

## Silas D. Lewis

(6 Feb 1841 – 30 Mar 1920)

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**Lewis.** March 30, 1920 at 8:06 p.m. at his residence, 1233 4-1/2 street southwest, Silas D. Lewis, beloved husband of Mary Lewis (nee Coughlin). Funeral from his late residence Friday at 2 p.m. Friends and relatives invited.

**Lewis.** A special communication of Columbia Lodge, No. 3, F.A.A.M., will be held on Friday, April 2, 1920 at 1:30 o'clock p.m., for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late Brother Silas D. Lewis.

H.B. Plankinton, Master.

*The Evening Star, March 31, 1920, p. 7*

### **Silas D. Lewis Dies; Veteran and Policeman**

Silas D. Lewis, a retired member of the police force, died at his home, 1233 4-1/2 street southwest last night after an illness of several weeks. He was a native of Northumberland county, Va., where he was born February 6, 1841. Early in March 1870, he became a member of the police force, serving until September 15, 1915, when he was retired.

Most of his police service was performed in South Washington at a time when the services of the bravest members of the force were in demand. He gained the respect of law-abiding residents of that section because of his fearlessness, and lawbreakers also respected him. When he wanted any of the latter to answer a sworn complaint, it is stated, all he had to do was to let them know when he wanted them to meet him at the police station.

While many other policemen in that section found it necessary to engage in fights with prisoners, it is said, "Si" Lewis, as he was so well known, seldom had to resort to violence. During the latter years of his police service he was connected with the harbor precinct.

At the age of thirteen years he left his country home, abandoning farm life for life on the water, and was employed on sailing vessels on the Chesapeake bay and Potomac river. August 13, 1861, he responded to his country's call and served with the 3d Pennsylvania Cavalry, receiving his discharge August 24, 1864. He re-enlisted and served as a mounted messenger at the White House, later joining the police force.

He was a member of Columbia Lodge, No. 3, F.A.A.M., and John A. Rawlins Post, No. 1, G.A.R. Funeral services, which will be conducted under the auspices of Columbia Lodge, will be held at the home of the deceased at 2 o'clock, Friday afternoon. Rev. John E. Briggs, pastor of Fifth Baptist Church, will officiate, and interment will be in Congressional cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Maggie Coughlin Lewis.