

Samuel Mackey

(1843 – 5 Mar 1935)

Mackey, Samuel D. On Wednesday, March 6, 1935, at Providence Hospital in the 93rd year of his age, Samuel D. Mackey, beloved husband of the late Joanna Mackey (nee Neitzey). Funeral from his late residence, 3631 Warder st. n.w., on Friday, March 8, at 8:45 a.m.; thence to St. Dominic's Church, 6th and E sts. S.w., where high requiem mass will be offered at 9:30 a.m. for the repose of his soul. Relatives and friends are invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, March 7, 1935, p. A13

S.D. Mackey, First Fireman, Is Dead Veteran Succumbs at 92; Last of Original Volunteers

Samuel D. Mackey, first sworn member of the District Fire Department and last surviving of the original volunteers, died Tuesday at his home, 3631 Warder street, at the age of 92. He was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants.

His service, beginning in the early 60s, ended with his resignation in 1885. Thereafter he was employed in the sewer inspection service, retiring about five years ago.

Mr. Mackey was active in fighting many fires. He recalled particularly the famous blaze in the old Patent Office, and the memorable occasion when horses, wagons and firemen were sent from Washington by train to combat a particularly violent fire in Baltimore, which the local force was unable to stop alone

Before the organization of the present department there were in all 48 firemen volunteers who received \$8 a month.

"Once I remember we had to stand by and wait for a man to dig a hole in what is now Scott Circle before we could get any water." he said in an interview given The Star last Fall.

He recalled that the first steam engine was called into use here to fight a small fire in Ford's Theater in 1862, the theater on Tenth street where Lincoln was assassinated three years later, and which is now a Lincoln Museum. He expressed disappointment that the present generation of firefighters was not able to do better work with modern equipment.

"Why, not long ago," he said, "I was watching a downtown fire and some of the firemen were overcome by smoke before they even got inside the building. When I was a fireman nobody was ever overcome out in the street."

Mr. Mackey is survived by two daughters-in-law, Mrs. Harry Mackey and Mrs. Dulin Mackey, and a step-daughter-in-law, Mrs. John Taylor. He also leaves seven grandchildren, Philip, Harry, Agatha and Louise Mackey and Mrs. Anna Wessells, Mrs. Helen Burrows and Mrs. Thomas Jones, all of Washington.

Funeral services will be held at St. Dominic's Church tomorrow at 9 a.m. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.