

Robert Camp Bernays (- 28 Nov 1891)

Bernays. Suddenly on November 28, 1891, Robert C. Bernays in the 33d year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 1114 M street northwest, Tuesday at 10 o'clock a.m.

The Evening Star, November 30, 1891

Death of Prof. R.C. Bernays

Musical circles in this city were shocked by the announcement that Mr. Robert C. Bernays, the violinist and leader of the orchestra at Albaugh's Opera House, died suddenly and unexpectedly at his residence Saturday night. His death was caused by congestion of the bowels. After the theater Thanksgiving night Mr. Bernays complained of feeling unwell, but his illness was not thought to be serious. Friday morning Dr. E.F. King was summoned and found him suffering from an acute attack of indigestion.

Mr. Bernays was about 32 years of age and married a sister of Prof. John Philip Sousa, the director of the Marine Band. He leaves a widow and one child (a daughter a year old). The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 1114 M Street, tomorrow morning.

Mr. Bernays came to this city from St. Louis twelve years ago. He was a well-know musician and had led the orchestra at Albaugh's ever since that theater was opened. He had long been identified with musical affairs, and was the first conductor of the Georgetown Amateur Orchestra. He was a character member of the Choral Society and the Wagner Society. His father was a well-known journalist in St. Louis, who had won his spars in Europe and who acquired a high reputation as a keen and vigorous writer after he came to this country.

The Evening Star, December 2, 1891

Funeral of Prof. R.C. Bernays

The funeral of the late Prof. Robert C. Bernays took place yesterday from the residence of the deceased, 1114 M street. Delegations from the Washington Lodge of Elks, the Musical Assembly and Georgetown Orchestra were present as well as many friends. Rev. Alexander Kent officiated. The pallbearers were Police Lieut. Amiss, Prof. Jos. Kaspar, Wm. Evans, Anton Fischer, Myer Jacobs and Edward Roberts. The interment was made in Congressional cemetery.

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Mary Elisabeth (Elsie) Sousa (Sister)

Elise, the eighth child and the youngest girl, was born in Washington on December 18, 1865. Her first husband Robert Camp Bernays, a Washington conductor and Director of the Bernays School of Music. After Bernays died in 1891, she married James McKesson Bower, an officer in the U.S. Navy. She lived her later years in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and died there on March 16, 1904. She is buried in the Orangeville Cemetery in Orangeville, Illinois. Elise was the hub of the Sousa family ties, and the family seemed to drift apart after her death.