

William Prince Lipscomb (12 Jun 1847 - 6 Jun 1932)

Lipscomb. On Wednesday June 8, 1932, at his residence, the Ontario Apartments, 2853 Ontario Road, William Prince Lipscomb, beloved husband of Lulie K. Lipscomb. Funeral service at his late residence, Friday, June 10 at 2:30 p.m. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.



W. P. LIPSCOMB.
—Edmonston Photo

The Evening Star, June 8, 1932, p. A9

William Lipscomb, Contractor, Dies Oldest Active Builder in Washington Passes Away at Age of 85

William Prince Lipscomb, president of the firm of contractors which bears his name, died at 3 a.m. today at his home, in the Ontario Apartments. He had returned from Florida about two months ago and had been ill only a short time.

He was born in King William County, Va., June 12, 1847. His father fought in the war of 1812 and Mr. Lipscomb when but 17 volunteered for the Confederate Army and remained in service until the end of the war.

In 1871 he came to Washington and entered the building trades. He was believed to be the oldest active builder in Washington and would have been 85 next Sunday. His company has erected some of the outstanding homes, embassies, churches and office buildings in the District of Columbia.

He had been first vice president of the District National Bank for many years. He was a trustee of Lynchburg College, Virginia, where he established a Bible chair in memory of the late Dr. Frederick D. Power.

He was member and trustee of the Columbia Heights Christian Church; a member of Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, F.A.A.M., and a 32nd degree

Scottish Rite Mason.

He is survived by his widow, Lulie K. Lipscomb, and two children, Helen Lipscomb Rea, wife of Capt. Everett Foster Rea, stationed at Fort Meade, Md., and George W. Lipscomb, a civil engineer with his father's firm. He also is survived by one grandson, Everett Rea and by a number of nieces and nephews.

The Evening Star, June 9, 1932, p. A9

Lipscomb Rites Set for Tomorrow Prominent Capital Contractor to Rest in Congressional Cemetery After Funeral at Home

William Prince Lipscomb, prominent Washington contractor and head of the William P. Lipscomb Co., who died early yesterday at his home in the Ontario Apartments will be buried in Congressional Cemetery tomorrow after funeral services at 2:30 p.m. at his home.

A resident of the District since 1871, Mr. Lipscomb was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, and had been first vice president of the District National Bank for many years. He was born in King William County, Va., in 1847, and enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of 17.

His company had built many of the outstanding embassies, homes, churches and office buildings in the city.

Besides his widow, he is survived by two children, Helen Lipscomb Rea, wife of Capt. Everett Foster Rea, stationed at Fort Meade, Md., and George W. Lipscomb, a civil engineer connected with the firm.

A History of the City of Washington, Its Men and Institutions.

W.P. Lipscomb, born in King William county, Virginia, is a scion of the stock that left England in the 16th century to make homes in wild America. He was educated in the old-field schools. Too young to go into the war of the sixties earlier than 1864, he volunteered at the age of seventeen and followed its fortunes to the close, at Appomattox. His father, Warren Lipscomb, Sr., now dead, and a widowed mother, Elizabeth Lipscomb, with seven children, with only a farm left for their support, and that ravaged by both armies, young William soon realized that what fortune there was for him pointed to other fields than the farm. He left home with a limited amount of cash in his pocket, walked to Richmond, Va., and in that city learned the carpenter's trade. He came to Washington in 1871, and secured employment with one of the prominent builders of the city. In 1873 he started business on his own account, and notwithstanding the odds against every new competitor, with limited means to withstand and live, he, in a short time, became one of the first among the builders and contractors. From the beginning his work was appreciated, he having gained the confidence and esteem of the general public by putting his own character and individuality into his work and business, which speaks for itself. Some of his buildings are: H.C. Perkins, Esq., 1701 Connecticut avenue; George W. McLanahan, Twenty-first and Q streets; the late Col. A.T. Britton, 1325 Sixteenth street; P.E. Chapin, Esq. 1735 Massachusetts avenue; Dr. Charles W. Richardson, 1317 Connecticut avenue; Dr. Z.T. Sowers; Capt. W.M. Folger, New Hampshire avenue, later owned by Admiral Sampson; Admiral Crosby, Connecticut avenue; Admiral Stanley, Connecticut avenue; Col. B.R. Russell, 1616 Eighteenth street; Major Thomas M. Gale, 2300 S street; Hon. J.J. Hemphill, 2108 Bancroft Place; Mr. Lyman Tiffany, 1705 Connecticut avenue; The Willard building, The Fendall building, and many others.

Mr. Lipscomb married Miss Lulie K. Wade, daughter of John Kirby and C.A. Wade, of Washington, and has two children, Helen Irene and George William. He is a member of the executive board of the Master Builders' Association, and a member of the official board of officers of Vermont Avenue Christian Church, and other city organizations.