

Thomas Rich

(- 10 Sep 1875)

The Evening Star, September 11, 1875

Death of a Well-Known Printer

Mr. Thomas Rich, one of the best known printers in the District, died at his residence, on 9th street, near E, yesterday afternoon, of a dropsical disease which has confined him to his room for about four months. He was in the 55th year of his age. Mr. Rich was a native of this city, and learned the art of printing here. He was for thirty-four years a member of the old Columbia Typographical Society, and also a member of Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, from its formation to the day of his death, and was for a number of years the presiding officer of both of those associations. He probably was a member of more secret orders than any man in the District, holding his membership in Federal Lodge of Masons, Washington Lodge, Grand Lodge, Mt. Nebo, and Grand Encampment of Odd Fellows, Calanthe and Grand Lodge of Knights of Pythias, the Red Men, Brotherhood of the Union, Heptasophs, and Druids. In nearly all of these organizations he had filled the position of secretary or scribe, and had represented the encampment branch of Odd Fellows in the Grand Lodge of the United States. For a number of years he was a clerk in the city post office, having previously served in the Mexican War. He was a man of the strictest integrity, and while president of the Typographical Union during the agitation of the exciting question of admitting colored printers into the Union, he, by his important rulings, gained the respect and good will of both parties in the controversy. His funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon, and the interment will be made at the Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, September 13, 1875

Funeral of the Late Thomas Rich

Yesterday afternoon the funeral of Thomas Rich (whose death was mentioned in Saturday's Star) took place from his late residence, No. 506 9th street northwest, and was attended by a large concourse of relatives and friends of the family; in fact by the largest gathering of people which has taken place at the funeral of a private citizen for a long time in this city. The remains were placed in a black walnut coffin, covered with fine black cloth, heavily mounted with silver mountings, bar handles, and the emblems of the several orders and societies of which deceased was a member. On the lid was a heavy scroll plate, inscribed "Thomas Rich, died September 10, 1875, in the 55th year of his age." The services of the Presbyterians church were conducted by Rev. J.C. Smith and Rev. Joseph Kelly, of the Fourth Presbyterian church, at the house, after which the cortege was formed and proceeded to the Congressional cemetery, in charge of Mr. Anthony Buchly, undertaker. The pall bearers were: On the part of the Grand Lodge I.O.O.F., P.G.M.R., Finley Hunt; Grand Encampment, P.G.P. Thomas Greer; Uniformed Patriarchs, Gr. Rep. William R. McLean; Mount Nebo Encampment, No. 6, Patriarch M.W. Leese; Washington Lodge, No. 6, Jennings Paul; Calanthe Lodge, No. 11, K.P., J.W. Hayes; Grand Council, I.O.R.M., W.M. Stelle; on the part of the printers' organizations, William M. Belt; Auxania Circle Ancient Order of Druids, A.E.L. Keese. All of the societies of which deceased was a member were out in full numbers and marched to the cemetery, the sidewalks all the way being thronged with young and old. The services of the several orders were conducted in an impressive manner, and, notwithstanding the immense throng, the best of order prevailed.