

## Harry Walter Coleman

( - 4 Feb 1915)

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*The Evening Star, February 5, 1915, p. 20*

### **Ponderous Showman Dies**

#### **Harry Coleman Succumbs to Fatty Degeneration of the Heart**

Harry Coleman, thirty-nine years old, said to have been one of the largest men ever seen in any of the side shows of the country, died last night at the Washington Asylum Hospital. Coleman was taken to the hospital yesterday morning, and died seven hours later, the cause of death being fatty degeneration of the heart. The body is to be sent to Shelbourne Falls, Mass., for interment.

Coleman weight 749 pounds, it is stated and the services of twelve men were required to handle the body at the hospital. He had been appearing at a Washington side show recently. It was stated that six years ago he weighed but 165 pounds. Recovering at that time from typhoid fever, he began to take on weight. A special coffin is to be constructed for the body, it is understood.

*The Washington Post, February 8, 1915, p. 10*

### **Giant's Body Unclaimed**

#### **Remains of 750-Pound Member of Freak Show Still at Hospital**

The body of "Handsome Harry" Coleman, 750-pound giant and former cartoonist for the Boston Globe, still lies at Washington Asylum Hospital, where he died on Thursday. A sister, the nearest surviving relative of the dead man, was telegraphed at Shelburne Falls, Mass., two days ago, it being desired to get her consent to an autopsy, but nothing has as yet been heard from her. The manager of the sideshow at 409 Ninth street northwest, where Coleman was an attraction previous to his last illness, visited the hospital yesterday and examined the dead man's papers without bringing to light anything which might assist in locating other relatives.

A local undertaking firm also sent a representative to the hospital, who took measurements of the huge body preparatory to constructing the special coffin necessary to contain the remains. The body will probably be removed today to an undertaking parlor unless news is received from Coleman's sister.