

Joseph C. Cline

(- 14 Feb 1897)

Cline. Suddenly on Sunday morning, February 14, 1897, Joseph C., beloved husband of Rebecca A. Cline. Funeral from Epiphany Chapel, 12th and C streets southwest, on Wednesday, February 17 at 3 o'clock p.m. Friends and relatives are invited to attend. (Philadelphia and Baltimore papers please copy).

The Evening Star, February 15, 1897

Died at His Post

Joseph C. Cline, an elderly white man, who has been employed for the past fifteen years as watchman at the Citizens' National Bank, was found dead at his post at the bank yesterday morning. He was alone in the building at the time so that there is no way of telling when he died.

Cline was always on duty all day Sunday, and it was customary for his son to bring his breakfast to him. Yesterday morning when the young man reached the bank and knocked for admission he was unable to get a reply. Becoming alarmed he sought assistance from the police, and the day engineer was sent for. Entrance was finally obtained and a search for Cline began. In this the son and the police were assisted by a little terrier that Cline always had with him. The intelligent animal barked to attract their attention and then guided them to the basement. There the faithful old watchman was found lying in a corner in the basement. He had been dead for some time, and from the position of the body it was evident that he died in great agony.

It was at first thought that Cline had met with foul play, but a thorough examination of the building showed that all the windows and doors were securely locked, so that no one could have entered or left the place. The officers of the bank were at once summoned, and they made an investigation which showed that everything was in proper condition. Deputy Coroner Glazebrook viewed the body, and later a certificate of death from heart disease was given. Cline was about sixty years of age, and enjoyed the trust and confidence of his superiors. He lived at 606 C street southwest.