

RAdm William Grenville Temple

(23 Mar 1824 – 28 Jun 1894)

Temple. Suddenly at the Portland, Thursday, June 28, 1894, Rear Admiral William Grenville Temple, U.S. Navy, aged 70 years.

The Evening Star, Friday, June 29, 1894

Admiral Temple Dead

Stricken by Apoplexy While Alone in His Room

Brief Sketch of His Long and Honorable Career in the United States Navy

Rear Admiral William G. Temple, United States navy, retired, died at his apartments at the Portland yesterday afternoon, about 5:30 o'clock from an attack of apoplexy, which first manifested itself about



WILLIAM GRENVILLE TEMPLE
1824-1894

noon of the day before. He was stricken while alone in his room, and his condition was not discovered until an hour later, when a waiter went to his room with his luncheon. The admiral was lying on the floor in a comatose state and the waiter thought he was dead. He gave an alarm at once and Medical Director Wales of the navy, an intimate friend of the invalid was promptly on hand. A hasty examination showed him that the case was beyond medical aid, and he directed his efforts to easing the last hours of the invalid. Admiral Temple was unconscious when found, and remained in that condition up to the time of his death. Mr. Edward L. Temple, a nephew arrived home yesterday afternoon from Rutland, Vt., and will have charge of the funeral arrangements. The admiral had no family. His wife, who was a daughter of Gen. J.G. Totten, died nearly five years ago. No children resulted from the marriage. The nearest relatives are two nephews and two nieces -- Edward L. Totten, who resides at the old Temple homestead built in 1812, in Rutland, Vt., the admiral's birthplace. Arthur Temple, Alice Temple, and Mrs. John A. Mason of

Chicago, Ill. A sister of his wife, Mrs. Charles H. Graves, and her husband of Duluth, Minn., have spent several winters during the last few years at the Portland.

An Excellent Naval Record

Admiral Temple has an excellent naval record. He was born at Rutland, Vt. In March, 1824 and entered the navy as a midshipman in 1840, graduating from the Naval Academy six years later. He was with the Boston when that vessel was wrecked in the Bahamas in 1846. He participated in the bombardment and capture of Vera Cruz in 1847, as an officer of the steamer Scourge, and he took part also in the subsequent engagements at Alvarado, Tuspan and Tobasco, frequently commanding parties against the Mexican forces, and sometimes commanding batteries. Subsequently he assisted in the survey of the interoceanic railroad and canal across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and then took a cruise in the Pacific on the frigate Lancaster in 1860. By this time he had reached the rank of lieutenant and was placed in command of the steamer Flainbian at New York for a short time.

He had a very active career during the late civil war. In July 1862, having reached the grade of lieutenant commander, he was detailed to command the gunboat Pembina in the western gulf blockading expedition and from November 1862 until September 1864, he was fleet captain of the eastern gulf blockading squadron. While on such duty he led a force of sailors in defense of the

approaches of Washington, at the time when the capture of the city was seriously threatened by Gen. Early's brigade in July 1864. Admiral Temple commanded the steamer Pontoosuc from November 1864 to May 1865 and participated in the attack on Fort Fisher, the capture of Wilmington, the bombardments of forts on the James river and in the capture of Petersburg and Richmond. He became a full commander in March 1865, and commanded the steamer Tacony; attached to the North Atlantic squadron, until 1866, when he was detailed to four years' term of ordnance duty. He reached the grade of captain in 1870, and his career was comparatively uneventful until 1884, when he escorted King Kalakaua of the Hawaiian Islands on the occasion of his memorable visit to this country, for which service he subsequently received the decoration of knight commander of the Royal Order of Kamehameha I. He became a commodore in June 1878, served as a member of the examining and retiring board and became its president in June 1881. He attained the highest rank in the navy, namely, a rear admiral, February 22, 1884, and voluntarily went on the retired list of the navy seven days later under the forty years' service law.

The Evening Star, June 30, 1894

Admiral Temple's Funeral

The funeral of the late Admiral William G. Temple of the navy, who died in this city Thursday evening, will take place this afternoon. The services will be conducted at the Portland flats in the apartments recently occupied by the deceased, and will be strictly private. The interment will be made in the family lot in the Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, July 9, 1894

Admiral Temple's Will

The will of the late Admiral Wm. G. Temple has been probated and letters testamentary have been issued to Edward L. Temple and Charles H. Graves, nephews and beneficiaries under the will, under bond of \$500. The personal estate is estimated to be valued at \$30,000.