

Peter F. Bacon (- 8 Apr 1900)

Bacon. On Sunday, April 8, 1900 at 3 o'clock p.m., General Peter F. Bacon in the 87th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 336 Indiana avenue, Tuesday, April 10 at 1 o'clock. Interment private.

The Evening Star, Monday, April 9, 1900

Aged Citizen Passes Away

Gen. Peter F. Bacon's Death at Garfield Hospital

A Native of the District and for Many Years Prominent in the Area

General Peter F. Bacon died yesterday afternoon at Garfield Hospital. He had gone there for an operation, which was duly performed, but owing to his advanced age he did not recover from the influence of the anesthetic. The news of his death came with the shock of sudden surprise to a large circle of friends and acquaintances in this city. Although to those within the immediate home circle it was believed the outcome of the operation was doubtful. The remains were removed to the family home, 336 Indiana avenue, where he had resided for so many years. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 1 o'clock, at the family residence. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery and will be private. There will be no pallbearers.

In spite of his age -- he was in his eighty seventh year -- General Bacon enjoyed good health and went about a good deal, mingling with men and keeping in touch with current events. He had for many years been active in public affairs in the District, and that fact gave him an extended acquaintance, which he maintained to a considerable extent up to the time of his death.

General Bacon was born here, his father having come to this city when it became the seat of government to engage in business as a grocer. General Bacon and his brother succeeded their father in the he business, and their store at the southeast corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 7th street was for many years one of the prominent places of business in the city.

In Public Capacity

General Bacon's ability to serve his fellow citizens in a public capacity was early recognized, and his tact and good judgment retained for him a high place in the public esteem. He was made brigadier general of the District militia and was in command of the local soldiery at the breaking out of the civil war. At that trying time in the history of the city General Bacon was in the confidence of the military authorities of the general government, and was consulted by them in regard to plans for the protection of the city. His relations with Stanton, the great war secretary, were of a confidential character, and he was able to render service of great value.

General Bacon was called upon to assist in the administration of the police department of the District, and he was a member of the police board for ten years. He was also a member of the fire board and of the school board, and in other capacities rendered conspicuous service. At the same time he continued his interest in his business and remained in active connection with it until a few years ago, when he retired. He was a man who had the respect and esteem of his neighbors and enjoyed a wide popularity. Two daughters survive him.

One Home for Sixty Years

General Bacon occupied premises 336 Indiana avenue, it is stated, for about sixty years past. His friends say that for years past it has been his habit to leave his residence about 9 o'clock each week-day

morning, proceed to a barber shop on 6th street and thence to the American House to see if everything there was in satisfactory condition.

The deceased was a familiar figure about the city hall, where he was greatly respected. His home being just across the street, it was convenient for him to attend the important and interesting legal proceedings in progress in the halls of justice. Since the trial of Howard Schneider for murder, it is stated, General Bacon did not miss a case of any note called for hearing in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia. The employees about the building knew him well, and when he appeared in a court room that was crowded several men in uniform would immediately exert themselves to provide a good seat for him.

Correct in His Predictions

It has been a topic of city hall conversation for years that General Bacon rarely, if ever, made a mistake regarding the outcome of a trial. It is agreed that no human being can with certainty anticipate the findings of juries, but General Bacon came nearer doing so, it is said, than has any other individual known locally. The attorneys interested in cases on trial always sought General Bacon, when the evidence had closed, to secure his views regarding the result. On one or two occasions when juries failed to decide as General Bacon thought they should have done he did not fail to express himself concerning them vigorously and unmistakably.

The deceased was particularly interested in the Funk and Snell murder trials of recent date. He was a particular friend of one of the prosecutors who held office when Mr. Henry E. Davis was United States attorney, and at the close of the proceedings each day during that period would have some comment to make, such as "You were a little angry at that witness today," Or "That was a first-class argument of yours to the jury."

Judge Cole's Comment

"I knew General Bacon intimately for about twenty years, and I loved him," remarked Justice Cole of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to a Star reporter today. "I saw him nearly every day, and he was one of the finest men I ever met. I was always glad to see him in court. He paid close attention to every word spoken, and could generally reach a proper conclusion. For his age he was a remarkably vigorous and active man."

"Just one year ago, I remember," continued Justice Cole, "I met General Bacon in the corridor of the city hall. I remarked that he was looking very well, and could not be very old. I then inquired his age, saying he surely would not object to telling me."

"No," replied General Bacon, "I do not object to telling you. I am not old. I am just twenty. Seriously, though I have thirteen years more to be with you before I reach the century mark. I am now eighty seven."

The Evening Star, April 11, 1900, p. 15

Funeral of Gen. Bacon

Remains Laid to Rest in Congressional Cemetery

The remains of General Peter F. Bacon, who died Sunday, were laid to rest late yesterday afternoon in Congressional cemetery. Preceding the interment the service of the Episcopal Church was held at the late residence of the deceased, 336 Indiana avenue, Rev. Dr. Richard P. Williams of Trinity P.E. Church officiating.

In addition to the relatives of General Bacon there were present at the house a large representation from the Oldest Inhabitants, and many members of families that have grown up with the city. The

majority of them accompanied the remains to the grave. At the cemetery the Episcopal burial service was read by Rev. Williams.

The Evening Star, January 24, 1879

Gen. Peter F. Bacon who has been quite ill of rheumatism has recovered and is attending to business today.

The Evening Star, February 23, 1881

Gen. Peter F. Bacon Denies and Explains

In relation to the published statements to the effect that Gen. Peter F. Bacon advocated before the military committee meeting last Monday night, that the ex-confederate officers who were willing to march in the inaugural procession be permitted to wear the gray of the confederate service, Gen. Bacon, in conversation with a Star reporter this morning, states that it is incorrect. He says Gen. Crittenden's motion was that the committee decline to act under ex-confederate officers, when Col. Brelsford moved an amendment that only union officers be appointed division commanders. In the discussion that followed on this subject he (Gen. Bacon) inquired of the chairman if it was true that Gen. Sherman had made the appointments of the gentlemen named in the discussion, to which the chair replied "No." Gen. Bacon then moved that Gen. Crittenden's motion, as amended by Col. Brelsford, be laid on the table, stating that it was entirely uncalled for, and that he did this with the view of preserving harmony and to prevent the introduction of politics into the management of this inauguration. Some further discussion followed, and Col. Brelsford's resolution was adopted. The motion that the marshals be requested to wear on the 4th of March the uniform which they wore during the war was offered by Gen. McMillan, and not by Gen. Bacon.

Zevely, Douglass, Columbia Historical Society, April 14, 1902

No. 336 of these two houses was built by the late General Peter Bacon more than sixty years ago, and it was his home from the time it was completed until his death on the eighth of April, 1900. Mrs. Bacon, a daughter of Dr. Edward Clark, was born at the Navy Yard in this city, and died in the old home May 10, 1897, aged nearly seventy-nine years. The younger daughter continued to live there for a while after her father's death when its history as the home of the Bacon family ended. General Bacon was a Washingtonian by birth and was nearly eighty-seven years of age when he died. His father came to this city from England when the seat of government was established here and started a grocery business on the southeast corner of Seventh Street and Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., when he purchased, the upper part being his home.

The Evening Star, November 13, 1876

Gen. Peter F. Bacon has been selected to fill the vacancy in the Board of Police Commissioners occasioned by the resignation of Dr. C.H. Nichols. This appointment will give general satisfaction. The general is well known to our citizens as an active business man, of unquestioned integrity, and has experience in public affairs. He was formerly a police commissioner, and is at present a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners.