

Gustav Augerstine (- 15 Dec 1916)

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Saved From Potter's Field

Gen. Lake Intervenes for Veteran Who Died Apparently Friendless

Through the personal efforts of Gen. H. Oden Lake, commander-in-chief of the army and Navy Union, and Capt. J. Walter Mitchell, one of his national aid de camps and a member of the President's Own Garrison, the body of Gustav Augerstein, 68 years old, a veteran of the Spanish-American war, was kept from being buried in the potter's field and buried instead, yesterday in the Congressional Cemetery with military honors of the Army and Navy Union, of which he never had been a member.

Augerstein died at the Washington Asylum Hospital a week ago. He was a member of a distinguished German family, and left the Fatherland 20 years ago. A man of broad education, he had traveled extensively. When Gen. Nelson A. Miles Camp, No. 1, of the United Spanish War Veterans of this city was organized, he was of its members. Later he went to Philadelphia where he connected himself with Naval Camp, No. 1. Not long since he came back to Washington and went to the Soldiers and Sailors' Temporary Home, where he assisted in its management. He became ill suddenly a little more than a week ago and was sent to the hospital, where he died before he could divulge his family history.

When Gen. Lake learned that the body of a veteran of the Spanish-American War lay unclaimed at the District morgue, he called in Capt. Mitchell. Appeals were made to the National Tribune, the German embassy, several German societies, the American Red Cross Society and veterans of the Army and Navy Union, who promptly came forward with the funds necessary to bury the old soldier in a soldiers' grave.