

Eliab Kingman

(24 May 1797 – 1 Feb 1883)

Kingman. At his residence, 1509 14th street, Washington, D.C., on Thursday, February 1st, 1883, Eliab Kingman, aged 86 years. Funeral from his residence as above, on Sunday, February 4th, at 2 o'clock. Friends of deceased particularly invited to attend.

Obituary

The death of Eliab Kingman, Esq., whose funeral is announced in this issue of *The Star*, wipes out the last of a generation of journalists whose names have become historical. Outliving all his contemporaries, Thurlow Weed being the last on the roll of deaths among leading members of the press preceding him, he dies at last at the extreme age of 86, crowned with literary honors, but forgotten by all of the present generation of newspaper men, save the narrow circle of those whom he loved and in whom he delighted. Mr. Kingman was born in Warren, Rhode Island, on the 24th of May, 1797, of good old Puritan stock, graduated from Brown's University in 1820, took to quill-driving soon after, and finally located in Washington, where he afterwards became connected with the *National Intelligencer* as Congressional reporter, and in 1835, married Miss Cordelia Ball Ewell, eldest daughter of the late Dr. James Ewell, whom he survived seven years. Mr. Kingman very soon became prominently identified with several leading journals in the country as Washington correspondent, notably the *Baltimore Sun*, over the nom de plume of "Ion;" the *Charleston Courier* and the *New York Journal of Commerce*; occasionally writing for other journals, but being for the most part permanently attached to those first named. Among his intimate friends in modern journalism may be mentioned Messrs. John Savage, S.H. Kauffmann, C.S. Noyes and one or two others, the late James W. Simonton being among the number up to the time of his death. Mr. Kingman was the only surviving member of his family, there having been four sisters and one brother, the late Mr. Abner Kingman, of Boston, who died some two years ago. He may fairly be classed among the most noted and popular newspaper men of the past half century, who having nearly attained to the traditional four score years and ten, as the limit of human life, has been gathered to his Father's, rich in all knowledge, ripe in experience with honors well achieved, and after a life's labors well performed, he has gone to his rest, mourned, by a circle of devoted friends, who know him well and loved him sincerely.

F.E. Martindale

The Evening Star, February 1, 1883

Death of Mr. Kingman

Mr. Eliab Kingman, who years ago stood at the head of the fraternity of Washington correspondents, died at 10 o'clock this morning at his residence, corner of 14th and P streets. Mr. Kingman was born in Warren, Rhode Island, May 24, 1797, and, therefore, was in his 86th year. He has been gradually breaking down physically for some time, but retained his mental faculties in full vigor until recently.

Mr. Kingman's work as a correspondent was noted for conciseness and accuracy. His letters for many years to the *Baltimore Sun*, over the signature of "Ion," will be remembered as models in the way of meaty news, expressed with epigrammatic point. His exceptional reliability as a news gatherer caused his letters to be more quoted than those of any other correspondent of his day. Through a lucky hit made by him in the purchase of the square of ground where he resided, when it was of little value, and

the sale of lots when the building boom reached that part of the city, he was put in possession of a competence, and was enabled to retire from the drudgery of newspaper work.

The Evening Star, February 5, 1883

The funeral of Mr. E. Kingman took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, 1509 14th street and was attended by a number of Washington journalists and many other friends.

The Evening Star, February 5, 1883

Eliab Kingman's Funeral

At the funeral of Mr. E Kingman which took place yesterday the following gentlemen acted as pallbearers, Col. W.W. Boyce, Dr. Toner, Thomas J. Fisher, Mr. Savage, Dr. Antisell and Harvey Watterson.

The Evening Star, March 21, 1883

The Will of Eliab Kingman

A Caveat Filed By F.E. Martindale

The register of will has received from F.E. Martindale, of Port Richmond, N.Y., a caveat to the will of the late Eliab Kingman, which was filed here March 18th. The caveat sets out: 1st, Undue influence exercised over the testator at the date of the execution of the original will, February 24th, 1878, to the extent of annulling testator's own will and wishes in respect thereof. 2d, Of Mental incapacity, undue influence and fraud in the making, drawing, and executing of the codicil, dated October 17th, 1881, in that the testator was not himself cognizant on the 20th day of April, 1882 of having signed or executed any such codicil, and that said codicil does not express said testator's will as expressed at the date thereof and since.

Accompanying the caveat is an affidavit of Dr. Martindale that the signature of the codicil of October 17th, 1881, was obtained when testator was of unsound mind, by undue influence, and without the advice of his legal adviser, and for the purpose of nullifying testator's wishes. He further says that the memory, character and good name of testator will be injured by the admission of this codicil to probate, and he says, the codicil did not express his will, for on April 20th, 1882, the testator declared to him his intention to leave him \$5,000, to be paid before any of the legacies are paid. Dr. Martindale is the nephew of Mrs. Kingman, deceased, and by the will and first and third codicils is left \$5,000. In the codicil of October 17, 1881, all the special bequests, amounting to \$8,500, are reduced to \$750.