

George W. Phillips

(10 Dec 1811 – 31 Dec 1895)

Phillips. On Tuesday morning, December 31, 1895 George W. Phillips in the 85th year of his age. Funeral private.

The Evening Star, December 31, 1895

Geo. W. Phillips Dead

A Venerable Citizen, for Many Years in Official Life, Passes Away

Mr. George W. Phillips died this morning at his residence, No. 2 Cooke place, West Washington. Mr. Phillips was probably one of the most widely-known citizens of the District. He had been identified with its business interests when the town was small, and later was connected with its official life during the most stirring and momentous periods of its history. At the time of his death Mr. Phillips was nearly eighty-five years of age, and for over two-thirds of a century he had been a resident of Washington. He was a native of Prince George's county, Md., and came here when a boy. Upon reaching maturity he entered the dry goods business, and for many years was engaged successfully as a wholesale merchant, with an establishment at 7th street and Pennsylvania avenue, where Saks & Co. are now situated, with stores also in Baltimore and Richmond.

During the administration of President Pierce, Mr. Phillips was appointed United States deputy marshal for the District, and it was in this capacity that he became universally known and extremely popular. He served as such through the administrations of President Buchanan, both terms of President Lincoln, both terms of President Grant, but resigned when the late Frederick Douglass was made Marshall of the District, declining to continue in the position which Mr. Douglass proffered him. When Clayton McMichael was appointed marshal he offered Mr. Phillips the deputy marshalship, and it was accepted. He remained in office under Marshal Wilson during President Cleveland's first term, and was continued therein by Marshal Ransdell during President Harrison's administration, but soon resigned on account of his age. He has since been living a retired life with his wife, who was formerly Miss Susan Kneller of this city and his son, Mr. Samuel L. Phillips, the president of the Metropolitan Railroad Company, at No. 2 Cooke place. Another son, who survives him, is Mr. George R. Phillips, the general freight and passenger agent of the Washington and Mt. Vernon Railroad Company.

Zevely, Douglas, Columbia Historical Society, April 14, 1902

The row of houses on the north side of D Street, east of 3d, was originally known as Mechanics Row, the name originating, so I am told, from the fact that several mechanics started with a combined capital in the building of them for investment. Among others who occupied them as far back as 1850, was Mr. George W. Phillips, for many years deputy marshal of the District, and a well-known resident of Washington for 71 years, up to the time of his death in December 1895.

George W. Phillips was born in Prince George County, Md., and came to this city in 1824. After several years' experience as a dry goods clerk he established a business of that kind for himself at the corner of Seventh Street and Market Space, where the Saks stores are now located, and continued that occupation until three or four years before Franklin Pierce became President, by whom he was appointed Deputy Marshal of the District under Jonah D. Hoover. This office he continued to hold until 1893, with the exception of the period when Frederick Douglass was Marshal. From his early manhood and throughout his lifetime Mr. Phillips was a staunch Democrat, but he was not numbered among

those who were inclined to show noticeable hostility to the Government. His widow is still living, having her home here with the older son (Samuel), who will be mentioned below; and the younger son, George R. Phillips, has also been a resident of the city since his childhood days.

... In 1855 and until after the Civil War, Third Street north from D to E was all vacant ground on both sides; also on E from Third to Second. The first house built on either side of Third was built by Deputy Marshal Phillips on the west side, just south of E.