

## Lemuel W. Towers, Sr.

( - 12 Oct 1899)

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**Towers.** On Thursday, October 12, 1899 at 7:45 o'clock p.m., Lemuel Towers in the 84th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 807 Mt. Vernon place, Saturday, October 14 at 2 o'clock p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend. Interment private. (Winchester, Va. papers please copy).

*The Evening Star, October 13, 1899, p. 12*

### **Death of Col. Lemuel Towers**

#### **Venerable Citizen Long Identified With the National Capital**

Col. Lemuel Towers, one of the oldest and most highly esteemed citizens of the District, died at his residence, No. 817 K street northwest, shortly before 8 o'clock last night, in the 83rd year of his age. He was born in Alexandria, but came to Washington when a mere lad, and has resided here ever since. He served an apprenticeship as a printer on the old National Intelligencer, and afterward followed the business most of his life--some eight or ten years at Winchester, Va., and subsequently in conjunction with his brother, Mayor John T. Tower, on the site now occupied by the St. James Hotel, and at the corner of 6th street and Louisiana avenue.

From early manhood he was prominent in local military affairs, entering first the old National Blues (afterward the Grays), under Gen. Peter F. Bacon and subsequently the Washington Light Infantry. When the civil war was inaugurated he was captain of Company A of the battalion, and the company which entered the United States service was commanded by him. When this service expired, being acquainted with the upper Potomac, he served for a short time under General Patterson in the neighborhood of Winchester. He had command of the 1st District Regiment subsequently, and was provost marshal of Alexandria, Va., for several months during the war. He had the honor of commanding the first volunteer company which entered the service, and which, in May and June of 1861, with other companies of the District, had charge of the Chain bridge, where good service was done in preventing intercourse between the opposing hosts. On one occasion the force prevented President Lincoln from possible capture, when he was too closely approaching the lines of the enemy.

For some years Colonel Towers had been an invalid at his home presiding there with a family of three sons and a daughter, in the house he moved into from 6th street between G and H streets, over fifty years ago.

*The Evening Star, October 14, 1899, p. 11*

### **Funeral of Col. L.W. Towers**

#### **Six of His Nephews Act as Pallbearers -- Tribute to His Worth**

The funeral of the late venerable Col. Lemuel W. Towers took place from the old family residence, No. 817 K street northwest, at 2 o'clock this afternoon. During the entire morning there were callers constantly coming to offer sympathy to the family and take a last look at the features of one they had esteemed so highly.

The body reposed in a heavy casket, covered with black cloth and heavily trimmed with silver, and the well-known features of the dead man were almost lifelike, seeming more as if in the repose of sleep than set for eternity. The casket was covered with exquisite floral offerings and the mantels of the parlors and their corners were filled with similar remembrances.

The services were attended by a large number of the old citizens of the District, and of representatives of the Washington Light Infantry, of which Col. Towers was one of the organizers, in 1836. The infantry had expressed a desire to designate six of its officers to serve as pallbearers, and to turn out the battalion as an escort of honor, but the family regretfully declined, preferring no display and wishing to continue the Towers custom of having immediate relatives act as pallbearers.

Rev. F.H. Barton of St. John's Church, Georgetown, conducted the services, and paid a feeling tribute to the high and manly qualities of the dead and the charity which always characterized his acts and his opinions.

At the conclusion of the services at the house the remains were taken to Congressional cemetery, where they were buried in the Towers family lot. The pallbearers, who were all nephews of the dead man, were William H. Towers, C.M. Towers, W. Scott Towers, William P. Towers, James M. Towers and John T. Towers.

The surviving children of the deceased, who are Mr. Harry C. Towers of the West End National Bank, Mr. Lemuel W. Towers of the Columbia Fire Insurance Company, Mr. J.V.R. Towers of the government printing office and Miss Julia Towers, and a number of near relatives and old friends, accompanied the body to its last resting place.