

William M. Steuart

(2 Oct 1861 – 19 Oct 1956)

The Evening Star, August 28, 1914, p. 7

More Washingtonians Abroad Heard From Majority of District Teachers Known to be Safe – Schools to Open Promptly

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Graham of Washington and their nieces, Miss Susie Whittlesey and Miss Gertrude Amiss, who have been traveling abroad and who were in Geneva when the war began, are in London.

Word has been received in Washington of the arrival in London of William H. Steuart, chief statistician for the bureau of the census, who, with his wife, Cecelia Dulin, and Mrs. E.J. Ridgway, has been touring the British Isles since July. The party will sail from Liverpool for this country on the *Philadelphia*.

The Evening Star, August 5, 1919, p. 2

Census Official Sworn

Mr. Steuart Returns to Bureau in Which He Previously Served

William M. Steuart of Michigan, whose appointment as assistant director of the census was confirmed by the Senate August 1, took the oath of office today.

Mr. Steuart was born in Corpus Christi, Tex., October 2, 1861, but came to Washington in early childhood and received his education here. He has been connected with each decennial census since and including that of 1880. In May, 1917, he resigned as chief statistician for manufactures in the bureau of the census to become statistician and secretary to the tariff commission, in which capacity he was employed until he took up his present duties in the census bureau.

Steuart, William M. On Friday, October 19, 1956 at his residence, 3725 Morrison street northwest, William M. Steuart, half brother of Miss Edith W. Maloy and Miss Isabella R. Meloy both of Henderson, N.C., Guy S. Meloy of Landover, Md.; Francis E. and Dr. Hugh B. Meloy, both of Washington, D.C. He is also survived by several nieces including Miss Emily N. Steuart of Washington, D.C. Friends may call at the above residence after 11 a.m., Sunday, October 21. Funeral services at All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase Circle northwest on Monday, October 22 at 11 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to the heart fund.

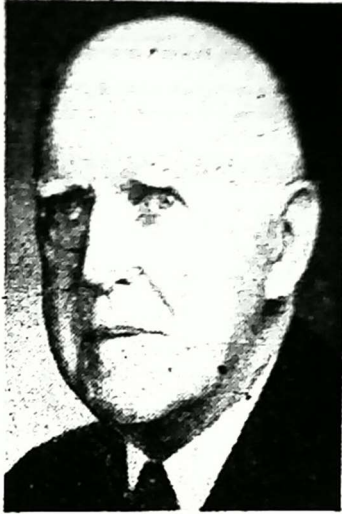
The Evening Star, October 21, 1956

W.M. Steuart, 95, Dies; Retired Census Director

William Mott Steuart, 95, former Director of the Census who during his many years with the bureau helped it grow from a national nose-count to a giant profile of the citizens of the United States died Friday at his home at 3725 Morrison street N.W.

Commerce Department officials declared he had made his bureau a model organization when he retired on March 31, 1933, after 12 years service as director.

Mr. Steuart had been associated with the bureau from 1880, when he got his first job there as a messenger to help finance his law degree. According to a popular story, his first duty was to stand over an official and blot his signature as he signed his daily letters.



WILLIAM MOTT STEUART

Mr. Steuart became head of the census of manufactures in 1890, a post he held for about ten years, after an interval of law practice. From 1902 to 1917 he served as chief statistician for manufactures. He was appointed assistant director in 1919 and director in 1921.

Mr. Steuart was away from the bureau for a two-year period from 1917 to 1919 while serving as secretary and statistician of the United States Tariff Commission.

Whisked Through Blockade

Born in Corpus Christi, Tex., in 1861, he was brought to Washington by his mother in a sailing vessel through a war blockade. He graduated from Columbian College, now George Washington University, with an L.L.B. degree in 1884, and an L.L.M. in 1885. He practiced law in Washington, Maryland and Michigan.

It was estimated that it would now take 20 or 30 years to complete the census tabulation if it were done by the staff and machinery used when Mr. Steuart went to work at the bureau in 1880.

A man who consistently turned interviewers questions about himself into questions about his job, he used new machines and developed new methods for handling the ever-growing census job. Special electrically driven tabulating machines were invented and used by the bureau.

In 1930, he announced that the preliminary United States population total had been completed in half the time it had taken ten years before. There were 150,000 workers under his supervision at that time.

Retired Without Fanfare

The director retired as quietly as he had worked through the years, shaking hands one afternoon with several hundred clerks who filed through his office to say goodbye.

An ardent camper at one time he also was interested in gardening, and in the winter ran a bird-feeding station on both sides of his house.

"I don't hunt any more," he once said. "As a man grows older he loses his fondness for killing."

Mr. Steuart represented the United States at the International Conference of Statisticians in Athens, Greece, in 1936, and was decorated by the government of Egypt.

In 1939, he was appointed a jury commissioner for a three-year term by Chief Justice Alfred A. Wheat of District Court.

Mr. Steuart had been a member of the Cosmos Club since 1903, and was a vestryman of All Saints Episcopal Church of Chevy Chase. He belonged to the American Statistical Association, the International Institute of Statistics, and the American Economics Association.

A Mason, he was a member of Temple Noyes Lodge No. 32, and Mount Vernon Chapter No. 3 of the Royal Arch Masons. He was listed in *Who's Who in America*.

His wife, the former Florence Heiberger, died in 1940. He is survived by two half sisters, Miss Edith Meloy and Miss Isabelle Meloy of Hendersonville, N.C., and three half brothers, Guy S. Meloy of Lanham, Md.; Frank E. Meloy, 3622 Raymond street, Chevy Chase, Md., and Hugh B. Meloy, 3601 Rittenhouse street N.W. Five nieces, including Miss Emily Steuart of 3058 R street N.W., also survive.

Friends may call at the residence today. Services will be held at 11 a.m. tomorrow at All Saints Church. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be sent to the Heart Fund.

The Washington Post, October 21, 1956, B2

Steuart, Ex-Census Chief, Dead

William Mott Steuart, 95, Director of the Census from 1921 to 1933, died at his home, 3725 Morrison st. nw., on Friday. Mr. Steuart had reached his 95th birthday on Oct. 2.

Working his way up from messenger boy to the Director's post, Mr. Steuart spent 48 years and five months in the Federal service. He became associated with the Census of Manufacturers in 1888, served as chief of the division in 1890 and 1900 and as the Census Bureau's chief statistician for manufacturers from 1902 to 1917.

He became secretary and statistician to the U.S. Tariff Commission from 1917 to 1919, when he was appointed assistant Director of the Census. He became Director of the Census on May 10, 1921, and remained in that post until his retirement on March 31, 1933.

Mr. Steuart was appointed an ex officio member of the Commission on Unemployment by President Hoover on July 30, 1930. He represented this country at the International Congress of Statisticians at Athens, Greece, in 1936, and received a decoration for his work from the government of Egypt.

Born at Corpus Christi, Tex., on Oct. 2, 1861, he was brought to Washington by boat through a Civil War blockade. He received his early education at public schools in Maryland and the District and graduated from Columbian (now George Washington) University with the degree of LL.B. in 1884 and LL.M in 1885. Admitted to the District bar in 1886, he also practiced law in Detroit and Maryland.

Mr. Steuart was a member of the Cosmos Club here since 1903 and was at one time a vestryman of All Saints Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase.

His wife, the former Florence Heiberger, died in 1940. He is survived by two half-sisters, Edith and Isabelle Meloy of Hendersonville, N.C.; three half-brothers, Frank E. Meloy of Chevy Chase, Guy S. Meloy of Lanham, Md., and Hugh B. Meloy of 2019 R st. nw., and five nieces.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Monday at All Saints Church, Chevy Chase Circle, Chevy Chase. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy be made in the form of contributions to the Heart Fund.