

## Imogene Robinson Morrell

( – 22 Nov 1908)

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**Morrell.** On Sunday, November 22, 1908 at her residence, 918 14th street, Mrs. Imogene Robinson Morrell. Funeral services will be held in the chapel of Congressional cemetery, Wednesday, November 25 at 10 a.m. Friends invited.

*The Evening Star, August 8, 1901, p. 12*

### **Aged Artist Evicted**

#### **Mrs. Imogen Robinson Morrell a Subject of Sympathy**

Mrs. Imogen Robinson Morrell, the aged artist, who has made her home in this city for many years, was evicted yesterday for non-payment of rent from the premises she has been occupying at No. 714 19th street northwest. This action was the result of proceedings instituted by Samuel T. Stott of No. 505 Pennsylvania avenue, who owns the property.

When the constables reached the house yesterday the door was barred, and upon Mrs. Morrell declining to open it they entered through a cellar window and removed the occupant's belongings, including some furniture and pictures, to the sidewalk.

The proceedings attracted a crowd, including several friends of Mrs. Morrell living in the neighborhood, and the latter came to her assistance. Mrs. Elizabeth Herring of 1905 F street had a quantity of the furniture moved into her house for safe keeping, and Col. Rosecrans of the army offered Mrs. Morrell a home with his family, at 706 19th street.

In the fire which destroyed the Knox warehouse several years ago Mrs. Morrell lost a number of pictures she had painted, and entered suit for \$180,000 damages alleged to have been incurred by their loss. She compromised the suit, it is understood, for the sum of \$2,000. Her works were mostly large canvases. She is a native of Massachusetts and studied art abroad. She was married to Abram Morrell, a Virginian, in Paris in 1870, and came to this country a few years later. A portrait of Gen. Dix, painted by her, hangs in the Senate wing of the Capitol.

Mrs. Morrell has received many expressions of sympathy in her misfortune, and her friends are making arrangements to prevent such an unpleasant experience in the future.

*McMahan, Virgil E. The Artists of Washington, DC, 1796-1996. The Artists of Washington, Washington, DC, 1995.*

### **MORRELL, IMOGENE (nee Robinson)**

Painter and teacher born in Attleboro, MA. She studied in New Jersey and New York in the mid 1850s before going to Europe for further study in Dusseldorf with Wilhelm Comphausen and in Paris with Louis Francais and Thomas Couture. She stayed ten years in France and enjoyed the friendship of Messonier, Bougeureau and other French artists. She returned from Paris in the mid 1870s and by 1877 she was in Washington, DC where she remained until 1908. In 1879 she established the National Academy of Fine Arts, at the corner of 7th and E Streets, N.W. She operated it until at least 1887. Her Washington studio was a popular gathering place for artists and patrons for many years. An accomplished genre, historical and portrait painter, much of her life work was unfortunately destroyed in the disastrous 1896 Knox storage room fire. Examples of her portraiture are in the U.S. Capitol and Treasury Department. She received a number of awards for her work, including medals at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and the Mechanics Institute in Boston. She is included among the composite portraits in

Cornelia Fassetts' monumental "Electoral Commission of 1877" which is in the U.S. Capitol. REFS: ARCHITECT; BENEZIT; BIAP; BRODIX; COSENTINO 2; FAIRMAN; FIELDING; THIEME; USCC; WBD (1880-1906); WCD (1877); WWA (Vol. v).