Alexander R. Mullowny

(19 Aug 1865 - 26 Aug 1929)

The Evening Star, October 7, 1905, p. 8

Mullowny Resigns

Judge of Police Court Highly Complimented

Upon the receipt of his commission late yesterday as judge of the Police Court Alexander R. Mullowny tendered his resignation as assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia, and subscribed to the oath of office as judge. The oath was administered by Chief Justice Clabaugh of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

United States Attorney Baker today addressed a communication to Judge Mullowny accepting with regret his resignation as an assistant, and saying many complimentary things of his able efforts in the past, and predicting for the new jurist a most useful and successful future.

Judge Mullowny will take the Police Court bench for the first time next Monday morning.

No steps have yet been taken by United States Attorney Baker to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Mullowny as assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia.

The Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D.C., 1908, p. 112

Junior Judge, Police Court

Judge Alexander Richmond Mullowny, the junior member of the Police Court bench, is a trained lawyer, possessed of a ripe judgement, quick perception and a judge of human nature that enables him to easily determine the truth and falsity of the great bulk of evidence that daily comes before him for determination. His legal decisions are always sound and tempered with justice. He is no respector of persons by reason of social, financial or political status, weighing every case that comes up before him in the scales of justice that leaves no criticism possible.

A short time after reaching his majority he was appointed Assistant United States District Attorney for the Police Court, in which position he served with marked ability for a number of years, until he was promoted to the bench. He is a native of Richmond, Va., where he was born August 24, 1864, being now 44 years old. He comes from a pure strain of old Irish stock that traces its ancestry back through many centuries. His father was a son of Commodore Mullowny of the United States Navy; his mother in her girlhood days was the belle of Washington. His father and grandfather were intimate personal friends of Daniel Webster, and on the occasion of his father's marriage the bridal party was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Webster at their bridal dinner in the Webster home, that stood on the east half of the present site of the Police Court D and Sixth streets northwest, then the most fashionable section of the city. Webster's home at that time was one of the finest in the city and the center of literary, art, diplomacy and statesmanship sets of the day.

Judge Mullowny some years ago organized the Irish Legation, composed of citizens of the District of Irish ancestry who could trace their lineage to the dim distance of the greatness of the Emerald Isle when it was governed by the old line of Irish kings. This organization meets annually on Ireland's Patron Saint day--March 17--to discuss a royal Irish dinner, genealogy of the race and their line of ancestry. He is prominently identified with the Masonic Order, being a member of Benjamin B. French Lodge, Columbia Commandery, Knights Templar, Washington Royal Arch. In addition to this, he is active in athletics as a member of the Columbia Athletic Association. In civic matters he takes a lively interest, being a member of the Business Men's Associations of this city.

He was educated in the public schools of this city and received his legal education at the National University of Law, from which he graduated in 1887 with the degree of B.L. He was appointed judge of the Police Court by President Roosevelt December 21, 1905, succeeding Judge Scott, who had died in office.

Personally Judge Mullowny is a genial young man, standing high with the bench and bar of the District, and enjoying the confidence and friendship of a host of friends in all walks of life, who pronounce him a royal fellow. On average he hears 10,000 cases annually.

The Evening Star October 8, 1918, p. 19

Retiring Justice Gives Freedom To Arraigned

A.R. Mullowny, Twenty-Six Years in Government Service, to Resume Law Practice

Judge Alexander R. Mullowny today performed his last official act as judge of Police Court and ended a government service of twenty-six years, having served fourteen years as assistant United States attorney. His last official act was one of mercy. He liberated seventeen first offenders against the law providing a penalty for intoxication and three others who had been before the court on numerous occasions

"I feel in a merciful mood this morning," the court said to the three old offenders, one a whitehaired man, one young man and a woman.

"I'm very thankful that you are," said James E Brown, the white-haired one.

Judge Mullowny told the trio he had sent them down on the farm many times as a matter of duty and to act as a deterrent to others. To the woman he said he had been merciful on numerous occasions, and that he regretted it was necessary to send her down at all.

"In releasing you this time" the court concluded, "I sincerely hope you will turn over a new leaf. Please make an honest effort to refrain from the use of liquor and all of you will become useful members of society."

Each member of the trio promised to make the effort.

Then came the seventeen first offenders. The court told them something of the evils of intemperance, and concluded by placing them on probation.

Tomorrow morning Judge Mullowny will appear on the bench with Judge John P. McMahon, his successor, say a last official farewell to members of the bar and start the practice of his profession, followed before he accepted public office.

Mullowny. On Monday, August 26, 1929, Alexander R. Mullowny, beloved husband of Marie T. Mullowny. Funeral from his late residence, 6300 Connecticut ave., Chevy Chase, Md., on Thursday, August 29, at 2 p.m.

Mullowny. A special communication of Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, F.A.A.M., is hereby called for Thursday, August 29, 1929, at 12:45 p.m., in lodge room No 1, New Masonic Temple, Washington, D.C. for the purpose of conducting Masonic burial services for our late brother, Alexander R. Mullowny. By order of the worshipful master, Sidney I. Besselievre, Secy.

The Evening Star, August 27, 1929. p. 3

Judge Mullowny Dies at Residence

Member of Local Bar Served for Many Years as Assistant U.S. Attorney

Alexander Richmond Mullowny, prominent member of the local bar, former judge of the Police Court and for many years assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia, died at 6 o'clock last night at his residence, 6300 Connecticut avenue.

Judge Mullowny, who was 65 years of age, was born in Richmond, Va., August 29, 1865, the son of John F. Mullowny, who was in the United States consular service. Coming to this city at an early age, Judge Mullowny attended the public schools and law school. He was also a student of architecture. In the practice of law, Judge Mullowny soon attracted attention. It was not long before he was tendered and accepted an appointment as assistant United States attorney. As such he was assigned to take charge of the prosecution of all United States cases in the Police Court and as such earned an enviable reputation. He had an unusually long term of service, 14 years. Toward the end he was transferred to the main office and prepared all the indictments after "true bills" had been decided on by the grand jury.

He was selected by the then President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, October 5, 1905, to be one of the two judges of the Police Court. His long service as prosecuting attorney in the court and his judgment of human nature eminently fitted him for the position on the bench.

After serving until October, 1918--13 years--Judge Mullowny left the bench and resumed private practice, in which he was engaged until his death. He underwent a surgical operation last June, from which he did not recover.

Surviving Judge Mullowny are his wife, who was Miss Marie Thomas, and one daughter, Miss Kathryn Mullowny. Judge Mullowny was active as a member of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia and was a member of B.B. French Lodge, No. 15, F.A.A.M.

Arrangements for the funeral have not been completed.

Judicial notice of the death of Judge Mullowny was taken today by Justice Alfred A. Wheat, presiding in the District Supreme Court, by directing that the minutes of the court show an adjournment out of respect to the deceased jurist.

Judge Mullowny's death was called to the attention of the court by Attorney D. Edward Clarke, who spoke briefly of the legal ability and attainments of the deceased and asked that the usual notice of adjournment be made on the records of the court.

In granting the motion, Justice Wheat said that before he had gone to practice in New York he knew Judge Mullowny and admired him. He expressed his sincere sorrow at the death of the former judge.

Also out of respect to the memory of Judge Mullowny, judges of Police Court announced that various branches would adjourn early today as soon as jail cases were disposed of.

The Evening Star, August 28, 1929, p. 13

Mullowny Funeral Set For Tomorrow

Services for Lawyer and Former Judge to Be Held at Residence

Funeral services for Alexander Richmond Mullowny, prominent lawyer and former judge of Police Court, who died at his home, 6300 Connecticut avenue, Monday night, will be conducted at the residence tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev James W. Morris, assistant rector of the Church of the Epiphany, will officiate. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be as follows:

Judge Isaac R. Hitt, Assistant United States Attorneys David A. Hart and R.F. Camalier, Percival Wilson, William Pace, Patrick O'Connor, William Atkins and Frank Yasma. Members of the B.B. French Lodge of Masons will be active pallbearers.

In addition to his services as judge of the Police Court, Mr. Mullowny also had served for many years as Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. He was born in Richmond, Va., August 29, 1865, and came to this city at an early age, attending the public schools and studying law here.

The Evening Star, August 29, 1929, p. 9

Funeral Services Held for Mullowny at Home

Committee Represents District of Columbia Bar Association at Rites

Funeral services for Alexander Richmond Mullowny, former judge of the District of Columbia Police Court, who died Monday at his home, 6300 Connecticut avenue, were conducted at the residence this afternoon. Rev. Dr. James W. Morris, assistant rector of the Church of the Epiphany, officiated. Interment was in Congressional Cemetery.

The list of honorary pallbearers, headed by Judge Isaac R. Hitt, included Assistant United States Attorneys and other close friends and associates of Mr. Mullowny. Members of B.B. French Lodge of Masons were active pallbearers.

The following committee of the District of Columbia Bar Association was named to represent that body at the funeral: Jesse C. Adkins, Joseph A. Burkart, W.W. Millan, Robert Hardison, Judge Gus A. Schuldt, Judge Isaac R. Hitt, Richmond B. Teech, Walter C. English, Paul B. Cromelin and George C. Shinn.