

Elizabeth E. Clagett

(- 23 Aug 1898)

The Evening Star, August 23, 1898

Dies Among Strangers

Mrs. Elizabeth Clagett Closes Her Career in Almshouse Hospital

Mrs. Elizabeth Clagett, apparently more than 50 years old, died in the almshouse hospital this morning with no relatives or friends about her bedside to say to her a comforting word. She had relatives by marriage, it is stated, both in this city and Maryland.

Mrs. Clagett was a widow whose husband died and left her to subsist upon her own resources several years ago. Since then she has been employed in the government printing office, but during recent years, it is said, she had a hard struggle to keep soul and body together. She lived in an office building at 458 Louisiana avenue for a long time, but for some reason moved away. Last September she returned to this building and rented the back room on the third floor, paying \$5 a month rent. Two months ago she said she was no longer able to pay this amount of rent and she moved to a little attic room.

Two weeks or more ago she complained of being sick. Her only friend, so far as was known, was Mrs. Annie McCarthy. She called on Mrs. Clagett at irregular intervals, and was instrumental in having her sent to the hospital. More than a week ago application for her removal to a hospital was made to Sanitary Officer Frank, but when the ambulance was sent for her she was not in a condition to be moved. She was too weak to put on her clothes, and the sanitary officer sent for Mrs. McLeod, one of the police matrons. The matron dressed her and she was removed to the hospital. Since then Mrs. McCarthy has interested herself in the case and called on the police. She said yesterday that the unfortunate woman had her life insured for at least \$100, which would pay for her decent burial. A brother of the dead woman, she said, is connected with the custom house at Montreal. Mrs. Clagett was a native of Canada.

Major Sylvester today telegraphed information of the woman's death to her brother and asked what disposition should be made of the body.

The Evening Star, August 24, 1898

Burial of Mrs. Clagett

Mr. Kemp's Efforts to Prevent Interment in Potter's Field

Chief Clerk J. Arthur Kemp of the police department is doing his utmost to prevent the burial of the body of Mrs. Elizabeth E. Clagett in potter's field. She is the woman who died in the almshouse hospital early yesterday morning, as published in yesterday's Star. Her brother in the Montreal custom house was notified of her death, but no response has been received from him. It was stated yesterday that the woman had relatives in this city, as well as in Montreal, but no one has yet come forward to claim the body or offer any assistance. It was also stated that her life was insured for about \$100, and it was to find her insurance papers that Mr. Kemp made a thorough search of her room in an office building adjoining the District building this afternoon. He failed to find any such papers, however, but did find papers to show that she has been receiving a pension of \$8 a month.

Her pension papers give her name as Elizabeth E. Clagett, widow of Harrison C. Clagett, alias William Leroy, who was a member of Battery G, 4th Artillery. In the directory the woman's name appears as Elizabeth E. Clagett, widow of Cornelius H. Clagett.

Chief Clerk Kemp learned that the unfortunate woman had two children, who are with relatives in Montreal. It was Mr. Kemp's effort to find something to guarantee the expenses of a decent funeral. The cheapest funeral in a cemetery where white and colored people are buried is \$24, while \$40 will pay for interment in another cemetery.

Among the woman's effects were many letters, mostly from relatives in Montreal, while some few were addressed to J.H. Hatch, who, it is thought, was the woman's first husband. Several years ago Mrs. Clagett lived at 625 F street and also at 609 F street.

Besides a set of furniture in the attic room are two large trunks, well filled with clothing, and a number of pictures. With the little pension money due Mrs. Clagett and a few small contributions, Chief Clerk Kemp will be able to prevent interment in potter's field.

Late this afternoon Chief Clerk Kemp was informed that Mrs. Clagett's first husband was John H. Hatch, who was a clerk in the Treasury Department. Among her effects was found a paper to show that Mr. Hatch was a member of a Masonic relief association.

The Evening Star, August 25, 1898

Buried in Congressional Cemetery

The body of Elizabeth E. Clagett, who died in the Almshouse Hospital Tuesday morning, as heretofore published in The Star, found a resting place this afternoon in Congressional cemetery beside the body of her departed husband, who died a number of years ago. Mrs. Annie McCarthy, who took such a deep interest in the case and assisted Chief Clerk Kemp of the police department in the matter, is the one who learned of the burial place of Mr. Clagett's body. It turned out that Mrs. Clagett's life was insured for \$135, and this money will be drawn upon in defraying the funeral expenses.