

Thomas John Newton (- 2 Jan 1928)

Newton. On Monday, January 2, 1928, at his residence, 18 Rhode Island avenue, n.w., T. John Newton, beloved husband of Lillie E. Newton in the 76th year of his age. Funeral from the chapel of Thomas S. Sergeon, 1011 7th street n.w. on Wednesday, January 4, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.



Newton. A special communication of the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia will be held on Wednesday, January 4, 1928 at 1:30 a.m. in lodge room, No. 3, Masonic Temple for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late brother, Past Grand Master, T. John Newton. By order of the Grand Master.

J. Claude Keiper, Grand Secretary

Newton. The Sir Knights of Washington Commandery, No. 1, K.T. are hereby ordered to assemble in the asylum in full Templar uniform on Wednesday, January 4, 1928 at 1:30 a.m. for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late brother, Sir T. John Newton. By order of the Commander.

Jessie W. Thornton, Captain General

Newton. A special communication of National Lodge No. 12, F.A.A.M., will be held at Masonic Temple, at 1 o'clock p.m., Wednesday, January 4, 1928 for the purpose of attending the funeral of our late brother, Past Grand Master T. John Newton. By order of the W.M.

Dax C. Vaughan, Secretary

The Evening Star, January 3, 1928, p. 9

Thomas J. Newton Dies at Age of 75 Masonic Leader Succumbs After Long Illness Burial Tomorrow

Thomas John Newton, past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in the District of Columbia, long a leader in Masonic activities here and retired employee of the Department of State, where he worked for about 48 years, died at his residence, 18 Rhode Island avenue, yesterday. He would have been 76 years old the 20th of this month. He had been in failing health for several years.

Serving as a clerk in the Bureau of Indices and Archives, Department of State, until his retirement a little more than five years ago. Mr. Newton was recognized for his intimate knowledge of old records dealing with the early conduct of government in this country.

He served as grand master of Masons in the District in 1914. He also had held various other important positions in Masonry, in which he was widely known both in the United States and Canada. He was the sixtieth grand master of Masons for this jurisdiction.

Born in England

Born in Liverpool, England, Mr. Newton went to Philadelphia when 9 years old and received his education in the public schools of that city. After engaging in mercantile pursuits for several years, he came to this city and, July 1, 1874, was appointed a clerk in the Department of State, filling many positions of trust there.

He was initiated in National Lodge, No. 12, F.A.A.M., in 1880, and served the lodge as junior warden in 1882 and 1883; as senior warden in 1884, and as worshipful master in 1885 and 1886. Also in March, 1883, he joined the Eureka Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons, and served as high priest of the chapter in 1889. He also belonged to Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, and the Masonic Veteran Association. He entered the official line of the Grand Lodge as junior steward in 1904.

He had devoted much of his attention to Masonic relief work, with which he had been identified since 1882. From that date until his illness, he served as delegate from his lodge to the local Masonic Board of Relief. He was secretary of the board continuously from 1905 to 1912. Prior to then he had served it as secretary from 1886 to 1890, as vice president from 1892 to 1893 and as president from 1894 to 1895.

Leader in Relief Work

Since the formation in 1885 of the Masonic Relief Association of the United States and Canada, with which the local board is affiliated he attended every meeting as a delegate from the board, except that of 1903, until his illness. He also served the association as a member of its advisory board from 1890 to 1899, second vice president in 1900, first vice president in 1901 and 1902, and president in 1903 and 1904, and by virtue of his position as past president was a permanent member of the association.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Lillie E. Newton. Funeral services will be conducted in the chapel of Thomas S. Surgeon, undertaker, 1911 Seventh Street, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Intement will be in Congressional Cemetery, with Masonic rites at the grave.

The Evening Star, January 4, 1928, p. 9

T.J. Newton, Masonic Leader, Buried Today

Tribute Paid by Rev James W. Morris Preceeding Grand Lodge Ceremonies at Grave

Funeral services for Thomas John Newton, past grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in the District of Columbia, who died at his residence, 18 Rhode Island avenue, Monday, were conducted in the chapel of Thomas S. Surgeon, undertaker, 1011 Seventh Street, this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Episcopal services were conducted by Rev. James W. Morris, assistant rector of the Church of the Epiphany, followed by Knights Templar services conducted by Washington Commandery, No. 1, K.T. Interment was in Congressional Cemetery, with Masonic services conducted by the Grand Lodge of Masons in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Newton, who would have been 76 years old the twentieth of this month, had long been a leader in Masonic activities in this city. He was employed for about 48 years in the Department of State, where he served as a clerk in the Bureau of Indices and Archives until his retirement a little more than 5 years ago. He was recognized for his knowledge of old records, dealing with the early conduct of Government in this city.

The Washington Post, January 4, 1928, p. 2

T.J. Newton Rites Will Be Held Today

Prominent District Mason to Be Buried in Congressional Cemetery

Funeral services for Thomas John Newton, 75 years old, prominent leader in Masonic activities of this city and retired employe of the State Department, who died Monday at his home, 18 Rhode Island avenue northwest, will be conducted at 2 o'clock this afternoon at the funeral parlors of Thomas S. Sergeon, 1011 Seventh street northwest. Interment, with Masonic rites, will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Newton served as grand master of the Grand Lodge of the District in 1914 and was widely known for his work in Masonry, both in this country and in Canada. He was retired from a clerkship in the Bureau of Indices and Archives of the state Department five years ago, after a service of 48 years. He was born in Liverpool, England, and came to this city in 1874, when he was appointed to the state Department bureau. In 1880 he was initiated in the National Lodge, No. 12, F.A.A.M., and served the lodge in the positions of junior warden, senior warden and worshipful master. He was also a member of Eureka Chapter, No. 4, Royal Arch Masons; Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, and the Masonic Veterans Association.

Surviving Mr. Newton is his wife, Mrs. Lillie E. Newton.

Harper, Kenton N., History of the Grand Lodge, 1911, p. 407-408

Junior Grand Warden, 1911

Born in Liverpool, England, January 20, 1852, he came to Philadelphia, Pa., when nine years of age, and received his education in the public schools of the latter city. After engaging in mercantile pursuits for a few years he removed to Washington, D.C., and entered the Government service as a clerk in the Department of State, July 1, 1874, and has been continuously employed in that service to the present time, filling many positions of trust, among them that of Special Disbursing Officer of the Department for the Alaskan Boundary Tribunal, which met in London, England, from August 1 to November 18, 1903.

Bro. Newton was raised in National Lodge, No. 12, April 20, 1880, and filled the East in that body for the years 1885 and 1886; was exalted in Eureka R.A. Chapter, No. 4, March 23, 1883, and served as High Priest in 1889; was knighted in Washington Commandery, No. 1, K.T., May 23, 1883.

Bro. Newton has been an indefatigable worker in the different branches of local Masonry, but perhaps his most valuable efforts have been directed towards the perfection of the Masonic Relief work, and along this line he has built for himself and the jurisdiction an enviable record. His work in this direction commenced on the local Board as a delegate from his lodge in 1882, and he has been in continuous active service to the present time, serving as Secretary from 1886 to 1890, inclusive, when he was elected Vice President and then President, serving in the latter office two years. In 1904 he again took up the duties as Secretary and is still holding that position.

On the formation of the General Masonic Relief Association for the United States and Canada, in 1885, our Board became a contributing member, and it has been his privilege to attend all its meetings as a delegate from our local Board, with the single exception of the 1903 meeting, when he was absent from the country on government business. He has served the Association in various capacities, i.e., as a member of the Advisory Board from September, 1890 to 1899, when he was elected Second Vice President; in 1901, elected First Vice President, and in 1903, notwithstanding his absence, was elected President, serving until 1905, and by virtue of such service is a permanent member of said association. At the present time, he is holding the important position of Chairman of the Committee on Organization and Membership.

Gifted with an unusually attractive personality, of courteous, kindly demeanor, Bro. Newton has a deservedly wide circle of friends, while his exceptional mental equipment and earnestness of purpose insures for the jurisdiction a successful administration under his guidance when he shall have been installed as Grand Master.

