

Wilma Willenbucher

(– 14 Feb 1955)

Willenbucher. On Monday, February 14, 1955, Wilma Willenbucher, sister of Miss Eugenia Willenbucher. Services at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th street n.w. on Wednesday, February 16 at 12 noon. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, February 15, 1955, p. A18

Miss Willenbucher, Operatic Soprano, Native of District

Miss Wilma Willenbucher, former operatic soprano who was familiar to European audiences during the first part of the century, died here yesterday after an illness of several months. She was in her 80's.

Miss Willenbucher was a native of the District but went to Germany in the early 1900s. She was a student of the late Lilli Lehmann, famous German opera star. She sang in most of the major opera houses on the continent and performed with such well-known conductors as Sir Thomas Beecham. She gave vocal lessons after her retirement from the stage. She returned to America in 1944.

Miss Willenbucher was a graduate of Eastern High School. Her survivors include a sister, Miss Eugenia Willenbucher of 1410 Sixteenth street N.W., three nephews, Capt. F.O. Willenbucher of 7803 Overhill road, Bethesda, Md.; Roland Willenbucher of Rockleigh, N.J.; Eugene Willenbucher of Atlanta, Ga.; three great nephews and five great nieces.

Funeral services will be held at noon tomorrow at the S.H. Hines funeral home, 2901 Fourteenth street N.W. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, February 15, 1955, p. 26

Opera Singer Is Dead; Was D.C. Native

Miss Wilma Willenbucher, for many years an opera singer in Europe and England, died here yesterday after an illness of several months caused by a stroke. She was in her eighties.

A native Washingtonian, Miss Willenbucher was graduated from Eastern High School and taught in the District Public Schools for one year before going to Europe for an operatic career.

She often gave recitals before the Friday Morning Music Club of Washington before she was discovered as a singer by the late Lilli Lehmann, noted German opera star. Miss Willenbucher then went to Berlin and studied as Miss Lehmann's only pupil for many years. She arose to a position of eminence on the continent as an opera star.

Her repertoire included such roles as Aida, Seig Linde in "Die Walkure," Venus in "Tannhauser," and Donna Elvira in "Don Giovanni." She performed throughout Europe and England with such noted conductors as Sir Thomas Beecham.

Miss Willenbucher returned to the United States in 1944 when she went into retirement.

Survivors are a sister, Miss Eugenia Willenbucher of 1410 16th st. nw., three nephews, Capt. F.O. Willenbucher, 7803 Overhill road, Bethesda; Roland Willenbucher, Rockleigh, N.J.; Eugene Willenbucher, Atlanta, Ga.; three great-nephews and five great-nieces.

Funeral services will be held at 12 noon Wednesday at the S.H. Hines funeral home, 2901 14th st. nw. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.