

## **William Riley Stansbury** (25 May 1856 – 5 Jun 1927)

---

**Stansbury.** On Sunday, June 5, 1927, at 5:42 a.m. at Garfield Hospital, William R. Stansbury clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States, in the 72nd year of his age. Body resting at the residence of his nephew, Frederick N. Tyler, 1520 O street, n.w., Funeral services from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, N.H. ave. and V st. n.w. on Tuesday, June 7 at 10:30 a.m. Interment (private) at Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, June 6, 1927, p. 9*

### **W.R. Stansbury, Court Clerk Dies**

#### **Widely Recognized as an Authority on Appellate Practice**

William Riley Stansbury, 71 years old, chief clerk of the United States Supreme Court, died in Garfield Memorial Hospital yesterday after an illness of about 10 weeks.

Born in this city, Mr. Stansbury always resided here except for several years spent in the Signal Corps of the United States Army. He attended Young's private school.

Beginning as the lowest assistant clerk in the United States Supreme Court 45 years ago, he worked his way up until promoted to chief clerk in October 1921. Mr. Stansbury was a widely recognized authority on appellate practice and was known to nearly every lawyer practicing before the Supreme Court, many of whom depended upon him for information in appellate matters.

The body was taken to the home of his nephew, Frederick S. Tyler, 1529 O street, pending funeral services tomorrow. The services will be held in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the morning at 10:30 o'clock. Rev. J.J. Dimon, rector, will officiate. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Chief Justice Taft and the associate justices of the Supreme Court will be honorary pallbearers. The active pallbearers will be Deputy Clerk C. Elmore Cropley, Assistant Clerks Reginald C. Dilli, Horatio Stonier, Reynolds Robertson, Harold Willey, Rodolph Waggaman, the Clerk of the District Court of Appeals, Henry W. Hodges and William M. Dove.

Mr. Stansbury had resided with his sisters until the time of their death. The last sister, Miss Lucy C. Stansbury, died shortly before the beginning of his recent illness.

He is survived by his nephew, Mr. Tyler; a brother, Phil R. Stansbury of Rockville, and a niece, Mrs. William H. Haydon of Maryland. He never married.

*The Evening Star, June 7, 1927*

### **Justices Attend Stansbury Rites**

#### **Taft Pays Tribute to Long Service and Efficiency as Court Clerk**

Funeral services for William Riley Stansbury, 71 years old, chief clerk of the United States Supreme Court, who died in Garfield Memorial Hospital Sunday, were conducted in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church today at 10:30 o'clock. Rev. J.J. Dimon, rector, officiated. Interment was in Congressional Cemetery.

Chief Justice Taft and the associate justices of the Supreme Court were honorary pall bearers. Active pall bearers were the newly appointed chief clerk, C. Elmore Cropley; Assistant Clerks Reginald C. Dilli, Horatio Stonier, Reynolds Robertson, Harold Willey, Rodolph Waggerman, the clerk of the District Court of Appeals, Henry W. Hodges, and William M. Dove.

At the final session of the court yesterday, prior to its three months' recess, Chief Justice Taft delivered a eulogy of Mr. Stansbury, in which he recounted the latter's long service at the court, praised his efficiency, and expressed deep regret over his passing. He said:

"The court announces with deep personal sorrow the death of William Riley Stansbury, its clerk, at 5 o'clock on yesterday (Sunday) morning, June 5." Then, recalling Mr. Stansbury's 45 years of service in the court and his succeeding James D. Maher, as chief clerk in October, 1921, the Chief Justice added:

"He was an accurate, faithful, earnest and efficient public servant. He was saturated with the traditions of the office and familiar to the last detail with all the duties to be discharged in that important place. He endeared himself in every relation to the members of the court. He was genial and accommodating, and interested for every member of the public, and especially every one of the bar who had to transact business with the court. He was a man of the utmost probity and of highest character in every respect."

*The Washington Post, June 6, 1927, p. 8*

**W.R. Stansbury, 71, 45 Years Supreme Court Officer, Dies  
Chief Clerk Is Stricken With Heart Attack While  
Under Treatment at Hospital  
Justices Honorary Pallbearers at Rites  
Regarded as Greatest Authority in the World on  
Appellate Practice**

William Riley Stansbury, clerk of the United States Supreme Court, died yesterday morning at Garfield Memorial Hospital after an illness of ten weeks. Death was caused by a heart attack. The body was taken to the home of his nephew, Frederick S. Tyler, local attorney, 1529 O street northwest, where it will rest until funeral services tomorrow.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow morning at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Fifteenth and V streets northwest. The Rev. J.J. Dimon, rector of the church, will conduct the services. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Chief Justice Taft and the associate justices of the Supreme Court will be honorary pallbearers. The active pallbearers will be Deputy Clerk C. Elmore Cropley, Assistant Clerks Reginald C. Billi, Horatio Stonler, Reynolds Robertson, Harold Willey, Rodolph Waggaman; clerk of the District Court of Appeals, Henry W. Hodges, and William M. Dove.

*Began as Assistant Clerk*

Mr. Stansbury has been in the clerk's office at the Supreme Court for more than 45 years. He began as the lowest assistant clerk and worked his way to the chief clerkship. He was probably the greatest living authority on appellate practice in the world and was known to nearly every lawyer practicing before the Supreme Court, all of whom depended upon him for information in appellate matters.

Born in Washington 71 years ago he has been a resident of this city all of his life with the exception of several years in the Signal Corps of the United States Army. He attended Young's Private School. He never married.

Besides Mr. Tyler, he is survived by a brother, Phil R. Stansbury, of Rockville, and a niece, Mrs. William H. Haydon, of Maryland.

*The Evening Star, October 5, 1921, p. 2*

**William R. Stansbury Is Given Higher Post  
Long-Time Employee Appointed Clerk of the United States Supreme Court**

William R. Stansbury, for many years an employe of the Supreme Court of the United States, yesterday was appointed clerk of the court to succeed the late James D. Maher.

Mr. Stansbury served as deputy clerk under Mr. Maher and during the summer acted as deputy clerk to H.C. McKenney, who was deputy to Mr. Maher and who died recently.

Mr. Stansbury received the congratulations of the justices of the Supreme Court and many of the attorneys practicing in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Stansbury began his connection with the Supreme Court thirty-eight years ago, as a junior clerk. He has progressed through all the grades, giving untiring and efficient service, and his promotion to be clerk of the court is regarded as a testimonial of his good service. He is a native of the District of Columbia.