

William Richard Staples

(- 29 Mar 1873)

Staples. Suddenly, Wednesday, September 6, 1922 at Clifton, Va., W.R. Staples, beloved husband of Cecelia Staples. Funeral services at Peck Memorial Chapel in Georgetown, September 9 at 2 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery. Friends and relatives invited to attend.

The Evening Star, March 28, 1873

Shocking Case of Hydrophobia

Results of the Bite of a Rabid Dog Three Months Ago

Mr. Richard Staples, who resides on 9th street, near G southeast, was taken with a strange malady a few days since, which has developed into a well-defined case of hydrophobia. Some days since he was taken with spasms, which continued to recur from time to time, each one growing more violent, and Drs. McKim and Walsh were called in to see him. After a careful examination they report that it is a bad case of hydrophobia. Yesterday the ravings of the afflicted man became so violent that nothing could be done with him, and his relatives sent to the marine barracks and got leg irons and hand cuffs, which were put on him to prevent danger to the household. During the fits he becomes perfectly frantic and snaps and bites at every one who approaches him, and when the fit wears off he is nearly exhausted. Yesterday during one of his lucid intervals he stated that he knew what the matter was, that it was hydrophobia caused by the bite of a dog some three months ago in one of the streets in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he was stopping at the time. The circumstance is quite clear to him, and he says he was fearful at the time and since of the results. The doctors think the case will result fatally, as every time water is brought in his presence he is at once seized with one of these dreadful spasms, and anything suggestive of water, such as the appearance of a looking glass, causes him the most intense distress, nausea and frothing at the mouth following.