

## John M. Sanford

( - 9 Oct 1895)

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**Sanford.** On October 9, 1895 at 5 o'clock p.m., John M. beloved husband of Florida F. Sanford in the 74th year of his age. Funeral from his sister's residence, 46 I street northeast, Saturday, October 12 at 2 o'clock p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend (Syracuse, NY papers please copy).

*The Evening Star, October 15, 1895*

### **Sanford's Two Wives**

#### **An Investigation of His Death to be Made This Afternoon**

The remains of John M. Sanford, buried Saturday last, were disinterred this afternoon and taken to Lee's undertaking establishment, where, at 5 o'clock, Dr. L.W. Glazebrook, the deputy coroner, will make an autopsy, the result of which will make plain whether or not Sanford came to his death through foul play, as is supposed to be the case by his two sisters. Sanford married a widow, Mrs. Crupper, about two weeks before his death and subsequently made a will in her favor.

It is further claimed that Sanford committed bigamy by marrying Mrs. Crupper for, it is insisted the union of the deceased to Mrs. Rose Stockholm about fifteen years ago was never legally dissolved. The two drifted apart, it is said, and Sanford had not forgotten his wife, for he recently visited his daughter, Miss Ada Stockholm, a member of the Black Crook company. Mrs. Emilie Young and Mrs. Sarah Campbell sisters of Sanford, announce that they propose to ascertain the whereabouts of Miss Stockholm's mother, and by that means render void the will made by Sanford October 3 in favor of Mrs. Crupper.

It is not believed by his sisters that Sanford owned property in Syracuse or elsewhere.

*The Evening Star, October 16, 1895*

### **The Inquest**

#### **Probable Natural Causes Brought Death to John Sanford**

As announced in The Star, Deputy Coroner Glazebrook late yesterday afternoon made an autopsy on the remains of John M. Sanford, who died October 10, under what were claimed to be suspicious circumstances. Dr. Glazebrook discovered that Sanford had been in a far from healthy condition. A well-developed case of fatty degeneration of the heart was apparent, the kidneys were affected and the stomach and entrails inflamed and diseased. In the opinion of Dr. Glazebrook death was due to natural causes.

A chemical examination of the stomach and intestines and their contents is to be made, however, and for that purpose the organs mentioned were placed in a jar, hermetically sealed and sent to Mr. Hird, the chemist for the District. Nothing further in the way of investigation will be made until the report of the chemist is made, which cannot be for several days.

Mrs. Emeline Young, a sister of the deceased has received a communication from Mrs. Rosa Sanford, who, it is said, married Sanford years ago and was never divorced. In the letter wife No. 1 expressed surprise to learn of the second marriage of her husband, and stated that she would come to this city at once. Mrs. Sanford No. 2, who was Mrs. Crupper, is ill in bed at her residence, 207 G street northwest.

*The Evening Star, October 21, 1895*

### **Death of John Sanford**

#### **The Inquest Probably Will Take Place Tomorrow**

As stated in The Star Saturday, Coroner Hammett decided to further investigate the death of John Sanford, who died recently under suspicious circumstances, upon receiving the report of the chemist who made an analysis of the contents of the stomach of the deceased. As published, arsenic was found, but it was also shown that the poison formed a large proportion of the make-up of the fluid used in embalming the body.

Coroner Hammett stated this afternoon that he intends to wait until the arrival in this city from New York of Mrs. Rose Sanford, who claims to be the first wife of the dead man, before holding an inquest. Mrs. Sanford had not reached the city at a late hour this afternoon, but is expected this evening or tomorrow morning, so that the inquiry to determine the cause of death will, in all probability, occur some time tomorrow. The inquest will undoubtedly occupy considerable time, and be of interest, as medical testimony, in addition to that of the sisters of Sanford and of his first and second wives, is to be presented.

*The Evening Star, October 23, 1895*

### **John Sanford's End**

#### **The Coroner's Jury Decides That Death Was Natural**

The coroner's jury which assembled at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, as stated in The Star, to determine the cause of death of John M. Sanford, the government printing office watchman who died a fortnight ago under suspicious circumstances, in an unexpectedly brief period returned a verdict to the effect that Sanford came to his death from natural causes, and held no one responsible therefor.

But three witnesses were examined, Dr. Crosson, who attended Sanford; Dr. Dorset, chemist of the Agricultural Department, who analyzed the contents of the stomach of the deceased, and Dr. Glazebrook, the deputy coroner. The testimony of Dr. Grosson was that he saw Sanford while ill and gave a death certificate. Dr. Dorset described how he found arsenic in the contents of the stomach and also easily detected the presence of the poison in the embalming fluid used to preserve the body. Dr. Glazebrook, who made the autopsy, stated emphatically that Sanford had been afflicted with various diseases, and that the embalming fluid passed to all parts of the body, including the brain. According to Dr. Glazebrook, if the deceased had been given an irritant poison, his stomach would have been burned, which was not the case, as the autopsy disclosed.

Because of the early conclusion reached by the jury, the Sanford relatives, who were in attendance at the inquiry, were not given an opportunity to testify. Mrs. Crupper, who married Sanford a few days before his demise, remained outside of the undertaking establishment in a carriage, but was represented by Attorney J. McDowell Carrington. The attorney, it is said, was armed with copies of court records and other legal documents to prove that Mrs. Rose Sanford of New York, who claimed to be the first wife of the dead man, was not his lawful spouse. Mrs. Rose Sanford who was also in attendance, had in her possession a marriage certificate and letters written by Sanford to her, with which she intended to overcome the allegations that might be made by the attorney for Mrs. Crupper. It is now claimed that Mrs. Stockholm married Sanford under that name, when her name in reality was Close, and that she was the wife of a man known as Jerome B. Close, who later secured a divorce from her.

The next step in the matter will probably be litigation in the civil courts between Mrs. Stockholm and Mrs. Crupper to determine who is entitled to the property left by Sanford.