

## George W. Blandford

(20 Feb 1826 - 23 Aug 1897)

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**Blandford.** On Monday, August 23, 1897, at 1:15 a.m., George W., beloved husband of Laura V. Blandford (nee Bowen), at his residence, No. 824 I street northeast, in the 72d year of his age. Funeral services at 3:30 on Wednesday, August 25, at the N. Carolina Avenue M.P. Church (tent), corner 8th and B streets southeast.

*The Washington Post, August 26, 1897, p. 10*

### **At A Veteran Policeman's Bier**

#### **Many Floral Tributes from Associates of the Late Officer Blandford**

The funeral of the late policeman, George W. Blandford, who was one of the oldest and most efficient officers on the force, took place from the tent near the corner of North Carolina avenue and B street southeast, which is used by the congregation of the North Carolina Avenue Methodist Protestant Church while their new church building is in course of construction. There was a large crowd of friends of the dead officer present, including members of the police force and their families, and members of Harmony Lodge of Odd Fellows and Franklin Lodge Knights of Pythias, the deceased being a prominent member of both lodges.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Randall, pastor of the North Carolina Avenue Methodist Protestant Church, and the Rev. Mr. Seymour, pastor of the Fifth Congregational Church. Mr. Randall preached the funeral sermon, and spoke in high terms of the character of the officer, his long and honorable service as a member of the police force, and his reputation as an upright Christian man. Two very touching solos, "Asleep in Jesus," sung by Mr. Taylor, and "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me," sung by Mr. Randall, were rendered. The body was borne from the tent by the pall-bearers, composed of two representatives of the police, Officer Anderson, one of the oldest officers on the force, whose connection with the force has been longer than that of the deceased, and Officer VanZandt, from the Fifth Precinct, a warm friend of Mr. Blandford in life, and two members each from the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias. The interment was in the Congressional Cemetery, the two lodges conducting the ceremonies at the grave.

The floral offerings included a pillar of astors and roses from the Department of Justice, where the son of the deceased, Mr. J. Walter Blandford, is employed as Secretary to the Attorney general; a large floral piece, representing "Gates Ajar," from the Police Department, and another piece in the shape of a policeman's badge in roses, with a helmet in white carnations as a center-piece, bearing on top the words "Metropolitan Police in immortelles, and his number, 192, in the center of the helmet, an offering from the officers of the Fifth Precinct, to which Officer Blandford was attached for years. There were many other floral offerings, smaller pieces, and cut flowers, which, when placed, completely hid the new-made grave.

*The Evening Star, August 23, 1897*

### **Officer Blandford Dead**

#### **Veteran Detailed at the District Building Passes Away**

Policeman George W. Blandford, sixty-six years old, and a member of the police force for the past 26 years, died about 1:30 o'clock this morning at his home, No. 824 I street, in East Washington. During the past few months he was detailed as doorkeeper at the District building, and six days ago he had to go off

duty because of an attack of what appeared to be pneumonia. Because of his advanced age he grew worse instead of better, and this morning death ended his sufferings.

The deceased was a native of Maryland, but had spent the greater part of his in this city. He leaves a widow and three children.

Officer Blandford was the fourth policeman who died while on the District building detail during the past few weeks. Clements was first, and Sergt. Pierce and Policeman Salkeld soon followed. It is thought by the officers that the weather conditions to which the men on this detail are exposed affected the health of each.

The funeral of Officer Blandford will take place Wednesday, and a detail of officers to attend the funeral will be made tomorrow. Officer Maddox of the fifth precinct has been detailed to take the place of the deceased officer.

*The Washington Post, August 21, 1897. p. 3*

### **Officer Blandford Seriously Ill**

George W. Blandford, who has been for the past twenty-six years a valued member of the Metropolitan Police force of this city, is dangerously ill at his residence, 824 I street northeast. R. Bladford, who is sixty-six years of age, is suffering with a complication of diseases, and is being attended by Police Surgeon Neavitt. He has been recently detailed at the entrance to the District Building, and n Tuesday last became so ill that he was sent home in a cab. His son, J. Walter Blandford, is well known in official life, as he was private secretary to Mr. Olney when Attorney General and Secretary of State, and now holds a responsible position in the State Department.

*The Washington Post, August 23, 1897, p. 1*

### **Old Member of Police Force Dead**

George W. Blandford, one of the oldest members of the Metropolitan Police Department, died at 1:30 o'clock this morning, at his home, 824 I street northeast of pneumonia. He had only been ill six days, but the disease early took a malignant form, and his life was despaired of. He leaves a widow, two sons, and a daughter. Up to the time of his illness Policeman Blandford had been detailed at the District Building. He was a well-known figure in the department, and was an efficient officer, possessing an excellent record. Arrangements for the funeral will be made today.