

William T. Sorrell

(5 Jun 1835 – 18 Jan 1914)

The Evening Star, July 12, 1876

The Blazing Heat

Another List of Victims

William T. Sorrell, foreman of No. 4 Engine Company was sun-struck at the fire this morning at the 7th street wharf. He was removed to his home in South Washington and medical aid rendered.

The Evening Star, ?? 1890

A Parade Next Week

Chief Parris and His Brigade to Turn Out Next Thursday

Men Who Fight Flames

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William J. Sorrell is the foreman of No. 4 Engine Company and guards the interests of South Washington with a care. Mr. Sorrell was born in Spotsylvania county, Va., June 5, 1835, and received his appointment as a member of the fire department of Washington on the organization of No. 4 Engine Company, January 19, 1870. It was not long before he was made assistant foreman, and on July 16, 1874, he was made foreman of the company. He may well be called the father of No. 4, for he has been in almost continuous service in that company since his appointment. During the old volunteer days he was a member of Perseverance Company and served under John Peabody, the first chief of the fire department. He has been a fireman for thirty-six years and has attended all of the large fires that have taken place in Washington since 1854.



WM. T. SORRELL

Sorrell. On Sunday, January 18, 1914, at 8:45 p.m., William T. Sorrell, beloved husband of Elizabeth Sorrell, and late of the District of Columbia fire department. Funeral from his late residence, 340 McLean avenue southwest, Wednesday, January 21, at 2 p.m. Interment at Congressional cemetery. Friends and relatives invited to attend.

Sorrell. Members of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of our late associate, William T. Sorrell, at his late residence, 340 McLean avenue southwest, Wednesday, the 21st inst., at 2 p.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President

Benj. W. Reiss, R.S.

The Evening Star, Monday, January 19, 1914, p. 11

Flags at Half-Staff

Tribute by Fire Department to William T. Sorrell, Deceased

Flags were placed at half-staff on all the District's fire department houses today out of respect to the memory of William T. Sorrell, former assistant chief engineer of the department, who died yesterday at his home, 340 McLean place, southwest. By order of Chief Wagner the flags will remain at half-staff until after the funeral, which will be attended by a delegation of firemen.

Mr. Sorrell was seventy-nine years old. He entered the District's volunteer fire department in 1864 and in 1870 was appointed a member of the paid department. Four years later he was promoted to a captaincy, and in 1902 became assistant to the chief engineer.

As a result of disabilities, incurred in the line of duty, he was retired on a pension, April 1, 1903. He leaves a wife and daughter.

The Evening Star, February 4, 1914, p. 10

Tributes To Mr. Sorrell

His Death Is Announced to Veteran Volunteer Firemen

At the February meeting of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association, at the old Union Engine House 19th and streets northwest last night, Julius Strobel presided, with H.C Thorne, secretary. The president announced the death of William F. Sorrell January 18, and paid a tribute to the memory of Mr. Sorrell, relating that he had been a member of the old Perseverance company, during which time he had proven an efficient volunteer fireman. During the civil war Mr. Sorrell was attached to the arsenal, where his duties were about the magazines and on the tugboat Robert Leslie, which was engaged in the removal of powder to and from the fortifications on the Potomac. He was always regarded, said President Strobel, as a conscientious employe and his career in the District fire department was without blemish.

Dr. W. Summey spoke of Mr. Sorrell as a quiet, unostentatious citizen, always ready to perform his full duty, and other members of the association also related incidents of the life of Mr. Sorrell.

The ladies' auxiliary held its meeting in the upper hall the meeting being of a social nature.