

Fanny Berry (- 23 Aug 1904)

Berry. On Tuesday, August 23, 1904, at 11 a.m., Mrs. Fanny Berry, daughter of the late Mary and Major John Devlin, U.S.M.C. Funeral private.

The Evening Star, August 24, 1904, p. 7

Mrs. Fannie Devlin Berry

Aged Lady Dies on Capitol Hill -- Tragic Story Recalled

Mrs. Fannie Devlin Berry died, after two weeks illness of heart trouble at her residence, corner of 6th and A streets southeast, yesterday morning, and her remains were taken to Zurhorst's undertaking establishment, where the funeral services will be held. Her death recalls the tragic murder by her two brothers, John and James Devlin, of her husband, Thomas Berry, about fifty years ago at the Devlin family residence, No. 215 Pennsylvania avenue southeast. On account of Berry having a wife living at the time of his marriage with their sister there was ill feeling between him and the brothers, and one day when he visited the house a fight ensued, during which Berry was stabbed to death by the brothers, who were tried and convicted of manslaughter, the elder one, John, being sent to the insane asylum, and the other, James, to the District penitentiary. Both were subsequently pardoned and have long since died.

Her father was Lieut. John Devlin of the United States Marine Corps and her mother a daughter of Sergeant Major Pulizzi of the Marine Corps, and the family owned valuable property in this city, particularly on Capitol Hill, all of which came into possession of deceased as the last survivor. Since her husband's death she had led a very secluded life and busied herself only with the care and rental of her property, the revenues from which she looked after with a care bordering on eccentricity, and never appeared on the street except with a fat satchel on her rent-collecting tours. It is thought her holdings in real estate, cash and valuables are very extensive. She never associated with neighbors or acquaintances, but kept her financial business not only well in hand, but in her own hands. Her only fad as far as known, was the gathering of antique jewelry, pictures and silverware. During her last illness she recognized the approach of death and requested to be buried in the same grave with her husband and child in the Congressional cemetery. She was about eighty years old, and if she has made no will her next of kin are her cousins, George King, Mrs. Mary King McManus and Ambrose Sevier Lynch of New York, Venerando Pulizzi and the children of Martin P. King, deceased, of this city.

The Evening Star, August 25, 1904, p. 7

Fanny Devlin Berry Dead

Had Lived in Retirement Since Husband Was Murdered by Brothers

Mrs. Fannie Devlin Berry died at her residence, at Sixth and A streets southeast, Tuesday morning. For nearly fifty years she had lived in retirement and almost seclusion, despite the fact that she owned, it is believed, a large amount of property on Capitol Hill.

Her retirement dates back to the night, years ago, on which her husband, Thomas Berry, was murdered in his home, 25 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, by her two brothers, John and James Devlin. Berry was accused of having a wife at the time he married Miss Devlin, and this angered the brothers. One day they visited Berry's home and in a fight stabbed him to death. John was sent to the insane asylum and James to the penitentiary.

Mrs. Berry's father was Lieut. John Devlin of the United States Marine Corps. He owned much property, which came into the possession of Mrs. Berry. She spent her late years collecting her rent and managing her business affairs. She trusted no one with her business.

She died of heart disease, after an illness of two weeks. The body was removed to Zurhorst's undertaking establishment, at Third and East Capitol streets, where the funeral services will be held today at 2 o'clock. The burial will be in Congressional Cemetery and private. If no will has been made, the property Mrs. Berry left will fall to her cousins George King, Mrs. Mary King McMans, and Ambrose Sevier Lynch of New York; Venerando Pulizzi, and the children of Martin P. King, deceased, of this city.