

Charles Calvert Lancaster (Sr.)

(5 Nov 1849 – 4 Apr 1925)

Lancaster. Saturday, April 4, 1925, at his residence, 2907 14th st. n.w., Charles C. Lancaster. Funeral services at the above address Tuesday, April 7, at 2 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, April 4, 1925, p.

Prominent Civic Leader Here Dies

Charles C. Lancaster, 75, Active for Half Century in District Affairs

Charles C. Lancaster, prominent in civic affairs in the District of Columbia for more than 50 years and a resident of Washington all his life, died today at his home, 2907 Fourteenth street following a stroke of paralysis. Mr. Lancaster died at 6:45 o'clock this morning. He was stricken with paralysis on December 20 last and had been confined to his home during most of the time since the stroke, although death came unexpectedly, since hope had been held out for his ultimate recovery. Mr. Lancaster was 75 years of age.

Funeral services will be held at his home Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted by Father Moran of Sacred Heart Church, of which Mr. Lancaster was a communicant. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery. Pall bearers had not been named today, although it was thought many of the men associated with Mr. Lancaster in civic work would be pall bearers at the funeral.

Stood for 50-50 Plan

Mr. Lancaster was a strong supporter of the 50-50 plan of appropriating funds for the District of Columbia and worked with other civic leaders along this line. Although in favor of the 50-50 fiscal relations plan, he was always opposed to universal suffrage in the District of Columbia and maintained his stand consistently against suffrage in the face of opposition.

Mr. Lancaster was born in Georgetown November 9, 1849, the son of a prominent Maryland family which held large land holdings at the junction of the Potomac and the Wicomico Rivers. His ancestors were all Maryland people, the Neales and Pyes on his father's side and the Spearmans and Spruances on his mother's side. His father, who was a supporter of the Confederate cause, fought in the Civil War and his property was devastated and the family circumstances much straightened. As a boy Mr. Lancaster went to Baltimore, where he taught at Loyola College, and coming to Washington taught at Gonzaga College in order to obtain money to compete his education at Georgetown University, from which he graduated in 1870 with an A.B. degree.

Taking up the practice of law after serving in the Treasury Department for several years, Mr. Lancaster was mentioned at one time for the post of Commissioner of the District of Columbia.

Was Stanch Democrat

Always a stanch Democrat, Mr. Lancaster served on several inaugural committees and took a leading part in the social affairs incident to the inauguration of several Presidents. He married Miss Annie Randall, a daughter of Representative Samuel J. Randall of Pennsylvania, former Speaker of the House, in 1886. Mrs. Lancaster died 10 years ago.

Mr. Lancaster was a member of the District Bar Association and of the American Bar Association. He represented Middle Western lumber and iron interests here.

He is survived by two sons, George W.C. and Samuel J.R. Lancaster, both of Washington; a sister, Mrs. Llewellyn Eliot of Minneapolis; two brothers in California and another brother, S. Spearman Lancaster, a resident of Rock Point, Md.

Headed Citizen Bodies

Mr. Lancaster was president of the Northwest Suburban Citizens' association for 20 years, taking a prominent part in the discussions which led up to the widening of Wisconsin avenue. He then lived in that part of the city, and later moved to 2907 Fourteenth street, where he died today, becoming identified with the Columbia Heights and Brightwood Citizens' Associations. He was vice president of the latter organization and always worked in the associations for the half-and-half fiscal relations plan and for general civic betterment in Washington.

Although Mr. Lancaster was one of the founders of the Federation of Citizens' Associations, and frequently was named a delegate to that body, he never took part in its discussions because it met in the boardroom of the District Building. When the federation accepted the offer of the Commissioners to hold its meetings at the District Building, Mr. Lancaster protested against the meeting place and never attended a meeting in that structure.

Mr. Lancaster was eulogized today by leaders in civic work in Washington, including Jesse C. Suter, president of the Federation of Citizens' Associations; William McK. Clayton and J. Clinton Hiatt, all of whom were associated with him for many years in civic work.

"Always in the forefront of movements for the general betterment of conditions in the District of Columbia, Mr. Lancaster was an untiring worker for the good of the city," Mr. Suter said

"Mr. Lancaster was a man of great personal integrity and always took a commanding place in movements for the good of Washington," Mr. Hiatt said.