

## John R. Zimmerman (1828 - 14 Aug 1903)

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**Zimmerman.** At his residence, 612 A street southeast, Friday, August 14, 1903 at 3:40 a.m., John B. Zimmerman, beloved husband of Katherine Lehmann. Funeral from Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, corner 4th and B street southeast, Sunday, August 16 at 3 p.m. (Baltimore Sun and Alexandria papers please copy).

*The Evening Star, August 14, 1903, p. 3*

### **Aged Resident Dead**

### **John R. Zimmerman, Capitol Employee, Passes Away Had Been on the Official Rolls Nearly Half a Century -- Funeral Arrangements**



John R. Zimmerman, who has been for nearly half a century employed at the Capitol as upholsterer and cabinet maker, and has been closely associated with church work on Capitol Hill since the inception of the first missions there, died early this morning at his residence, 612 A street southeast, aged seventy-six years. He had been failing for a year or more but became seriously ill of cirrhosis of the liver only last week. The funeral is expected to take place Sunday, and will be from the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, corner of 4th and B streets southeast, where he has been an elder for a great many years. It is expected that Rev. John Chester, the first pastor of the church, will conduct the services, and it is possible that Dr. George N. Luccock, the last pastor, will come from Orange, N.J., where he is filling a temporary engagement, and will assist in the services. The services will be public and the burial private.

Mr. Zimmerman was born in Fairfax county, Va., in 1828. He lived for some time at Harper's Ferry, where he was engaged in the undertaking business, and was there during the terrible cholera epidemic of 1850, when scarcely a home was without a vacant chair. While there he married Mary Margaret Fleming, whose father was afterward in the flour and feed business in this city. In

1852 he came to Washington, and soon afterward obtained employment in the folding room of the House of Representatives.

At the beginning of the civil war he was sworn in, together with the other employees, to defend the Capitol, and had at command a stock of interesting stories of war times in Washington while he was at home. One day, before a regiment had been detailed to defend the Capitol, he heard loud firing in the direction of the building. Thinking it might be an attack he grabbed his hat and ran at full speed in the direction of the noise, only to find when he got there that a Massachusetts regiment had arrived to relieve the impromptu guard and was emptying its guns with peaceful intent.

### *Stood by the Union*

He was always a strong Union man, although he had two brothers on the other side. For a while during the war he was engaged in manufacturing mattresses for the United States government, but he failed in the business ultimately, and returned soon after the war to accept a position in the Capitol, this time on the Senate side. While there he became acquainted with many public men, and it is said Senator Allison and several others of the upper house who were there many years ago considered him their close friend.

At the time of his death, as stated, he had charge of the upholstering and cabinet-making of the Senate. He supervised the preparation of the catafalques constructed to receive the remains of Garfield, Logan and McKinley, and whenever a senator died it was he who draped the vacant desk on the floor. He had many friends in the building, and had known nearly every prominent man who had been there during the time of his employment. Sometime after the death of his first wife Mr. Zimmerman married Katherine Lehmann, the daughter of Col. Lehmann, a prominent patent attorney in the city.

He has always been identified with mission work, and was instrumental, it is said, in founding the Waugh M.E. Church, at the corner of 3d and A streets southeast, and was the first class leader. After the war he joined the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, at a time when it was scarcely more than a mission. No man in that church today, it is said, has watched it through its growth more closely than he.

Mr. Zimmerman leaves a wife and one son, Robert H. Zimmerman, who resides at 1120 B street northeast, and two daughters, Mrs. B.J. Cady, 113 5th street southeast, and Katherine, aged 15 years, the latter by his second wife.

*The Evening Star, August 17, 1903, p. 16*

### **Funeral of John R. Zimmerman**

Funeral services over the remains of John R. Zimmerman were held yesterday afternoon at the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, 4th and B streets southeast. Rev. John Chester, former pastor of the church, conducted the services, assisted by the Rev. George S. Maydwell, pastor of Waugh Methodist Church. The interment was in the Congressional cemetery. The honorary pallbearers were H.K. Simpson, George Bohrer, William Du Bois, G.W. Curtis, J.T. Freeman, E. Eakle, R.L. Ewing, J.M. Kennedy, J. Burroughs, D.A. Lockett and T.G. Jones. The active pallbearers were O.C. Boteler, T.P. Cledaves, J. McGregor, W.F. Craig, G.E. Fleming and W.S. Moore.