

DIED WHILE ON DUTY.

Benjamin F. Donnell Found in His Chair in South Boston.

Benjamin F. Donnell, a member of the fire department, died last evening at 7.40 while on duty, and sitting in his chair in the house of combination wagon 2 on East 4th, near K st. South Boston. He was found there by a member of the company, and a doctor said he died of heart trouble.

Mr Donnell had been complaining of late of rheumatism of the heart, and it is probable that this attacked him again last night while on duty at the house.

Mr Donnell was one of the best known members of the fire department. He was born in Wells, Me, March 23, 1834, and coming to Boston when he was quite young, he was first employed as a teamster. His experience as a fireman dates from 1853, as a call substitute, and in 1855 he joined hand engine company Perkins, No. 2, where he remained until 1859, at which time he left the department, but returned again in 1860 as a driver in hose company 9.

He remained there until Aug 14, 1862, when he enlisted in Co D, 35th Massachusetts regiment, and did service until 1865. March 1, 1868, he again entered the fire department joining hose company 10 as a driver.

He was transferred Jan 1, 1870, to ladder company 6, where he remained until March 1, 1874, when he resigned. He again entered the service May 9, 1876, in hose company 10, and remained there until June 1, 1878, when he was transferred to engine company 1. June 28, 1887, he was transferred to hose company 10, and on the organization of the present combination wagon 2 he was transferred there.

Mr Donnell was a member of Dahlgren post, 2, G. A. R., of the Boston veteran firemen's charitable association, Bethesda lodge of Odd Fellows and Mt Washington encampment, I. O. O. F., and the Knights of Honor.

He lived at 56 G st, from where the funeral will be held.