

Samuel Vinton Stillings

(– 25 Feb 1897)

The Evening Star, October 6, 1892

Condensed Locals

Capt. S.V. Stillings of Boston, after a visit to his old home here, has started on his return and will join the Ancient and Honorable Artillery, visiting New York, in that city. The only sad feature of his visit was the removing of the remains of his father, mother and nine children from the old Methodist graveyard to the Congressional cemetery after they had rested there for almost thirty years.

Stillings. The remains of Capt. Samuel Vinton Stillings, late of Wood's Hull, Mass., will be buried in Congressional Cemetery, March 2, 1897. Relatives and friends please notice.

The Evening Star, February 27, 1897

Death of Capt. Stillings

A Patriotic Native of Washington and Veteran Attendant at Inauguration

The announcement of the death of Samuel Vinton Stillings at Wood's Hull, Mass., Wednesday was received by a large number of Washington citizens with expressions of sorrow. Capt. Stillings was a native of East Washington, a son of John Stillings, a well-known cabinet maker, residing on L street between 7th and 8th streets southeast, who was for many years a local minister and class leader of the old Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Church, now Trinity, and in the fifties, with the late J.M. Harvey, formed a partnership in the undertaking business on 7th street near H street northwest. He learned the engineer and machinist business at the Washington Navy Yard and was a member for many years of Capt. P.M. Dubant's company (B. Washington Light Infantry Battalion). He was a marshal in the inaugural procession of President Lincoln in 1861, and when the call for troops was made, on April 9, he was one of the first to volunteer, and was mustered in as a private of Company A, Washington Light Infantry, of which Col. Lem. Towers was the commander and Capt. James Coleman the first sergeant. When the steamboats of the mail line were seized for the government by the company, Capt. Stillings was placed in charge of the machinery of the Mt. Vernon and ran her to the Navy Yard. Receiving a detail from the company to perform engineer services on the boats he entered the navy as a volunteer engineer. During the war, after some service on the Potomac flotilla, he was for several years on the Atlantic squadron and subsequently in the Pacific, and because of physical disability incurred by long service in the tropics, in the fall of 1866 he was sent home and mustered out of service. After some months' rest and recuperation, he entered the service of a New England railroad company and located at Keene, N.H. He married a lady of that place, by whom he had two sons, one of them a promising physician. For a number of years he resided in Boston and engaged in the photograph business, but was by ill health forced to give it up after a time. A few years ago he entered the hotel business at Woods Holl and was quite successful. He was prominent as a member of the G.A.R., the Kearsarge Association of Naval Veterans and the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston. It was said by a neighbor when he was a mere youth that he became a gentleman as soon as he left off short dresses, and by his hearty, whole-souled, genial disposition he made hosts of friends and a high reputation. It was his custom whenever physically able to visit the scenes of his childhood whenever the inaugurations took place, and the many who were expecting to meet him next week were pained to learn of his death.

The Evening Star, March 4, 1897

Burial of Capt. Stillings

The remains of the late Capt. Samuel Vinton Stillings, whose death occurred at Wood's Hull, Mass., on Wednesday last (noticed in The Star of Saturday) arrived here yesterday accompanied by his widow, son and other relatives from Massachusetts. The remains were clad in uniform, in a handsome casket, over which was draped the national flag and there were floral tributes from the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston, the Kearsarge Association of Naval Veterans, the Minute Men of '61, the Odd Fellows and other associations and friends, to which were added an anchor and heart from his sisters in Savannah, who were unable to be here, and tributes from relatives and friends here. The funeral party were met by quite a number of relatives and friends here at the Congressional cemetery, and, after viewing the body, it was interred in the family lot, in which his parents and nine brothers and sisters are buried. Rev. G.A. Hobbs of Trinity M.E. Church conducting the services.