

## William A.H. Church

(20 Feb 1854 – 20 Jun 1931)

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**Church.** On Saturday, June 20, 1931, at his residence, 912 B street s.w., William A.H. Church, beloved husband of Mabel S. Church. Funeral from Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7th st. between D and E sts. s.w., on Tuesday, June 23 at 11 a.m. Interment private. Kindly omit flowers.



**Church.** Members of Association Oldest Inhabitants are requested to attend the funeral of our late associate, William A.H. Church, from Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7th st. between D and E s.w., Tuesday, June 23, at 11 a.m.

Theodore W. Noyes, President,  
J. Eliot Wright, Secretary

### *Who's Who 1926-1927.*

William A.H. Church was born in Washington, D.C. in 1853, the son of Charles B. Church and Matilda S. Harris. He was educated in the public schools of Washington, and Columbian College. Leaving college in his sophomore year, 1873, he entered the firm of C.B. Church & Co., where he learned the lumber business, in which he today is so successfully engaged. In 1873 Mr. Church's father, then at the head of the lumber firm of C.B. Church & Co., took him in the business as partner. Today Mr. Church is the senior member of the firm Church & Stephenson.

Mr. Church is a director in the Citizens National Bank; vice-president of the Washington Asphalt Block and Tile Company; vice-president and treasurer of the Brennan Construction Company; manager and treasurer of the Fire Insurance Company, Washington, D.C.; is a member of the Board of Trade, Business Men's Association and Young Men's Christian Association; is prominent in Masonic circles, and takes a lively interest in all matters pertaining to the public welfare. Mr. Church was married twice, his first wife being Margaret, daughter of the late John B. Clark, doorkeeper of the Senate for a number of years, and property clerk for the District of Columbia. His second wife is Miss Mabel Spicer, daughter of the well-known commission merchant, O.O. Spicer, of this city. There is one son, William Alexander Harris Church, Jr. Mr. Church resides at 317 Eleventh street, southwest. Mr. Church is prominent in church affairs, being a member of the Westminster Church Memorial, on Seventh street between D and E streets, southwest. [Source: A History of the City of Washington, Its Men and Institutions.]

Director in the Citizen's National Bank, Vice President of Washington Asphalt, Block & Tile Co.; Vice President and Treasurer Brennan Construction Co., Manager and Treasurer Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Member of Board of Trade. Prominent in Masonic circles. [Source: American Biographical Directory 1908-1909].

Senior member of firm, Wm. A.H. Church Company, lumber dealers; born Washington D.C. 1853, son of Charles B. and Matilda S. (Harris) Church. Educated D.C. public schools and Columbian (now George Washington) University. Left college in second year (1873) to become associated with firm of

A.B. Church and Company, and soon after was taken into the firm by father, C.B. Church, as partner. President, Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Vice President, Mutual Serial Building Association. Director: National Savings and Trust Company. Member - Board of Trade, Columbia Historical Society, Masonic Order. Married twice. Home 912 B Street, S.W. Office: 800 C Street, S.W

*Prominent Personages of the Nation's Capitol, 19??*

W.A.H. Church, banker, financier and lumber merchant, is one of Washington's oldest and best-known residents. He was born in this city, February 20, 1854, son of Charles B. Church and Matilda S. Church. He has lived in Washington continuously ever since and has been engaged in the lumber business since 1875 when he entered it with his father. His present business, known as W.A.H. Church, Inc., is the outgrowth of a partnership formed in 1880 by Mr. Church and the late Thomas P. Stephenson, and operated under the name of Church & Stephenson. Mr. Church bought out Mr. Stephenson's interest in 1910, and it has since been operated as W.A.H. Church, Incorporated. Mr. Church is president of the company; C.W. Church, vice-president; T. Paul Speake, treasurer, and E.G. Lorenz, auditor and secretary.

In his business career, Mr. Church has been a leader and an associate in many of Washington's outstanding enterprises. He is a director of the National Savings & Trust Company; president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company; director of the Chapin & Sacks Corporation; vice president of the Mutual Serial Building Association; formerly director, president and chairman of the Board of the Commercial National Bank; member of the Board of Trade, and of the Chamber of Commerce.

During the World War, Mr. Church gave patriotic and untiring service as a member of the District Draft Board Number Four. He served continuously in this during the entire period of the war, not abandoning the work until the last man in the District of Columbia who was eligible was enrolled in the military service. In this connection he is particularly proud of the fact that he was also able to offer his own son to his country. As soon as the boy, his only son, was eighteen, he took him to an army recruiting office and saw him enrolled in Uncle Sam's fighting forces.

Mr. Church is also particularly proud that the beautiful drives and parks that have taken the place of the river flats and lowlands along the Potomac came through the suggestion of his father. The elder Church was a resident of Washington for sixty-seven years, and it was he that first suggested this civic improvement that has added so much to the beauty and improvement of the Capital.

The education of Mr. Church came through attendance at the old Fourth District Public School, and at Columbian (now George Washington) University, which he entered in 1870. Many of those who have been prominent in the affairs of the Nation's Capital, but most of whom have now passed on, attended the old Fourth District School with Mr. Church. The school was then taught by the late John E. Thompson, particularly well-known at the time as a teacher, and around whom and the school, much sentiment still abounds. Snowball battles were the vogue of the day with school pupils and many hard-fought battles between the Fourth District school and other schools of South Washington are to be recalled by the older Washington residents as having occupied places of much interest in the winters of 1867-68 and '69.

Mr. Church obtained his first financial training in the old Citizens National Bank, for many years one of Washington's leading financial institutions, but which was absorbed several years ago by the Metropolitan National Bank. Later, he was one of the organizers of the Commercial National Bank. Mr. Church is a member of the Columbia Historical Society, the National Geographic Society, the Oldest Inhabitants' Society, Lebanon Lodge (Masonic), Excelsior Lodge (Odd Fellows), and the South

Washington Citizens' Association. He has also been a member of the Westminster Presbyterian Church for the past fifty-one years.

Mr. Church has been twice married, and has two children, a son, William A.H. Church, Jr., and a daughter, Virginia J. Church. His first wife was Margaret E. Clark, whom he married in Washington in December, 1880, who died in 1892. The second marriage came in October, 1899, when he was married to Mabel Spicer, daughter of the late O.O. Spicer. The Church residence is at 912 "B" Street, South Washington, D.C

*Washington Evening Star, Monday, June 22, 1931 p. A9*

#### **Funeral Plans Laid for W.A. Church**

#### **Businessman and Banker Here Will Be Buried After Rites at Presbyterian Church**

Funeral services for W.A.H. Church, who died Saturday at his home, 912 B Street southwest, will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church tomorrow morning at 11 a.m. Burial will be private. He was 77 years old.

Mr. Church for many years was identified with business lodge and church organizations in this city. He was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, of the Odd Fellows and of Lebanon Lodge No. 7, F.A.A.M.

During his extended business career, Mr. Church was at one time president of the Commercial National Bank and at the time of his death was a member of the board of directors of the National Savings & Trust Co., president of the Mutual Fire Insurance Co. and head of the company which he had organized and which bore his name. W.A.H. Church, Inc., retail lumber dealers with offices at Eight and C streets southwest.

For 75 years, Mr. Church attended the Westminster Presbyterian Church and throughout his life was associated with various charitable enterprises.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mabel S. Church; one son, W.A.H. Church, Jr.; a daughter Mrs. Maurice Irvine; a brother, C. Wallace Church, and his sister, Mrs. L.S. Depue.