

Henry N. Ober

(– 14 Jun 1872)

The Evening Star, June 12, 1865

A Family Poisoned

Within a week past six persons in the family of Mr. H.N. Ober, of the Sixth Ward, have been taken seriously ill with symptoms peculiar to cases of poisoning. It is supposed that their sickness was occasioned by heating of a ham on which some poisonous substance had been used. Mrs. Burdine, Mrs. Ober's mother, was attacked on Sunday last, one of the children on Monday morning, and Mrs. Ober, her sister, the child and the servant girl on Tuesday. They are all in a fair way of recovery, although at one time there was little hope for some of them. The two Drs. Roberts have had charge of the cases. It is understood that the bacon is in the hands of a chemist for analysis.

The Evening Star, June 13, 1872

Mr. H.N. Ober, a well-known citizen of East Washington is very ill at his residence of smallpox.

The Evening Star, June 14, 1872

Mr. H.N. Ober, whose illness of small-pox has been noticed in the STAR, died about noon today at his residence on E street, between 8th and 9th, southeast. Mr. Ober is an old resident of East Washington, having been born on the navy-yard, and for many years was a foreman in the blacksmith shop of the yard, but for several years past has been a draughtsman in the ordnance department. He was well and favorably known, possessing many qualities which endeared him to all who knew him.

The Evening Star, June 15, 1872

Funeral of H.N. Ober

The funeral of the late H.N. Ober, whose death from smallpox was noticed in the STAR of yesterday, took place this morning, and the remains, enclosed in a metallic sealed coffin, were interred at the Congressional cemetery. Rev. Mr. Hyson, of the 12th street M.E. Church, officiated at the grave. Thirty or forty of his relatives and friends, including a committee of Harmony Lodge of Odd Fellows, were present.

The Evening Star, June 19, 1872

Spreading the Small Pox

Complaints of the carelessness of the sanitary officer having charge of the small pox ambulance are made daily. It is stated by citizens living in the neighborhood of Mr. Ober's residence, East Washington, that the sanitary officer in charge, on entering the room where the corpse was lying, raised the window and tossed the bed clothing out upon the roof of a back shed without using any disinfectants, thus exposing the neighborhood to the contagion, and after the coffin containing the body had been placed in the ambulance, the driver, instead of taking an unfrequented street, drove up through Garrison Street and through the crowd of children just dismissed from the Wallach school building. It is also reported that a man named Becket employed in laying out the dead in the small pox hospital, yesterday got upon a street car after leaving his hospital duties, thus exposing all within the car to the risk of taking the

disease. It is not believed that the board of health will countenance this carelessness on the part of its officers.