

George H. Miller

(- 11 Aug 1896)

Miller. George H. Miller, suddenly, Tuesday morning, August 11, 1896, at 1:30 o'clock in his 73rd year. Funeral service will be held at his late residence, 118 C street northeast, Wednesday afternoon, August 12, at 4:30 o'clock. Friends invited.

The Evening Star, August 11, 1896

He Built The Dome

Death of George H. Miller, Assistant Architect of the Capitol

By the death at 1 o'clock this morning of Mr. George H. Miller a most familiar face is removed from the Capitol. Mr. Miller entered the office of the architect of the Capitol in 1852, and has continued there in active and creditable service ever since. He was a native of Baltimore, and in 1849 sailed from that city around the Horn to San Francisco. By virtue of that pioneer experience he was a most enthusiastic member of the local organization of "Forty-niners," and took part in all their social gatherings. As first assistant to the architect of the Capitol, first to General Meigs and then to Mr. Edward Clark, Mr. Miller had charge of much important and responsible work. He built the great white dome that surmounts and completes the vast building, and in doing so took a deep personal interest and continuous risk in the work. He superintended placing the colossal bronze figure of Liberty on the dome, and was the last man down, retreating step by step, as each board of the scaffolding was removed and lowered. Another work of distinct importance architecturally to the Capitol, was the construction of the beautiful marble terrace on the north, west and south fronts, an undertaking which practically reversed the frontage of the great building and dovetailed it into practical connection with the city of Washington, which had grown up to the west rather than the east of the building, as its original designer expected would be the event.

Mr. Miller was an architect and builder by profession, and an expert in all lines of architectural engineering. Although there was no such official position, he was practically first assistant architect of the Capitol, and naturally during the forty years he spent in the building he became known to nearly all the public men prominent in national affairs during that period. He was a public-spirited citizen of Washington, and was one of the first to enlist for the defense of the capital in 1861. He was a member of Kit Carson Post, G.A.R., and was one of the charter members of DeMolay Commandery, Knights Templar. At the time of his death he was 72 years old. His death is undoubtedly due to the excessive torridity of the last few days. He was at the Capitol Friday, and went home that night overcome by the heat. He became unconscious about twelve hours later and remained so until his death. His physician attributes his death mainly to the heat, although there was a slight apoplexy, which, under more favorable conditions, would perhaps not have been necessarily fatal. For a year past, however, he had been failing in health, and in consequence of an attack of pneumonia last winter his system was much enfeebled. A widow and five daughters, Mrs. Almyra Burgess, Mrs. W.R. Wilcox and Misses Maggie, Georgie and Lily, survive him.

The funeral will take place from the residence, 118 C street northwest, tomorrow afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, and the interment will be at the Congressional cemetery.