

Owen Thomas Edgar

(17 Jun 1831 - 3 Sep 1929)

Edgar, Owen Thomas. On Tuesday, September 3, 1929, at 2:30 p.m., Owen Thomas Edgar, beloved husband of the late Frances Ann Edgar, aged 98 years, last survivor of the Mexican War. Funeral services at Waugh M.E. Church Thursday, September 5, at 3 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery. (Philadelphia papers please copy.)

Soldier of 1846 Dies



OWEN THOMAS EDGAR

Edgar, Owen T. The members of Association of Oldest Inhabitants are requested to attend the funeral of our late associate, Owen T. Edgar, from Waugh M.E. Church, Thursday, September 5, at 3 p.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President

J. Eliot Wright, Secretary

The Evening Star, Wednesday, September 4, 1929, p. 9

Last Mexican War Soldier Dies at 98

Owen Thomas Edgar Expires Following Fall That Fractured Leg

The Nation has lost its last living contact with the Mexican War of 1846-1848. Owen Thomas Edgar, who since June 16, last had been the sole survivor of the American forces who fought in that conflict, died yesterday at the John Dickson Home, 5000 Fourteenth Street.

Mr. Edgar survived the next to the last active participant in the Mexican War by about three months. William Fitzhugh Thornton Buckner, a banker at Paris, Mo., died there June 16. The following day Mr. Edgar observed his ninety-eighth birthday. Mentally alert and surprisingly strong for a man of his advanced age, he seemed pleased that he should be the last man in the Nation who could recall armed service under the flag against Mexico.

Mr. Edgar was a private- on the United States frigate Potomac and later on the frigate Allegheny at the time Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee were seeing their first active service after leaving West Point.

52 Years in U.S. Employ

He put in 52 years of active work in the civilian employ of the Government and with a bank after he was mustered out of the naval service. About a year ago he suffered an attack of grippe, but was able to be about until last Tuesday, when he fell from a chair and broke a leg. He was the "great joker" of the John Dickson Home maintaining a cheerful disposition throughout his 10 years at the institution. Nurses said it was the shock of his recent injury that caused death.

Born in Philadelphia June 17, 1831, Mr. Edgar worked as a printer in that city until the outbreak of the Mexican War, when he enlisted in the Navy. He came to Washington in 1861 and was employed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, where he worked for 21 years. Then he transferred to the

Columbia National Bank, where he worked for 31 years. He was retired from the bank in 1919 and went to the John Dickson Home to live.

Rarely Talked About War

With all his cheerfulness, Mr. Edgar was modest about his own achievements and rarely talked about his part in the Mexican War.

Mr. Edgar's last birthday anniversary was the occasion for a general celebration at the home. His daughter, Mrs. Philo L. Bush of 1812 Park road, carried flowers and candy to him and other gifts were placed in his room by attendants at the home.

His acquaintances found him a delightful character. "He is a great joker," one of the nurses said at the time. He enjoys his meals and never misses one. He eats everything--roast beef, pork, lamb, vegetables and sugar. He has a very sweet tooth and likes to keep candy on hand to give others."

The New York Times, September 4, 1929

The Final Survivor of Mexican War Dies Owen Thomas Edgar, Who Served in the Navy, Lived to Age of 98 Years

Washington, September 3

Owen Thomas Edgar, only surviving veteran of the Mexican War, died today at the age of 98.

The distinction of being the last survivor of the Americans who had part in the conflict of 1846 came the day before his ninety-eighth birthday, June 17, when William Filtzhugh Thornton Buckner, 101, died at Paris, Mo.

Mr. Edgar was born at Philadelphia in 1831. Before the war he had worked as a printer. He had been a resident of Washington for more than fifty years.

On Mr. Edgar's ninety-eighth birthday, Secretary of the Navy Charles Francis Adams wrote him a letter of congratulation in the course of which he cited Edgar's Mexican War records as disclosed in the files of the Navy Department. Enlisting as a second-class apprentice on Feb. 10, 1846, he served on the frigates Experience, Pennsylvania, Potomac and Allegheny until his discharge as a first-class apprentice on Aug. 8, 1849.

The Washington Post, September 4, 1929, p. 1

Last of Survivors of War With Mexico, 98, Dies Here Shock From Fall Given as Cause of Death of O.T. Edgar

Owen Thomas Edgar, 98 years old, sole survivor of the American forces who fought in the War with Mexico, died early yesterday afternoon at the John Dickson Home, 5000 Fourteenth street northwest, where he had spent the last ten years of his life.

Death came to the distinguished veteran after an illness of one week, caused by a fall from a chair at midnight last Tuesday in which the aged man broke his leg. Nurses at the home said last Tuesday in which the aged man broke his leg. Nurses at the home said last night that the shock of the injury killed the veteran.

Up to the time of the accident, Mr. Edgar had been as well as a man of 98 can be expected to be, the nurses said. His last days had been peaceful. Life for him had framed itself into a view of a garden, and occasional walks down a sun-bathed corridor.

Almost his last words were in praise of the home in which he had spent the close of his life, it was said.

Mr. Edgar, until June 16 of this year, shared the distinction of being a survivor of the Mexican War with William Fitzhugh Buckner, of Paris, Mo. Mr. Buckner died on Sunday June 16. On the following day, Mr. Edgar celebrated his ninety-eighth birthday.

Mr. Edgar enlisted in the War with Mexico as a second-class apprentice seaman on February 10, 1846. He was honorably discharged on August 8, 1849, as a first-class apprentice seaman. During the three years of his service, he served on the U.S.S. Experience, the U.S.S. Pennsylvania, the U.S.S. Potomac and the U.S.S. Allegheny. After the war he returned to Philadelphia, his native city. He studied the printing trade and decided to make that his life work. On May 2, 1854, he married Miss Frances Anne Batchelder of Philadelphia. Mrs. Edgar died in Washington on July 2, 1903, and lies buried in Congressional Cemetery. Mr. Edgar will be buried at her side tomorrow afternoon after services at 3 o'clock at the Waugh Methodist Episcopal Church, 306 A street northeast.

In 1851 Mr. Edgar came to Washington and found employment in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Within a short time he was made a division chief. He remained at the Bureau of Engraving for 25 years. In the latter part of this time he had been attracted by the banking profession, and following his resignation from the Bureau of Engraving he became associated with the Columbia National Bank, where he remained for 31 years, when he was retired at the age of 88 on a pension.

An injury received as a young man after the Mexican War, prevented Mr. Edgar from serving in the Civil War.

Mr. Edgar is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Philo Bush, of 1812 Park road northwest, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. The grandchildren are: Mrs. Clarence Bush, Mrs. Charles Curtis and Mrs. Helen Lancaster, of Washington, and William A. Edgar and Mrs. James Alexander Edgar, of Baltimore. The great grandchildren are: Edgar Allen Bush, Margaret Elaine Bush, Marion Alice Lancaster, of Washington, and Jean and Elizabeth Edgar of Baltimore.

Four years ago, there were eleven survivors of the Mexican War. This number dwindled to 4 in 1927. Today there is none left.

The New York Times, June 19, 1929

**Veteran of 1846 Honored
Secretary Adams Congratulates T.O. Edgar on 98th Birthday
Special to the New York Times**

Washington, June 18

Thomas O. Edgar, an inmate of John Dickson Home here and said to be the sole surviving veteran of the Mexican War, was the recipient of a letter of congratulations from Secretary of the Navy Adams yesterday on his ninety-eighth birthday. Edgar served in the navy during the war. The letter read as follows:

June 17, 1929

"Dear Sir:

"An item in the press this morning stated that this was your ninety-eighth birthday.

"The records of the Navy Department show that you enlisted in the navy Feb. 10, 1846, as a second class apprentice, and served on the U.S.S. Experience, U.S.S. Pennsylvania, U.S.S. Potomac and the U.S.S. Allegheny until Aug. 8, 1849, when you were discharged as a first class apprentice by order of the Secretary of the Navy.

"While I have not gone into the records thoroughly, I doubt if there are few men alive who served with you in the navy during your period of service.

"It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you upon this, your ninety-eighth birthday, to wish you many happy returns of the day and to extend to you the hope that you will be spared to your family and friends for a long time to come.

"Very sincerely yours,
"Charles Francis Adams."

The Evening Star, June 18, 1921, p. 2

Owen T. Edgar Observes 90th Birth Anniversary

Delegation From Association of Oldest Inhabitants Visits Him and Extends Felicitations

A delegation from the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia went to the John Dickson Home last night and joined Owen T. Edgar, a veteran member, in observing his ninetieth birthday anniversary.

The visit was a complete surprise to the pioneer Washingtonian and for more than an hour he and his fellow members indulged in reminiscences of fifty years ago. The delegation presented him a collection of flowers.

The visiting group consisted of Henry L. Bryan, Washington Topham, Dr. William Tindall, Albion K. Parris, John H. McCarthy, J. Eliot Weight, John C. Proctor, William E. Reiss and Benjamin W. Reiss. Mr. Bryan made presentation of the flowers. Mr. Edgar was born in Philadelphia, June 17, 1831, and has been a resident of the District since April, 1864. He lived for a number of years at 922 East Capitol street.

Mr. Edgar shipped as a sailor on the frigate Potomac in the Gulf Squadron during the Mexican war.

For more than thirty years after coming to Washington he was employed at the Columbia National Bank. For eleven years he served as superintendent of the Waugh M.E. Sunday school.