

Robert W. Willett

(- 25 Oct 1867)

The Evening Star, October 24, 1867

Fatal Accident

Yesterday afternoon an accident occurred on Virginia avenue, between 3d and 4 1/2 streets, which resulted in the death of Mr. Robert W. Willet, one of the most respected citizens of South Washington. It appears that Mr. Willet, with his son, Dr. Willet, has been riding, and stopped at the blacksmith shop of Mr. Parkhill, where they got out of the vehicle. When they again took their seats in the buggy, the horse, a spirited animal, showed a disposition to rear and plunge and Mr. Willet attempted to get out, when by some means his leg slipped through the spokes of the wheel and the horse at that moment started off, when the limb was violently twisted and his back thrown against the dash board. The horse had proceeded but a few yards when he was stopped by Mr. Parkhill, and persons went to the relief of Mr. Willet. To release him it was necessary to take the wheel off the buggy. Mr. Willet was at once removed to a store nearby, but the arteries of his leg having been severed he lost considerable blood. Drs. Walsh, Riley and others were promptly at hand to aid the sufferer, but their efforts were without avail; death putting an end to his sufferings in about 20 minutes. An examination revealed the fact that the hip had been dislocated, the leg broken both above and below the knee, and the ankle bone fractured. Officers Hickman and Whitmore, of the First precinct, were present and rendered all the assistance in their power. The body of Mr. Willet was removed to his residence on south F street, near 4 1/2.