

August H. Voss

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August Voss Dead

Night Station Keeper a Victim of Heart Disease

Body Found with Life Extinct

His Death Believed to Have Been Instantaneous

Sketch of His Life

August H. Voss, the night station keeper of No. 7 police station, died suddenly this morning about 7 o'clock in the kitchen of his home, at 1308 29th street. Death is supposed to have been due to an attack of heart failure. The body was discovered about 7:20 by the wife of the unfortunate man, and Dr. Clifton Mayfield was called, but the victim was beyond human aid and skill. Policeman Englehart entered the house and carried the remains from the kitchen to the first floor.

Mr. Voss was on duty last night as usual, and seemed to be in his usual health. This morning, after 3 o'clock, he was joking with some of the men, and when he left, at 6 o'clock, for his home he seemed to be perfectly well. On his way to his home he stopped at several stores and made small purchases. According to his usual custom he went to the kitchen upon his arrival, attended to the fire in the range and looked after the ashes. He had lighted a gas stove and had taken two kettles to the spigots at the sink and was filling them when the fatal attack came. He had evidently attempted to catch hold of something in his fall, and when his body was discovered by his wife his head was lying up in a corner between the wall and the range.

The Wife's Discovery

In falling the body struck the faucet of the pipe and partly turned it on, and the water dripped out upon the floor. It had been Mr. Voss' custom after attending to his usual morning duties to waken his wife, and she would prepare breakfast. This morning Mrs. Voss slept a little later than usual, and dressing hurriedly she quickly came down stairs to the kitchen. Both of the spigots at the sink were still running and the two kettles beneath were full of water and running over. The water from the drain pipe of the boiler had spread over several yards of the floor, and the feet of the prostrate form were wet by the overflow. The gas stove, as stated, had been lighted. Mrs. Voss is not strong, but she managed to pull the body away from the corner, and then turned off the faucet of the boiler, checking the flow of water.

When Dr. Mayfield appeared a few minutes later he pronounced death to have been instantaneous. There were no bruises on the head or body from the fall, and it is said to be certain that death resulted from heart disease.

Old in the Service

Mr. Voss was one of the oldest station keepers in the employ of the police department, and he was esteemed by all the men who served in the station in which he was connected. He was formerly a victim of vertigo, but of late years enjoyed an immunity from such attacks. Some time ago he went to a physician, who pronounced him afflicted with heart trouble, and about three weeks ago he had an attack while at the station. Speaking of the matter to his wife afterward he said he thought at the time he was going to die.

The wife was prostrated by the sudden blow, and her sufferings were painful to witness. Besides the widow the deceased leaves two sons, Charles H. Voss and Wm. H. Voss, both married, who live in

the city. The aged mother of Mr. Voss is also living, having attained the ripe age of 97, and she made her home with her son. On account of her advanced age she is in delicate health. Only a few days ago the deceased jokingly remarked to some friends that he ought to consider himself a boy, because his mother was living, and she had nearly reached the hundred-year mark.

Native of Germany

The deceased was born December 19, 1830, at Hanover, Germany, and came to this country while a youth, being about eight years of age at the time. Since being in this country he has resided almost continuously in the District. He was a watch maker by trade and at one time kept a jewelry store on 32d street.

He was appointed to the police force July 18, 1862, and after holding the office for several years resigned, May 7, 1868. He was reappointed January 12, 1871, and on February 1, 1878, was appointed a detective. He was legislated out of office January 31, 1883, and on January 13, 1887, was reappointed as a station keeper, having remained in that office ever since. For some years he was night station keeper at No. 4 precinct, and about two or three years ago was transferred to the Georgetown precinct, where he remained until his death.