

William Corcoran Hill

(1847 – 17 Feb 1926)

Hill. Suddenly on Wednesday, February 17, 1926 at his residence, 1724 H street northwest, William Corcoran Hill, beloved husband of Sallie Phoenix Hill. Funeral services to be held on Saturday, February 20 at 2 p.m. at St. Johns Episcopal Church, 16th and H streets northwest. Interment private.

The Evening Star, February 18, 1926, p. 4

William C. Hill, 78, Realtor, Expires

Was Nephew of Philanthropist Who Gave Art Gallery to Capital



William Corcoran Hill, 78 years old, for many years one of the leading real estate men in Washington, and who was descended from and related to persons who had become famous in the history of this city, died at his home, 1724 H street, last night after an illness of about three months. Death was attributed to heart disease.

Born in Baltimore in 1847, Mr. Hill was the son of the late Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Hill, who went to Baltimore from Salem, Mass. His mother's maiden name was Miss Ellen Corcoran. She was the sister of the late William Wilson Corcoran, the great philanthropist, who gave to this city the Corcoran Art Gallery and the Louise Home and otherwise added to the public welfare. Also after coming to this city, his father, the late Dr. Hill, was pastor of the First Baptist Church here for many years. And Mr. Hill's grandfather, Thomas Corcoran was at one time mayor of Georgetown and for many years one of its leading citizens.

Obtained Schooling Here

Mr. Hill began his education in the schools of this city and finished at Burlington College, N.J., at the age of 18.

Shortly after finishing school, he secured a position in the banking house of Riggs & Corcoran, which is now known as Riggs National

Bank, where he worked for several years.

In 1877 he married Miss Sally Phoenix, who is the daughter of the late Thomas and Rebecca Smith Phoenix. She is also the granddaughter of the late John A. Smith, who was clerk of the District courts for 40 years, and who was well known in early Washington history.

Resigning his position at the Riggs Bank, Mr. Hill went into the real estate business, and for many years past the house of William Corcoran Hill was ranked among the foremost in Washington.

Mr. Hill was one of the trustees and executors of the large Corcoran estate and had long served as president of the board of trustees of the Louise Home and as a trustee for several other funds. . He was a member of the Metropolitan Club and the Columbia Historical Society.

He had long lived on H street, having occupied an old home where the Wilkins Building now stands before moving to the home in which he died.

Mr. Hill is survived by his widow and a nephew, C. Phillips Hill.

Tentative funeral arrangements are for services to be held at St. John's Episcopal Church, Sixteenth and H streets. Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock with Rev. Robert Johnston, rector and Rev. E.S. Dunlap, assistant rector, officiating. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, February 20, 1926, p .9

Funeral of W.C. Hill At St. John's Church

Rites for District Realtor This Afternoon With Distinguished Pallbearers

Funeral services for William Corcoran Hill, realtor, who died at his residence, 1724 H street, Wednesday night, are being conducted at St. John's Episcopal Church, Sixteenth and H streets, this afternoon, with Rev. Robert Johnson, rector, and Rev. E.S. Dunlap, assistant rector, officiating. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers include the Belgian Ambassador, Baron de Cartier, and local men prominent in military and civil life, including Gen. Charles L. McCawley, C.C. Glover, Admiral Reginald F. Nicholson, Admiral W.W. Kimball, Woodbury Blair, Commissioner Cuno H. Rudolph and John W. Brown.

Mr. Hill, who was 78 years old, was a member of a family intimately connected with the Capital. He was a nephew of William Wilson Corcoran, the philanthropist, who gave to the city the Corcoran Art Gallery and the Louise Home.

He is survived by his widow and nephews and nieces as follows: Mrs. Gardiner Greene, Mrs. William H. Palmer and Albert Reynolds, all of Norwich, Conn.; William C. Reynolds of Boston, Reggie Reynolds of New York City, John Marbury Reynolds of Philadelphia, George Brown Hill, Mrs. George A. Benney and Houston Hill, all of Pittsburgh; William C. Hill, 2d., of Baltimore, and C. Phillips Hill of this city.

A History of the City of Washington, Its Men and Institutions

William Corcoran Hill -- One of the leading real estate men of Washington comes of a wealthy and influential family, but what is most unusual in such cases, he has made his own name and position. He was born in Baltimore in the year 1847, where his parents had gone from Washington to reside, his father, a noted Baptist clergyman, the Rev. Steven P. Hill, D.D., having been called to a church in that city, originally coming from the North, his birthplace being Salem, Mass., where he lived most of his life. After coming to Washington he married Miss Ellen Corcoran, sister of the great philanthropist of this city. The Rev. Dr. Hill was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Washington for a number of years. William Wilson Corcoran, Mr. Hill's uncle, all Washington must share with pride for there are few such men in a generation. His reputation was national, and seldom achieved by any private citizen. The accumulation by him of wealth was not for greed, but as a sacred trust for the benefit of knowledge, truth, charity and art. What he has done for Washington is too well known to repeat here and his private and smaller charities are too numerous to be counted. It was Mr. Corcoran who made the first sale of American securities in Europe. After the year 1837, and on his return to New York, he was greeted by everyone with marked expression of approval of his success, it being a great relief to the money market, the securing of exchange in favor of the United States. Mr. Hill's grandfather, Thomas Corcoran, was one of the leading citizens of Georgetown; was a native of Ireland, and came to this country when he was 27 years old; landed in Baltimore in the year 1783, and began life in America as a clerk, with his uncle, William Wilson, the great East India merchant, and in 1788 he came to Georgetown and there took up his residence, that being the principal place before Washington came to be of importance. He was mayor of Georgetown for a number of years.

William Corcoran Hill was educated at Burlington College, and leaving there at the age of eighteen years, his uncle, W.W. Corcoran, secured him a position in the banking house of Riggs & Co., in which institution he served for some years. In 1877 he married Miss Sallie Phoenix, daughter of the late Thomas Phoenix and Rebecca Smith, who is the daughter of the late John A. Smith, who was clerk of the District courts for forty years. When the real estate boom came on in Washington, Mr. Hill decided then to start in that business, in which he has won a reputation through honesty and good judgment, and now the business house of William Corcoran Hill ranks as one of the foremost of real estate firms. He was named after his uncle, W.W. Corcoran, and in many respects resembles him, having the strict business qualifications, integrity, force of will, and generous impulse to help his fellow man. Mr. Hill was one of the trustees of the large Corcoran estate; he is also one of the trustees of the Riggs Fire Insurance Company; one of the trustees of the Louise Home; one of the trustees of a fund for the poor of Georgetown, and holds numbers of other small funds of trust of various kinds. He is one of the governors of the Real Estate Exchange, and is much interested in a Workingman's Club of St. John's Church, and has done good work in that line.

Mr. Hill is a devoted lover of music, and possesses a fine voice, that might have brought him a handsome income upon the stage, but preferring the practical business life, he has pursued it with greater success than usually comes to most men. He is a man of striking personal appearance; he is athletic and fond of all outdoor sports;

The Washington Post, February 20, 1926, p. 5

Rites for William C. Hill

Funeral Services to Be Held at St. John's Church Today

Funeral services for William Corcoran Hill will be held at St. John's Church, Sixteenth and H streets northwest, this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be private in Congressional cemetery. Honorary pallbearers will be Baron de Cartier de Marchienne, Belgian Ambassador Maj. Gen Charles L. McCauley, C.C. Glover, Rear Admiral Reginald Nicholson, Rear Admiral W.W. Kimball, Woodbury Blair, Commissioner Cun Rudolph and George W. Brown.

Mr. Hill is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sallie Hill, and the following nephews and nieces; Mrs. Gardiner Greene, Mrs. W.H. Palmer and Albrt Reynolds, of Norwich, Conn; William C. Reynolds, Boston; Reggie Reynolds, New York; John M. Reynolds, Philadelphia; George Brown Hill, Mrs. George A. Benney and Houston Hill, of Pittsburg; William C. Hill 2nd, of Baltimore, and C. Phillips Hill, of this city.