

## Edwin Hord Tillman

(1858 – 24 Mar 1938)

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**Tillman, Comdr. Edwin Hord, U.S.N. (retired).** On Thursday, March 24, 1938 at his residence, 1910 Kalorama road n.w., Comdr. Edwin Hord Tillman, beloved husband of Frida Kondrup Tillman. Private services at his daughter's residence, Mrs. W. Calhoun Stirling, 2618 31st street n.w. Interment private. Please omit flowers.

*The Evening Star, March 25, 1938, p. B-10*

### **Comdr. Tillman, Scientist, Dies**

#### **Noted Marine Surveyor Set Navigation Course on Mississippi**

Comdr. Edwin Hord Tillman, U.S.N. retired, who traveled more than 400,000 miles by water in his 47 years as a marine scientist, died yesterday at his home, 1910 Kalorama road N.W. He was 79.

His travels and studies took him to many foreign ports and along the United States coast lines and rivers. He was recognized as one of the ablest marine surveyors of his generation, and his works for the basis for present-day guides to navigation along the coast, the Mississippi River and the Yukon River in Alaska.

While serving in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Comdr. Tillman designed and constructed the "Tide and Current Diagrams," basis of water movement volumes published today by the survey. His "Coast Pilots" guides for mariners along the Atlantic coast and its harbors and bays were the fruit of eight years of painstaking investigation. Comdr. Tillman's hydrographic soundings reached from Eastport, Me., to Pensacola, Fla.

He also set the course of navigation for the Mississippi for over 1,000 miles between New Orleans, La., and Cairo, Ill., a work which required three years. As a reward, he was given command of the 11 vessels which escorted President Taft on his official voyage down the Mississippi, during which they became fast friends.

#### *Won Taft's Praise*

On this occasion, the noted mariner's outspokenness won the President's praise and approval. Mr. Taft's physicians were making every effort to restrict his diet in order to keep him from gaining weight. To avoid tempting him, his aides were accustomed to restrict not only the President's menu but that of all persons seated with him.

Comdr. Tillman resolutely rejected such a proposal declaring, "Let him learn to control himself." The regular dishes were served on the voyage. Mr. Taft heard of the incident and curbed his own diet without imposing short rations on the other voyagers.

Because of navigation retirement laws, Comdr. Tillman's work in charting the Mississippi and Yukon waters came after he was technically on the retired list. In 1905, he had served 30 years. Discouraged by the slow promotion which kept his entire class below the rank of commander, the mariner accepted retirement. Nevertheless, he was soon called back to service and saw 16 years and 11 months of actual service after he had been placed on the retired list.

Comdr. Tillman was the son of a Tennessee Congressman who remained a Unionist during and after the Civil War. His oldest brother was the youngest colonel in the Confederacy and later became a diplomat. Another brother was superintendent of the United States Military Academy. Three others were noted jurists.

He is survived by his widow, the daughter of a former Danish Minister to the United States; two daughters, Mrs. Randolph Leigh and Mrs. W. Calhoun Stirling; a son Lt. E.H. Tillman, jr., now stationed at Charleston, S.C., and five grandchildren, Miss Frida Frazer, Miss Margheritta Stirling, Edwin Tillman Stirling, Elizabeth Stirling and Alice Tillman.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. at the home of a son-in-law. Dr. W. Calhoun Stirling, 2618 Thirty-first street N.W. Interment and services will be private. Members of the family will serve as pallbearers.

*The Evening Star, March 26, 1938, p. A-6*

#### **Commander Tillman Funeral Rites Held**

#### **Retired Naval Officer Served 47 Years as Surveyor on Coasts & Rivers**

Funeral services for Comdr. Edwin Hord Tillman, U.S.N. retired, who died Thursday were held today at the home of a son-in-law, Dr. W. Calhoun Stirling, 218 31st street N.W.

The services and burial in Congressional Cemetery were private. Members of the family served as pallbearers.

Comdr. Tillman, who lived at 1910 Kalorama road, served 47 years as a marine surveyor on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and the Mississippi and Yukon rivers. His works form the basis for many present-day guides to navigation.