

## **John W. Thompson** **(1827 – 22 Feb 1906)**

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**Thompson.** Suddenly on Thursday, February 22, 1906 at 1:30 a.m., John W. Thompson, beloved husband of the late Elizabeth A. Thompson, aged 78 years. Funeral service Sunday, February 25 at 2 o'clock p.m. at his late residence, 606 G street southeast. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

*The Evening Star, February 22, 1906, p. 16*

### **Old Resident Dead**

### **John W. Thompson Succumbs to Attack of Indigestion**

### **Prominent in Fraternities**

### **Employed at Washington Naval Yard for Over Fifty Years**

### **Served in District Militia**

### **Received Commission as Lieutenant From President Lincoln --**

### **Funeral Services Sunday Afternoon**

John Wesley Thompson, better known as "Uncle John," who for the past half century had been employed at the Washington navy yard, died at 1:20 o'clock this morning after a brief attack of acute indigestion. Mr. Thompson returned from his work yesterday afternoon apparently in the best of health. He was seventy-nine years old.

The funeral will take place Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence, 606 G street southeast, Rev. Dr. Grey officiating. Interment will be at Congressional cemetery. The services will be held under the auspices of the Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias, of both of which organizations the deceased was a member.

Mr. Thompson was born in this city at the corner of 7th and F streets, and subsequently lived on F street between 6th and 7th streets northwest, and learned the trade of plasterer. Entering the laboratory of the navy yard, Washington in 1850, he was so assiduous in the discharge of his important duty as a pyrotechnist that he had continuous employment by the government ever since. He was commissioned first lieutenant of the District of Columbia militia by President Abraham Lincoln in 1861. He was one of the commissioners of the fire department of Washington and its president for five years, and he was also a member of the board of health. He was also the marshal of the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association.

### *Became Odd Fellow in 1849*

Mr. Thompson was initiated into Odd Fellowship by Bay Side Lodge, No. 66, at St. Michael's, Talbot county, Md., in February, 1849, and afterward became connected with Harmony Lodge, No. 9, of this city. He passed the chair of Harmony Lodge and entered the Grand Lodge in January 1866, and after active participation in its affairs, passing through the offices of grand warden and deputy grand master, reached the chair of grand master in July, 1872. Since then he served frequently as chairman of several of the important committees of the Grand Lodge.

Mr. Thompson was also a prominent member of the Knights of Pythias, beginning as a charter member of Calanthe Lodge, No. 11, March 1868. He advanced step by step until he reached the distinction of past grand chancellor. He was chosen supreme outer guard of the Supreme Lodge in 1876, and continuously filled that office for thirty years.

*Became Member of I.O.M.*

He early connected himself with Franklin Lodge, No. 2, Independent Order of Mechanics, and passed through the chairs of the lodge. He afterward withdrew from Franklin Lodge and assisted in organizing Capital Lodge, No. 14. He was elected treasurer of the lodge on its institution and held that place until his death. Entering the Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Mechanics, he was elected grand treasurer and was re-elected to that position for several years. He was then elected grand architect, and after the conclusion of his term entered the Supreme Lodge, I.O.M. in 1888. He served in the subordinate offices of the Supreme Lodge, and at the session in May, 1899, was unanimously elected supreme ruler for the term of two years.

In all the positions Mr. Thompson occupied he was most faithful and proved himself a man of fine executive ability. He was extremely popular in all the fraternities with which he was connected.