

Asbell Floridus Steele

(22 Dec 1835 – 28 Aug 1893)

The Evening Star, August 29, 1881

(On the imminent death of Pres. Garfield)

Rev. A. Floridus Steele,

of St. Mark's P.E. church, in his sermon yesterday morning said: "All sympathize with that loving and brave wife who sits by the bedside of the sick President. All share in a less or greater measure her emotions; she is not alone. Methinks as I call before me the image of that woman that she represents the whole nation, and this is my justification for making mention of her in this public manner. She, with her intense personal feeling, embodies the best and truest and most tender sentiments of the whole people. I would that we were all as noble and as devout as she. I would that we all had such faith. She believes, even in this extremity, that God will hear her prayer and answer it according to her hope. And yet I cannot doubt there is mingled with her prayers the refrain, or at least the spirit that says, "Not my will, but Thine be done."

The Evening Star, April 18, 1888

Locals

A special service was held at St. Mark's P.E. church, Capitol Hill, yesterday to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ordination of the rector, Rev. A. Floridus Steel, to the priesthood.

Steele. On Monday, August 28, 1893, Rev. A. Floridus Steele, rector of St. Marks Church in the 57th year of his age. Funeral from the church Thursday next at 11 o'clock a.m. No flowers.

The Evening Star, August 28, 1893

Rev. Mr. Steele Dead

Death of the Well-Known Rector of St. Mark's at His Home on Capitol Hill

The Protestant Episcopal Church of this city has lost one of its best known and most popular rectors in the death this morning of Rev. A. Floridus Steele, rector of St. Mark's Church, corner 3d and A streets southeast.

Mr. Steele had been connected with St. Mark's Church for about 23 years past and had always taken an active part in all religious movements. The news of his death will come as a great shock to the members of his congregation and to the clergy of the city generally. He had been sick for about 10 days of typhoid-malaria and for several days it was realized that his condition was critical. It was hoped, however, that he might pull through, but this morning at 10:15 o'clock the end came. He leaves a widow and two sons.

Rev. Mr. Steele was the son of the late Rev. Ashbel Steele, who was for many years prominently identified with District affairs. He was born in Pensacola, Fla., 57 years ago, but received his education at Columbian University and at the Theological Seminary at Alexandria. He was a member of the Alumni Association of the Columbian University and for 16 years had been the chaplain of St. Elizabeth's Hospital. Mr. Steele was a prominent 32d degree Mason, a member of Acacia Lodge and was also a Knight Templar of No. 2 Commandery. Representatives from these bodies will participate in the funeral exercises the date and arrangements for which have not yet been decided upon. Mr. Steele died at his late residence, 600 A street northeast.

The Evening Star, August 31, 1893

A Clergyman's Funeral

Impressive Services Over the Remains of the

Rev. Floridus Steele

The funeral services over the remains of Rev. A. Floridus Steele took place this morning from the church where he was pastor for many years. Funeral services are always impressive, but the one this morning was doubly so. The church was crowded and there was not a dry eye. In the middle aisle stood an immense cross of white rosebuds and water lillies, while the altar was similarly decorated.

There were ceremonies at the house and the funeral cortege did not reach the church until after 11 o'clock. Bishop Paret conducted the services, both at the house and the church. He was attended by Rev. Dr. Addison of Trinity Church and Archdeacon Williams. The body was met at the church by Columbia Commandery, No. 2.

When the hearse drove up the pall bearers, consisting of Revs. Neilson Falls of St. Alban's Church; I.L. Townsend, Church of the Incarnation; J.M. McKee, St. John's; Alfred Harding, St. Paul's; Assistant Rectors Gibson of St. Paul's, Cole of Epiphany and Johns of Rockville, took charge of the coffin, which was a handsome affair. It was made of antique oak, highly polished with silver ornaments. A massive silver plate bearing the name, date of birth and death of the deceased was barely visible for the mass of flowers which covered the coffin. The chorister boys followed representatives of Mt. Vernon Chapter, No. 3, Acacia Lodge, No. 1, and the Scottish Rite of which the deceased was a member. The ceremonies in the church were according to the ritual of the Protestant Episcopal Church. After they were over the remains were turned over to the Masons, who conducted services at the grave.

The Evening Star, September 2, 1893

The Late Rev. A. Floridus Steele

The late Rev. A. Floridus Steele, rector of St. Mark's P.E. parish, whose funeral took place Thursday, was for a time assistant to the rector of St. John's Church in Waterbury, Conn. Mr. Steele's father, the Rev. Ashbel Steele, was a native of Waterbury, and is buried at Riverside. The mother was a descendant of Elder Brewster of the Mayflower. She also is buried at Riverside. Rev. A. Floridus Steele was born in Florida, from which fact he received his name. The Waterbury American in speaking of his death says: "He was a man of great gentleness and purity of character, of attractive manner, and diffused about him an atmosphere of sincerity and goodness, which was a sermon in itself."