood his two brothers, awaiting the solemn announcement that all was over; not far distant were his employers, Messrs. Parker and Spalding, who have been unremitting in their attention to him. In the passage were many of his friends and his brethren of the Order of Odd Fellows. The corpse will be taken in charge by Washington Lodge, I.O.O.F., and the funeral attended tomorrow afternoon. The deceased was quite a young man, an excellent mechanic, and highly esteemed by his numerous acquaintances.

The Evening Star, June 18, 1859

Funeral of Mr. Offutt

The funeral of Mr. W.R.M. Offutt took place yesterday afternoon, and notwithstanding the heavy rain, was largely attended by friends of the family and Washington Lodge, No. 6, I.O.O.F., (in hacks). Rev. A. G. Caruthers delivered an impressive funeral discourse at the late residence of the deceased, and the body was conveyed to the burial ground near Congressional Cemetery, where the ritual of the Odd Fellows was read by Chaplain J.T. Clements, and the remains placed in the vault.

The deceased was a member of Franklin Lodge, I.O.O.F. of Baltimore, and since the accident which cost him his life has received the unremitting attentions of the officers and members of the Washington Lodge of this city, thus showing that at home or abroad the members of this "mystic order" receive brotherly care in the hour of distress and death.