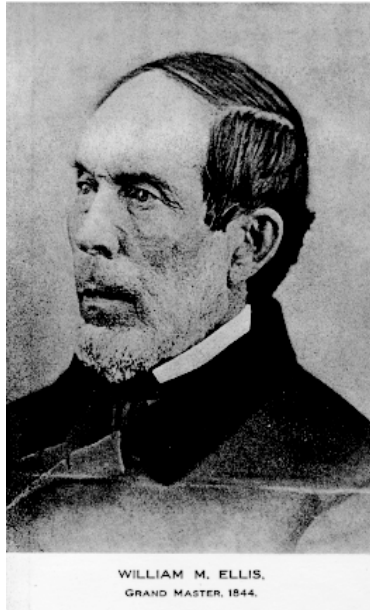


William M. Ellis

(28 Aug 1806 – 16 Mar 1868)

The Evening Star, March 14, 1868

We regret to learn that William F. Ellis, an esteemed citizen (of the firm of Ellis & Bro., founders) is quite ill.



The Evening Star, March 16, 1868

Death of Wm. M. Ellis

With regret we announce the death of Wm. M. Ellis, which occurred this morning at his late residence in the southern portion of the Fifth Ward. Mr. Ellis was the senior partner of the firm of Ellis & Brother, machinists, and in his line of business was a first Master Engineer, Navy Yard, during which time several first class engines for our vessels of war were built under his superintendence, as also the beautiful engine in the copper rolling mill, which is said to be one of the finest pieces of machinery ever made in this country. Mr. Ellis was one of the oldest members of the Masonic order in the District, and several years ago was the Grand Master, and was a member of Naval Lodge. He was a very quiet, unassuming citizen, was deservedly popular among those with whom he was acquainted, and for several terms was honored by being elected to the Council. He has been for years a member of the Four-and-a-half Street Presbyterian Church, and was at the time of his death one of the deacons. He had been a member of the Church about forty years. He was at the time of his death one of

the Board of Water Commissioners. It was through his mechanical skill and ingenuity, while master machinist at the Navy Yard, that the yard gained its high reputation as a manufacturing yard. His funeral will take place from the Four-and-a-half Street Church on Thursday at 2 1/2 o'clock, and will be attended by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was one of the three remaining past masters, (Dr. Magruder and J.E.F. Holmead being the others.) He was taken sick several weeks ago, and it was at first supposed that his disease was a bronchial affection, but it was subsequently ascertained that he had a tumor one of his lungs, which caused his death.

The Evening Star, March 19, 1868

Funeral of W.M. Ellis

The funeral of the late Wm. M. Ellis, a Past Grand Master of the Masons, and a highly respected citizen of the Fifth Ward, took place this afternoon at the 4 1/2 street Presbyterian Church, which was well filled by the many relatives and friends of the deceased, among whom were many of our oldest citizens, and members of the Masonic order.

The corpse was enclosed in a handsome coffin, covered with black cloth, on which were the Masonic emblems, square and compass, with the letter G and the five pointed star, understood by all bright Masons. On the breast of the coffin was a beautiful wreath of flowers, and the lambskin of the order.

The services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Sunderland and Rev. John Chester, (the latter of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church,) and at their conclusion the corpse was removed to the hearse, R. Clark and J.

Nokes, Past Masters of Naval Lodge; J. Essex and C.W. Bennett, of the Grand Lodge, and Messrs. Campbell and Carter, of the church, acting as pallbearers.

The procession was formed of Washington and Columbia Commanderies of Knights Templar escorting the Grand Lodge, headed by Heald's band, and the Washington Naval Lodge. No. 4, as mourners, headed by F. Prosperi's band. The remains were interred at the Congressional Cemetery, the Masonic service being conducted by Grand Master B.B. French.

History of the Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M.

William M. Ellis, who filled the Master's chair in the year 1835 and later in the year 1848, was born in August 1806, and resided his entire life in Washington. He was a mechanic of high order, was thoroughly conversant with all branches of steam engineering and for many years held the position of Master Machinist in the Navy Yard in Washington; subsequently engaged in private business, conducting a machine shop on Ohio Avenue. His standing in the community is evidenced by the fact that he was for many years a member of the City Council. He is described as "quiet and unostentatious, beloved and respected." He was initiated Nov. 3, 1827; passed Dec. 1, 1827, and raised Dec. 19, 1827. Besides his service in Naval Lodge he was Senior Grand Warden in 1837; Deputy Grand Master in 1839, and Grand Master in 1844. His death occurred March 16, 1868. In the language of a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge on the occasion of his funeral under the auspices of that body, "He revered God, he loved his country, he loved his fellow men."

Harper, Kenton N., History of the Grand Lodge, 1911

p. 346: Grand Master, 1844

Born in Philadelphia, Pa., August 28, 1806, he received an academic education, and afterward became principal of the academy at Rockville, Md. Later he entered the Washington Navy Yard as a founder and subsequently became master machinist at that place. During his service at the Yard several first-class engines for our vessels were built under his supervision. In after years he established a private business under the firm name of Ellis & Bro., machinists and prospered. As a citizen he was active in public affairs, was President of the Anacostia Fire Co., and was for some years a member of the Board of Water Commissioners and of the City Council.

He was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church and one of its deacons for forty years. He is described as a model citizen, fond husband, and profound Christian. Quiet and unassuming, beloved, and respected, he was deservedly popular among his associates.

At the time of his death, which occurred March 16, 1868, he was one of the oldest members of the Fraternity in the District and one of the most venerated. In the language of a resolution passed by the Grand Lodge on the occasion of his funeral, under the auspices of that body, "he revered God, he loved his country, he loved his fellow men."

He was initiated in Naval Lodge, No. 4, November 23, 1827; passed December 1, 1827, and raised December 19, 1827, and after serving in several of the subordinate chairs became Master of his lodge in 1835, and afterward in 1848.

He became Senior Grand Warden in 1837; Deputy Grand Master in 1839, and Grand Master in 1844.