

## Joseph Shillington

(19 Sep 1860 – 20 Jun 1905)

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**Shillington.** At his residence, 1745 15 street northwest, on Tuesday, June 20, 1905, at 7:20 o'clock a.m., Joseph Shillington, beloved husband of Mary Acker, in the forty-fifth year of his age. Notice of funeral hereafter.



Joseph Shillington.

*The Washington Times, June 20, 1905*

### **Joseph Shillington Dies of Consumption**

Joseph Shillington, an ex-District attorney and a prominent member of the bar, died at his home, 1745 U street northwest, this morning at 7:15 o'clock of tuberculosis.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been made, but the services will be held Thursday morning at his late home.

Mr. Shillington was a graduate of the Columbian Law School, graduating with the class of 1883. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, a brother, and two sisters.

*The Evening Star, June 20, 1905*

### **Succumbs to Disease**

### **Joseph Shillington, Prominent Lawyer, Passes Away Former Assistant United States Attorney for Two Terms--Sketch of His Career**

Joseph Shillington, a prominent lawyer, died this morning at 7:20 o'clock at his residence, 1745 U street northwest. Mr. Shillington's health showed signs of failing a few years ago, but he was not attacked by his fatal illness, consumption, until the 14th day of March last, when he was taken ill at his office and went to his home, since which time his decline was rapid, the end coming peacefully and painlessly.

Mr. Shillington was born in this city September 19, 1860, and resided here all his life. He was educated at the Rittenhouse Academy, a noted school conducted by the father of former Commissioner John B. Wight, and afterward at the Columbian College, now George Washington University, and in the law school of that institution. He was graduated from the law school in 1885 with the highest honors, taking the prize of \$100 in gold for his essay on "The Public Duties of a Lawyer." During his attendance upon the law school he was also a student in the office of Messrs. Riddle, Davis & Padgett, and the year following his graduation was admitted to the bar.

After being in practice but a short while he was appointed assistant United States attorney by Judge John B. Hoge, under whom he served until he resigned to accept the position of assistant attorney of the District of Columbia, in association with Messrs. Albert G. Riddle and Henry E. Davis, and upon Mr. Davis becoming United States attorney he was again appointed an assistant to that official and served throughout his incumbency of the office, resigning upon the appointment of Mr. Davis' successor.

### *Noted for Learning and Fidelity*

During his service under Mr. Davis he distinguished himself by the intelligence, learning and fidelity which he displayed in the discharge of his duties, and made an enviable record in his position. In all of

his professional relations and the meeting of his professional duties he evinced a rare talent for his calling was studious and acute and was especially successful before juries. He had the gift of a bright and kindly wit added to the more solid qualities of the orator and his courteous address and gentle disposition united with his other qualities to make him a forceful and winning speaker.

Since his retirement from the office of the United States attorney he followed the practice of his profession assiduously until within the past year or two, , when his health began to fail and as already stated, his fatal illness seized him in March last, since when he has been confined to his bed. Among his most striking characteristics was his true conception of the older and higher ideals of the office of the lawyer and advocate, and he was as conspicuous in his devotion to those ideals as he was in fidelity to his friends. His popularity was limited only by the extent of his acquaintance, and the many kindly, warm and affectionate expressions which have already been heard touching his untimely death were never more merited.

#### *His Antecedents*

Mr. Shillington was the son of Elizabeth A. Cummings of Baltimore, Md., and the late Joseph Shillington, who, at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 4 1/2 street, now John Marshall place, for forty-four years conducted the book, periodical and newspaper store which carried his name throughout the country. Mr. Shillington, sr., was the first distributor in Washington of the Baltimore Sun, his relations to that journal beginning with its establishment and during the civil war and for each of the decades preceding and following that event his place was the rendezvous of all the prominent men of the time and the point of distribution of most of the political sentiments, news and gossip of the time.

Mr. Joseph Shillington's personality and ancestry constitute a link between the Washington of today and the Washington of ante-bellum days, growing less and less familiar to its present day population. He leaves surviving him his wife, Mrs. Mary Acker Shillington, daughter of John Frederick Acker, deceased, the well-known contractor and builder, and two daughters, Katharine and Florence, and, in addition, a brother, Albert H. Shillington, now in the employ of the Real Estate and Columbia Title Insurance Companies, and two sisters, Alice, wife of W.W. Wilshire of Seattle, state of Washington, and Florence S., widow of Frederic Eberly of this city.

The arrangements for the funeral have not been concluded.

*The Washington Times, June 21, 1905*

#### **Services in Memory of Joseph Shillington**

#### **Funeral of the Dead Lawyer Will be Held in Late Home Tomorrow Afternoon.**

The funeral services of Joseph Shillington will be held at his late residence, 1745 U street northwest, Thursday afternoon, at 3 o'clock. Friends and relatives are invited to attend the services at the home, but the interment will be private.

Mr. Shillington was a native of this city, having been born here in 1860. He lived here all of his life and was one of the most prominent lawyers of the District, being at one time Assistant United States District Attorney under Henry E. Davis.

Mr. Shillington is survived by a widow, Mrs. Mary Acker Shillington, and two daughters, Misses Katharine and Florence Shillington.

#### *Court Shows Respect*

District Attorney Beach today made an oral motion in Criminal Court No. 1 asking that when an adjournment was taken it be in respect to the memory of Joseph Shillington, a member of the District bar, who died yesterday at his home in this city. Justice Wright presiding, directed the clerk to enter a

record upon the minutes of the court to show an adjournment was taken in memory of the death of Mr. Shillington.

Mr. Shillington was appointed assistant district attorney by Henry E. Davis while the latter was at the head of the District Attorney's office. He resigned when General Anderson was named as the successor to Mr. Davis. In speaking of Mr. Shillington, Mr. Beach said:

"There is much in the charity of death which provokes extravagant eulogy. But I shall not say more than a few words in respect to his memory.

Here is the passing of a man. I shall say nothing of his professional attainments; of his high view of professional ethics; of his faithfulness to friends, and his fearlessness to foe, if foe he had.

We merely wish to refer to the high degree of courage and patience with which for the past three years he met the ravages of grim disease. I take it that no man who has gone hence suffered more than this poor man for the past three years; I take it that no man ever showed greater fortitude in meeting the grim reaper or greater freedom from the morbid repining than he. It has been our custom when our ranks are depleted that the court session be closed for the day.

I take it to be a custom more honored in the breach than in the observance."

He asked the court to enter upon the minutes of the court the announcement, which was done.