

Henry Clay Towers

(- 30 Oct 1909)

Towers. On Saturday, October 30, 1909 at 1:30 a.m., Harry C. Towers in the 61st year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 1452 Belmont street northwest on Monday, November 1 at 2 o'clock p.m. Interment at Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, October 30, 1909, p. 8

Death of Henry C. Towers Succumbs to an Illness of Two Months Known in the Forestry Service as Santa Claus From His Liberality at Christmas Time



Henry C. Towers.

Henry Clay Towers died at 1:30 o'clock this morning at the home of his brother, Lemuel Towers, jr., 1432 Belmont street northwest, after an illness of two months.

Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock next Monday afternoon at his late residence. Rev. Frederick B. Howden, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church of Georgetown, will officiate, assisted by Rev. William Tayloe Snyder, rector of the Church of the Incarnation. Interment will be made in Congressional cemetery. The pallbearers will be Edward J. Stellwagen, David Rittenhouse, Luther S. Fristoe, W. Price, A.K. Parris and William Dove.

Native of This City

Mr. Towers was in the sixty-first year of his age. He was born in this city and spent his entire life here. For many years he was teller for the banking form of Middleton & Co. Later he organized the firm of Towers & Co., from which later he severed his connection and entered the West End National Bank as paying teller. He resigned this position and July 1, 1901, was appointed to the position of chief purchasing agent of the forestry division, Department of Agriculture, which position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Towers was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church of Georgetown. He never affiliated with any fraternal organizations, but was an enthusiastic member of the K. of R. Society of this city. His brother, Lemuel Towers, jr., and one sister, Miss Julia L. Tower, survive him. He was the son of Col. Lemuel Towers, who was in command of the Washington Light Infantry when that organization saw about three months' service in the civil war.

Had Many Devoted Friends

Mr. Towers was known and respected by every employe of the forestry service, both in this city and in the field.

His untiring efforts to please his fellow-employes won for him many friends. His annual Christmas treat of a tree for the children of the bureau employes and the distribution of gifts will long be remembered. Each year Mr. Towers prepared a huge tree, brilliantly illuminated with electric lights and

laden with toys, which was placed in the hallway of the forestry building. He would then appear in a "Santa Claus" costume and after greeting the employees and their children with a "merry Christmas" would distribute the toys. Many offers were made by the other employees of the service to aid him in purchasing the gifts, but Mr. Towers always refused, with thanks, saying he desired to be the "Santa Claus" alone.