

## Robert A. Pumphrey

( – 10 Dec 1897)

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**Pumphrey.** Suddenly on Friday, December 10, 1897, Robert Pumphrey in the 44th year of his age. Funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 338, Armory place southwest on Monday, December 13 at 2 o'clock p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

*The Evening Star, December 10, 1897*

### **A Painter's Fatal Fall**

#### **Robert A. Pumphrey's Death Results From an Accident Was at Work at a Second-Story Window and Dropped to the Pavement--Skull Fractured**

Robert A. Pumphrey, a painter, thirty-four years old, met with a fatal accident while working at No. 44 S street northwest, about 9:45 o'clock this morning. He fell from the second-story front window to the iron porch below fracturing his skull and breaking his left arm. The police ambulance happened to be in the vicinity of the house where the accident occurred, and the victim was taken to Freedmen's Hospital. He died just as the hospital was reached.

The deceased lived at No. 338 Armory street southwest with his wife, but had no children. His father was in the painting business in this city more than thirty years ago, and two of the victim's brothers survive him. One of them drives a bakery wagon and the other is in New York.

Pumphrey was working on a house owned by Mrs. M.L. Hoover, and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Hampton. About two weeks ago Mrs. Hoover met the painter on the street, and his appearance caused the belief on her part that he was in need of work. The lady offered him work and he willingly accepted. Two days after he went to work painting four houses for Mrs. Hoover, and the latter was pleased with the work to such an extent that she advanced him money with which to care for his family.

This morning when he appeared at the house ready for duty, Mrs. Hoover noticed an improvement in his dress, and she was more pleased than ever to see that the man to whom she had given employment had not thrown away his earnings.

### *Heard a Noise*

He went to the second story of the Hampton residence and started to paint the front window. Mrs. Hampton was in the dining room in the basement at the time, and a few minutes after Pumphrey ascended the stairs she heard a peculiar noise.

"What's that noise?" she was asked by her colored maid.

"Nothing, I guess," was her answer.

Thinking, however, that there was something wrong Mrs. Hampton went to the front door, where she witnessed the shocking sight of the dying man lying on the sidewalk directly in front of her house. Blood was streaming from his mouth and nose. Mrs. Hampton's screams aroused persons in the adjoining houses, and her maid went out to make the dying man as comfortable as possible. About this time the police ambulance in charge of Driver Oliver stopped in front of the house. Two sick patients in the ambulance were taken out and seated on a doorstep and the vehicle was soon on its way to the hospital with the injured painter.

When the doctors at the hospital pronounced the man dead the wagon turned away and the body was taken to the morgue.

*Coroner Notified*

Coroner Carr was notified of the accident, and he had the police of the eighth precinct make an investigation. It is likely that no inquest will be held.