

Carleton E. Snell

(- 22 Jun 1895)

Snell. Funeral Monday, 24 Jun 1895 at 4 p.m. from Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church, S.E. Washington.

The Evening Star, June 24, 1895

Promising Life Ended

Drowning of Young Carleton E. Snell Saturday

Mr. Carleton E. Snell, a rising young patent lawyer of Washington, and one of the leaders of the young people in every movement relative to church matters in Anacostia, lost his life Saturday evening by drowning at the bathing beach in South Washington. His body was recovered about an hour after the sad accident, and taken to the home of his parents, with whom he resided, 551 Harrison street, Anacostia, after being prepared for burial by Undertaker Thomas F. Murray of Anacostia. The funeral takes place this afternoon at 4 o'clock from Garden Memorial Church, on Minnesota avenue. The services will be conducted by Rev. Joseph B. North, pastor of the church, assisted by Rev., Dr. George B. Patch, pastor of Gunton Memorial Temple, Washington. The pallbearers are two members of Garden Memorial, two from Gunton and two of Mr. Shell's late college mates.

The untimely end of Mr. Snell has cast a deep gloom over the entire town of Anacostia, and the unfortunate affair was the subject of universal reference among those who assembled at the various churches yesterday.

Carleton E. Snell was not only a young man of charming character, but was very prepossessing in every gift that goes to make up a man. He was a ripe scholar, and had strong convictions, accompanied with deep piety. In his own church he was looked upon as a leading light, and he faithfully performed every duty that devolved upon him, no matter how arduous the performance of that duty might be.

He was president of the Christian Endeavor Society of Garden Memorial, and as his term of office was about to expire, and under the constitution he could not be re-elected, he had been selected as chairman of the look-out committee of the same society for the ensuing term. He was also a deacon in the church, and treasurer of the board of deacons; a leading member of the Anti-Saloon League, and one of the secretaries of the Anacostia Citizens' Association; a member of the Young Men's Christian Association of Washington, and was well known in many of the prominent debating societies, in whose discussions he often took a leading part, not long since winning the Demorest medal for superiority shown in debate. He had also frequently written poetry, which has from time to time appeared in the Washington papers.

As Mr. Snell was a good swimmer, the only reason that he should have lost his life while in the water is that he was seized with cramps, as the deceased had been a regular visitor to the beach since Superintendent Stevens taught him how to swim. Saturday afternoon the young man went to the beach from his office in the Washington Loan and Trust Company's building, and had been in swimming some time before he was drowned. He was last seen by a man named Jones, who heard him make a sound which indicated that he was in danger of going down. In an instant the swimmer disappeared beneath the surface and did not reappear. An effort was made to rescue him, but without success. The police boat Joe Blackburn was sent for, and the body was soon recovered. the body was taken ashore and when Deputy Coroner Glazebrook had given a certificate of accidental death an undertaker took charge of the remains and removed them to the late home of deceased.

The Evening Star, June 25, 1895

Touching Services

Carleton Snell Laid Away to His Last Rest

Garden Memorial Church, Anacostia, although capable of easily accommodating 400 people, was entirely inadequate to hold the multitude of mourning friends who assembled there yesterday afternoon to pay the last sad tributes of respect to the memory of the lamented Carleton E. Snell, the particulars of whose untimely death were recorded in yesterday's Star.

The audience was composed of the entire adult population of the town who could leave their places of business, many persons from Washington and a considerable number who had come from a much greater distance. Among the prominent men present were Rev. James McLaren, pastor of the Anacostia M.E. Church; Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson of the Anacostia Baptist Church, Rev. Geo. E. Stevenson of East Washington Heights Baptist Church, Rev. Mr. Bowman and Rev. Mr. Bradford of the Indian bureau, Washington.

After a beautiful and pathetic invocation had been offered by Mr. Bradford, Dr. Patch read the Scripture lessons appropriate to the solemn occasion, and then Miss Cora McLean of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Anacostia, in a most touching and effective manner sang as a solo "Nearer My God, to Thee," which was a great favorite with Mr. Snell. The sermon was brief and was preached by Mr. North. At the close of the sermon Miss McLean sang another favorite hymn of Mr. Snell's, "Asleep in Jesus, Blessed Sleep, From Which None Ever Wake to Weep."

At the conclusion of the services the remains were conveyed to the Congressional cemetery and placed in a vault, where they remained until this afternoon, when, after an appropriate service by Mr. North, they were consigned to their final resting place.

The floral tributes filled a hack and among many others, all of them of a most exquisite character were comprised an open Bible, thirty inches square, composed entirely of white roses, with a book mark of purple flowers, sent by the Webster family; a piece made of white and Mermot roses, the gift of the Christian Endeavor Society, of which the deceased was at the time of his death president; wreath of rare flowers, sent by the Union society of the Epworth League of the Anacostia M.E. Church; handsome bunch of white lilies from Mr. H.A. Linger, sr.; wreath from Miss Carrie Golden; pillow, inscribed "Eternal Rest," Mrs. S.E. Poates; bunch of carnations and medias, Mrs. A.B. Garden; floral piece, composed of LaFrance roses, from Mr. D.E. Freeman, and many others.