

Dr. William Lee White (1821-1909) Founder of Whitesville, Ky.

By Jerry Long
c.2024



Dr. William Lee White

Historical sources agree that the town of Whitesville, in Daviess County, Kentucky was named in honor of its founder, Dr. William Lee White (see article: “Whitesville – A Cross Roads”, by Jerry Long, website West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy). These sources, however, provide little data about his background and his subsequent life after leaving Whitesville. The 1883 History of Daviess County, Kentucky (pp.510-513, 550) records the following about Dr. White: He was the first physician to settle there. He “came from the upper part of the State, and remained for a few years.” The first school that was taught before the town was laid off in 1844 was by Dr. White. With his cousin, Benjamin F. Ramsey he built a store-house, and opposite the store a dwelling was erected, it was the first house erected in the village. The store was opened on Christmas eve of 1844. Dr. White was only a temporary resident of Whitesville. In 1883 he was a resident of Washington, D.C.

Additional details about Dr. White are provided by a 1925 newspaper article. In that year the Whitesville community experienced an oil boom and in recognition the Owensboro newspaper, Owensboro Inquirer, published a special “Whitesville Development Edition” on May 8th of that year. The edition included ten pages of articles on Whitesville. One of these, “‘Rude School House’ Was Built At ‘Cross Roads’ By Dr. White In 1842” (p.1B, no author given) contained the following references to Dr. White.

“On a May morning in 1842 I started two negroes to cutting logs and began the erection of a rude school house, which was the first building at the point which is now known as Whitesville.” This quotation from a letter written a few years ago by Dr. W. Lee White of Washington, D. C, to M. J. Holbrook is perhaps the only written record of the

beginning of the settlement first known as "Cross Roads," and for more half a century called "Whitesville" in honor of its founder...

... Dr. White, who builded so wisely and well has passed on many years ago after an honored career in the service of his government. He left Whitesville at the outbreak of the Civil war and served with distinction in the Union army and at the close of the war became connected with the pension department at Washington. Some of his grandsons are now wealthy business men in Louisville.

In the article, "Whitesville Was First Known As 'The Cross Roads'", appearing in the Owensboro Messenger (3 June 1934, p.1B) it was noted that Dr. William L. White, arrived in 1842 and "remained in what was then known as 'The Cross Roads' for a few years. He then moved to Washington, D.C., where he died shortly after his eighty-sixth birthday."

In 1987 this researcher (Jerry Long) compiled a booklet, Sketches of the Hines, Graves, Ford & Helm Families of Daviess & Ohio Counties, Ky. (a copy of the 110-page manuscript is in the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library in Owensboro, KY; library catalog # KR-G-Hine.). The manuscript included the following notes about the Helm family's connection to Dr. William Lee White, founder of Whitesville:

John Helm, Jr. was born 20 June 1791 in Va. He married twice. In Jefferson County, Ky. on 24 October 1815 he married Nancy Bartlett. She died between 1830-1832 and in the same county he married second Mrs. Lucinda (White) White on 17 January 1833. In the fall of 1837 he left Shelby County, Ky. and moved to Daviess County, Ky. There he settled near the present town of Whitesville, where his sister, Sarah Ford, had settled about five years earlier. He died 10 June 1868 and was buried in the Ford Cemetery on the Bill Brey farm, about a mile northeast of Whitesville, Ky. His wife, Lucinda, died on 22 November 1868 and was buried beside her husband; she was born 27 May 1796 in Ky. John Helm, Jr. had nine children, six by his first wife and three by his second... [Children of Lucinda & John Helm were Lucinda (1834-), Ruth M. (1836-) and Sarah Frances (1839-1921, wife of Asa Noel Glover.)]

... Lucinda White, the wife of John Helm Jr., was the mother at Dr. William Lee White for whom the town of Whitesville, Ky. was named. She was the daughter of George White. On 3 November 1819 in Jefferson County, Ky. she married William D. White (1797-1840), they were the parents of Dr. William L. White. Her husband died and Mrs. Lucinda White married John Helm, Jr. on 17 January 1833 in Jefferson County, Ky. John and Lucinda Helm moved to Daviess County in 1837, where relatives of his were already living. After their arrival in Daviess County her son, William L. White, visited in the county on several occasions. In 1842 Robert Triplett, an entrepreneur of Daviess County invited a developer, Benjamin F. Ramsey, to come to the county for the purpose of laying out and developing a new town in the Boston Precinct. Triplett was probably acquainted with B. F. Ramsey, because of the latter's relationship to Lucinda White Helm and her son Dr. White. She was an aunt of B. F. Ramsey and Dr. White was his first cousin. Benjamin Franklin Ramsey was born 8 March 1821 in Jefferson County, Ky. His parents were Abraham Ramsey and Sarah K. White, a sister to Lucinda White Helm.

When B. F. Ramsey came to Daviess County in 1842 he brought with him his cousin, William Lee White, a newly graduated doctor. They entered into a partnership and in 1842 laid out the plans for a town to be located at the place where the Leitchfield Road crossed an old Buffalo trace ("the oldest road in Daviess County"). In 1844 they built the first house at the spot. It was to be used as a dry goods store, office for Dr. White and a residence. The place was first called "Crossroads" and shortly afterwards was given the name of Whitesville in honor of its founder. The town of Whitesville is today the second

largest in Daviess County. Dr. William Lee White resided in Daviess County for a few years, while here he taught school, practiced his medical profession and conducted his business interests. Before 1850 he went to Pennsylvania, he remained there briefly and then went to Eastern Kentucky... He moved to Washington, D.C., where he was still living in 1883. On many occasions he visited in Daviess County. On one such trip he and Allen Helm (1845-1928) of Whitesville, Ky., a son of his step-brother Stroud Helm, erected markers on the graves of John Helm (1791-1868) and his wife Lucinda White Helm (1796-1868) in the Ford Cemetery just outside of Whitesville. Benjamin F. Ramsey remained a permanent resident of Daviess County, where he died on 7 June 1906, he was buried in Whitesville. Dr. William Lee White died 2 January 1909 and was buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

In 1926 Mrs. Emma Dunn Mastin, a Daviess County, Ky. historian and genealogist, copied the Helm family bible. At the time the bible was in the possession of Jeff Glover of Whitesville, Ky. He was then 62 years old and was the son of Asa N. Glover and Sarah Francis Helm (1839-1921), daughter of John Helm, Jr. and Lucinda White, At the Owensboro, Ky. Library is a notebook of material compiled by Mrs. Mastin and in it is her transcription of the Helm family bible and several pages of notes on the Helm family.

Lucinda White (1796-1868), mother of Dr. William L. White, married first her first cousin, William Dountain White (18 Feb 1797 - 28 Jul 1829) in Jefferson County, KY in November 1818. Mrs. Lucinda White was enumerated as a household head in the 1830 census of Jefferson County, KY; at this time the only name listed was the household head. In her home were listed 1 female aged 30-40, 1 male aged 5-10 (this is William Lee White), 1 female (under 5).

Lucinda was the daughter of George White & Ann Jeter, who were married in 1792 in Caroline County, VA. Lucinda's husband, William D. White, was the son of William White & Sarah Monroe Kitchen, who were married in 1787 in Westmoreland County, VA. Lucinda & William D. White were grandchildren of Daniel White and Mary Maders, of Westmoreland County, VA.

Lucinda White and her second husband, John Helm, are listed in the 1850 & 1860 censuses of Daviess County, KY. The Ford Cemetery where they were buried is also known as the Bartlett – Evans Cemetery. Directions to the cemetery are – on Highway 764 about 3/4 mile north of Whitesville turn right (east) into lane just after going down first small hill; the cemetery is in a thicket at edge of woods on hill northeast of the house.

William Lee White was born on 12 August 1821 near Louisville, KY (Evening Star, Washington, D.C., 2 January 1909, p.2A & Washington Post, Washington, D.C., 13 August 1907, p.9). He married Jane Tompkins on 14 April 1852 at Danville in Boyle County, KY. A marriage record shows that were both then residents of Danville (KY County Marriage Records, 1783-1965, Ancestry.com). Jane, the daughter of John Tompkins & Permelia Welsh, of Danville, KY, was born 22 November 1831.

By 1853 Dr. William L. White was residing in Louisville, KY. During 1854-1857 he was publishing the newspaper, Counterfeit Detector in Louisville (Daily Courier, Louisville, KY, 18 January 1854, p.3 & 14 September 1857, p.2). In 1854 this firm was operating on Third Street in Louisville and in November 1855 it moved to Main Street below Fourth. He was elected coroner of Jefferson county, KY in August 1854 (Daily Courier, Louisville, KY, 29 August 1854, p.3). In December 1855 he published a city directory of Louisville for 1855-'56 (Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 1 December 1855, p.3). In 1856 he was publishing the weekly, Louisville Reporter. In 1857 it was announced he had published a map of Louisville, KY (Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 3 January

1857, p.3). In 1857 he was associated with Dr. E. J. Young in a banking firm in Louisville (Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 18 March 1857, p.3).

When the civil war broke out, in 1861, Dr. White entered the Union army and served as surgeon of the First Kentucky Infantry. In May 1861 he was appointed First Assistant Surgeon of this regiment, then stationed at Camp Clay, near Cincinnati, Ohio (Daily Courier, Louisville, KY, 30 May 1861, p.2). He enlisted on 5 May 1861, mustered into service on 28 June 1861 and was mustered out on 22 January 1862 (Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Kentucky). In November 1861 it was reported that he was under fire while rescuing several wounded men near Gauley Bridge in West Virginia (Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL, 18 November 1861, p.2).

During 1862-1870 Dr. White was a resident of Tennessee, first at Paris and then Memphis. In 1866-1867 he was located at Paris, TN, where in January 1867 he opened a hotel (Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 29 January 1867, p.2). W. L. White, age 49, farmer, born KY appears in the 1870 federal census of Memphis, Shelby County, TN (p404A). In his household were listed Jane age 38 born KY and four boys aged 5 to 13, the two oldest born in Kentucky and the two youngest in Tennessee.

In 1870 Dr. William L. White moved to Washington, D.C., to accept a position with the U.S. Pension Bureau (Evening Star, Washington, D.C., 11 August 1907, p.9). The Washington Post (Washington, D.C., 13 August 1907, p.12) stated that he came to this city "in the hope of receiving an appointment from his brother-in-law, President Ulysses S. Grant." In 1875 he moved to his longtime residence, Floral Hill, near the intersection of Minnesota and Pennsylvania Avenues in Washington. William White, age 49, government clerk, age 59, born KY is listed in the 1880 federal census of Washington, D.C. (p.132B). In his home were Jane (49, wife, born KY); Lee R. (23, son, born KY); John T. (21, son, born KY); Grant W. (18, son, born TN); and George D. (13, son, born TN).

In 1873 he was editor of the paper, South Maryland Republican at Upper Marlboro, Md (Daily National Republican, Washington, D.C., 9 August 1873, p.2) and in 1886-1891 he published the weekly newspaper, National Free Press, in Washington, D.C. (Evening Star, Washington, D.C., 2 January 1909, p.2A).

Dr. & Mrs. William L. White were the first to drive over the Eastern Branch Bridge crossing the Potomac from Pennsylvania Avenue on 11 March 1890 (see "Eastern Branch Bridge Crossing Potomac From Pennsylvania Avenue", Evening Star, Washington, D.C., 14 May 1905, p.5D). The privilege accorded to them in recognition of the fact that Dr. White was the first to propose the bridge and was the most active promoter of the project. His residence was on a hill one-fourth mile from the bridge. The dome of the Capitol, two miles distant, could be seen from his porch.

Jane Tompkins White, wife of W. L. White, died on 12 February 1894 at Floral Hill in Washington, D.C. (Tri-Weekly Kentucky Advocate, Danville, KY, 2 March 1894, p.3). Dr. William Lee White & Mrs. Anna Eliza (Cox) Stakes, both of Washington, D.C. were married on 21 February 1895 in Philadelphia, PA (U.S., Presbyterian Church Records, 1701-1970, Ancestry.com). William L. White (born August 1821 KY, government clerk) and wife, Anna E. (born May 1844 Ohio, married 5 years) were listed as residing at 215 Third Street in the 1900 federal census of Washington, D.C. (p.149B).

The Washington Post (Washington, D.C., 14 October 1905, p.6B) listed several government employees who had been serving in the pension bureau for many years. One of these was William L. White, who was 84 years old, who then had been an employee of the pension bureau for 34 years.

Dr. William L. White died at the age of 87 on 2 January 1909 at his home, Floral Hill, in Washington, D.C. (Evening Star, Washington, D.C., 2 January 1909, p.2A). He was interred in a vault in the Congressional Cemetery beside his first wife, Jane Tompkins White. Buried in the historic cemetery are many who had helped form the nation. Obituaries for Dr. White were published in the Washington, D.C. & Louisville, KY newspapers ((Washington Post, Washington, D.C., 5 January 1909, p.12; Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, 3 January 1909, p.1D). He was survived by his wife and four sons.

William Lee White was truly a Renaissance man. In his lifetime he had been a physician, teacher, farmer, merchant, coroner, hotel operator, banker, journalist and government employee.

William L. White married twice – Jane Tompkins (1831-1894), in 1852 and Anna Eliza (Cox) Stakes (1844-) in 1895. By his first wife he had four sons – Roley Lee (1857-1950), resided in Louisville, KY, where he is buried in Cave Hill Cemetery; John Tompkins (1859-1925), resided in Pittsburgh & Philadelphia, PA, buried in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Montgomery County, PA); William Grant (1864- in 1910 living in Washington, D.C.); and George V. (1867- in 1910 he was single and living San Francisco, CA).



Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL, Monday, 18 November 1861, p.2:

Peril of Army Surgeons – The Louisville *Journal* of the 14th says:

Dr. W. Lee White, Surgeon of the Second Kentucky Regiment in Western Virginia, and Dr. Wirtz, the Medical Director, were fired at repeatedly on Sunday last, at Gauley, by the rebels across the river, as they were proceeding with a red flag to rescue some wounded men of the pickets. The rebels paid no respect to the flag, but fired at least a dozen shots at it. The Doctors, however, escaped without injury, and brought the wounded men safely into camp.



The Tri-Weekly Kentucky Advocate, Danville, KY, Friday, 2 March 1894, p.3:

White — Monday February 12, Mrs. Jane Tompkins White, the beloved wife of Dr .W Lee White died, at her residence at Floral Hill, District of Columbia, after a short illness. She was sixty-two years of age and was a daughter of the late John Tompkins of Danville.



The Washington Post, Washington, D.C., Sunday, 23 January 1898, p.5C:

KENTUCKY’S UNION REGIMENTS

“The Twin Orphans of the War” Ignored by Historians.

Editor Post: A recent Kentucky history omits any mention of the two Kentucky regiments raised in defense of this Union. The Official Roster of the soldiers of the state of Ohio in the war

of the rebellion was published in 1895 under authority and approval of the General Assembly of that state. In this roster the First and Second Kentucky Regiments were claimed for Ohio This claim aroused the mettle of the Kentuckians, and the controversy among the old veterans was quite spirited.

Knowing that Dr. William Lee White had served as assistant surgeon in the First Kentucky Regiment I called upon him recently at his residence 933 New York avenue, for information. Dr. White is a Kentuckian and was among the first to declare unequivocally for the Union in the face of opposition from his family and nearest friends, and notwithstanding the fact that he belonged to the slave-holding class. Once having espoused the cause, he took part with all the energy and enthusiasm of his generous and impulsive nature, drawing upon his own private means to provide proper food for the sick when surgeon in charge of the post in the Kanawha Valley and assisting in the same way in raising the Twelfth Kentucky Cavalry. Gen. Grant recognized his services by making a personal request for his appointment in the Pension Office where, he still holds the place.

“What do you know, Doctor,” I asked him, “about the officers and men of the First and Second Kentucky Regiments, and the history of their organization?”

“I ought to know something,” he replied, “for I was in at the beginning. All the historians,” he continued, “ have totally failed to give any account of the formation of these two regiments, which was the first practical movement to enlist Kentuckians in the Union Army. In Howe’s Historical Collections of Ohio the author says: ‘Some of the first Kentucky regiments so-called, were almost entirely composed of Ohio men and commanders’ To my own knowledge this statement is absolutely without foundation, as will appear from the following facts: Knowing public sentiment of the people of Kentucky in favor of neutrality and anticipating what proved to be the fact that Union troops would not be permitted to be enlisted and organized within the boundaries of the State, a number of gentlemen under the lead of Col. James V. Guthrie, established a rendezvous for recruits at Camp Clay, in the suburbs of Cincinnati and within its corporate limits.

“Among those who took an active part in this enterprise were Col. James V. Guthrie, Dr. S. G. Menzies, Col. William E. Woodruff, Col. D. A. Euyart, Col. George W. Neff, Maj. Bart. Lieper, Maj. Thomas D. Sedgwick, Capt. Austin, Adjutant Henry Windel, Capt. Warner Spencer, Dr. Pursell Bonner, Capt. Hurd, Capt. Frank Fee, Maj. Mitchell, Capt. Ralph Hunt, Capt. Cahil, and myself.

"It was a private and personal enterprise, undertaken solely on our own account and responsibility. We had no State or Federal stores to draw upon, and had to find quarters, food and clothing as best we could. The people of Cincinnati and Kentucky contributed liberally. Miss Clara Grant, a sister of the General was very often in our camp with ladies from across the river bringing in supplies, Some merchants and dealers would furnish us, taking chances for future payment by the government. It was in this way that Dr. Menzies, Surgeon of the First, and myself procured medicines and apparatus Not being recognized by any State or Federal authority these two regiments were dubbed “the twin orphans of the war,” which name they carried to the last.

"That Kentucky is entitled to the credit of these regiments will appear from the facts that the plan was originated by Kentuckians in Kentucky; that Col. Guthrie, of Kentucky, was the prime mover and first opened a recruiting office in Cincinnati: that Col. Woodruff. Of the Second, another Kentuckian, had served with distinction in the Mexican war and was a trained soldier when such men were rare and in great demand. The influence of Col. Guthrie and the military experience of Col. Woodruff were large factors in the success of the undertaking. Dr. Menzies was also a Kentuckian though residing at the time in Cincinnati; Col. Neff was a Kentuckian, and resided at

Newport; Maj. Sedgwick was a resident of Louisville, and brought a company of Kentuckians with him; Lieut. Williamson, of Newport; Adjutant Windel, from Louisville, and Capt. Hurd, from Greenup County Ky., who brought a company. There were others whose names I do not now recall.

"Cincinnati was a central point, and we enlisted men from many different States, but chiefly from Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana. We were all brother-comrades in arms, and: no one thought of asking where a man was from, nor are any remarks herein made intended in the least degree to disparage the members of these regiments from other States, or to make any invidious comparisons.

I will not say that a majority of officers or men were Kentuckians, but I do say that at that time the raising of these regiments was looked upon as a Kentucky enterprise, and no one then dreamed of denying it. There was something about the traditional military spirit and prowess which attaches to the history of the State that had a charm to draw men, and none was ever heard to object to the name.

"While others were dispensing brilliant oratory we were enlisting men, drilling and preparing for active service. We had already driven Wise out of the Kanawha Valley before any other Kentucky troops were in the field. "The twin orphans" made their record under Buell, in the Atlanta expedition and on the field of Shiloh and Stone River. The most have passed away, but while they lived they were proud to be known as having belonged to the First and Second Kentucky Regiments. The few who survive are no less spirited, and will resist all attempts to detract in the least degree from our just rights and claims."

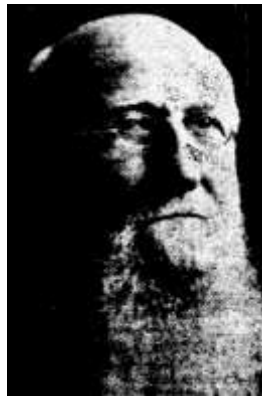
William Macou Coleman.



Evening Star, Washington, D.C., Sunday, 11 August 1907, p.9:

DR. W. L. WHITE TO CELEBRATE
WILL ATTAIN AGE OF EIGHTY- SIX YEARS TOMORROW.

Exercises at the Floral Hill Homestead –
Members of Oldest In habitants to Participate.



Dr. William Lee White is to have a birthday anniversary tomorrow, and scores of his friends in the District will unite with him in celebrating the event. There will be many members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association participating, and likewise many of the doctor's friends from

the pension office, where he is employed, and from other branches of the government service. Floral Hill, the White homestead on the further shore of the Eastern branch, will blossom in earnest with the very excess of good feeling incident to the safe arrival of its owner at another milestone in the journal of life. Dr. White will attain the age of eighty-six years tomorrow.

For many years one of the leading citizens of the Capital city. Dr. White has been the moving spirit in many movements for civic improvements in the District. He is a native of Kentucky and a veteran of the civil war, having served throughout the great conflict as an army surgeon. In his home state and in Tennessee after the war Dr. White was identified with newspaper work, and he was also active in the political arena.

Ambitious for Reward.

Ambitious for reward at the hands of his party, and especially optimistic because of a relationship by marriage with the then President of the United States. Ulysses S. Grant, Dr. White came to Washington in 1870 and bent all his energies to securing an appointment to some branch of the consular service. Early in the course of his stay in Washington, Dr. White received the tender of a post in the pension office, but at first he spurned it. And in telling the story yesterday he took keen delight in recounting the trials and tribulations of those other days, which finally led him to accept gladly the pension office place.

Except for one brief period In 1873, when a disagreement with the then commissioner of pensions led to his resignation, Dr. White has been connected with the pension office continuously since 1870.

Conducts Campaign Paper.

In 1873. after his resignation, he went to Marlboro, Md.. and conducted a "campaign paper" in the interest of the candidacy of S. T. Suit for the Prince George county seat in the state senate, and he surprised not only Mr. Suit but all the county round by stirring up such enthusiastic republican sentiment in that democratic stronghold that Mr. Suit was elected with votes upon votes to spare.

After the Marlboro campaign Dr. White returned to the pension office, and for years he held one of the most important examinerships in that department. With four-score-and-six years to his credit Dr. William Lee White is mentally and physically alert as are many men of half his age, and his friends tomorrow may very properly congratulate him on the fact that he is "eighty-six years young."



The Washington Post, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, 13 August 1907, p.9:

DR. WHITE 83 YEARS OLD

Long-time Resident Holds Reception at "Floral Hill"
Two Hundred Friends, Including Mystic Shriners,
Oldest Inhabitants, and Veterans Do Him Honor.

Fully 200 persons congratulated Dr. William Lee White upon his eighty sixth birthday yesterday evening at the reception given by him at his home Floral Hill.

Representatives of all the different societies of which Dr. White is a member were present, including Mystic Shriners, Oldest Inhabitants, and Grand Army men.

The reception lasted from 3:30 to 10 o'clock, mostly on the lawn in front of Dr. Whites residence. Here a string orchestra played. Later friends of Dr. and Mrs. White gave various selections either vocal or instrumental. Among those who contributed to the programme were Miss Catherine McReynolds, Dr. Woodman, Dr. Evans and Mr. Barrett. Prof. Richards contributed an address in which he called for the passage of a resolution to present to the District Commissioners, to have the bridge crossing the Eastern Branch named for Dr. White.

Of all the people present, none was younger in spirit than the venerable host himself. Laughing and talking, seeing to the entertainment of his guests Dr. White was an example to many a younger man.

The greatest compliment that could have been paid me said Dr. White upon the arrival of Dr. Starr, the centenarian, and a member of the Oldest Inhabitants" Association, is to see my old friend Dr. Starr come all this distance to greet me. And the two old-young. men immediately began to jest with each other about their ages.

Dr. White was born in Kentucky, but the past thirty-seven years he has made his home in Washington occupying the same handsome old house, where yesterday he greeted his friends .He entered the army as a surgeon and served through the civil war. He later became interested in journalism. Shortly after coming to Washington he established a paper of his own calling it the Free Press. For years Dr. White has been connected with the Pension Office.

Dr. White has been married twice, first in 1852 at Danville, Ky. His wife died in 1894 leaving him four sons, Rolly Lee White, William G. White, both of whom are now in Washington, John T. White, of New York and George V. White, of San Francisco. His second marriage took place in 1895 when he married Mrs. A. G. Stakes, the widow of Judge Stakes, of California. The present Mrs. White, who was a Miss Anna B. Cox, daughter of John Watkins Cox, of Zanesville, Ohio, comes of one of the most distinguished families in the country.



The Washington Times, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, 13 August 1907, p.12:

DR. WHITE CELEBRATES 83d ANNIVERSARY

Floral Hill, the beautiful home of Dr. William Lee White, overlooking the waters of the Eastern Branch was the scene of merriment and good will yesterday afternoon and last night, when several hundred of the owners friends gathered to congratulate him on having passed his eighty-third milestone milestone.

At 3:30 in the afternoon the guests began to arrive. Among those present were not only the intimate friends of the family, but also large delegations from the numerous fraternal organizations of which Dr. White is a member. Notable among these was Dr. Starr, the centenarian, who vied with his genial host in "youthful" vigor.

Swinging lanterns were hung at dusk, and the soft glow from the candles as it fell on the white dresses of the women and their escorts as they gaily chatted on the greensward presented a most pleasing spectacle. An orchestra furnished music on the lawn. An impromptu program of vocal and instrumental selections was given by the guests late in the evening. Prof. Richards was called upon, and in a brief address, after congratulating Dr. White upon having reached his eighty-

third year, he suggested that a resolution be passed and sent to the District Commissioners calling for the a erection of a new bridge spanning the Eastern Branch and named after Dr. White.

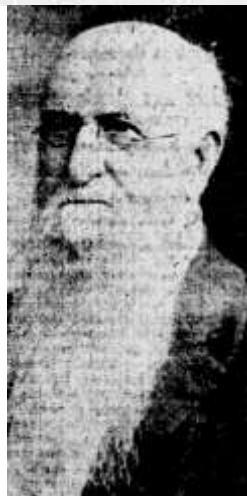
Dr. William Lee White has been a resident of the District for over thirty years, having come to this city from Kentucky in the hope of receiving an appointment from his brother-in-law, President Ulysses S. Grant. He accepted a post in the Pension Office, but after serving there for a number of years as an examiner he took charge of a small campaign paper in Maryland He returned to Washington after this and again went into the Pension Office, where he held an important position as pension examiner.

Previous to his coming to this city Dr. White served in the civil war as an army surgeon.



Evening Star, Washington, D.C., Saturday, 2 January 1909, p.2A:

DR. W. LEE WHITE DEAD
—
**Long-Time Resident of the
District Passes Away.**
—
SUCCUMBS TO ILLNESS
—
**Attains the Advanced Age of
Eighty-Eight Years.**
—
VETERAN OF THE CIVIL WAR
—
**Secures Prominence as Journalist,
Physician, Banker and Farmer.
Plans for the Funeral.**
—



Dr. William Lee White

Dr. W. Lee White, journalist, physician, banker and farmer, and a long-time and respected citizen of the District, died about 6 o'clock this morning at his home, Floral Hill. D.C. The cause of death was a complication of disorders incident to his advanced age. Dr. White was in the eighty-eighth year of his age, and had been ill since October 16, when he was seized by a chill while at his desk in the pension bureau. He was given first aid treatment in the emergency hospital of the bureau and then went to his home.

Dr. White was born near Louisville, Ky., in 1821. He was well acquainted with Henry Clay, and cast his first ballot for him in 1844. For many years he was a neighbor and co-laborer with George D. Prentice, the journalist. When the civil war broke out, in 1861, Dr White entered the Union army and served as surgeon of the 1st Kentucky Volunteers.

Possessed Many Friends.

In the suburbs beyond the Eastern branch of the Potomac, where he resided so long, and, indeed, throughout the District of Columbia, he had many warm friends. His country place adjoining Randle Highlands, near the intersection of Minnesota and Pennsylvania avenues, has been subdivided and is known as Floral Hill. He had lived in the southeastern suburbs since 1875.

Dr. White was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia and of the G. A. R. His long life was filled with activities. He had a wide acquaintance with public men. About 1886 he edited and published in this city a weekly newspaper, the National Free Press. Previously he had published the Counterfeit Detector, at Louisville, Ky., and in 1872 was the editor of the South Maryland Republican, published at Upper Marlboro, Md.

Interested in the District.

Dr. White was a man of pleasing and possessed the happy faculty of making friends and "holding them by hoops of steel," as he was wont to say. He always manifested a keen interest in all matters tending toward the upbuilding of the District and made a study of local history. It was through his efforts that the dueling ground of the Graves-Cilley affair was located about twenty-seven years ago. He escorted a cavalcade of vehicles containing many senators and representatives to the exact spot on which Cilley fell mortally wounded by his Kentucky adversary. Prior to that time the location of the dueling place had not been definitely known.

His first wife was Miss Jane Tompkins of Danville, Ky., who died in February, 1894. In 1895 he married again, his second wife being Mrs. Anna E. Stakes, widow of Judge Stakes of California. Besides Mrs. White, four sons survive him. They are R. Lee White and William Grant White of this city, John T. White of Pittsburg, Pa., and George W. White of San Francisco. At the time of his death Dr. White was a clerk in the pension bureau.

The remains have been removed from his home to the chapel of J. William Lee, 3JH Pennsylvania avenue, where they may be viewed by his friends and where the funeral will take place.



The Washington Post, Washington, D.C., Tuesday, 5 January 1909, p.12:

DR. WHITE BURIED.

Funeral Services for Former Editor Held Yesterday.

Funeral services for Dr. William Lee White, well-known editor, banker and farmer, who died at his home in Floral Saturday morning were held in the chapel of the Lee undertaking rooms 332 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, yesterday afternoon. The body was buried in the Congressional Cemetery.

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia and the G. A. R. were represented at the funeral. Services were conducted by Rev. L. Flynn, pastor of the Gorsuch Methodist Episcopal Church.

Two of Dr White's former co-laborers at the Pension Bureau and members of the societies to which he belonged acted pallbearers.

The pallbearers were: William Fastnaught, R. Gannon, T. P. Whitney, R. Du Bois, H. Buckley, and A. Breis.

Dr White was born in Louisville Ky., and at the close of the war took up journalistic work in that city. Later he came to Washington, where he published a weekly newspaper, the National Free Press. He is survived by four sons, two of whom live in Washington.



Congressional Cemetery
Washington, D.C.

