

Gaetano Repetti

(7 Jun 1821 – 18 Jun 1904)

The Evening Star, June 14, 1925

Some Musical History

Gaetano Repetti was born at Genoa in 1820, was trained in the art of music from childhood, and



played in bands and orchestras in Italy. He came to the United States and to Washington in 1843, enlisted in the Marine Band, and made his home in a house on Seventh street southeast, between G and I. He remained in the Marine Band till sometime in the Civil War, when he helped recruit and organize in the military camp, part of whose site is Lincoln Park, a band for service in the Union Army of the Potomac.

That band served with troops in the field, but what its name and service were the Rambler does not know. Not long before the end of the war, Gaetano Repetti was a member of Ford's Theater Orchestra, and then later joined the orchestra of the Theater Comique, later Kernan's Lyceum, and now, after many changes, The President Theater. He retired from music and went into business in southeast Washington.

Soon after enlisting in the Marine Band, he bought the frame house, No. 527 Sixth street southeast, and two of his children, Henry Repetti of the Marine Band and Miss Anna, are

living there. It is one of the old and comfortable homes of the street.

Gaetano Repetti married Miss Lena Dilgers at New York. She was German born, and the bride and bridegroom came to the Sixth street home. There all their children were born. In the Star, Monday, June 20, 1904, was this death notice: "On Saturday, June 18, 1904 at 2 p.m. at his residence, 527 Sixth street southeast, Gaetano Repetti in the 84th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, Tuesday, June 21, at 2 p.m.

Of the sons of Gaetano the Rambler remembers Joseph, William, John, Henry, Albert and Frederick. All the boys studied and practiced music except Frederick. He is now Dr. Frederick Repetti, 811 L street northwest. Joseph is with the Capital Traction Co. and Albert has been a clerk in the post office for 24 years.

Henry enlisted in the Marine Band, November 20, 1896, when Francuilli was the leader, and with 18 months more service will be able to retire. William and John Repetti, who played in band and orchestra, are dead. There were several daughters. Ida Repetti married Dr. T.V. Ward, Minnie married Walter English and Kate married Michael Gallagher.