Robert W. Addis

(- 16 Nov 1873)

The Evening Star, Nov. 21, 1873

Sudden Death--A Burial and Exhumation

On Friday night last, Mr. R.W. Addis, the well-known photographer, who has for some years conducted the Addis gallery on Pennsylvania avenue, near 13th street, died suddenly at his residence, 127 C street northwest, and preparations were made for the funeral, which was to take place, Monday afternoon. The brother of the deceased arrived on Saturday night, and the family, being apprehensive that the body would not keep until Monday without becoming very offensive, made the necessary preparations for an earlier funeral, and the body was therefore interred at Congressional cemetery on Sunday afternoon--the undertaker (Mr. Burgdorff) being furnished with a certificate signed John Bray, M.D. Some of the neighbors and friends of the deceased thought that the cause of death should be investigated and called on Coroner Patterson a few days after the interment, who caused the body to be exhumed, and it was removed to Mr. Burgdorff's establishment, and a post mortem was made. Dr. Patterson, on inquiring of the family, ascertained that the deceased was in the habit of sleeping with his son, and retired on Friday night in apparent good health. During the night the son heard his father groaning, and attempted to awaken him, but was unsuccessful, and he called his mother, who sent him for a physician, and he called Dr. Bray, who lived next door, but before the latter arrived the deceased was dead. A very careful post mortem examination was made, and a very clearly-defined case of apoplexy was found. This investigation resulted in entirely dispelling all suspicions of foul play, and the body was reinterred by Mr. Burgdorff.