

John Queen Slye (- 1 Mar 1957)

The New York Times, June 26, 1915

President Cheered On Trip To Cornish Tells a Springfield Admirer That He'll Avoid War if He Can Do So Big Crowd Welcomes Him He Settles Down for a Fortnight's Golfing. Automobiling, Reading, and Restaurant

Cornish, N.H., June 25 -- President Wilson, accompanied by his daughter, Margaret, and Dr. Cary T. Grayson, the White House physician, arrived at his Summer home here soon after 1 o'clock this afternoon. He was met at the railroad station at Windsor, Vt., by his cousin, Miss Helen Woodrow Bones, and motored to Cornish.

. . .

The President learned today of the marriage on the day he left Washington of John Slye, one of his Secret Service men, and Miss Johanna Henrick of Washington. The couple are spending their honeymoon here. As Slye finished his tour of duty in helping guard the President today, he was met by his bride.



Guarding Wilson

U.S. Secret Service agents Joe Murphy (left), John Slye (third from left), and Richard "Dick" Jervis (right), with President Woodrow Wilson and his daughter, Eleanor McAdoo, c. 1914.

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Slye, John Q. A special communication of Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, FAAM, will be held in the Masonic Temple in Brightwood on Monday, March 4, 1957, at 10 a.m., to attend the funeral services of our late Brother, John Q. Slye. By order of the Worshipful Master, Arthur W. Brie.

J. Alfred Collins, Secretary

The Washington Post, March 4, 1957, p. B2

John Slye Dead at 80; Guarded 7 Presidents

John A. (Jack) Slye, 80, a secret service agent who guarded seven Presidents and was a currency and counterfeiting expert, died of coronary thrombosis Friday at the Sharon Nursing home, Olney, Md.

He and his wife, Johanna, had moved to the nursing home 10 days ago after living for 25 years at 5509 39th st. nw.

Born and educated in the District, Mr. Slye began in Government service with the Census Bureau and joined the Secret service after developing a special knowledge of currency.

Mr. Slye was credited with designing a widely accepted method of destroying currency and suggesting the type of paper and ink used for Government checks to prevent forgery.

He joined the White House Secret Service force late in the Taft Administration. He retired in 1946.

Mr. Slye sat up with Woodrow Wilson on election night, 1916, when his second-term bid at first seemed headed for defeat. He considered Wilson, whom he accompanied at the Versailles conference, the greatest of the Presidents he served.

He also traveled with President Harding on his Alaska trip. He took charge of President Roosevelt's funeral arrangements in 1945.

Although responsible for the safety of the President from all kinds of danger, Mr. Slye never had to shoot at a man.

Mr. Slye belonged to the Almas Temple of the Shrine and was former national head of Tall Cedars of Lebanon, a Masonic Order. He was a member of Stansbury Lodge No. 24, FAAM.

His wife is the only immediate survivor. Services will be held at 11 a.m. today at the S.H. Hines Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. nw. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, March 4, 1957, p. A14

J.Q. Slye, Aide to Presidents As Secret Service Agent

John Queen (Jack) Slye, 80, a Secret Service agent who was friend and protector of seven Presidents, died Friday at the Sharon Nursing home in Olney, Md.

Services were held this morning at the S.H. Hines funeral home, 2901 Fourteenth street N.W., with burial in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Slye and his wife, Johanna, moved into the nursing home about 10 days ago, after living for 25 years at 5509 Thirty-ninth street N.W.

He joined the Secret Service in 1911, when there were only 54 men on the staff, and was detailed to the White House in 1912, during the latter part of the Taft administration. He retired 34 years later, on November 30, 1946.

Kept Peace Documents

Entrusted with the keeping of the confidential papers and peace documents, Mr. Slye accompanied President Wilson to Europe in 1918. He went along on all the President's other travels, and was asked by Mrs. Wilson to take over the funeral arrangements when the President died.

Mr. Slye accompanied President Harding on his Alaska trip, and was in San Francisco with Mr. Harding when he died. He also went to South America to help make arrangements for the trip of President-elect Hoover in 1928.

Upon his retirement, Mr. Slye told a reporter, "It's hard to say anything about who was the favorite President. All of them were nice, deep down inside."

He added that he had a better opportunity to know President Wilson and found him far different from the reserved man some considered him to be.

Born in Washington

Born in Washington, Mr. Slye was proud of the fact that his great-great grandfather, Benjamin More, was editor of the Washington Gazette 160 years ago.

He began his service with the Government in 1900, with the Census Bureau, and transferred seven years later to the Treasury Department. He was considered an expert in currency and counterfeiting.

At one time he was a member of 17 civic and fraternal organizations. Very active in Masonic circles, he was former national head of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon, and belonged to the Almas Temple of the Shrine and Stansbury Lodge, No. 24, FAAM. He was a member of Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church.

His wife is his only immediate survivor.