

Maginnis Sands

(- 29 Apr 1885)

Sands. Suddenly on the morning of April 29, 1885, Maginnis Sands. Funeral service will be held at John W. Lee's undertaker's rooms, 332 Pennsylvania avenue n.w. at 9 o'clock, Friday, May 1. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, April 30, 1885

Drowned in the Gale

A Small Sail Boat Swamped and Two Men Lost

M. McGinnis Sands, a well-known resident of South Washington, and James Mahoney, a colored man, started out from Johnson's wharf about half-past eleven o'clock Tuesday night, when a fearful gale was blowing on the river, to visit fishing nets which Mr. Sands had set in the river just below Fort Foote. They set out in a flat-bottomed sailboat. As no news had been received from them, yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock, Capt. J.T. Lewis and a brother of Mr. Sands went down the river in Capt. Lewis' tugboat, the D.M. Key. Off a point known as Sandy Bar, about ten miles down, they found the flat-bottomed sail boat capsized and caught in the nets. Putting ashore they found the body of Sands lying on the beach, partly undressed. No trace could be found of Mahoney, who it is supposed was drowned in deep water. Persons in Alexandria say that during Tuesday night's storm a capsized boat was seen drifting down the river past that city with two men clinging to the bottom. It is supposed, therefore, that the boat was swamped before reaching Alexandria, and that the two men clung to it until they were exhausted and benumbed. Sands, it is thought, finally took off his boots and some of his clothing and tried to swim ashore but was so exhausted that he drowned in the shallow water in shore. Sands, it is said was not a good waterman, and it was somewhat foolhardy to venture out in such a boat during the blow, which was the worst that has been experienced in this vicinity for some time. He was exceedingly anxious, however, about his nets, which he was afraid would be swept away. His body was brought up to the city last evening in the tug D.M. Key, and taken to Wm. Lee's undertaking establishment, where the funeral will be held at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The interment will be in the Congressional cemetery. The deceased was about 37 years of age, and married, but had no children. He lived at No. 902 6th street southwest, and had been a resident of South Washington nearly all his life, being greatly respected by his neighbors. For several years he had been employed by the Johnson Bros.