

## Andrew Brown Duvall

(20 Mar 1847 – 12 Sep 1905)

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*The Evening Star, September 15, 1905*

### **A.B. Duvall Dead**

### **Prominent Resident of the District Passes Away**

### **Corporation Counsel**

### **Was Returning From Europe and Died At Sea**

### **Commissioners of the District and Supreme Court Pay Tribute to His Memory**

By a wireless telegraph message, received in New York yesterday from the steamer Philadelphia, and thence forwarded to Washington by wire, the family and friends of Andrew Brown Duvall, corporation counsel of the District of Columbia, last night were apprised of his death, which occurred when the steamer was three days out from Liverpool. Mr. Duvall was on the way home after a vacation of about six weeks spent abroad, and the news of his sudden demise came very unexpectedly because all recent messages and letters from his wife and son, A.B. Duvall, jr., conveyed the assurance that the husband and father seemed much improved in health.

Taking formal action in reference to the loss of a valued public servant Commissioners West and Biddle today adopted the following order:

"The Commissioners of the District of Columbia desire to place upon record their deep sense of loss in the death of Andrew B. Duvall, who since June 1, 1899, has occupied the position of corporation counsel. In the discharge of the duties of this onerous and responsible position Mr. Duvall displayed the highest qualities of character. He was conscientious, industrious and faithful. His judgment, always rendered after careful consideration, was based upon experience and legal knowledge acquired during many years of active and successful practice before the courts, and was so accurate that the Commissioners relied upon it with perfect confidence. His work was performed with sincerity and enthusiasm, and the record of the results which he achieved in cases in which the District of Columbia was a party stands as a high and lasting testimonial to his ability and industry.

"In his hands the interests of the District were safeguarded to the last degree. Not only was he a faithful public servant, but as a man he possessed those virtues which are worthy of emulation and which endeared him to all with whom he was brought in contact. The Commissioners feel that in paying this tribute to his memory they are discharging a debt of appreciation which the community owes to the counsel who represented them so honestly and so ably before the courts."

### *Suffered from Heart Disease*

Owing to an organic disease of the heart, Corporation Counsel Duvall for some time past was not in the best of health, and it was for this, more than any other reason, that it was determined that his annual leave should be spent in England. The ocean trip, it was thought, would be of much benefit, and Mr. and Mrs. Duvall sailed from New York on July 22. Scarcely three weeks later, however, Mr. Duvall developed alarming symptoms, and his son, A.B. Duvall, jr., was summoned to London. After that again came encouraging reports and the last news in the hands of the family was that the return journey would be undertaken September 9, the invalid having improved so much that it was thought he could make the trip with safety.

Members of the family and his friends as well, were accordingly ill prepared for the news of the fatality in mid-ocean, and all were overwhelmed by grief when the message announcing his death was read. The steamer Philadelphia sailed from Liverpool on Saturday, and the tidings brought by the wireless message were that Mr. Duvall died Tuesday. No additional particulars were conveyed by the

telegram, and the circumstances surrounding the last illness will not be unknown until the Philadelphia reaches New York tomorrow.

It is expected that the body will be brought to Washington on Sunday. Arrangements for the funeral will not be made until that time, although it is almost assured that the service will be held in the Metropolitan Memorial M.E. Church, of which the deceased was long a consistent member, and that the sermon will be delivered by Rev. Frank M. Bristol, the pastor.

#### *Announced at the Church*

News of the death of Mr. Duvall was received by the members of the Metropolitan Church at the prayer meeting last night. Rev. Dr. Bristol made the announcement, and so great was the shock to the parishioners that nearly all of the evening was given over to discussing the loss sustained by the church and by the cause of religion. Many of those at the meeting voiced their sincere sorrow at hearing of Mr. Duvall's death and many were the eloquent tributes paid his memory.

For a long time Mr. Duvall filled the position of superintendent of the Sunday school and even before that time he was one of the most active workers in the church. More recently, and until the time of his death, he filled the position of president of the board of trustees, he having succeeded the late Matthew Emery in that position.

Andrew B. Duvall was a native of Washington, having been born here March 20, 1847, and all of his life was spent in this city. Records of the family history show that he was descended from Maureen Duvall, who fled to America from France at the time of the Huguenot prosecutions. This ancestor spent much of his life in Maryland, where he settled soon after landing.

#### *Mr. Duvall's Career*

Mr. Duvall was educated in the public schools of the city and in 1867 he graduated from the Columbian University, now the George Washington University. Two years later he received his degree of LL.B. Soon after his admission to the bar young Duvall entered the law office of Daniel Bradley, and later branched out for himself. For several years past he has ranked as one of the best instructors of young lawyers in the city, giving lectures before one or another of the local law schools. He was one of the character members of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, and he was also treasurer and one of the trustees of the Bar Association.

A.B. Duvall was appointed attorney for the District of Columbia March 15, 1889. When the new District code was enacted the title of his office was changed to that of corporation counsel. The value of the service he rendered the District in that office can never be estimated in cold dollars and cents, because Mr. Duvall has rendered many decisions upon which great issues have depended, and from almost invariably finding his advice to be right the Commissioners in later years came to be guided by it more and more in questions of law.

Unexpected always in their character and as varied as only a large municipality can produce, the matters submitted to Mr. Duvall in his years in the office never once found him unwilling to devote his every energy to their solution. Recently he was heard frequently to speak of the increasing volume of the work imposed upon his office, and it is thought that the strain incident to the number and size of the tasks had much to do with the breakdown which resulted in the Commissioners extending the corporation counsel's annual leave this year into a sick leave, and that it might bear no inconsiderable part in the culmination which has now spread sorrow in so many circles.

#### *Date of Marriage*

In May 1872, Mr. Duvall married Mary M. Walker, daughter, daughter of Charles E. Walker, and a niece of Capt. Samuel H. Walker, who won fame in the Mexican war. Six children--four daughters and two sons--compose the family, which was the joy and pride of Mr. Duvall's private life. The eldest

daughter, Juliet Maude, is the wife of Dr. H.T.A. Lemon, who resides at 629 G street southwest. The eldest son is Andrew B. Duvall, jr., a graduate of Princeton University of the class of 1899, a young lawyer of promise in this city. He is now on the passage across the ocean with his mother, bringing the remains of his father to this country. The other children are Misses Louise, Mary M., Marjorie B. and Master Walker Maureen.

Three brothers and two sisters survive Mr. Duvall. They are W.C. Duvall, engaged in the real estate business; J. Walter Duvall, assistant cashier of the city post office; J. Albert Duvall, associated with his brother in the real estate business; Miss Helen Duvall and Mrs. Annie Brown of Rutherford, N.J.

#### *His Worth as Citizen*

Many tributes to the worth of the deceased were heard on all sides about the offices of the District government, in the courts and elsewhere in the downtown business section where the late corporation counsel was best known.

Dr. William Tindall, secretary of the board of Commissioners, said: "The death of Mr. Duvall will be deeply regretted by all who knew him. He carried with him an atmosphere of kindness which made him a welcome visitor at the District building and which will be sorrowfully missed by all who were so fortunate as to enjoy his acquaintance. The District greatly benefited by his professional skill and tact. He spared no pains to obtain information bearing upon any matter submitted to him for his advice, and no one who was likely to have knowledge or opinions which might give him light was too humble for him to consult. His place as an official, fellow-citizen or friend will be hard to fill."

#### *Court Pays Tribute*

Immediately on the convening of the District Supreme Court this morning, Assistant Corporation Counsel Edward H. Thomas announced the death of Corporation Counsel, A.B. Duvall and moved an adjournment of the court out of respect to his memory.

"It is my sad duty, your honor," said Mr. Thomas, "to announce to the court and bar the death of our brother and friend, Andrew B. Duvall, and I move an adjournment out of respect to his memory."

"Mr. Duvall's death is sad; especially in view of the circumstances. He left this city for a trip to Europe with high hopes of recovering his health, and was suddenly stricken down, and died on shipboard in mid-ocean. He was a link between the old and the new bar, and his long and faithful public service and the high position which he occupied make fitting my motion to adjourn the court."

Justice Gould, in granting the motion and directing an adjournment of court until Monday next, said:

"The court read with surprise and grief the announcement of Mr. Duvall's death. As Mr. Thomas had said, Mr. Duvall was a connecting link between the older and newer members of the bar. I doubt if any lawyer ever attained more thoroughly the respect of the bar of the District Supreme Court than did Mr. Duvall. He was an honorable lawyer and measured up to all the qualifications."

"The court will be adjourned out of respect."

*The Evening Star, September 16, 1905*

#### **The Duvall Obsequies**

##### **Arrangements Subject to Mrs. Duvall's Approval**

Information was received here today that the steamship Philadelphia from Southampton has brought to port the body of Andrew B. Duvall of Washington, D.C., corporation counsel of the District of Columbia, who died at sea last Tuesday.

The remains are expected to reach Washington late this afternoon or tonight. Mr. Frederic D. McKenney, a nephew of the deceased corporation counsel, when seen this afternoon by a Star reporter,

said he expected to receive a telegram at any moment from Mrs. Duvall, the widow, and Mr. Andrew B. Duvall, jr., son of the deceased, who were with him on the voyage abroad.

Prospective funeral arrangements provide for the services at the Metropolitan M.E. Church at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon. Among those named as probable pallbearers are Chief Justice Clabaugh, Mr. William F. Mattingly, Judge Nathaniel Wilson and Mr. Ed H. Thomas, assistant corporation attorney, others to be selected when the remains arrive.

Undertaker Wright, who will have charge of the funeral, went to New York last night to await the arrival of the steamship Philadelphia.

The steamship was not detained at quarantine owing to the representations made to the New York health authorities by Mr. McKenney. The honorary pallbearers will consist of fourteen prominent gentlemen and the tentative funeral arrangements are subject to change by Mrs. Duvall upon her arrival here.

The members of the Bar Association will be notified by card to attend the funeral in a body.

*The Evening Star, September 17, 1905*

### **Plans for Funeral**

#### **Services Over Remains of Andrew B. Duvall**

#### **Rev. Frank M. Bristol to Officiate--Selection of Pallbearers--Bar Association Notified**

The remains of Andrew B. Duvall, corporation counsel of the District of Columbia, reached this city over the Pennsylvania railroad at about 8:30 o'clock last night from New York, where they arrived yesterday on the steamship Philadelphia. They were accompanied to Washington by Mrs. Mary Walker Duvall, wife of the deceased; Andrew B. Duvall, jr., her son, and J.R. Wright, funeral director.

Arrangements for the funeral were made last night and approved by Mrs. Duvall. The cortege will leave the Duvall home, 1831 M street northwest, at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon and proceed to the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, corner of 4 1/2 and C streets, where the public funeral services will be held under the direction of the pastor, Rev. Frank M. Bristol. The burial will be at Congressional cemetery.

The honorary pallbearers will be Chief Justice Harry M. Clabaugh, Justice Ashley M. Gould, Commissioner H.B.F. Macfarland, Commissioner Henry L. West, Col. John Biddle, Mr. William F. Mattingly, Mr. Nathaniel Wilson, Mr. R. Ross Perry, Mr. Aldis B. Browne, Mr. Edward H. Thomas, Mr. Augustus D. Lynch, Dr. Richard Kingsman, Mr. John Joy Edson, Mr. Brainard H. Warner.

#### *Bar Association to Attend*

Officers of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia yesterday evening promulgated a notice calling upon members of the bar of the District of Columbia "to meet in the old circuit court room at 3 o'clock, p.m., Monday, September 18, 1905, for the purpose of attending in a body the funeral of their late professional brother, Andrew B. Duvall," and announcing that "the funeral will take place at 3:30 o'clock p.m., at the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church, corner of John Marshall place and C street northwest."

#### *Dies of Heart Disease*

The death of Andrew Brown Duvall was due to organic disease of the heart, and occurred in mid-ocean while he was returning to this country from England on the steamship Philadelphia, which vessel sailed from Liverpool on Saturday, September 9. Deceased was fifty-nine years of age. He was born in Washington and spent all his life here. Mr. Duvall was educated in the public schools of this city, and in 1867 he graduated from the Columbian University, now the George Washington University. Two years

later he received the degree of LL.B. He was appointed attorney for the District of Columbia, March 15, 1889.

His wife and six children and three brothers and two sisters survive Mr. Duvall.

*The Evening Star, September 18, 1905*

#### **Final Services Held**

#### **Burial of Corporation Counsel Duvall This Afternoon**

#### **Dr. Bristol's Tribute**

#### **District Bar Association Attends the Obsequies**

#### **Employee of the District Government Meet and Adopt Resolutions of Respect**

The funeral of Andrew Brown Duvall, corporation counsel of the District of Columbia, who died at sea on Tuesday last while on his way home from a tour of England, was held this afternoon from the Metropolitan M.E. Church, John Marshall Place and C street northwest. The sermon was preached by Rev. Frank Bristol, pastor of the church, and interment was made in the Duvall lot in Congressional cemetery.

By the number of friends and acquaintances who attended the services to pay their final tribute of respect to the dead, it was possible to glean at least an inkling of the depth of the love inspired in life by the deceased legal representative of the local government. On every side tears were shed, and the number and beauty of floral offerings which lay upon and around the bier but served to add to the sadness which everywhere seemed to indicate the loss sustained by the death of a valued member of the community.

In recognition of the expressed wish of many of his fellow employees to attend the funeral, Commissioner West, with the approval of Commissioner Biddle, ordered that the District building offices close at 3 o'clock today in order that all who desire might attend the obsequies. Nearly every office in the great building was deserted at 3 o'clock, when the body was borne into the church, a majority of the clerks and heads of departments were assembled in the church.

#### *Services at the Church*

The Duvall family and the honorary pallbearers met at the Duvall home, 1831 M street northwest, at 3 o'clock this afternoon, and immediately proceeded with the body in the Metropolitan M.E. Church. Awaiting their arrival there were assembled, beside the District employees, almost the entire body of the Bar Association, and hundreds of friends and business acquaintances of the deceased.

The honorary pallbearers were: District Commissioners Henry B.F. Macfarland, H.L. West and John Biddle, Chief Justice H.M. Clabaugh, Justice Thomas H. Anderson, Justice Ashley M. Gould, Nathaniel M. Wilson, R. Ross Perry, William F. Mattingly, S.T. Thomas, Aldis B. Browne, E.H. Thomas, John Joy Edson, A.D. Lynch, Brainerd H. Warner and Dr. Richard Kingsman. Body bearers carried the remains.

#### *In his sermon, Dr. Bristol said:*

"In the presence of the calm and silent dignity of death the petty accidents of this mortal life--wealth, eloquence, learning, genius, official rank and social station--all seem but superficialities and tinselry in comparison with a strong and loving manhood, a pure and lofty character, a life of honor, a name without a blemish and a memory revered. Our final estimate of men is based upon the moral principles which have controlled their lives. What were the ideals! To what did they aspire! How nearly did they approximate the perfect man--the measure of the stature of the followers of Christ?"

#### *Farewell Tribute*

"So, as we come into God's house to pay our farewell tribute to the memory of Andrew Brown Duvall, our minds are again most profoundly impressed with the superlative value of Christian character. How little, how almost contemptible does everything else seem here today in comparison with those simple, sturdy qualities of mind and heart which furnish the moral basis of a pure and symmetrical manhood and the inspiration of a generous and useful life!

As a lad of sixteen Mr. Duvall stood with his brothers and sisters beside the death bed of a saintly father and there received the tender loving charge, "Meet me in heaven." Forty and two years have passed, but never did that faithful son forget his father's dying words. Though from childhood he had been brought up in nurture and admonition of the Lord, it was beside that death bed of a Christian father that he formed the resolution which developed into a steadfast faith, a sterling integrity, a living, joyful Christian experience and a life of piety, honor and good work.

"Few men in this community were better known than Mr. Duvall. Boy and man Washington has known him for fifty-eight years. Here he was born and here he lived his life. It was an earnest and joyful life. This life of a man who walked in the sunshine of a genial disposition and beside the still waters of serene contentment and quiet dignity. Happy, supremely happy in his ideal home life, he did not long for the contentious and excitements of the political activities which disturb the peace of mind more than they satisfy ambition. Yet he was not selfish in his enjoyment of life.

"He belonged to wife and children and home with sweet and constant devotion, but he also belonged to the church of God with a loyalty never excelled, and he belonged to this community and to the body politic with a conscientious persuasion of the high duties which he owed to society and to his country.

#### *His Characteristics*

"To the discharge of his official duties he brought his legal learning, his sound judgment, his fine sense of justice and honor, his tireless patience and his capacity for painstaking and unremitting work. The District of Columbia, to whose interest he consecrated his best powers and for whose welfare he made the sacrifices which doubtless shortened his life, may truly say this day: "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

"Andrew B. Duvall was truly a representative man. He was a representative citizen, a representative lawyer, a representative Methodist, a representative Christian. As a lawyer he adorned his profession. Appreciating the nobility of his calling, he never lowered the standards of professional ethics, but always aimed in his own practice to observe, respect and exalt those ideals of old-fashioned honor which had brought historic dignity and veneration to the law.

"But it was here, here in the church of his choice and his love, that the character of Brother Duvall shone forth with a light and beauty which made him a religious, spiritual force and benediction to hundreds of souls and lives.

"For thirty-two years he had been an honored and beloved member of this church. During all that time he had been an active, living, working Christian, participating in all the trials and triumphs which have attended the development of the Metropolitan Church. He never swerved from his steadfast faith in the great truths and doctrines of the Christian religion as held and taught by the people called Methodists. He inherited in his Huguenot blood a reverence for things sacred and divine.

"He was a man of prayer. His home was a home of prayer, and among the richest legacies which he left his wife and children in the memory of that tender, manly voice pleading with God in prayer in the sweet and sacred hours of family worship.

#### *Formulation of Creed*

"One poem in particular seemed to formulate his creed. He repeated it in one of the last prayer meetings he attended, and, when on the eve of his departure for Europe, he was requested to furnish

his favorite quotation for a book of quotations preparing for publication by one of our church societies, he sent the beautiful poem by Miss Hevergel:

"Lord, for tomorrow and its seeds  
I do not pray;  
Keep me, my God, from stain of sin  
Just for today.

Let me both diligently work  
And duly pray  
Let me be kind in word and deed  
Just for today.

Let me no wrong or idle word  
Unthinkingly say,  
Set thou a seal upon my lips  
Just for today.

Let me be slow to do my will,  
Prompt to obey;  
Help me to sacrifice myself  
Just for today.

So, for tomorrow and its needs  
I do not pray;  
But keep me, guide me, love me, Lord  
Just for today.

#### *District Clerks Take Action*

On the initiative of Assessor H.H. Darneille, heads of all departments of the District government met in the executive office on the fifth floor of the District building at noon today, and unanimously passed the following resolution, which was prepared by a committee consisting of Mr. Darneille, Dr. Woodward, Mr. Tweedale, Dr. Tindall and Mr. Hunt, setting forth the death of "Andrew Brown Duvall, corporation counsel of the District of Columbia," and that "we meet to express our respect for his memory, our sorrow at the severance of our earthly relations with him, and our sympathy with those to whom he was endeared by the closer ties of domestic affection.

"The association of Mr. Duvall with the government of the District of Columbia has been an uninterrupted record of official efficiency, courtesy and diligence of disposing of the vast number of intricate problems of municipal jurisprudence it became his duty to consider. His unfailing urbanity and consideration for the feelings of his fellow officials render the knowledge that they shall hereafter miss his welcome presence a sorrowful heritage.

"The authorities of the District of Columbia have lost the services of a wise counselor; the community at large the fellowship of a worthy citizen and man.

"We tender to his bereaved family our heartfelt condolence in the hope that the knowledge of our regard for the husband and father and our sympathy with them may in some degree enable them to better bear the grief which cannot be assuaged by any human words of aid."