

George C. Steadman

(7 Mar 1826 – 14 Apr 1911)

Steadman. On Friday, April 14, 1911 at 6:30 p.m., George C. Steadman, aged 85 years. Funeral from the residence of his son-in-law, Frank Kerper, 644 C street northeast, Monday, April 17 at 2 o'clock p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend (Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York papers please copy).

Knights of Pythias. The members of Mt. Vernon Lodge, No. 15, K. of P. are requested to meet at the Castle Hall, Saturday evening, April 15, 1911 at 8 o'clock to arrange for the funeral of our late brother, George C. Steadman.

Lee H. Harris, Chancellor Commander

Attest: H.P. Willey, K.R. & S.

The Evening Star, April 16, 1911, p. 9

Held Naval Record

Mr. Steadman Served Almost Continuously 33 Years

Dies at the Age of 85

Failing Eyesight Compelled Him to Give Up Seafaring Life When He Was Sixty-Five

George C. Steadman, aged eighty-five years, who died at the residence of his son-in-law, Frank Kerper, 644 C street northeast, Friday evening, had an unusual record in the United States Navy having served almost continuously from 1858 to 1891. It was because of serious trouble with his eyes that he quit the navy at the age of sixty-five.

Mr. Steadman was born in Scotland, March 7, 1826, and came to this country when about seven years of age. He located in Southeast Washington, where he attended school, and November 13, 1858 shipped aboard the U.S.S. Mettacomett as a first-class fireman and sailed on the famous Paraguay expedition and also on the Montevideo, Uruguay expedition, when he was transferred to the U.S.S.M.S. Chapin. On his return to Washington on that ship he was discharged, May 31, 1859.

When the civil war began he entered the navy as a fireman, August 25, 1862, and served on board the U.S.S. Teaser. The Teaser was attached to the Potomac flotilla, which was organized to keep open the approaches by water to Washington. December 12, 1862, he was promoted to be acting third assistant engineer on the Teaser, which position he held during the remainder of his service on that vessel. He was honorably discharged from the service August 22, 1865.

Ships as Machinist

March 25, 1870, Mr. Steadman shipped as a machinist aboard the U.S.S. Triana for three years and was discharged March 25, 1873. He shipped again at the navy yard in this city April 2, 1873, on the U.S.S. Relief in the same capacity, and next day was transferred to the U.S.S. Triana, the same ship in which he served previously. He served on the Triana until October 3, 1875, when he was transferred to the U.S.S. Fortune. October 21, 1875, he was transferred to the U.S.S. New Hampshire, and the next day returned to the U.S.S. Relief. He served subsequently on the Juniata, the Monongahela, the Colorado and the St. Louis.

Mr. Steadman received his honorable discharge from the St. Louis at League Island, May 2, 1879. The very next day, May 3, 1879, he re-enlisted and was sent the same day to the United States monitor Nahant and was discharged May 2, 1882. He re-enlisted again, August 30, 1882, and was sent to the

United States monitor Catskill. In October he was transferred to the United States monitor Ajax. He was discharged August 31, 1883.

Not many moons elapsed before Mr. Steadman re-enlisted again and shipped on the U.S.S. Franklin April 22, 1884, and the same day was transferred to the U.S.S. Speedwell. He was discharged at the expiration of his term of enlistment, April 22, 1885. Two days were enough for Mr. Steadman to be out of the service, hence April 24, 1885, he again, enlisted and reshipped on the same ship and in December was transferred to the U.S.S. Franklin.

Transferred to the Manhattan

In March, 1886, he was transferred to the United States monitor Manhattan and was discharged a year later, April 24, 1887. By this time it had become an old story with Mr. Steadman, so he promptly re-enlisted without indulging in a few days ashore, the records showing that he reshipped the same day of his honorable discharge on the United States monitor Ajax and was sent from that ship to the U.S.S. Manhattan. One year from date, April 24, 1888, he again was discharged.

At this time his eyes were giving him a great deal of trouble, and he spent some time following his discharge in an effort to secure treatment from noted oculists. Having secured some relief, Mr. Steadman re-enlisted April 24, 1889, one year after his discharge, and was sent to the U.S.S. Manhattan, and discharged April 23, 1890. One month later Mr. Steadman was at the navy station offering his services again to the government, which were promptly accepted as many times previously, and he was sent, May 23, 1890 to the U.S.S. Manhattan. In July that year he was transferred to the U.S. monitor Canonicus.

On receiving what proved to be his final discharge, April 15, 1891, Mr. Steadman's eyes were in such bad condition as to preclude any possibility of a re-enlistment, and he was most reluctant to surrender his love for the life aboard ship for that of the land.

His remaining year were spent mostly in efforts for bettering his eyesight and relieving him of pain. His suffering was intense at times, and he submitted to the surgeon's knife many times in efforts to obtain relief.

Member of Masonic Lodge

Mr. Steadman was a member of Anacostia Lodge, No. 21, F.A.A.M.; Electra Chapter, No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star; Mount Vernon Lodge, No. 15, Knights of Pythias, and also a member of Gen. Hancock Command, No. 1, Union Veteran Union, of this city. He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Ida Kerper, and one son, who resides in Philadelphia.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at his residence, and burial will be in Congressional cemetery.