

## **Charles Frederick Stansbury, Sr.** **(13 Oct 1821 – 3 Feb 1882)**

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*The Evening Star, Nov. 4, 1858*

### **List of Businesses – Patent Agents**

Charles F. Stansbury, S.E. cor. 7th and F sts.

*The Evening Star, October 30, 1873*

### **Masonic Matters**

. . . C.F. Stansbury, esq., has received a communication from the Masonic Grand Lodge of Memphis, stating that the contributions received for the yellow fever sufferers were almost sufficient to cover all immediate wants, and closing with a request that all future contributions be sent to their more needy brethren at Shreveport.

*The Evening Star, February 2, 1882*

### **The Late Dr. Charles F. Stansbury**

#### **His Active Career and Sudden Death**

The sudden death of Dr. Charles Frederick Stansbury, from heart disease, Tuesday night, at his residence in West Washington, announced in yesterday's Star, was a shock to his large circle of personal friends and acquaintances in this District, where he had spent the best part of his life, and to a large number of persons throughout the country, who had for many years held social and business relations with him. He had for some time past been a sufferer from heart disease, for which he had been treated by Dr. Tyler, but retired to bed Tuesday night in his usual health. At 11:45 o'clock he was seized with an attack which terminated fatally a few minutes before 12 o'clock, and before the arrival of his physician, who had been summoned. Dr. Stansbury was a son of the late Mr. Arthur J. Stansbury, a well known stenographer and journalist of ability. He was connected for many years with the editorial department of the National Intelligencer as Congressional reporter, and was a contributor to the leading magazines of the country. Dr. Stansbury was born in New York city, October 13, 1821, but his early youth and boyhood were spent in this city at the old family mansion on 7th street opposite the General Post Office. He was educated at Princeton college, New Jersey, and graduated when 19 years old. Subsequently he studied medicine, but not having a taste for its practice he abandoned it for the law, which was more congenial to him, and he made patent law a specialty. He was a finished scholar, a zealous student, a forcible and vigorous writer and a pleasing speaker, and as a husband, parent, brother and friend, few, few men were more loved and revered. He was appointed by President Pierce as commissioner to the great English exposition and world's fair in 1854, and remained there for several years, making several visits to Continental Europe in the meantime. Since his return to this country he has been prosecuting the patent law business, and was associated with Mr. H.B. Munn at the time of his death.

His Masonic record is well-known to the members of the fraternity. He was for many years a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 11; was one of its past masters; was elected Grand Master of this jurisdiction in 1863, serving one year; was reelected 1871, and continued in that office until November, 1874. He had for many years been a member of Washington Chapter, No. 2; was Past Eminent Commander of Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templars, and was also a 14th degree member of the Scottish Rite. The Masonic lodge at Brightwood was named in his honor, Charles F. Stansbury Lodge, No. 24.

In his earlier days he was associated with his brother, Col. Howard M. Stansbury, of the United States topographical engineers in making surveys in the western territories, and the first survey and report of Salt Lake was made by his brother. An island in that lake was named Stansbury Island in honor of Col. Stansbury. Dr. Stansbury was married to his second wife--daughter of Assistant Secretary of State Hunter--a short time ago. He leaves also three daughters and one son.

The funeral will take place with Masonic honors from St. John's church, West Washington, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The rector, Rev. Dr. Lindsley, will officiate, assisted by Rev. Mr. Stuart, rector of Christ church, West Washington, and Rev. Dr. Elliott of Ascension church. The interment will take place at Congressional cemetery.

*The Evening Star, February 3, 1882*

### **The Funeral of Dr. Charles F. Stansbury**

is in progress at St. John's church, West Washington, as we go to press; Rev. Dr. Lindsay, assisted by Drs. Elliott and Rev. A.R. Stuart, officiating. St. John's Lodge, No. 11, F.A.A.M.; Washington Commandery, No. 1, K.T.; Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, F.A.A.M., and the Executive Committee of the Princeton Alumni Association are in attendance, together with a large concourse of the friends of the deceased.

*Harper, Kenton N., History of the Grand Lodge, 1911*

### **Charles Frederick Stansbury, pp. 356-357**

Grand Master, 1862 and 1871-74

Born in New York City, October 13, 1821, he spent his boyhood and early youth in Washington at the old family mansion on Seventh Street, N.W., opposite the General Post Office.

Bro. Stansbury was educated at Princeton College, N.J., and graduated therefrom when nineteen years old. He subsequently studied medicine, but not having a taste for the practice abandoned it for the law, which was more congenial, making a specialty of patent law.

He was a finished scholar, a zealous student, a forcible and vigorous writer, a pleasing speaker, and as a husband, parent, brother, and friend, few men were more loved and revered.

He was appointed by President Pierce as Commissioner of the great English Exposition and World's Fair in 1854, and remained there several years, frequently visiting Continental Europe during the period.

In his earlier years he was associated with his brother, Col. Howard M. Stansbury, of the U.S. Topographical Engineers, in making surveys in the Western Territories.

In Masonry, Grand Master Stansbury was a star of the first magnitude not only locally but nationally, and his active participation in all its affairs of the highest and most lasting value.

On the occasion of the great calamity which befell Chicago in 1871, he proceeded personally with several brethren to carry to the distressed brethren of that city the offering of the District, and so tactfully was this mission performed that later he was again called to Chicago as one of a commission to examine the record of the Relief Committee.

Prominent among his good works were his untiring efforts on behalf of the long-neglected Washington Monument Society, and to his active and efficient labors as a member of the Monument Society is the country especially indebted for the renewed interest and work on that structure.

Bro. Stansbury was initiated in St. John's Lodge, No. 11, February 7, 1857; passed March 13, 1857, and raised May 13, 1857; withdrew July 14, 1865, and affiliated January 1882; was Secretary in 1859, Senior Warden, 1860, and Master 1861 and 1863. He also held honorary membership in Hiram Lodge, No. 10, being elected thereto in 1873.

He received the Capitular degrees in Washington R.A. Chapter, No. 2, in the spring of 1857.

His death occurred January 31, 1882, and the following extract from the tribute of the special committee of the Grand Lodge reflects perhaps the estimation in which this good man was held by his contemporaries:

“ . . . A great leader has passed away, his voice is hushed in death; ‘but tho dead, he yet speaketh.’ He has left us an example of intelligence and refinement worthy of any age. The home circle has lost a kind husband and father. The community an exemplary and honored citizen. The Masonic Fraternity a tried and trusted leader, an eminent expounder of its principles, a zealous worker, an enthusiastic supporter, a true member. His many valuable contributions to Masonic literature and jurisprudence, his exalted rank and cultivated intellect, his devotion to duty and noble efforts for the good of a beloved Order, make his loss most sensibly felt and lamented, not only as a loyal and popular brother Mason, but as one of its most cultivated, gifted, and refined exemplars, besides a most conscientious and unselfish friend and advisor.”