

Erastus M. Chapin

(- 8 Feb 1903)

Chapin. Suddenly on Sunday, February 8, 1903, Dr. E.M. Chapin in the 84th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, Wednesday, February 11 at 11 o'clock. Interment private.

The Evening Star, February 9, 1903, p. 7

Death of Dr. Chapin

One of the Oldest Residents of Washington

Graduated From Columbian University at the Age of Sixteen--

Sketch of His Career

Dr. E.M. Chapin, who has been a resident of the District of Columbia during the greater part of the past eighty years, died last evening at 7:30 o'clock at his residence, 1020 17th street northwest. For the past few years Dr. Chapin's condition had been somewhat feeble, but with the exception of minor infirmities he had enjoyed good health. Yesterday afternoon while walking upstairs to his room he slipped on the stairs and fell. His death occurred a few hours later as a consequence of the shock.

The funeral will take place Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock from the family residence. Rev. Dr. C.F. Winbigler, pastor of the First Baptist Church, will conduct the service, and interment will be made in Congressional cemetery.

Erastus M. Chapin was born in Yarmouth, Maine, in 1820, and came to Washington with his parents at the age of six years, his father, Stephen Chapin, coming to this city from Colby University, at Waterville, Me., to accept the presidency of the Columbian University. He was one of the early presidents of that institution, and it is stated as a coincidence that Dr. Whitman, who was president of Columbian University several years ago, also came to that institution from Colby University.

Among the First Graduates

Dr. E.M. Chapin began his studies in Columbian at an early age and graduated from the school when only sixteen years. old. He was among the first of the graduates of the university. After graduating he went to Georgia to teach school. There were no railroads in that country at that time, and the young man drove all the way to his destination in a buggy. After teaching several years, he returned to Washington and studied medicine in Columbian. When he received his degree he again went to Georgia and practiced his profession for several years, but later returned to this city and established himself in the drug business.

Retiring from the drug business he became a contractor. He constructed some of the first railroad lines in Georgia, and built a number of buildings in this city. Among others, he built the foundations of the Church of the Ascension and of the coast survey building on New Jersey avenue southeast. During the civil war he was proprietor of a livery stable on G street.

Was Deputy U.S. Marshal

In the early fifties Dr. Chapin was deputy United States marshal of the District of Columbia. Prior to the civil war he occupied the position of police magistrate of the District, and later was a member of the excise board. For many years he was superintendent of streets in Washington. He retired from active life about fifteen years ago.

Dr. Chapin is the last of a family of six children. He was married in 1854 to a Washington lady, who survives him. He is also survived by three nieces and three nephews--Ella M. Kerfoot, Mattie D. Ellery, Sallie B. Chapin, Edward L. Chapin, Stephen E. Chapin and John D. Chapin--all of whom reside in this city.

He was a member of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, and had been an attendant and member of the First Baptist Church in this city for about 50 years.