

William Lee White

(1821 – 2 Jan 1909)

The Evening Star, February 18, 1903, p. 3

Anacostia and Vicinity

Dr. W. Lee White, who has been seriously ill for a number of weeks at his residence in Twining City, was able to leave home yesterday and return to his duty in a government department.

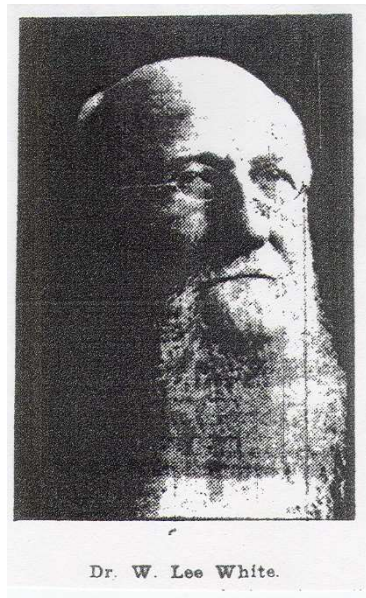
The Evening Star, August 11, 1907, p. 9

Dr. W.L. White to Celebrate

Will Attain Age of 86 Tomorrow

Exercises at the Floral Hill Homestead--

Members of Oldest Inhabitants to Participate



Dr. William Lee White is to have a birthday anniversary tomorrow and scores of his friends in the District will unite with him in celebrating the event. There will be many members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association participating and likewise many of the doctor's friends from the pension office, where he is employed, and from other branches of the government service. Floral Hill, the White homestead on the further shore of the Eastern branch, will blossom in earnest with the very excess of good feeling incident to the safe arrival of its owner at another milestone in the journey of life. Dr. White will attain the age of eighty-six years tomorrow.

For many years one of the leading citizens of the Capital city, Dr. White has been the moving spirit in many movements for civic improvements in the District. He is a native of Kentucky and a veteran of the civil war, having served throughout the great conflict as an army surgeon. In his home state and in Tennessee after the war Dr. White was identified with newspaper work, and he was also active in the political arena.

Ambitious for Reward

Ambitious for reward at the hands of his party, and especially optimistic because of a relationship by marriage with the then President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant, Dr. White came to Washington in 1870 and bent all his energies to securing an appointment to some branch of the consular service. Early in the course of his stay in Washington, Dr. White received the tender of a post in the pension office, but at first he spurned it. And in telling the story yesterday he took keen delight in recounting the trials and tribulations of those other days, which finally led him to accept gladly the pension office place.

Except for one brief period in 1873, when a disagreement with the then commissioner of pensions led to his resignation, Dr. White has been connected with the pension office continuously since 1870.

Conducts Campaign Paper

In 1873, after his resignation, he went to Marlboro, Md., and conducted a "campaign paper" in the interest of the candidacy of S.T. Suit for the Prince George county seat in the state senate, and he

surprised not only Mr. Suit but all the county round by stirring up such enthusiastic republican sentiment in that democratic stronghold that Mr. Suit was elected with votes upon votes to spare.

After the Marlboro campaign Dr. White returned to the pension office, and for years he held on eof the most important examinerships in that department. With four-score-and-six years to his credit Dr. William Lee White is mentally and physically alert as are many men of half his age, and his friends tomorrow may very properly congratulate him on the fact that he is "eighty-six years young."

The Evening Star, August 12, 1908, p. 7

Passes Another Milestone

Dr. W. Lee White Congratulated on Eighty-Seventh Birthday

Dr. William Lee White of Floral Hill, Anacostia, is eighty-seven years of age today, and is receiving the congratulations of many friends who have known him since he settled in the Anacostia section years ago. It was Dr. White's intention several weeks ago to have a number of his friends about him today and to hold a real celebration, but on account of an indisposition of Mrs. White he was compelled to give up he plans, although he said this morning he hopes to celebrate later.

Dr. White has done much for the Anacostia section of the District, having for years been closely associated with the work of the East Washington Heights Citizens' Association and was a strenuous worker for the bridge across the Eastern branch at the head of Pennsylvania avenue.

White. On Saturday, January 2, 1909, at 6 a.m., at his residence, Floral Hill, D.C., W. Lee White, after two and a half months' illness. Funeral from J. William Lee's, 332 Pennsylvania avenue, on Monday, January 4, at 2 p.m. Interment in Congressional cemetery.

White. The members of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants, District of Columbia, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of our late associate. William Lee White., M.D., at Lee's chapel, 332 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, at 2 p.m. Monday, January 4, 1909.

Theodore W. Noyes, Pres.

Benj. W. Reiss, R.S.

The Evening Star, January 2, 1909, p. 2

Dr. W. Lee White Dead

Long-Time Resident of the District Passes Away

Succumbs to Illness

Attains the Advanced Age of Eighty-Eight Years

Veteran of the Civil War

Secures Prominence as Journalist, Physician, Banker and Farmer.

Plans for the Funeral

Dr. W. Lee White, journalist, physician, banker and farmer, and a long-time and respected citizen of the District, died about 6 o'clock this morning at his home, Floral Hill, D.C. The cause of death was a complication fo disorders incident to his advanced age. Dr. White was in the 88th year of his age, and had been ill since October 16 when he was seized by a chill while at his desk in the pension bureau. He was given first aid treatment in the emergency hospital of the bureau and then went to his home.

Dr. White was born near Louisville, Ky., in 1821. He was well acquainted with Henry Clay, and cast his first presidential ballot for him in 1844. For many years he was a neighbor and co-laborer with George D. Prentice, the journalist. When the civil war broke out, in 1861, Dr. White entered the Union army and served as surgeon of the 1st Kentucky Volunteers.

Possessed Many Friends

In the suburbs beyond the Eastern branch of the Potomac, where he resided so long, and, indeed, throughout the District of Columbia, he had many warm friends. His country place adjoining Randle Highlands, near the intersection of Minnesota and Pennsylvania avenues, has been subdivided and is known as Floral Hill. He had lived in the southeastern suburbs since 1875.

Dr. White was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia and of the G.A.R. His long life was filled with activities. He had a wide acquaintance with public men. About 1886 he edited and published in this city a weekly newspaper, the National Free Press. Previously he had published the Counterfeit Detector, at Louisville, Ky., and in 1872, was the editor of the South Maryland Republican, published at Upper Marlboro, Md.

Interested in the District

Dr. White was a man of pleasing personality and possessed the happy faculty of making friends and "holding them by hoops of steel," as he was wont to say. He always manifested a keen interest in all matters tending toward the upbuilding of the District and made a study of local history. It was through his efforts that the dueling ground of the Graves-Cilley affair was located about 27 years ago. He escorted a cavalcade of vehicles containing many senators and representatives to the exact spot on which Cilley fell mortally wounded by his Kentucky adversary. Prior to that time the location of the dueling place had not been definitely known.

His first wife was Miss Jane Tompkins of Danville, Ky., who died in February, 1894. In 1895 he married again, his second wife being Mrs. Anna E. Stakes, widow of Judge Stakes of California. Besides Mrs. White, four sons survive him. They are R. Lee White and William Grant White of this city, John T. White of Pittsburg, Pa., and George W. White of San Francisco. At the time of his death Dr. White was a clerk in the pension bureau.

The remains have been removed from his home to the chapel of J. William Lee, 332 Pennsylvania avenue, where they may be viewed by his friends and where the funeral will take place.

The Evening Star, January 3, 1909, pt. 2, p. 8

Funeral of Dr. W. Lee White

The funeral of Dr. W. Lee White, a long-time citizen of the District of Columbia, who died yesterday morning at his home, Floral Hill, D.C., will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon from J. William Lee's chapel, 332 Pennsylvania avenue. The remains will be placed in the family vault at Congressional cemetery. Arrangements on behalf of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, of which Dr. White was long a member, are being made by Benjamin W. Reiss, secretary of that organization.

The Evening Star, January 5, 1909, p. 10

Funeral of Dr. W.L. White

Remains Interred in the Family Vault in Congressional Cemetery

Funeral services for Dr. William Lee White, who died at his home at Floral Hill, D.C., Saturday, were held yesterday afternoon in the chapel of Lee's undertaking establishment. Rev. W.L. Lynn, pastor of the Bradburn Memorial Church and a lifelong friend of Dr. White, conducted the service.

Interment was made in the private family vault in Congressional cemetery. The pallbearers were William Fastnaught, R. Gannon, T.P. Whitney, R. DuBois, H. Buckley and Benjamin W. Reiss. Mr. Reiss

represented the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, of which Dr. White was an active member. A delegation from the association attended in a body. Representatives of the G.A.R. also attended in honor of a departed comrade.

Dr. White was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1821, and after the war took up newspaper work in that city. Later he came to Washington and began the publication of a weekly newspaper called the National Free Press.

He leaves a wife and four sons. The sons are R. Lee White and William Grant White of this city, John T. White of Pittsburg and George W. White of San Francisco.

The Evening Star, October 13, 1910, p. 24

Will of William Lee White

William Lee White by his will dated October 10, 1905, directs that a note of \$800, held by his wife Anna E. White, be paid and that she be given \$1,000 in addition. The remaining estate is to be distributed among the children and grandchildren of the testator in equal shares.