

Ira Edmund Cole

(28 Sep 1829 – 10 May 1921)

The Evening Star, September 29, 1909, p. 22

His Eightieth Birthday

Veteran Printing Office Pressman Greeted by His Friends

Ira E. Cole, one of the oldest residents of the National Capital, celebrated the eightieth anniversary of his birth last night at his residence, 723 8th street northeast. He was surrounded by seven of his eight children, their wives and husbands, and twenty-nine of his grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. One son resides in California. The first break in Mr. Cole's large family was the death of Mrs. Cole, April 23, 1905.

Mr. Cole is very active, attending to his work daily at the government printing office. He has recently returned from an extended visit to his old home and friends in Oswego and Mexico, N.Y.

He received yesterday many tokens of affection, including letters and cards from out-of-town friends. After a pleasant evening a repast was enjoyed by all and three rousing cheers echoed through the house wishing Mr. Cole many more years.

Mr. Cole was born in DeKalb, St. Lawrence county, N.Y., September 28, 1829, but his parents early in his life moved to Oswego, N.Y., where he resided until 1876, when he received an appointment in the government printing office. He then moved to Washington and has been continuously in the service of the government, being now one of the oldest pressmen at the printing office.

Cole. Monday, May 9, 1921 at 11:45 p.m. at his residence, 723 8th street n.e., Ira Edmund Cole, aged 91 years 7 months 11 days, member of Lincoln Post, GAR. Funeral from his late residence, Thursday, May 12, at 2 o'clock. Friends and relatives invited. Interment at Congressional Cemetery (Oswego NY papers please note).

The Evening Star, May 10, 1921, p. 2

Ira E. Cole in 92d Year, Dies at His Home Here

Almost Lifelong Resident of Washington—

Employee of Government Printing Office Since 1876

Ira E. Cole, one of the oldest residents of the District, died early today at his home 723 8th street northeast, in his ninety-second year.

Mr. Cole spent the greater part of his life as a pressman, a large part of the time at the government printing office remaining on the job until the spring of 1919, when he was ninety years of age.

He is survived by eight children, thirty-six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. For several years past it has been the custom of the three generations to gather at Mr. Cole's home on the anniversaries of his birth for a celebration with him. The last of these reunions was held in September, when he was ninety-one.

Mr. Cole was born near the Kalb, St. Lawrence county, NY in 1829. Before he reached school age his parents moved to Oswego county -- about the year 1834. The little schoolhouse was so distant from his home that Mr. Cole could only attend when the roads were in good condition.

He worked on his father's farm until he was sixteen, when he became an apprentice in a printing office. At the outbreak of the civil war Mr. Cole enlisted in Company G, 81st New York Volunteers. During the three years of his enlistment he participated in twenty-one engagements.

In September, 1864 he returned to Oswego, and entered a printing office, remaining there eleven years. In February of 1876 he was appointed to a position in the government printing office in this city.

Mr. Cole's wife died in 1905. One of his children, Arthur G. Cole, is chief clerk of the District health department. Burial will be in Congressional cemetery. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

The Washington Post, May 11, 1921, p. 16

Civil War Veteran, 91, Dead

Ira E. Cole Was Retired Pressman of Government Printing Office

Ira E. Cole, 91 years old, died at his home, 723 Eighth street northeast, Monday. He was a veteran of the civil war, having served with Company G, Eighty-first New York volunteers.

Mr. Cole entered the government printing office in 1876 as a pressman and served in that capacity until a few years ago, when he was retired. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

Mr. Cole was a member of Lincoln Post, G.A.R., the National Union and a life member of Printing Pressmen's Union No. 1.