

James Eakin Gadsby (- 11 Sep 1919)

Gadsby. Suddenly, on September 11, 1919, James Eakin Gadsby, son of the late William and August Gadsby. Funeral from his late residence, 3114 R street northwest, Saturday, September 13 at 11 a.m. Interment private.

The Evening Star, September 12, 1919, p. 7

J. Eakin Gadsby Dead at Age of 73

Stricken at Midnight With Heart Disease, Realty Authority Succumbs Quickly Was Expert Rifle Shot

J. Eakin Gadsby, a native Washingtonian, died at his home, 3114 R street northwest at midnight, from heart disease after a few minutes' illness, aged twenty-three years.

Mr. Gadsby was one of the best known figures in financial and real estate circles in Washington. He was the confidential agent of Charles C. Glover and of the Riggs National Bank in matters calling for information as to real estate values, tax payments, assessments and desirable opportunities for purchases and sales of real estate.

Born in Gadsby's Hotel, at 3d street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest, he grew up here and was educated in the common schools, entering the service of Congress as a page with Arthur Pue Gorman, later a United States senator from Maryland.

Known as "Lincoln's Boy"

During the civil war he was a special messenger from the Senate to the White House and was known as "Lincoln's boy," being given permission to ride between the Capitol and the White House at top speed, with access to the President at all hours. Later President Lincoln employed him as a messenger to the front, with the most confidential messages. He was frequently captured, but never gave up a message.

Mr. Gadsby held the unique distinction of being the only person in Washington having a permit from the police department to shoot pigeons and cats or other animals in the District of Columbia.

He was the best known small rifle shot in the city, being frequently called upon to kill off pigeons in the Library of Congress or other public or private buildings. He disputed all charges of cruelty in his shooting for the reason that he never wounded an animal, always killing outright with one shot.

Eulogized by Mr. Glover

Charles C. Glover, in speaking of Mr. Gadsby today, said:

"He was one of the most kindly and cheerful personalities I have ever known. We have had business relations of a close and confidential character for many years. I never heard him speak an unkind word of any man. He had scores of friends, was an excellent judge of real estate values and will be greatly missed from this city where he has lived and served so long.

"His wife, for years historian of the Daughters of the Republic, returned last evening, and Mr. Gadsby welcomed her return the more because he was not feeling quite fit, although he was at business yesterday as usual."

Mr. Gadsby is survived by his wife and a sister, Miss Sally Gadsby.

Funeral services will be held at the residence at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, after which the body will be cremated and the ashes placed in Congressional cemetery.

The active pallbearers have not been selected as yet, but Charles C. Glover, John W. Beale, George Easterday and Henry Sohon, with two yet to be selected, will act as honorary pallbearers.

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J. Eakin Gadsby's Funeral

Services Held This Morning -- Body to Be Cremated

Funeral services were held this morning at 11 o'clock at 3141 R street for J. Eakin Gadsby, who died at his home at midnight Thursday. In accordance with Mr. Gadsby's wishes his body will be cremated and the ashes buried in Congressional Cemetery.

The honorary pall bearers were Charles C. Glover, John W. Beale, George Easterday, Henry Sohon, Roscoe Dorsey and Frank Leetch.

The Evening Star, September 16, 1919, p. 2

Will of Mr. Gadsby Filed

Testator Provides Annuities for Members of Family

The will of James Eakin Gadsby, dated June 4, 1915, has been filed for probate. He leaves to the American Security and Trust Company a fund of \$25,000 from the income of which are to be paid annuities to a sister and brother of the deceased. The income from the remaining estate is to be paid by the trust company to the widow, Elizabeth M. Gadsby, who may also draw one-half of the corpus of the estate.

Mrs. Gadsby is allowed by the will to dispose of the remainder of the estate by her will, but should she not do so the remainder is to go to the heirs at law of the testator.