

Elmer Robert Reynolds

(Jul 1846 - 17 Sep 1907)

Reynolds. Suddenly on Wednesday morning, September 18, 1907, Elmer Robert Reynolds, Sr. Funeral services, Thursday, September 19 at 2 p.m. at his late residence, 319 Maryland Avenue northeast. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, September 18, 1907

Injuries Are Fatal

Dr. Reynolds Dies in Casualty Hospital This Morning

Struck By An Automobile

Accident Happens Soon After Dr. Reynolds Alights From Car

Literary Labors Bring Him Honors at Home and Abroad --

Employed in Pension Bureau



Dr. E. R. Reynolds.

Dr. Elmer R. Reynolds, sixty-one years of age, who had been employed as a clerk in the pension office during the past twenty years, and who was prominent in literary and patriotic circles was struck by an automobile near the intersection of 3d and C streets northeast about 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon and fatally injured, his death occurring soon after at the Casualty Hospital.

The funeral will occur tomorrow afternoon, with interment in Congressional cemetery. The arrangements have not been completed.

The accident occurred only a few hundred feet from Dr. Reynolds' home, 318 Maryland avenue, but it was not until about two hours after he was injured that the members of his family were advised of the occurrence. Mrs. Reynolds and her children hurried to the hospital as soon as they learned of it, and several of them remained there until the death occurred, which was about 1 o'clock this morning.

William H. Wyman, thirty-nine years old, who conducts an automobile repair shop at 5th and C streets northeast, was in the automobile that caused the fatal injuries. He was taken to the ninth precinct police station, to be held until a jury of inquest passed upon the accident. Acting Coroner Glazebrook gave permission for the removal of the body to

an undertaking establishment this morning instead of having it removed to the morgue. He arranged for the inquest to be held at the morgue at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Story of the Accident

Dr. Reynolds was on his way home from the pension office at the time the accident occurred. He boarded a street car on G street in front of the office, and just before the car reached the intersection of 3d and C streets he alighted. Witnesses told the police that Dr. Reynolds was engaged in conversation with another passenger on the platform and that he continued the conversation after he alighted from

the moving car, his back being toward the automobile, which was going east, the direction in which the car was moving. It was also stated that the operator of the automobile had lessened the speed of his vehicle and was blowing his horn to advise pedestrians and others of his approach. After the automobile struck Dr. Reynolds, the police were told, it moved only about eighteen inches. The injured man was unconscious when picked up, and, as stated, was conveyed to the Casualty Hospital. It was ascertained by the hospital physicians that the injured man had sustained a compound fracture of his skull, and that he was suffering from cerebral hemorrhage and internal injuries.

Dr. J.R. Wellington, chief of staff of surgeons at the hospital, and Dr. W.P.C. Hazen, Dr. Reynolds' family physician, performed an operation to relieve the pressure upon the brain, but the condition of the patient was so serious that the operation was of no benefit, the patient remaining unconscious until death claimed him. Mr. Wyman stopped his automobile as soon as the accident occurred, as already stated, and remained to do what he could for the injured man. Mr. Frederick T. Mitchell, who happened to be near 3d and C streets when the accident occurred, assisted Mr. Wyman to remove the injured man to the hospital. Acting Coroner Glazebrook was consulted by the police and members of the family of the deceased this morning, and it was at the request of the latter that he directed the removal of the remains to the undertaking establishment instead of to the morgue.

Statement by Eyewitness

One witness to the accident -- Reuben M. Harlow, a former policeman -- tells a story of the affair entirely different from what some of the other witnesses stated to the police. He denies that Dr. Reynolds left the car before it had come to a stop, and places the blame upon the man in the automobile for the accident.

"The automobile came along C street by the side of the car." Harlow told a Star reporter this morning, "and it killed the first man who alighted from the car. Dr. Reynolds left the car from the front platform after the car had come to a stop and the horn of the automobile was tooted in his face. Had the automobile kept a safe distance away from the side of the car or had it been stopped when it appeared that the car was going to stop at the crossing the accident would never have happened."

Harlow said he was riding on the car at the time the accident happened and witnessed the affair. One woman passenger on the car, he said, came near fainting and she would have fallen had not the conductor caught hold of her. He is anxious that the police shall find as many of the passengers as possible and have them at the inquest as witnesses.

Dr. Reynolds' Literary Career

Dr. Reynolds was born at Dansville, Livingston county, N.Y., sixty-one years ago, being a son of Dr. and Mrs. Allan Reynolds. He served in the 5th and 12th Wisconsin Light Infantry from 1861 to 1865, and has since taken an active interest in the affairs of the Grand Army of the Republic, having been commander of Lafayette Post. He was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution; the Society of Beaux Arts, Senlis, France; of the American Historical Society of Dallas, Tex.; the Royal Geographical Society of Copenhagen, Denmark, and Lisbon, Portugal, and the Virginia Historical Society of Richmond. The doctor was the founder and first secretary of the Anthropological Society of this city.

Dr. Reynolds was the author of the "Prehistoric Remains in the Valleys of the Potomac and South Shenandoah," which was translated into Italian by Prof. Rodolfo Lanciani of the Royal University of Rome and published in Ravenna in 1883. He also wrote the eulogy of Count Ercalani and the "Memoir of the Pre-Columbian Shell Mounds of Newberg, Md., and the Shell Fields of the Potomac and Wicomico Rivers." In 1889 he wrote "The Mystic Castle of Carbonek," a serial romance, published in Wisconsin.

Wins Recognition

His work won him distinguished recognition abroad, where he was so well known as Chevalier Reynolds, King Humbert having in 1887 knight him Chevalier and Knight Companion of the Royal Order of Italy (the crown of Monza). He also received a bronze medal from Don Carlos, King of Portugal; a similar recognition from the Royal Academy of Lisbon and a collection of autographs of the sovereigns of England, Russia, Denmark and Greece from the King of Denmark. His special interest, however, was in his membership in the Society of American Authors. Chevalier Reynolds, as many of his friends in the United States knew him, it is said, was one of only three American-born citizens upon whom King Humbert bestowed honors.

Mrs. Reynolds and five children, four sons and a daughter, survive him. One son is Mr. B.A. Reynolds of New Orleans. He came here Monday to spend his vacation with his parents, and saw his father for a short time yesterday morning before the latter went to his place of employment. The other sons are A St. P., Frank A., F.H. and E.R. Reynolds, jr. His daughter is Mrs. P.W. Guilford.