

Hugh McGregor

(1841 – 25 Feb 1911)

McGregor. On February 23, 1911, Hugh McGregor in his 70th year. Funeral from the residence of his son, No. 1315 B street northeast, February 27 p.m. (time not definitely decided). (New York papers please copy).

The Evening Star, February 27, 1911, p. 3

Hugh McGregor Buried; Helped Form A.F.L.

Member of Gen. Garibaldi's Staff -- Had Lived in Washington Eleven Years

Funeral services for Hugh McGregor, one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor, and a lieutenant under Garibaldi, who died at his home in Prince Georges county, Md., early Saturday morning, were held at the home of his son, John McGregor, 1315 S street northwest, at 3 o'clock this afternoon. Burial was in Congressional cemetery.

Mr. McGregor was born in London in 1841, and all of his life was a staunch friend of organized labor. When a young man in London he joined a party of volunteers for the patriotic war which Garibaldi was waging in Italy and went to that country. He served through the Neapolitan campaign and was a member of Gen. Garibaldi's staff when the liberals captured Rome. He was severely wounded in the leg by a cannon shot at the battle of Messina. At the close of the war he returned to London and engaged in labor organization, forming unions which today are agitating the adoption of the Lloyd George tax bill. In 1869, however, he was forced to leave England because of being refused employment, owing to his intense zeal in the matter of labor organizations.

Laid Plans With Gompers

Mr. McGregor resided for some time in New York city, organizing shortly after his arrival there the Jewelers' Union. It was then that he met again Samuel Gompers, whom he had known in England, and together they laid the plans for the formation of the present American Federation of Labor.

In 1889 he was a delegate to the International Trades' Union convention in Paris, and at that time started the memorable movement for an international eight-hour workday. In 1890 he was a delegate to the seamen and longshoremen's convention in Glasgow.

He came to Washington to reside about eleven years ago, and since that time had been prominent as a worker in the labor field and a contributor on labor and economic questions to the leading American and English magazines. Besides his contributions to the press and magazines of the country, Mr. McGregor wrote several books on labor subjects.

He leaves two sons, John and George, the former of this city and the latter a resident of Philadelphia.