

Mary Ellen French

(23 Dec 1831 – 22 Feb 1905)

French. On Wednesday, February 22, 1905 at the residence of Dr. William B. French, 506 East Capitol street, Mrs. Mary E. French, widow of B.B. French in her 73rd year. Funeral services at house on Friday, February 24 at 3 p.m.

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Funeral of Mrs. French

Services Held This Afternoon From Home of Her Nephew

Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Mary E. French, widow of Maj. B.B. French, who was commissioner of public buildings during Lincoln's administration and a personal friend of the war President, were held at 3 o'clock this afternoon at 506 East Capitol street, the home of her nephew, Dr. William B. French, where she resided for the past few years. Mrs. French was in the seventy-fourth year of her age. Her husband, who was prominent in District affairs and for whom the B.B. French Masonic Lodge was named, died about thirty years ago.

The exercises were conducted by Rev. Father F.I. Fealy, assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, of which Mrs. French was a member. Interment was made in Congressional cemetery.

Mrs. French died at noon Wednesday. She had no children, but is survived by one sister, Mrs. Margaret French, widow of the late Edmund F. French, of this city.

Mrs. French was born in the District and has been a resident here all her life. She married Major French in the early sixties. Her maiden name was Mary E. Brady and she was the daughter of Peter Brady, who came to this country from Dublin, Ireland, when a young man.

Mrs. French received her education in the Georgetown Convent. She was regarded as the ideal type of the woman of ante-bellum days, with charming personality and manners. All her life she was very charitable and her church work was carried on with a conscientious spirit. For many years she lived in the family residence on the present site of the Congressional Library, but when the houses there were ordered to be torn down, she was forced to leave the premises along with the other residents of the square.