

Joseph Acton

(27 Jun 1843 - 28 Dec 1912)



Acton. On December 28, 1912 at 3 a.m., Joseph Acton, late sergeant of police. Funeral Monday, December 30 at 2 p.m. From Wise's undertaker's parlor 29th and M streets, Georgetown. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

Evening Star, December 28, 1912

Death of Joseph Acton

Former Policeman Passes Away in Hospital for the Insane

Joseph Acton, sixty-nine years old, a retired policeman, died this morning at the Government Hospital for the Insane, having been sent there a few days ago following his arrest on P street near the car barn of the Washington Railway and Electric Company, where he was trying to jump on moving cars.

Policeman Bourk watched him try to board several cars, and finally he fell and had to be picked up. He objected to being arrested, but it was

evident that his mind was affected, and the policeman thought he should be cared for.

The patient was kept under observation at Washington Asylum Hospital only a few days before he was transferred to the Government Hospital for the Insane. His physical and mental condition grew steadily worse until he died.

One of the Most Popular Policemen

Joseph Acton was one of the most popular members of the police, serving from April 12, 1867, until he was retired, November 1, 1911, with the exception of about one year following the time the old detective force was legislated out of office. Two years after he became a member of the force he was promoted, and filled the position of sergeant until March, 1872, when he was selected to serve as a member of the detective corps. He was legislated out of office in January, 1883.

August 12, 1884, he was reinstated, and six years later was made sergeant. In 1890 he was reduced at his own request and given a detail at Police Court, where he performed duty until November 1, 1911, when he was retired.

He suffered from cancer of the face. He is survived by his second wife and a daughter by his first wife. Arrangements for his funeral have not been completed.

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CLIP FILES

The Evening Star, June 11, 1892

Lieut. Guy's Successor

...The other promotions and appointments caused by the death of Lieut. Guy are as follows; Acting Sergeant Joseph Acton to be sergeant, Private E.J. Keefe to be noting sergeant, Private W.E. Austin to be a private of class two and Charles G. Nauck to be a private of class one.

The Evening Star, November 1, 1911, p. 11

Policeman Joe Acton Retires On Pension Gives Up Post at Police Court He Had Many Years

Disabled at three-score and eight, Policeman Joseph Acton has surrendered his equipments, severed his connection with the force and given up his post at Police Court, where he has been a familiar figure for many years. He is succeeded in this assignment by Policeman John H. Barry, his senior by ten years and the oldest man in the service. Both have been policemen for over forty-four years, Barry enlisting in January, 1867, just three months before Acton joined the force, in April the same year. Policeman Acton is retired because of his physical disabilities. In recognition of his long and useful service the Commissioners have allotted him a pension of \$50 a month, the maximum allowed by law.

His Successor Named

Policeman Barry was today designated by Maj. Sylvester, chief of police, to fill the detail at Police Court vacated by Policeman Acton's retirement. He is transferred from the detail at the loop, near Connecticut avenue bridge, over Rock Creek.

Both policemen have served the department as sergeants. Joseph Acton was a member of the detective force, but was legislated out of service in 1883. His reappointment was made April 16, 1884. He is a native of Washington, where he was born June 27, 1843. Much of Policeman Barry's duty was performed in South Washington. There he was popular with the men, although a strict disciplinarian. He was a native of Howard country. He was born October 29, 1833. Dr. Edmund Barry, one of the police surgeons, is his son.