

## John Baker ( - 23 Mar 1881)

---

*The Evening Star, March 23, 1881*

### **An Old Soldier's Suicide**

#### **He Opens a Vein in His Arm and Bleeds to Death**

About 7 o'clock this morning an elderly white man, named John Baker, an old soldier, who has been about this city the past winter trying for an increase of pension, was found dead in bed at the Bayard House, corner 10th and E streets. The colored boy-servant who found him reported the facts, and upon further examination it was found that he had bled to death from a wound inflicted in his arm, and two penknives were found on the floor near his bed. Baker was an Englishman by birth, and served in the Union army during the war, and afterwards obtained a private soldier's pension, which he has since been drawing and living in the soldiers' homes at Dayton, Ohio, and at Hampton, Va. He came to this city last fall for the purpose of obtaining an increase of pension, but meeting with no success, he afterwards tried to get a transfer to the Soldiers' Home in the District, but in consequence of having violated some rules connected with the institutions where he had been previously staying, he also failed in this object. In the meantime he has obtained lodging for a considerable portion of the time in the night lodging house, but latterly has not been seen there much. He also had a life interest in a deceased brother's estate in England and received a remittance half yearly of \$75, making \$150 annually from his agent in England, which together with his pension here supported him comfortably, he having no family. The coroner viewed the remains and decided that an inquest was unnecessary as there was no question as to how he came to his death.

*The Evening Star, March 28, 1881*

**The Funeral of John Baker**, the old soldier who committed suicide last Wednesday night at the Bayard house, corner of 10th and E street, took place Saturday last from the undertaking establishment of Mr. Anthony Buckley, Pennsylvania avenue, and was attended by the friends of the deceased and members of the Grand Army of the Republic. The remains were laid in a walnut coffin, and Rev. C.C. Meador, of the 5th Baptist church of South Washington, held appropriate services, after which the body was interred in the Congressional Cemetery, where Mr. Buckley purchased a burial site. Deceased left not one cent of money, having expended all his pension money in the payment of obligations, and Mr. B. has to trust to the honor of surviving relations, if any are living for reimbursement. Mr. Baker was an Englishman by birth, and bore evidences of having been genteelly raised and educated. He was engaged at the time of his death in making a model of the U.S. Capitol as a matter of pastime.