

## George Francis Cunningham ( - 14 Oct 1911)

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**Cunningham.** On Saturday October 14, 1911, George F. Cunningham, husband of Mary Rebecca Cunningham, aged eighty-five years. Funeral Tuesday, October 17, at 8 p.m., from the residence of his son-in-law, C.W. Henshaw, 1105 East Capitol street.

Members of Syracusians Lodge, No. 10, Knights of Pythias, will meet at Pythias Temple Monday, October 16, 1911 at 8 p.m., to complete arrangements for funeral of George F. Cunningham. Funeral Tuesday, October 17, at 3 p.m., from 1105 East Capitol street,

J.H. Williams, C.C.

Attest: S.. Pearson, K.R. and S.

The members of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of our late associate, George F. Cunningham, at his late residence, 1105 East Capitol street Tuesday, October 17 at 3 p.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President

Benj. W. Reiss, R. S.

The Evening Star, October 14, 1911, p. 2

### **George F. Cunningham Dies of Heart Failure**

#### **Prominent in Washington Business and Fraternal Circles for Many Years**

George F. Cunningham, a life-long resident of the District of Columbia and for fifty-six years a machinist at the Washington navy yard died at 9:30 o'clock this morning at his home, 1105 East Capitol street, in his eighty-sixth year. He was born in Georgetown, June 30, 1826. His death was due to heart failure. He had been ill only about two weeks.

Mr. Cunningham was a charter member of Syracusians Lodge, Knights of Pythias and a member of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants. He entered the Washington navy yard in 1849 and served continuously until 1901, when he retired.

#### *Strives for Education*

When he was eleven years old Mr. Cunningham was obliged to quit school and go to work to help in the support of others in his family. He continued his studies at night, however, and made great progress.

He learned his trade at the old Mason foundry in Georgetown. When he was only twenty years old he had charge of the installation of the machinery in big mills at Laurel, Md., and Alexandria, Va. Later he set up a sawmill of his own on St. Georges Island, about sixty miles down the Potomac river.

Mr. Cunningham answered to call for volunteers to help defend the National Capital sent out by President Lincoln when Early was threatening Washington on his raid into the north. He was the machinist who installed the engines on the United States ships Richmond, Water Witch, Pennsacola and old Minnesota before the civil war.

#### *Restores Monitor to Service*

After the fight between the Monitor and the Merrimac he overhauled the Monitor's engines and put the vessel in shape for service. Mr. Cunningham also installed the first torpedo tube on a United States ship.

His wife, Mrs. Mary Rebecca Cunningham, and four children, Mrs. John T. Freeman, Mrs. Charles W. Henshaw, J. Harry Cunningham and Mrs. James F. Faulkner, survive him. He is also survived by a sister, Mrs. J. Henry Small, sr.

The funeral will be in charge of the Knights of Pythias. The interment will be made in Congressional cemetery. The date for the funeral has not yet been set.

*The Evening Star, October 15, 1911, p. 8*

### **To Be Buried From Home**

#### **Funeral of George F. Cunningham Will Probably Be on Tuesday**

George F. Cunningham, who died yesterday at his residence, 1105 East Capitol street probably will be buried Tuesday afternoon in Congressional cemetery. The arrangements for the funeral had not been completed up to a late hour last night, but it is planned to have the ceremonies in the Cunningham home. The Knights of Pythias, of which Mr. Cunningham was a prominent member, will probably have charge of the ceremonies.

Many expressions of regret at the death of Mr. Cunningham were received last night by the members of his family. He was a lifelong resident of the District, and for fifty-six years he served the United States government as mechanic and master mechanic. Up to the time of his retirement in 1905, he was considered an authority at the Washington navy yard on all matters relating to machinery.

Mr. Cunningham is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Rebecca Cunningham, four children, Mrs. John T. Freeman, Mrs. Charles W. Henshaw, J. Harry Cunningham and James F. Cunningham, and also by a sister, Mrs. J. Henry Small, sr.