

William Easby Hutchinson

(9 Aug 1827 – 17 Feb 1907)

Hutchinson. Entered into rest Sunday, February 17, 1907 at 4 a.m., William E., beloved husband of Ann Catherine Hutchinson in his eightieth year. Funeral from his late residence, 906 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, on Tuesday, February 19, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends are invited. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.



Hutchinson. Washington Naval Chapter No. 6, R.A.M.: We regret to announce the death of Companion William E. Hutchinson, which occurred Sunday morning, February 17, 1907. Members are requested to assemble in the chapter room, Naval Lodge Hall, Tuesday afternoon, 19th instant at 1 o'clock for the purpose of attending his funeral. By order of the H.P., John Schultz, Secretary.

Hutchinson. The death on February 17, 1907, of Comrade William E. Hutchinson, late of the 7th Battalion, District of Columbia Volunteer Infantry, a member of Kit Carson Post, No. 2, G.A.R., is announced. Comrades are invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, 906 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, Tuesday, February 19, at 2 o'clock p.m. G.M. Husted, Post Commander. Chas. F. Keefer, Adjutant.

The Evening Star, February 18, 1907

Death of Old Citizen

Superintendent of the City Hall Passes Away

William Easby Hutchinson Witnessed Assassination of Abraham

Lincoln -- Interment Tomorrow

One of the oldest citizens of the District -- William Easby Hutchinson -- passed away yesterday morning at his late home, 906 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, in the eightieth year of his age.

The funeral will occur from the family residence at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, and the interment will be at the Congressional cemetery, in which burial place the body of his grandmother was the first interred, and where three generations of the Hutchinson family have been buried.

For twenty-five years the deceased had been superintendent of the city hall. He was a son of Archibald Hutchinson and Mary Ann King Hutchinson, and was born at Rosedale Farm, on the heights above Georgetown, now known as Oak View, on August 9, 1827, his ancestors being among the earliest residents of the District of Columbia.

In Masonic Circles

William Easby Hutchinson served for a short time in the civil war, being a member of Company A, 7th Battalion, District Volunteers. He was a member of the old city council from 1854 to 1856, representing the old sixth ward, and was a member of the board of fire commissioners that established the present fire department. He was for twenty-one years a vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church and was senior warden for ten years. He was prominent in Masonic circles, being worshipful master of Naval Lodge No. 5, from 1859 to 1863, and junior and senior grand warden of the Grand Lodge. He was also a

member of Washington Naval Chapter, No. 6, and of Orient Commandery, Knights Templars, and from 1861 to 1882 was master workman at the Washington navy yard.

Deceased was married to Miss Ann C. Harrison, who survives him, in January 1851. His three sons -- William T., James E. and John A. Hutchinson -- also survive him.

Superintendent of City Hall

As engineer and superintendent of the city hall he was actively engaged in the discharge of his duties until a few weeks ago.

The ancestry of Mr. Hutchinson was largely Welsh, and he was descended from the Davis, Griffith and other Welsh families who settled in Pennsylvania and Delaware in the seventeenth century, and later came to Maryland and the District of Columbia; and he was, both in appearance and character, a typical specimen of Welsh ruggedness, honesty, uprightness and straightforwardness. He resided in this city all his life, and saw it grow from a struggling village to a great city. He assisted in drawing the cornerstone of the Washington monument from the freight yard at 14th and B streets to the site of the monument, took part in the laying of the cornerstone and, many years afterward, in the dedication of the monument. He was present at the assassination of President Lincoln, saw John Wilkes Booth when he leaped from the President's box to the stage, and afterward saw Booth's body on a monitor at the navy yard, where he was then employed.

Regret at the Office.

News of the death of Mr. Hutchinson was received at the city hall this morning with deep regret by the justices of the Court of Appeals and of the District Supreme Court, as well as lawyers and others whose business has brought them daily to the city hall. Words of praise were heard on all sides for Mr. Hutchinson's faithful services and for the care which he took of the building and the government property and furniture intrusted to his supervision.

Chief Deputy Marshal W.B. Robinson spoke in the highest terms of Mr. Hutchinson's devotion to duty, and told how on several occasions recently he had advised the superintendent to go home when he had evidenced indisposition, but had always received the reply, "I guess I will hang around a little longer." Mr. Hutchinson had been away from the city hall only about a week prior to his death.

Marshal Palmer, who has the appointment of the superintendent of the city hall, will probably take no steps looking to the naming of a successor to Mr. Hutchinson until after the funeral tomorrow afternoon. As the position requires the services of an expert engineer, it is thought likely that it will be filled by the promotion of some one of the men now employed at the city hall and acquainted with the heating arrangements of the building.

The members of Naval Chapter, No. 6, Royal Arch Masons, have been notified by Mr. John Schultz, the secretary, to assemble in the chapter room, Naval Lodge Hall, at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon for the purpose of attending the funeral.

The Evening Star, February 19, 1907

Funeral of William Easby Hutchinson

The funeral of Mr. William Easby Hutchinson, the veteran engineer and superintendent of the city hall, who died Sunday afternoon at his residence, 906 Pennsylvania avenue southeast, took place this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence. The services were conducted by Rev. Arthur Johns, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, Navy Yard. The pallbearers were chosen from the Masonic fraternity and were Messrs. William H. Hoeke, Alexander McKenzie, Joseph H. Hartley, James Berry, John Schultz and Charles H. Stockett. The interment was in Congressional cemetery.

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

William E. Hutchinson, the third eldest living Past Master of the Lodge, was elected as its presiding officer, Dec. 4, 1858 and installed Jan. 8, 1859. For many years he was perhaps its most active and zealous member, and to the present day, hale and hearty, and in the full possession of all his faculties, his advice is sought in all important Lodge matters. Worshipful Brother Hutchinson was born Aug. 9, 1827, at the Rosedale farm on the heights of Georgetown (now called Oak View); when sixteen years of age he went to live with John Davis of Able (his uncle), and lived with him until he reached his majority; served as an apprentice under him in the Washington Navy Yard, afterward working as journeyman until 1861, when he was appointed Master Workman, which position he held for 21 years. In January, 1851, he married and was blessed with four children, three of whom are still living, and two have seen that "Hieroglyphia bright" which none but Craftsmen ever saw. April 15, 1861, enlisted in Co. "D." 7th Battalion District Volunteers, and was mustered out July 15, 1861; in the years 1854 and 1855 was a member of the City Council, representing the 6th Ward; was a member of the Board of Fire Commissioners that established the present Fire Department; assisted in hauling the cornerstone of the Washington Monument from 14th and B streets to the site of the Monument; was in the procession at the laying of the cornerstone, and in the Masonic procession at the dedication of said Monument; was present at the assassination of President Lincoln, and saw Wilkes Booth when he leaped from the President's box to the stage in the theater; afterwards saw Booth's body on a monitor at the Navy Yard; in March, 1883, was appointed Engineer and Superintendent of the U.S. Court House, which position he now holds; was for 21 years a Vestryman of Christ Episcopal Church, and for ten years Senior Warden. He was initiated to Naval Lodge, No. 4, Oct. 5, 1850; passed Nov. 2, 1850; and raised Nov. 30, 1850; served as Junior Deacon in 1853 and 1854; Junior Warden, 1855; Senior Warden from 1855 to 1858; Worshipful Master from 1858 to 1863 (5 years), and Treasurer from 1864 to 1871; also served as Junior and Senior Grand Warden in the Grand Lodge; is a member of Washington Naval Chapter No. 6 and Orient Commandery, No. 5, Knights Templar, and the Masonic Veterans' Association. He was made a life member of the Lodge upon the completion of his fiftieth year of active connection therewith, and also possesses the distinction of being the only Past Master of the Lodge to whom a jewel has been presented, this interesting ceremony taking place Feb. 5, 1865.