

## Hamilton E. Leach

(1850 – 9 May 1893)

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*The Evening Star, October 20, 1888*

### Locals

Dr. Hamilton E. Leach leaves today for a trip through the South and West. During his absence he will visit the Elks Lodges in his capacity of Exalted Ruler of the Order. The late Dr. Hamilton Leach was interred at Congressional cemetery Friday afternoon at 5 o'clock. Only the immediate family and nearest relatives being present.



**Dr. Hamilton E. Leach**

*The Evening Star, May 26, 1892*

### Dr. Leach Welcomed Home

Dr. Hamilton E. Leach, who has been abroad in Europe for some time returned home last night. A large number of ladies and gentlemen met him at the depot and escorted him to his residence.

*The Washington Evening Star, May 9, 1893*

### Death of Dr. H.E. Leach

#### A Well-Known Physician and Surgeon Passes Away After a Long Illness.

At 2:50 this morning Dr. Hamilton Leach died at his residence in this city of tuberculosis after an illness of several months. His death had been expected for several days past, and on last Saturday evening it was thought that he could not survive until morning. A slight improvement followed, however, and yesterday morning he felt strong enough to rise from his couch, and after partaking of food, enjoyed a cigar. A sinking spell followed later in the day, from which he never rallied and death relieved him early this morning.

Hamilton Evans Leach was a native of Washington, having been born on 11th street in South Washington in 1852. He was educated in the District schools, afterward working for several years in a lime kiln, from which employment he saved sufficient money to matriculate at Georgetown Medical College. He graduated with honors, working at various occupations between times in order to pay his way through the college. In 1872 he commenced the practice of medicine with Dr. Fenwick in South Washington. Soon after that he branched out for himself and was appointed corporation physician. He was a hard student and by rigid application attained eminence in his profession. Dr. Leach was an excellent surgeon, having performed in this city some of the most difficult, yet successful, operations known to surgical science.

Dr. Leach had considerable dramatic talent and was complimented several years ago by Tony Pastor by the offer of an engagement. He was a member of the Order of Elks, having served three terms as grand exalted ruler of the order. In 1888 he made a tour of the country in the interest of the order. He was also a prominent member of the Masonic order, being a thirty-second degree man and also a member of the Mystic Shrine and DeMolay Mounted Commandery, K.T. He was a Knight of Pythias and also a member of the Washington Light Infantry Corps, being surgeon of the first battalion.

During the recent G.A.R. encampment he was physician in charge of the Citizens' Hospital.

*Preparing for the Funeral*

Dr. Leach was a member of so many organizations and had so many close personal friends that the arrangements for the funeral in detail cannot be fixed without consulting a large number of people. It was the wish of Dr. Leach that his body be taken in charge by the Knights Templar and that he be buried from the Scottish Rite hall. These two requests will of course be carried out. The body will be watched by details of the knights and either on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning will be taken to the Scottish Rite Temple, where it will lie in state. On Thursday, at either 2 or 3 o'clock, the funeral services of the church will be preached by Rev. Dr. Meader, after which the services of the Elks and Nights Templar will take place. The interment will take place in Congressional cemetery. The body will be accompanied to the grave by a large number of organizations and other friends. Over the grave the rites of the blue lodge will be performed. Accompanying the body to the cemetery will be the Light Infantry, the Elks, De Molay Commandery Knights Templar, Nights of Pythias and many detached officers of the National Guard.

*The Washington Evening Star, Friday, May 12, 1893*

#### **Laid Away to Rest**

#### **Last Sad Rites Performed Over the Remains of Dr. H.E. Leach**

It was with sad hearts that the hundreds of friends of the late Dr. Hamilton Leach bade a last farewell to his remains at Congressional Cemetery yesterday afternoon. As told in The Star, the funeral services took place at 3 o'clock at the Scottish Rites cathedral on G street. The body was guarded by a detail from De Molay Mounted Commandery while the ceremonies were presided over by William Oscar Roome, venerable master of Mithras Lodge of Perfection. Rev. James H. Lemon preached the sermon and told in a touching manner of the early life of the dead man.

At the conclusion of the sermon, Washington Lodge of Elks performed their funeral service over their departed brother. All those taking part were members of the Grand Lodge, to which Dr. Leach belonged. The service was performed by District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler John C. Maxwell, Esteemed Leading Knight Frank O'Connor of Norfolk, Grand Exalted Ruler E.B. Hay, Past Grant Trustee Thaddens Sailor, Chaplain George D. Scott and Esquire F.B. Clarkson.

Following the service of the Elks came the Knights Templar ceremonies by De Molay Commandery, No. 4, K.T., in full uniform. John O'Neil conducted the solemn services of the Knights Templar, assisted by Gen. Smith as prelate, while the commandery joined in the responses. Gen. Smith offered a touching prayer and with the benediction, "Peace to his ashes," the services concluded.

New Jerusalem Lodge, No. 9, F.A.A.M., then took charge of the body and at the grave the burial rites of the order were performed.

*The Washington Evening Star, May 13, 1893*

#### **The Late Dr. Leach's Will**

The will of the late Dr. Hamilton E. Leach was filed today. It is dated May 4, 1888 and he leaves his estate to his mother "she to take care of my son, if necessary, as far as supplying his needs and wants are concerned and the limited means left will permit."

*The Evening Star, June 5, 1893*

#### **The Late Dr. H.E. Leach**