

William James Palmer

(1862 – 5 Jun 1925)

The Evening Star, Sunday, June 7, 1925

W.J. Palmer Dead; Church Architect

Lifelong Resident of City Was Also Prominent in Musical Circles

William James Palmer, 62 years old, for many years a well known architect here and prominent in musical circles, died at his residence, 84 V street, Friday night. He was a lifelong resident of this city and had the distinction of having been a member of the first high school class organized in Washington, it is stated. He was graduated from high school in 1878. He had recently been architectural engineer for the United States Veterans' Bureau.

During his long career as an architect, Mr. Palmer was designer of the Sibley Hospital, Fifth Baptist Church, Robinson and Rust Hall, Union M.E. Church, Dumbarton Avenue M.E. Church, Naval Lodge Building of this city, the Park Heights Avenue Methodist Church of Baltimore, Md.; the Frederick Methodist Church of Frederick, Md., and numerous residences and other buildings in Washington and vicinity.

Mr. Palmer had been musical director of the Fifth Baptist Church for the last 18 years. He also organized and conducted the Washington Chorus Club. In addition he had been choir leader and soloist at several other churches. He was a member of Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M.

He was the son of Mrs. Margaret Rebecca Palmer and the late William Colbert Palmer. He was married to Miss Jessie E. Webb of Washington, February 1, 1888. He is survived by his widow, his mother and two sons, J.B. Davis Palmer and J.J.W. Palmer.

Funeral services will be conducted at the Fifth Baptist Church tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. Dr. J. Weston Brunner will officiate. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

History of the Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M., p. 49

Title to the new ground was acquired by the Trustees Jan. 19, 1893, and on April 20, 1893, after plans from various sources had been considered, approval was had of those presented by Brother Wm. J. Palmer, of Naval Lodge, and he was formally elected architect of the building.