

Richard H. Sorrell

(23 Jan 1842 – 5 Dec 1925)

Sorrell. Departed this life Saturday, December 5, 1925, at 4:15 p.m., at his residence, 320 N st. s.w., Richard H. Sorrell, husband of the late Mary E. Sorrell. Funeral services at the Fifth Baptist Church, 6-1/2 and E sts. S.w., Tuesday, December 8, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment at Congressional Cemetery.

Sorrell. Members of Miriam Chapter, No. 23, O.E.S., are requested to attend the funeral of Brother Richard Sorrell at Fifth Baptist Church, 6-1/2 and E sts. S.w., Tuesday, December 8, at 2 p.m.

Anna B. Seiler, Worthy Matron

Joseph Cottrell, Worthy Patron

Ethel F. Boyce, Sec.

The Evening Star, December 6, 1925, p. 15

R.H. Sorrell, Veteran of Civil War, Is Dead Prominent Contractor Served in Confederate Army and Was Active Fraternity Man

Richard H. Sorrell, for many years a prominent contractor and builder here died yesterday afternoon at his residence, 329 N street southwest, after a long illness. He was 85 years old.

Mr. Sorrell was a veteran of the Civil War, having served with the Confederate forces. He came to Washington shortly after the close of the war and established himself in the contracting and building business, in which he remained until a few years ago, when he retired.

Mr. Sorrell had a wide acquaintance in Washington through his business and fraternal activities. He was a thirty-second degree Mason and was past grand master and past grand patriarch of the Odd Fellows here.

He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Annie E. Grigsby and Mrs. Emma J.S. Murray, both of this city. The funeral will be conducted under Masonic and Odd Fellow auspices, but arrangements have not been completed.

The Evening Star, December 7, 1925, p. 11

R.H. Sorrell Dies; Was Active Mason Contractor Succumbs After Protracted Illness--Fought in Civil War

Richard H. Sorrell, fraternal leader and long a prominent contractor and builder here, died at his residence, 329 N street southwest, Saturday afternoon after a protracted illness. He was a veteran of the Confederate Army and had lived in Washington since shortly after the Civil War.

Mr. Sorrell was born in Caroline County, Va, January 23, 1842, and was the son of the late William Sorrell and the late Mrs. Mary Miffleton Sorrell. He married Miss Mary Elizabeth Pullen of Prince William County, Va., November 9, 1865. Two children were born to them, now Mrs. Annie E. Grigsby and Mrs. J.S. Murray, both of whom survive. His wife died in November 1913.

Fought in Civil War

He served with Company B of the 30th Regiment, Confederate Army, throughout the war and took part in many of the major engagements.

Mr. Sorrell moved to the District about 1870 and resided always in the Southwest section until within a few weeks of his death he carried on his business.

Mr. Sorrell was active in fraternal affairs. He was a thirty-second degree Mason, a member of Lafayette Lodge, the Knights Templar, the Mystic Shrine, and other branches of Masonry.

He was a member of Amity Lodge No 27, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, a past grand master of that lodge and served in every official position in that lodge.

He was also a member of Columbia Encampment No. 1, and served in the various chairs of that encampment until he became its chief patriarch and afterward became past chief patriarch and was admitted to the Grand Encampment January 19, 1886.

His activities in the encampment branch won him added recognition and reputation in the various other branches, and following his admission to the Grand Lodge, after having become past grand of Amity Lodge, No. 27, he was appointed grand herald of the Grand Lodge line, and after serving in the line for many years became grand master of the jurisdiction in 1895, serving as such until the following session of the Grand Lodge in 1896.

Leaves Grandchildren

He was a member of the Grand Canton prior to its being consolidated to the patriarch militat, and when Canton Washington No. 1, was started he became active in its ranks, serving as a member until his death.

He was a member of Miriam Rebekah Lodge, No. 6, I.O.O.F., and was actively engaged in the work of the sister branch of the Odd Fellows.

Besides his two daughters, he leaves four grandchildren -- Mrs E. Peale Windsor, wife of Lemuel H. Windsor, of this city; Mrs. Geyer, wife of E.B. Geyer, of West Point, Va.; Mrs. Emma Rhodes, wife of Rev. Beecher L. Rhodes, of Norfolk, and Miss Mary Murray of this city -- and two great grandchildren -- Henry Grigsby Windsor and Jo Ann Geyer.

Funeral services will be held at the Fifth Baptist Church tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Dr. John E. Briggs, pastor of the church, will officiate. Odd Fellow and Masonic services will be conducted at the grave in Congressional Cemetery.

The active pallbearers, all of whom are nephews or grandsons-in-law of Mr. Sorrell, will be Lemuel H. Windsor, Beech L. Rhodes, Temple B. Greenstreet, Charles O. Greenstreet, Clarence H. Sorrell and Elward Mason.

The honorary pallbearers, all personal friends, will be W.K. Reeve, William T. Galliher, William E. Mooney, Richard A. Ford, Howard R. Norton, Dr. George R. Sorrell, Wilfred E. Lawson, James E. Chamberlain, Benjamin S. Minor, Ernest W. Bradford, W.W. Millan, John H. Wood, William J. Rogers, William H. Ernest, John H. Windsor and John I. Brown.