

## Harris Lanham Atchison ( - 13 Aug 1904)

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**Atchison.** On Saturday, August 13, 1904, Harris L., beloved husband of Elizabeth A. Atchison in the 63d year of his age.

*The Evening Star, August 16, 1904, p. 16*

### **Buried With Masonic Honors**

#### **Harris L. Atchison, Former Usher at White House Passes Away**

Harris L. Atchison, for over twenty-five years an usher at the White House passed away, after a lingering illness, Saturday last, and was buried today at the Congressional cemetery with Masonic honors. Mr. Atchison was formerly on the police force of the city and afterward one of the contractors in the construction of the Congressional Library. During Hayes' administration he was assigned to duty at the White House, and the morning of President Garfield's assassination was to have accompanied the President to the depot, but was detained at the White House for a few moments, and arrived at the railroad station to find that a terrible tragedy had been enacted. When the President was taken to Elberon, however, Mr. Atchison accompanied him, and was with him to the end, and had charge of the issuance of bulletins.

At all receptions during the administrations of Arthur, Cleveland, Harrison and McKinley, Mr. Atchison was a familiar figure, attending to the comfort of the foreign representatives and guests, and was considered to be one of the most efficient of the corps of attendants that made the duties of the officers in charge less arduous. During McKinley's second term Mr. Atchison, at his own request, on account of failing health, was transferred to the pension office, where he gave the same attention to his new duties that had characterized his work at the Executive Mansion. He was a member of B.B. French Lodge, F.A.A.M., Washington Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Columbia Commandery and Almas Temple, Ancient Order of the Mystic Shrine, also a member of the Scottish Rite, and was always an enthusiastic attendant of their conclaves and pilgrimages. Mr. Atchison is mourned by a widow, one grown daughter and a host of friends.

Mr. Atchison was one of the volunteer defenders of the Capitol in 1861.