

Walter M. McFarland

(5 Aug 1859 – 4 Mar 1935)

McFarland, Walter Martin. On Monday, March 4, 1935, at his residence, 1868 Columbia road n.w., Capt. Walter Martin McFarland, beloved brother of Mrs. John W. Dunn and loved uncle of Helen and John W. Dunn. Services at his late residence on Thursday, March 7 at 11 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

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Navy Engineering Expert Expires

Capt. Walter M. McFarland Lauded for Important Aids to Science

Capt. Walter Martin McFarland, U.S.N., retired, former vice president of the Westinghouse Electric Co. and for 20 years manager of the marine department of Babcock & Wilcox, died last night at his home, 1868 Columbia road.

Born August 5, 1859, in Washington, he attended Columbian College, now George Washington University, before going to Annapolis. He graduated with second honors in the class of 1879.

Brilliant work in the Engineer Corps made him chief engineer of the Navy by 1899, when he resigned. During his service career he served twice as assistant to Admiral George W. Melville. He was secretary to the Division of Naval and Marine Engineering at the Naval and Marine Conference at the World Fair of 1893, and in 1897 served as American delegate to the International Conference of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers at London. In the same year he served on the Roosevelt Personnel Board which reorganized the service divisions of the naval forces.

He was a frequent writer on engineering subjects, his most significant achievement in this line being an article outlining a new method for the determination of a ship's speed, the method now in general use. In 1883 and 1885 he was assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Cornell University, a lecturer at the Naval War College in 1894 and had lectured often at the post-graduate school at Annapolis and at Columbia and Johns Hopkins Universities.

Secretary and editor of the American Society of Naval Engineers in 1890, 1892, 1893 and 1898, he served as vice president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers in 1902-3, as vice president of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in 1902 and 1921 and as president from 1922 to 1924. He had been a trustee of the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture since 1913, served as vice president from 1916 to 1926 and as president from 1926 until his retirement from active life in 1931.

After 1899 he did significant work for Westinghouse, becoming manager of the marine department of the firm of Babcock & Wilcox in 1911 and remaining there until his retirement in 1931, when he returned to Washington to live.

A bachelor, he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. J.W. Dunn and Mrs. Edmund Barry, both of Washington, and Mrs. Eugene Makosky of Baltimore.

A special communication from Dickerson N. Hoover, inspector general of the Steamboat Inspection Service, attributed to Capt. McFarland, "as much as to any living person, the credit for rules which have to do with material for boilers and construction of the same."

"Had he accomplished nothing else in his life but that work," Mr. Hoover continued, "it would stand as a monument to his efficiency and public service."

Funeral services will be held at the residence Thursday at 11 a.m.

The Evening Star, March 6, 1935, p. A-10

McFarland Rites to be Tomorrow

Former Chief Engineer of Navy to be Buried in Congressional Cemetery

Funeral services for Capt. Walter Martin McFarland, former chief engineer of the Navy, who died Monday night at his home, 1868 Columbia road, will be held there tomorrow at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

A native of Washington, Capt. McFarland had lived mostly in Pittsburgh, as vice president of the Westinghouse Electric Co., and in New York, for 20 years, as manager of the marine department of Babcock & Wilcox. He returned to Washington on his retirement from active life in 1931.

Capt. McFarland was a distinguished lecturer and writer on engineering subjects, serving four times as secretary and editor of the American Society of Naval Engineers, and is credited with having been the chief influence in drawing up the present rules for boiler materials and construction.

A bachelor, he is survived by three sisters, Mrs. J.W. Dunn and Mrs. Edmund Barry, both of Washington, and Mrs. Eugene Makosky of Baltimore.

Honorary pallbearers will be A.G. Pratt, president of Babcock & Wilcox; C.W. Middleton, Dr. D.S. Jacobus and J. Harold King, officers of the same firm; Admirals W.F. Capps, H.I. Cone and W.T. Rock, all retired; Capt. R.S. Robertson, secretary of the Annapolis Graduates' Association; Capt. E.H. Tillman, U.S.N., retired; Dickerson N. Hoover, inspector general of the Steamboat Inspection Service; Howland Gardner, ex-president of the Fall River Steamship Co.; Lewis Nixon, president of the Board of Directors of the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, New York; Dr. John C. Scofield, former chief clerk of the War Department, and James W. Wilson.