

Ulrich Dahlgren

(3 Apr 1842 – 2 Mar 1864)

The Evening Star, October 28, 1865

The Remains of Colonel Dahlgren

On Monday evening, the body of Colonel Ulrich Dahlgren, who was killed near Richmond, on Kilpatrick's raid, in March, 1864, and which was placed in a vault at Congressional Cemetery some months ago, will be removed to the City Hall, where it will lie in state until Tuesday, when it will be taken to the 4 1/2 street Presbyterian Church, where the funeral discourse will be delivered. It is expected that Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, of New York, will officiate. The remains will be placed on a train and taken to Philadelphia, where it will be laid in state in Independence Hall, and afterwards it will be taken to Wilmington, Del., where it will be interred in the old family burial ground.

The Evening Star, October 31, 1865

The Funeral of Col. Dahlgren

The remains of the late Colonel Ulrich Dahlgren, who was killed on Kilpatrick's raid near Richmond in March 1864, and whose body was recovered about six months ago, brought to this city, and placed temporarily in a vault at the Congressional Cemetery, were yesterday, preparatory to the funeral ceremonies removed, under an escort of eight sergeants of the Veteran Reserves, in charge of Brevet Captain Dempsey. The remains were placed in the Mayor's office until after the adjournment of the Board of Common Council, when they were removed to the Council Chamber, and a guard of honor, composed of the following officers of the Veteran Reserve Corps, placed over them: Captains James Cromlie, 12th; M.J. Bunnell, 24th, W.H. Eldridge, 9th; H. Camp, 14th; O.W. Preston, 10th; and J. O'Dwyer, 7th Veteran Reserve Corps.

The corpse, which was encased in a metallic casket, remained in the Council Chamber until near noon, the President's and Secretaries' desks being draped with the National colors, while over the corpse a mammoth flag was flung, on which was a profusion of flowers and a photograph likeness of the deceased, which was viewed with interest. They will lie in state tomorrow, and from thence they will be taken to Wilmington, to be interred in the family burial ground. The arrangements for the funeral here were under the charge of Capt. A.H. Wands, A.A.G., Mr. Kirby being the undertaker.

About noon, the escort under the command of Brevet Brigadier Gen. Gile, V.R.C., composed of battalions from all the Veteran Reserve regiments in the city, the 8th regiment of Hancock's Corps, and the 195th and 214th Pennsylvania regiments formed, when the remains were taken to the 1st Presbyterian Church (being carried by eight sergeants of the Veteran Reserves) the following acting as pall-bearers: Brevet Brig. Gen. DeWitt, 10th V.R.C.; Brev. Brig. Gen. McKibbin, 214th Pa.; Col. J.R. Mansfield, 12th V.R.C.; Col. C.F. Johnson, 18th V.R.C.; Col. T. Pearce, 8th regiment, 1st army corps; Brevet Col. Johnston, 9th V.R.C.; Brevet Col. Foust, 10th V.R.C.; Brevet Col. Collis, 7th V.R.C.

On the arrival of the funeral procession, at the church, the Marine Band, stationed in the choir, performed a miserere while the corpse was being carried to the front of the altar, where it was deposited. The church was crowded in every part, among the audience being President Johnson, accompanied by Secretaries Stanton, Welles, and Harlan, Mr. Faxon of the Navy Department, Generals Ekin, T.M. Harris, Howe and others. Mayor Wallach and a number of members of the City Government. The chief mourners were the father of the deceased with his son and two daughters.

The services were commenced with an invocation by Rev. E.D. Neill, of Minnesota, followed by the choir singing "I heard a voice from Heaven." Rev. J.C. Graves, of Boston, then read selections from

various parts of the Scripture, which was followed by a prayer of Rev. Dr. Nadal, of Wesley Chapel. The hymn "I know my Redeemer liveth," (solo) was sung by Mrs. Butts.

Rev. Henry Ward Beecher announced his text, 24th verse of the 20th chapter of Acts. He proceeded to speak of the qualities of the true man, with whom honor is better than life. If the country had continued as it was going four years ago, in fifty years we would have been ruined. Our young men were trained up to be devotees of policy not principle. But it pleased God to give us deliverance, and he ordained young men to be in a measure saviors of the country. The speaker regarded the late civil war in almost every particular as beneficial to the country. Rain is good for the roots of trees and blood for the roots of men, and the channels of thought were now opened, every one may now say what he thinks and think when he pleases. It was a great thing to roll away, as it were, the stone from the sepulchre.

For four years the nation has been holding up its hands to God, saying, take our money, our peace, our children, but save our country (applause). Mr. Beecher then spoke of the many noble young men who went into the war from principle, with their lives in their hands, the sacrifices made by the people when they sent their sons one after another to battle for their country. Thanks be to God that so many were willing to die; they have a memorial that they went out to save their country, and saved it! They were assembled to pay homage to one of the youngest, best, and purest of the defenders of the Union.

He was called to duty before he reached manhood, and earned advancement in the field. He sought it not--did not chase honors, but honors had to travel fast to overtake him. He carried home virtues to the camp, and gave his time, courage, and life to the cause of the nation. He got up from a sick couch and joined a hazardous expedition--mounting his horse by the aid of a crutch--the object of which was to succor our prisoners then in the prison pen.

We can form some idea of him, as he dashed along close by the rebel Capitol, but none will even know the anguish he felt when he was forced to give up his object. He turned and had almost reached a safe place when the bullets from an ambuscade pierced him, not killed him, but he still lives and ever will live in history. The name of Dahlgren was now permanently written on the page of history of the country.

Mr. Beecher closed with a prayer, after which the choir sang, "Rest Spirit Rest," and the benediction was pronounced.

The remains were escorted to the depot, where they were placed on the 4:30 train, accompanied by the family and friends. On the arrival of the train in Baltimore, a number of General Hancock's officers will take charge of the remains and escort them to Philadelphia, where they will arrive tonight and be taken to Independence Hall.