

John L. Wilson, Sr.

(12 Aug 1832 – 15 May 1910)

The Evening Star, May 18, 1910, p. 2

To Perform Autopsies

Bodies of Aged Couple Removed From Cemetery

John L. Wilson and His Wife Died Within Few Days of Each Other

Coroner Nevitt and Detective Evans have been conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of John L. Wilson, a retired ornamental ironworker, and Mary B. Wilson, his wife, and tomorrow the bodies of the couple will be taken from Congressional cemetery to the morgue where Deputy Coroner Glazebrook will perform autopsies to determine the cause of their deaths. Both died at their house, 216 Delaware Avenue northeast.

Mrs. Wilson, who was sixty-eight years old, died the 10th instant, and her body was interred in Congressional cemetery last Friday. Mr. Wilson, who was seventy-eight years old, died last Sunday. Arrangements were made to bury his body yesterday but an investigation has been suggested by Dr. John Reid Shannon, pastor of the Metropolitan Memorial Church, and it was deemed advisable to place the body in the receiving vault.

Permits for the removal of the bodies from the cemetery to the morgue were issued this afternoon by Health Officer Woodward and the work will be done under the supervision of the superintendent of the cemetery and the morguemaster. Dr. S.S. Lamb of the Army Medical Museum will be present at the autopsy in the interest of Mrs. Isabelle Duval, 456 Maryland avenue southwest, sister of Mrs. Wilson.

The investigation conducted by the coroner and detectives, they say, convinced them there was no reason to suspect that poisoning or any other violence lay behind the deaths.

The estate of the couple is valued at about \$40,000. Three thousand eight hundred dollars in cash was found between the mattresses of their bed. They also left some jewelry. The money and jewelry have been turned over to Dr. L.L. Frederick, 329 East Capitol street, who was not only the attending physician, but also, father-in-law of Lester Harris, one of the beneficiaries under a will made by Mr. Wilson about twenty years ago.

The other beneficiary is John Demaine, a clerk in the office of the secretary to the board of education. They are grandsons of Mr. Wilson.

Coroner Nevitt has directed that a jury be summoned to hear the testimony Friday morning at the morgue. Attorney George Hoover will be in attendance as the representative of some of the interested persons and a lively session is anticipated. Many witnesses will be summoned by the police and the facts will be thoroughly ventilated.

The Evening Star, May 20, 1910

From Natural Causes

Inquest Into Deaths of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Wilson

"We believe from the evidence that has been submitted that nothing irregular was committed."

That was the verdict rendered by a coroner's jury this afternoon at the close of an investigation of the circumstance surrounding the death of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Wilson, the elderly couple who died recently at their home, 216 Delaware avenue northeast.

More than a dozen witnesses appeared at the morgue to give testimony at the inquest.

Deputy Coroner Glazebrook, who performed the autopsies, testified that the death certificates given by Dr. L.L. Frederick, who attended the couple, were accurate.

Mrs. Isabel Duvall, sister of Mrs. Wilson, testified that she had no suspicion of foul play, but as the couple had died within such a short time of each other she had thought an autopsy should be performed.