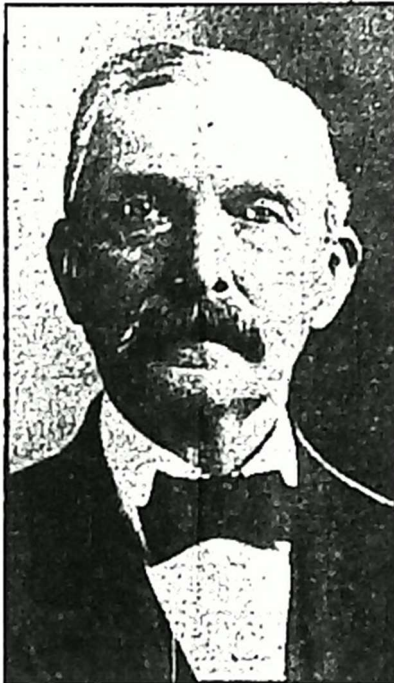


## August W. Schroeder (1836 – 25 Jun 1918)

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*The Evening Star, December 8, 1858*

**Musical** -- Now that the season of fairs, balls and parties has been duly inaugurated, we call the attention of our music-loving friends to the admirable band recently organized at the Navy Yard by Mr. August Schroder. His band comprises a large share of the best musical talent of the famous Marine Band, and discourses in a serenade the sweetest strains that ever awoke a fair one from a dream of love, or in a ball room the most exquisite notes that ever guided a fairy form through the misty mazes of the dance. Schroder and his colleagues are, withal, the most obliging fellows in the world; and when you want fine music, well executed, engage their services.



**Schroeder.** Entered into rest Tuesday, June 25, 1918, at 4 p.m., August W., beloved husband of the late Altazera Henderson Schroeder, in the eighty-second year of his age. Funeral services will be held at his late residence, 524 9th street southeast, Friday, June 28, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment (private) at Congressional cemetery. (Martinsburg, W. Va., papers please copy.)

*The Evening Star, June 26, 1918, p. 2*

### **August W. Schroeder Dies**

August W. Schroeder, for seventy-eight years a resident of Washington and one of the best known musicians of this city, died at his home, 524 9th street northeast, yesterday.

Funeral services will be held at the residence at 2 p.m. Friday. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

Mr. Schroeder was 82 years of age. Born in Hanover, Germany, August 8, 1836, he came to Washington in 1840. For twenty-five years he was a member of the Marine Band and was assistant leader for a time.

He was also the organizer and conductor of the National Guard Band under Gen. Ordway.

For sixty-five years he was a member of the orchestra of the National Theater and was its conductor for sixteen years. He was well known for his charitable work throughout the city.

Mr. Schroeder was a member of the Oldest Inhabitants Association of the District and of Naval Lodge, F.A.A.M. He is survived by ten children--John C., Charles E., Raymond D., Clarence W., Robert M., Mrs. W.B. Domer, Mrs. D.W. Bell, Leila H., Rita E. and Emmie W.

Revs. David R. Covell and Arthur S. Johns will officiate at the funeral services.

*The Evening Star, July 26, 1918, p. 4*

### **Schroeder Will Filed**

#### **Personal Estate Is Left to Three Daughters**

The will of August W. Schroeder, dated June 12 last, was offered today for probate. It bequeaths the personal estate to three unmarried daughters, Lolla H., Emmie M. and Rita E Schroeder.

The three are to have the use of the real estate until marriage, and as each marries the property is to be used by the others until the death of the survivor. Then the real estate is to be distributed among the heirs of the testator. Ovilton S. Schroeder is named as executrix.

*The Evening Star, June 7, 1925, part 5, p. 3*

**Schroeder Name in D.C. Music History  
Thousands of Citizens Here Knew First Local Head of House,  
Whose History Is Told by the Rambler as a Matter of Public Interest**

This ramble will tell of a musician who lived in Washington 78 years. His name? August Wilhelm Schroeder. For 62 years his home was No. 524 Ninth street southeast, between E. and G. Thousands of Washingtonians now dead knew him and call him friend. Washingtonians living, remember him, and almost all men whose eyes are on this page will think, "Yes, I knew him."

In July, 1924, the Rambler wrote of the late Henry A. Linger's farm on Bowen road, opposite the country home of Sayles J. Bowen, mayor of Washington for two terms 1868 and 1869. In that ramble was written: "The old Linger house and lands on Bowen road have been occupied a good many years by Blair Domer. Blair is a brother of Charlie, Will, Harry, Eulalie and Delia. All the old boys know Charlie. Will is teller with the Columbia National Bank. Harry is with the Swartzell, Rheem and Hensey Company. Eulalie married Clarence Rheem. All of which calls up memories not alone of genial, gentle Clarence Rheem, but of poor Tom Hensey and George Swartzell. Delia married a gentleman, by name Allman, and the rambler has lost track of her."

These Domers are children of Rev. Samuel Domer, deceased, long pastor of St. Paul's English Lutheran Church, southwest corner of H and Eleventh streets northwest. His Washington home was 738 Eleventh street and he bought the Linger farm as a country home. Blair Domer's wife is a daughter of August W. Schroeder. She was his fourth child and was named Ellie. The Rambler set these facts in a memory-niche that he might tell you of August Schroeder and his family. He thought that a story on this subject would lead to one or more about Washington musicians of other years, feeling that this matter would interest you.

In 1840 Christian Schroeder, his wife, Dorathea Miller Schroeder, and their son, August, landed at Baltimore from Germany after three months at sea in a sail ship. August was born at Hanover, Germany, in 1836. The family came from Baltimore to Washington a few days after entering the United States and went to live on a farm near Four Corners, this side of Burnt Mills, on the Colesville road in Montgomery County, Md.

Christian was a musician and from his youth had been a German military bandsman. Soon after making a home near Four Corners, Christian enlisted in the Marine Band and moved to Washington, with his wife and son renting the house on the southeast corner of Tenth and G streets southeast. The house stands.

Christian served several enlistments in the Band -- I believe three of four years each and part of a fourth -- and died May 28, 1854. His grave is in Congressional Cemetery. His widow Dorathea, lived until 1884, and the Rambler has seen a sear certificate giving her a little pension as widow of Christian Schroeder of the Marine Band, "who died of disease contracted in line of duty." The Rambler has looked at issues of the Evening Star, May 27-30, 1854, but they do not hold an account of Christian Schroeder's death. No significance is in that because newspapers did not gather news so well then as now.

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August Schroeder enlisted in the Marine Band in 1857. He was 21, had full music training under his father and others and had been playing the cornet in private music companies. The

year before going with the Marine Band he bought the lot and built the house No. 524 Ninth street southeast. It was his home till death, the home of his 12 children and is the home now of four of his children, Lelia Henderson Schroeder, Emmie Mary Schroeder, Mrs. Rita Schroeder von Hermann and Robert Morgan Schroeder. He was with the Marine Band until 1876 -- 19 years -- and in that time he played his part in ceremonies gay or grim, many of them historic -- inauguration of Presidents, reception of delegates from many nations, funerals of men who made history and parades which millions watched He played his cornet with the band at Capitol and White House concerts in Summer and played in brass or strings at parties where the public went, and at dances, dinners and fetes to which invitations were not given to unknown, humble folk like you and me.

The Marine Band for all its life has played a part in great affairs, yet a man does not often know or read the name of a bandsman. I wish I could write that word "bandsman" but the copy reader and the proofreader would call me down and prove that the important dictionaries do not admit it. Yet it is senseless to write "bandsman" -- possessive of "band" with the possessive mark outgrown -- when "bandman" would meet the need and be in line of usage which has made "barbershop" from "barber's shop" and scores of similar cases. We will have to let it be as "bandsman" till dictionary makers know better and they will not take head of "bandman" till some bold writer gets it into print.

The leader of a band becomes famous -- sometimes. It depends on the band. Names of the bandmen remain unknown. They may have given a life of work to their art and some are men of genius. They do that which most men cannot, and which the majority of men could not learn to do. Persons who buy two phonograph records and have a plate of sandwiches sent from a delicatessen give a musical and luncheon and get their names in print. A man with his hair parted in the middle and with a cane and spats becomes chairman of a committee to give advice to the poor, and his picture is set up in the shop windows. A chap with a forehead half a millimeter high and who can tie his ears in a bow-knot over the top of his head gives a tip of \$500 to a waiter and a hundred thousand people read about him till their eyes ache. But a man who plays the march at your wedding and the funeral of your friend. Oh, well! I do not know his name -- perhaps he hasn't one -- he's just a member of the band. The Rambler has more thoughts on this line but he hasn't space to spill them now. He must on with the story.

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August Schroeder formed Schroeder's Orchestra in 1878. Then he formed other orchestras, each known as Schroeder's Orchestra, so that Schroeder's Orchestra could be in different places at the same time. Schroeder's Orchestra played for the dance at the coming out party of your mother, at the reception which your grandmother gave "in honor of" the Princess of Anchovia when she came to Washington, and at the picnic which your Sunday school gave at Glymont, or Curtis Spring, Green Spring, or White House Landing. At the tournament for the championship of Southern Maryland or Northern Virginia, at the coronation ball, at the oyster roast, the barbecue, lawn fete, church social or political rally, it is likely that Schroeder's Orchestra made the music.

This orchestra played "Sweet Adeline" and "Sweet Marine," when you sought and did not always find, Potomac breezes by traveling on the "W W Corcoran" and the "River Queen." In the Riverside pavilion you danced to Schroeder's Orchestra. For 35 summers it was the orchestra of Marshall Hall and its steamboats. For 15 years August Schroeder led the National

Theater Orchestra and Schroeder's musicians were the orchestra. That was in the days before "stars of the screen" and "'scars' of the screen" began to make \$1,000,000 a week -- according to press agents -- by registering surprise and anger, by dripping glycerin tears, by jumping four feet from a 15-story house and by saving a beautiful woman -- according to the story -- from the raging torrent of a quiet brook.

Schroeder's Orchestra played in the parlor of the old Willard Hotel and for 14 years, from 1901, Mr. Schroeder conducted the New Willard Orchestra. For years Schroeder's Orchestra also played in the parlor of the Ebbitt House and at the Raleigh. August Schroeder organized the National Guard Band of the District of Columbia when Gen. Albert Ordway commanded the brigade, and he was inspector of band instruments for the United States Government during the war with Spain. He was a life member of Naval Masonic Lodge, a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants and a member of the Old Guard. He died June 25, 1918, eighty-two years old. He had more friends than most men and many of the Rambler's friends "on the Navy Yard" have told him stores of August Schroeder's kindness.

Five of August Schroeder's boys were musicians and still are. The eldest son, John Christian Schroeder, was given broad musical schooling and adopted the piano. He played in the old Willard Hotel orchestra and conducted the Raleigh Hotel orchestra during the years T.J. Talty was manager of the hotel. Retired from professional music, and since 1888 -- 37 years -- has been assistant secretary of the Washington Safe Deposit Company. I often meet John at lunch and with George Havenner, Ed Hazleton Bradbury Heights, Ed Scanlon, Bill Cross, "Sid" Wallberg, Mike Levy and Welby Smallwood, we hold a consortium on affairs of government. The newspapers, commissioners, congress, and the President do not always conform to our decisions and we have thought of asking them to sit at our table and get the right dope on how the country should be run. We would like to hand them some knock-out reasons why the income tax in the higher brackets should be lowered. Every time one of us makes a hundred thousand or so we feel that the tax is heavy.

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Frank William Schroeder, second son of August Schroeder died in 1894 and had become a musician of merit and experience. He played in his father's orchestra and was of the Academy of Music orchestra when he died. The third son, Charles Ernest Schroeder, played with his father in the old National Theater orchestra, was in the Columbia Theater orchestra for 20 years, and is in the National Theater orchestra now. Raymond Duncan Schroeder, the fourth son and eighth child of August Schroeder, is one of Washington's eminent violinists, conducted the Ebbitt House orchestra a long time and is a music teacher now. Clarence Willard Schroeder, the fifth son, did not turn to music and has been with the Norris-Peters photo-lithographic company and the Geological Survey for 35 years. The sixth son, Robert Morgan Schroeder, was in the Belasco Theater orchestra several years and is now of the Soldiers' Home Band.

I have mentioned the daughters, Ellie, Leila, Emmie and Rita. There was a daughter, Roberta, who died when she was a child, and if I can read my notes, there is another daughter, Mrs. David W. Bell of Petworth, No. 4318 Ninth street northwest.

Up to this line of my story I forgot to tell you that August Wilhelm Schroeder married Miss Altazera Henderson of Green Spring, near Winchester, Va. She was the daughter of John Towle Henderson and Mary (Duncan) Henderson, and she died in July, 1908.

In the old photograph of Schroeder's orchestra are August W. Schroeder, Frank Batista, Henry Nieman, deceased; Frank Schroeder, deceased; Raymond Schroeder, Charles Schroeder, Chris. Arth and Charles Thierback, deceased. Names of a few of the old musicians who played with Mr. Schroeder at one time or another are Henry Nieman, Charles Thierbach, William Schminick, Caesar Campagni, John Arth, Joseph Arth, William Au, Camillo Schneider, John Boll, Philip Manco, Billy Withers, William Harley, John Bonini, Antonio Pons, Vincent St. George, A. Krause, Frank Lusby, Lemuel Lusby, Louis Weber, Frank

Baptista, John Philip Sousa, William H. Santlemann, Charles Wagner, M. Vogel, Amabile Samuels, M. Pistoria, Ed Higgins, James Callan, William Toense, Albert Tyler, Henry Schuldt, Julius Schultz, Andrew Coda, Henry Tavender, Henry Donch, S. Eopolucci, Henry Fries, M. Scala, Louis Schneider and F. Triary.