

Sarah A. Keller

(- 27 Nov 1899)

The Evening Star, November 16, 1899, p. 13

The Illness of Mrs. Keller

Mrs. Sarah Keller, widow of J.P. Keller, for many years the chief clerk of the ordnance department, was stricken with paralysis Monday night. Mrs. Keller has just passed her 89th birthday and has spent her entire life since her marriage in this city. Although it is hoped that she may recover, temporarily, at least, from her present affliction, her relatives fear that on account of her advanced age she is liable to pass away at any time. She is at the residence of her daughter. Mrs. Elestra Ely Camp, 1448 N street northwest, and all her children and grandchildren are with her.

The Evening Star, December 2, 1899, p. 12

Aged Lady Passes Away

Mrs. Sarah A. Keller the Victim of Paralysis

Mrs. Sarah A. Keller, who was stricken with paralysis the evening of the 12th instant at her residence, 1448 N street northwest, died last Monday evening and was buried Wednesday afternoon in the Congressional cemetery. Representatives of three generations bore her body and placed it in the same grave with that of her late husband.

Mrs. Keller was in her ninetieth year, having been born during President Monroe's administration. She remembered the burning of the Capitol by the British and recalled with pride the fact of having shaken hands with Lafayette.

Notwithstanding her advanced years, she evinced the great interest and delight in current events, her companionship being sought by the young as well as the old. Extraordinary health and vigor, which she enjoyed until within a few months, enabled her to care for the wants of a large family. There are few of the old families of Washington who have not felt the uplifting influence of her gentle and comforting presence in trouble, sickness, or in the hour of death. Indeed, her life was replete in the doing of kindly deeds, to which the wealth of flowers placed upon her coffin bore testimony. Her charity, which was large and grand, was her most distinguished characteristic.

Since her marriage in 1828 to Jonas P. Keller, who during the civil war and for many years after was the chief clerk of the ordnance department, she had resided in Washington, making her home in this city with her daughters, Mrs. Camp and Mrs. Neagle, and during the life of General John S. Mason, with her daughter at Woodley Lane. Four daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive her.