

Zadock Williams, Jr.

(- 12 Dec 1893)

Williams. Suddenly on December 12, 1893 at 5:30 o'clock p.m., Zadock, the beloved husband of Eva Williams. Funeral will take place from his brother-in-law's residence, 1218 G street southeast on Friday at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

The Evening Star, December 13, 1893

Fatality at a Fire

A Brave Fireman Loses His Life in a Smoke Trap

The Janitor of a Building Also Has a Narrow Escape--

The Fire in the Basement of the Blau Building

At an early hour last evening there was a fatal fire in the Blau building, at the northwest corner of 14th and G streets. Considerable damage was also done to the building. Foreman Zadock Williams of the chemical engine lost his life through suffocation, and Edward Allen, the colored janitor, was found in an unconscious condition on the second floor of the burning building. It was about 5:30 o'clock when Correspondents Crouse and Bangs of the World bureau, which is located on the ground floor of the building on the 14th street side, discovered fire in the building. A telephone message soon brought the chemical engine to the scene of the fire. The flames had seemingly gained such headway that Foreman Williams ordered one of his men to have an alarm sounded, which brought several engine companies to the scene. It was difficult for a time to locate the fire and to get the streams of water upon it. Smoke issued in dense and suffocating volumes, apparently coming through the floor and walls of the World office. Finally the flames were reached in the rear of the basement beneath that office, where they had originated.

How Williams Died

While waiting for the arrival of the engine and truck companies, Foreman Williams went in the basement to operate his chemical extinguisher in hope of getting the fire well under control. His failure to return from that part of the burning building caused no great alarm, for his comrades thought of course that he was in a safe place, but in this they were mistaken, for the door leading to the particular part of the building in which the fire started, it appears, had closed on him, and he was confined there in the cloud of smoke unable to get out. Soon after the arrival of the engines the members of No. 1 company had flooded the basement. While Foreman Boss and others were working there in the dark, Foreman Boss stumbled over Williams' inanimate form. Foreman Williams was lying on the floor, with his face downward in six inches of water. When being carried to the pavement outside there was but little, if any, signs of life. The patrol wago carried the unfortunate fireman quickly to the Emergency Hospital, but he was dead when the physicians there examined him. The deceased was in the building, it is thought, fully fifteen or twenty minutes before he was discovered.

The Janitor's Narrow Escape

Soon after the finding of Foreman Williams, and when the fire was under control, one of the firemen found on the second floor, Edward Allen, the colored janitor, who had been cut off from escape by the smoke and heat. He was unconscious, but when taken to the Emergency Hospital his condition improved.

The origin of the fire could not be ascertained. The building is owned by Herman E. Blau. The real estate office of Banes & Simpson is on the first floor, adjoining the World office, while on the second floor is the office of John F. Waggaman, as is that of the Driggs Ordnance Company. The loss amounted to about \$600, of which \$400 was to the World office. The Lincoln and Columbia insurance companies will settle the bills.

The body of the dead fireman was taken to the engine house from the hospital, and later was removed to the late home of the deceased, No. 1218 G street southeast.

A Relief Fund

Soon after the flames had been extinguished a fund was started for the family of the deceased fireman, who was 26 years old, and who leaves a wife and child. Those who contributed to the fund were Banes & Simpson, \$50; Herman E. Blau, \$15; Charles G. Sloan, \$10; Mr. Harrington, \$10; Robert E. Morris and John F. Waggaman, \$25.

Mr. Charles Simpson of the firm of Banes & Simpson will receive all contributions that may be made to the fund. The circumstances of the case are distressing, the little family being left completely destitute by the tragedy.

The Evening Star, December 15, 1893

Funeral of Zadock Williams

The funeral of the late Zadock Williams of the chemical engine company, whose death was caused by suffocation at the fire on G and 14th streets Tuesday evening took place from his late residence, 1218 G street southeast this afternoon. Rev. G.F. Williams of Christ Episcopal Church officiated.

The following detail of firemen in charge of Assistant Chief L.P. Lowe, attended the funeral: Foreman A.J. Sullivan, truck C; Privates Fenton and Farr, No. 1; Fireman Robinson and Private Snyder, No. 2; Privates Frazier and Robertson, No. 3; Hostler Waldron and Private Kiehus, No. 4; Engineer Angell and Hostler Allen, No. 5; Privates Wright and Hunt, No. 6; Fireman Dean and Private Grimm, No. 7; Engineer Ricks and Private Schrom, No. 8; Fireman O'Connor and Hostler Mahaney, No. 9; Privates Killigan and Taylor, truck A; Privates Purcell and Oliver, truck B; Hostler Doleman, Privates Dixon and Sullivan, truck C. The floral offering of the members of truck C company was a fire hat and belt. The frontpiece of the hat represented chemical engine No. 1.