

Basil Benjamin Earnshaw (- 8 Apr 1916)



BASIL B. EARNSHAW.

The Evening Star, April 16, 1905, part 2, p. 7

Flour and Feed

B.B. Earnshaw Bro. Started 35 Years Ago

Thirty-five years ago the prosperous flour and feed store of B.B. Earnshaw & Bro. was established within a few doors of its present location at 1105 to 1109 11th street southeast. The business was a small enterprise at first, but has kept pace with the commercial push and progress of the national capital and today stands in the forefront with the leading business concerns of the District.

The Evening Star, May 5, 1910, p. 14

Earnshaw Is Cross

Thins Newspaper Account Is Unfair to Grocers

Dislikes Social Mention

Thinks Advertising Patronage Should Win Better Treatment

House Committee Hearing

President of Wholesale Association Tells of

"Undesirable" Customers, Who Sell Below Cost

B.B. Earnshaw, president of the Wholesale Grocers' Association of this city, which, according to Percival M Brown, the association's attorney, is "largely social" in its objects, was the principal witness today at the hearing before

the Moore special committee which is investigating the food problem in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Earnshaw expressed considerable displeasure to the committee as a result of references to his organization as a "social" body. A little bit later he indorsed the designation himself.

"What do you do at your meetings of the association?" asked Representative Pearre of Maryland.

"Oh, not much," Mr. Earnshaw replied. "We have a few drinks, a few smokes, a few jokes and talk."

"The Wholesale Grocers' Association has not been fairly treated by The Star in its report of the proceedings of the Moore committee last Tuesday," Mr. Earnshaw complained.

"I find," Mr. Pearre commented, "that the newspapers are nearly always correct."

"They are generally always wrong," Mr. Earnshaw declared, gloomily; "in this case, anyway. I spend a thousand dollars a year, and then it goes back on me."

"What do you mean when you say 'paper has gone back on you?'" inquired Representative Johnson of Kentucky.

"I mean to say," responded Mr. Earnshaw, "that they publish erroneous reports of these hearings."

Thinks His Patronage Should Last

"In what respect were they erroneous?" persisted Mr. Johnson.

"I could not say," Mr. Earnshaw admitted. "I have not the clippings before me. I did not mean to charge the paper with an offense. I did not mean anything harmful. I think, in consideration of the patronage I give it, I am entitled to fair treatment."

"And don't you think you got that?" Mr. Johnson inquired.

"That is a question," Mr. Earnshaw replied.

"Is it your idea," Mr. Johnson demanded emphatically "that the newspapers should have withheld certain testimony at these hearings, just because you spend \$1,000 a year in advertising?"

"I don't want any favors," said Mr. Earnshaw. "I only want fair treatment, and I think I got fair treatment only to some extent."

Didn't Like "Social" Mention

Finally, after Mr. Johnson had persisted for some time in his efforts to make Mr. Earnshaw be specific in his assertion that the account in The Star of the last hearing was erroneous, Mr. Earnshaw said he took exception to the manner in which the "social" activities of the Wholesale Grocers Association had been referred to.

Opposition to the Moore bill making it compulsory for any person, firm or organization in the District to sell their goods to all customers offering the regular price was opposed by Mr. Earnshaw and by Attorney Brown of the Grocers' Association.

Mr. Brown questioned the constitutionality of the bill, declaring there were numerous decisions of the United States Supreme Court which would sustain his contention that an individual has the right to sell to whom he pleases or to refuse to sell to any individual when he pleases and that the wholesale grocers act as individuals when they refuse to deal with those retail grocers whom he termed "undesirables."

"Undesirables" Are Defined

"What is an undesirable customer?" Representative Johnson inquired.

"A man who sells to his customers," President Earnshaw replied, "certain goods at from 25 per cent to 50 per cent less than cost, and makes up his loss on other classes of goods. I will not do business with such men. They are dishonorable business men."

Representative Moore of Pennsylvania, chairman of the committee, asked Mr. Earnshaw if the objection was a matter of credit or had to do with the methods of the men to whom he referred. Mr. Earnshaw replied that credit did not always enter into the question of whether or not a man was undesirable.

"If a man offered you cash for your goods and you believed he would sell them below cost you would not sell to him?" suggested Mr. Johnson.

"I would not," Mr. Earnshaw answered. "I do not want his trade and I exercise my individual right not to do business with him."

"Why not?" persisted Mr. Johnson

Fooling the Public

"Because," replied Mr. Earnshaw, "he has the reputation of deluding the public by selling a few goods below cost, and making his customers believe he sells all his goods at that low figure."

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Earnshaw if the money of a man like this wasn't just as good as the money of any other man.

"Not to me. I don't want to have anything to do with him," said Mr. Earnshaw emphatically.

Mr. Johnson asked Earnshaw if he sold short-weight canned goods. The reply was that he was not a manufacturer and didn't know that he did. Asked whether he sold first and classes of tomatoes, he declared he had not sold seconds in many years.

The president of the Wholesale Grocers' Association wound up by declaring the passage of the bill in question would compel him to sell to undesirable retailers and consumers, and would drive him out of business.

Mr. Earnshaw will continue his testimony at tonight's meeting of the committee, which will begin at 8 o'clock.

Earnshaw. On Saturday, April 8, 1916, at 9:30 p.m., Basil B. Earnshaw, beloved husband of Catherine C. Earnshaw. Funeral Tuesday, April 11 at 2 o'clock p.m. from his late residence, 723 12th street southeast. Interment private.

Earnshaw. Members of the Association Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of our late associate. Basil B. Barnshaw, at his late residence 723 12th street southeast, Tuesday, the 11th instant, at 2 p.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President.

Benjamin W. Reiss, R.S.

The Evening Star, April 9, 1916

**Illness Proves Fatal To Basil B. Earnshaw
Was Prominent in Business for Forty Years--
Leaves Wife and Two Children**

Basil B. Earnshaw, member of the firm of B.B. Earnshaw & Bro., 1105 11th street southeast, who had for more than forty years been prominent in the business life of the capital, died at 9:30 o'clock last night in Providence Hospital.

Mr. Earnshaw was seventy years old. He had been in failing health for some time. He was born in Maryland and lived in the District practically all his life. Funeral arrangements have not yet been made.

Mr. Earnshaw was a member of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants and of the Rotary Club. He had for many years been a member of the Chamber of Commerce, was president of the Congress Hall Hotel Corporation and a director in the National Capital Bank and Continental Trust Company.

He leaves his wife, a son and daughter. The family home is at 723 12th street southeast.

The Evening Star, April 10, 1916, p. 11

**Final Rites Tomorrow for Basil B. Earnshaw
Rev. Mr. Bachus of Elizabeth City, N.J.,
Formerly of Washington, to Conduct Services.**

Arrangements have been completed for the funeral, at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, from his late residence, 723 12th street northwest, of Basil B. Earnshaw, who died Saturday. Rev. Mr. Bachus of Elizabeth City, N.J., formerly a pastor here, will officiate, coming to Washington for that purpose. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

In addition to his other connections, Mr. Earnshaw was president of the Congress Hall Hotel Company, the directors of which have adopted resolutions. After setting forth their sense of personal loss due to his death, they point out that Mr. Earnshaw was a public-spirited and charitable citizen, who was at all times generous in his support of plans for the betterment of the community, and who had the respect, confidence and love of all who knew him.

The Evening Star, April 11, 1916, p. 2

**Funeral of B.B. Earnshaw
Final Services This Afternoon; Interment Congressional Cemetery**

Funeral services for Basil B. Earnshaw, member of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants, who died Saturday, were held at 2 o'clock this afternoon at the residence, 723 12th street southeast. Rev. Mr. Bachus of Elizabeth City, N.J., formerly of this city, officiated. The board of directors of the Washington Association of Credit Men was represented at the funeral by A.F. Harlan.

Interment was at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, April 12, 1916, p. 12

Will of B.B Earnshaw

Large Part of Estate in Trust During Lifetime of Widow

The will of Basil B. Earnshaw, dated January 26, 1910, has been filed for probate. He leaves to his wife, Catherine O. Earnshaw, all his household effects absolutely, and gives his jewelry to his son, John B. Earnshaw. The remaining estate is devised to his two children, Kate Irene Earnshaw and John B. Earnshaw, in trust, to permit the widow to occupy for life premises 723 12th street southeast as a home, or should she wish to reside elsewhere, to pay rent for another house or to expend \$6,00 to \$10,000 in building one for her. The trustees are also to pay not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$1,500 annually to the widow and to each of themselves during the life of Mrs. Earnshaw. The son is to be allowed to continue the business, formerly conducted by the testator, on certain conditions.

On the death of the wife the estate is to be equally divided between the daughter and the son. The trustees are also to act as executors.

The Evening Star, April 13, 1916, p. 2

Regret Death of B.B. Earnshaw

The board of directors of the Continental Trust Company, at a meeting yesterday, passed a resolution of regret at the death of Basil B. Earnshaw. Mr. Earnshaw had been a director of the company since its incorporation.