

Lucien Whiting Powell

(13 Dec 1846 – 27 Sep 1930)

Powell. On Saturday, September 27, 1930 at 8:25 a.m. at Washington Sanitarium (Takoma Park, D.C.)

Lucien Whiting Powell, beloved husband of Nan Fitzhugh Powell in the 84th year of his age. Funeral



Tuesday, September 30, at 10 a.m. from his studio residence, 1923 G street northeast. Interment Arlington National Cemetery.

NOTE: He was removed from Arlington National Cemetery when it was discovered that he had falsified his Civil War record. He did not serve.

The Washington Post, August 5, 1930, p. 2

Col. Lucian W. Powell III at Summer Home

Special to The Washington Post

Purcellville, Va., August 4 -- Col. Lucian W. Powell, of Washington, and Fairmont, Loudoun County, Va., internationally known artist, is seriously ill at his county home, Powellton, near here.

Col. Powell, who will be 84 years of age December 13, 1930, was born near Middleburg, Va. During the Civil War he joined the Confederate army and soon rose to the rank of staff colonel. Later he became a pupil of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, in Philadelphia, and afterward studied abroad, in London, Venice and

Paris. Several of Mr. Powell's pictures are on permanent display in the National Capital. Col. Powell's home is in Washington, but he spends his summer at his country estate near here.

Col. Powell lives in Washington at 1923 G street northwest.

The Evening Star, September 27, 1930, p. 1

Lucien W. Powell, Artist Dies at 84 From Double Pneumonia

Long Internationally Known for His Paintings of Landscapes

Friend, Mrs. John B. Henderson, 87, Also Patient at Sanitarium

Lucien Whiting Powell, eminent Washington artist, whose paintings are to be found wherever landscapes are admired, died in the Washington Sanitarium in Takoma Park at 8:25 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Powell, who was in his eighty-fourth year, had been at the institution since September 1. Double pneumonia developed from a lingering illness and proved fatal. His wife, a son and two daughters were with him when he died.

By coincidence, another person dear to the famous artist was near him at the end. Mrs. John B. Henderson, Capital social leader, now 87, a long-time friend and ardent admirer, who has been his patron for many years, is a patient at the sanitarium. She visited with Mr. Powell briefly yesterday. Both seemed to realize that the end was near and as Mrs. Henderson left she kissed her friend good-bye.

Arrangements for the funeral had not been completed this morning at the Washington home of Mr. Powell, 1923 G street. In addition to his widow, he is survived by Mrs. Jessie Lewis Heiskell of

Washington and Mrs. Frances Millott of Windber, Pa., daughters, and Lucien Fitzhugh Powell of Washington.

Many of the artist's paintings are to be found in Washington, but a large number are distributed throughout the world. Permanent exhibitions are in the Public Library, Congressional Club, American University and Georgetown University, which has a holy land collection. Mrs. Henderson possesses about 200 of his paintings, which comprise the largest private collection.

"The Afterglow," a picture of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, now in the Corcoran Gallery, and his painting, "Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone River," which hangs in the National Art Gallery, are especially well known. The Atlanta Museum of Art has a collection of his paintings. London art brokers distributed Mr. Powell's work to such advantage that he said on one occasion that "the sun never sets" on his pictures.

Native of Virginia

Known as a resident of Washington, Mr. Powell was a native of Virginia, and much of his work was done at his home in Loudon County. He was born December 13, 1846, at Levinworth Manor, Va., the estate of his father, John Levin Powell.

At 17 he fought in the Confederate Army with his brothers and after the Civil War journeyed to Philadelphia to study painting under Thomas Moran, master of canyon pictures. His studies took him to New York, Paris and London, and in later years to Italy and the Holy Land. In his travels he added color to his work, but he always regarded himself as an American painter of American subjects.

President Roosevelt was one of the first to recognize the worth of his work and he became one of a group of admirers which in years to come were to include many prominent men and women in this country and abroad.

The Powell family is of Welsh origin. The Llandgollen estate at Upperville, Va., was granted to the family by the King of England about 1770. There in the historic hunting region, the Powells entertained George Washington and Lafayette on the 10,000 acre estate. The artist's uncle, Cuthbert Powell, made it his home for many years, and today the house which Washington and Lafayette knew stands on 1,000 acres of the original tract.

Three years ago 85 members of the "Powell clan" gathered at the estate for a family reunion and the distinguished artist member delivered an address. Last spring the property passed from the family to the ownership of John Hay Whitney, the grandson of the former Secretary of State, and yesterday Mr. Whitney took his bride the former Miss Elizabeth Altemus of Philadelphia to the estate which he had obtained as a bridal gift.

Was Godly Man

Mr. Powell did not have good health as a youth but he overcame this physical handicap. On the occasion of his eighty-first birthday anniversary, he said in an interview that he had had "a very wonderful life."

He commented that he was a Godly man, "God," he said, "exists in color, in love and in goodness." Throughout his travels, he said, he had been impressed by "God's mighty work in mountains and sea, in all things showing His handiwork, in flowers and landscapes and His goodness added to all this."

The Evening Star, September 28, 1930

Artist L.W. Powell To Rest in Arlington

Services Will Be Conducted at Studio Residence and Later With Military Tribute

Lucien Whiting Powell, eminent landscape painter of the Capital, who died yesterday after a long illness, will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery Tuesday morning.

Funeral services for the artist will be conducted at his studio residence, 1923 G street, by Rev. Hugh T. Stevenson, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, at 10 o'clock. Upon reaching the cemetery, the funeral cortege will be given a military escort and the artist, who was a Confederate veteran of the Civil War, will be buried with a soldier's honor.

A native of Virginia, where he had maintained a home in which he did much of his work, Mr. Powell attained a fame in the art world which is testified to by the presence of his canvasses in virtually every section of the world. His art training, begun at Philadelphia, where he went following the Civil War, carried him to New York, Paris and London and, in later years, to the Holy Land and to Italy. Among the artist's first prominent patrons was President Theodore Roosevelt, while one of his staunchest friends and patrons was Mrs. John B. Henderson, who today owns the largest single collection of his works, some 200 paintings.

Mr. Powell was stricken and was taken to the Washington Sanitarium, September 1. Double pneumonia developed and the master of landscape painting died at 8:25 o'clock yesterday morning. It happens that Mrs. Henderson herself is a patient in the same sanitarium and she was one of Mr. Powell's last visitors.

The artist is survived by his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Jessie Lewis Heiskell of Washington and Oxon Hill, Md., and Mrs. Frances Millott of Windber, Pa., and a son, Lucien Fitzhugh Powell of Washington.

The Washington Post, October 3, 1930, p. 15

Lucien W. Powell Will Is Filed for Probate

Lucien W. Powell, local artist who died September 27, left the bulk of his estate to his widow, Mrs. Nannie F. Powell, and their three children, Elaine F. Heiskell, Mabel L. Millett and Lucien F. Powell.

The will, filed yesterday in District Supreme Court, provides that the widow is to receive the home at 1923 G street northwest and all household effects for her life or widowhood. It also is provided that one-fourth of the residuary estate is to go to the wife during her life or widowhood and that the other three-fourths is to be equally divided between the children. Mr. Powell provided that the home at Airmont, Loudoun County, Va., is to be used as the family home by all heirs.

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

POWELL, LUCIEN WHITING

Painter born in Levinworth Manor, VA in 1846. He began his art studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts following service in the Civil War. He then went on to New York for further study, after which he spent several years in England and Europe, painting, studying and visiting the galleries of Venice, Rome, Paris and London. It was in the latter that he came in contact with the works of J.M.W. Turner who, along with Thomas Moran, with whom he studied in Philadelphia, would have such a lasting influence on both the subject matter and painting style he pursued. He settled in Washington, DC, on his return to the United States, and shortly thereafter was attached to a party of the Geological Survey sent out to explore the Grand Canyon. Among his best works are those depicting this region of the West, examples of which are in the National Museum of American Art and the Corcoran Gallery of Art. Also well-known are his land and seascapes of Venice and the Holy Land, as well as New England and the Washington area. He is represented in many public collections, including the Atlanta Museum of Art, American and Georgetown Universities, the Historical Society of Washington, DC, the State Department Reception Room, Cosmos Club and the Congressional Club. Though he traveled extensively, most of his professional life was spent in Washington, DC, where he occupied studios at various locations and enjoyed the patronage of many prominent citizens, including Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs.

Woodrow Wilson, J. Edgar Hoover, William Jennings Bryant and Mrs. John B. Henderson, who supported him for an extended period -- purchasing over 200 of his paintings, financing his travels to Europe and the Middle East, and providing him with studio space at the Henderson "Castle" on 16th Street. He was a regular exhibitor in the area and national Corcoran exhibitions and was a long-time member of the Society of Washington Artists (Parsons Prize, 1903) and the Washington Water Color Club,, serving as vice president of the latter. He was also a member of the Landscape Club of Wasington and the Washington Society of Fine Arts. He was on the governing boards of both organizations and had solo shows at Veerhoff's Gallery in 1907 and the Arts Club of Washington in 1922. He died in Washington, DC, in 1930. His watercolor "Afterglow, Grand Canyon" (1904) was included in the exhibition "American Places," at the Corcoran gallery of Art in 1980. Two of his works were also included in the exhibition "The Capitol Image" at the National Museum of American Art in 1983-1984. REFS: BER; BIAP; COSENTINO 2; COSMOS; Cutler, Nancy and David, "Lucien Whiting Powell: A Virginia Artist, 'The American Turner'" (unpublished biographical sketch); DAB; FIELDING; MALLET 1; NMAA 1; SIMMONS 2; SWA (1898-1929), WBD (1895-1924); WWA; WWCC (1896-1927); WWNC (1929-1930).