

Buckingham, Caleb	d. 3 Feb 1872		R72/D-4
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The National Intelligencer, February 11, 1842
Perseverance Fire Company
 At a meeting of this Company, held on the 3d instant, the following persons were elected officers for 1842:
 John H. Goddard, President
 Andrew Rothwell, Treasurer
 George S. Gideon, Secretary
 Caleb Buckingham, Captain of Enginemmen
 Samuel Bacon, Captain of Hosemen.

Buckingham, Francis R.	d. 13 Sep 1898	19 yrs. 11 mos.	R136/185
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Buckingham. Tuesday night, September 13, 1898, at 9:05 o'clock, at his parents' residence, 627 North Carolina avenue southeast, Francis Ralph Buckingham, youngest son of Francis M. and Frances A. Buckingham, aged 19 years and 11 months. Funeral from Eastern Presbyterian Church, Thursday, September 15 at 1:30 p.m.

Buckingham, Harry M.	d. 13 Nov 1894	40 yrs.	R16/154
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Buckingham. Suddenly in Baltimore, November 13, 1894 at 5:30 a.m., Harry Mortimer Buckingham in the 38th year of his age. Funeral Thursday, November 15 at 2 p.m. from his parents' residence, 233 9th street southeast. Relatives and friends invited. Interment in Congressional Cemetery (Baltimore papers please copy).

The Evening Star, November 13, 1894

Harry Buckingham's Death

His Costume Caught Fire While Dressing to Go on the Stage

Harry Buckingham, a member of the "Take a Light" company, died at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore this morning. In the play he takes a ballet part. Mr. Buckingham was in a dressing room last evening, getting ready for his part, when his costume caught fire at a stove, and he was fatally injured before his burning clothing could be torn from him.

Mr. Buckingham was the son of Mr. John E. Buckingham of this city, the veteran doorkeeper, and his wife and child live in this city. He was born in Washington and was forty years of age. He went on the stage when fourteen years old, and had been connected with it ever since. He was formerly known as Harry Mortimer.

The Evening Star, November 14, 1884

Harry Buckingham's Funeral

It Will Take Place Tomorrow From His Father's Residence

The body of Mr. Harry Buckingham, the actor, who died in Baltimore yesterday, as a result of burns received on Monday night, was brought back to this city last evening by his brother, Mr. J.E. Buckingham, jr. The funeral will take place tomorrow at 3 o'clock, services being held at the residence of Mr. J.E. Buckingham, 233 9th street southeast. Rev. Mr. McCoskey of the North Carolina Avenue M.E. Church will officiate. The interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

Mr. Buckingham's father, the veteran theatrical doorkeeper, has been confined to his house by a severe attack of rheumatism for three months, and is greatly affected by the sad fate of his son. Many of his old friends have called upon him to express their deep sympathy. Mrs. Harry Buckingham, whose stage name is Miss Mary Hill, is now in the west with her company.

Buckingham, Jemima	d. 12 Jul 1901	68 yrs. 11 mos.	R19/180
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Buckingham. On Friday, July 12, 1901 at 3:15 p.m., Jemima, beloved wife of J.E. Buckingham, sr. in her 69th year. Funeral Monday, 11 a.m. from her late residence, 113 Third street southeast. Friends invited to attend.

The Evening Star, July 13, 1901, p. 12

Funeral of Mrs. Buckingham

Funeral services will be held Monday over the remains of Mrs. John E. Buckingham, who died yesterday at the family residence, 113 3d street.

Mrs. Buckingham was the wife of John E. Buckingham, well-known as a theatrical doorkeeper, having been employed at the National Theater and at Albaugh's Opera House for many years. He was also the doorkeeper at Ford's Theater upon the night that President Lincoln was assassinated. Mr. and Mrs. Buckingham had made arrangements to celebrate their golden wedding, but Mrs. Buckingham's illness prevented anything of the kind. The deceased had been ill for some time prior to her death, and about two weeks ago one of her sons was summoned here from the west because of her extremely critical condition. She was a woman of many sterling qualities, and her death will be sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends. It is expected that at the funeral on Monday all of her sons and their wives will be present.

Buckingham, John E. (Sr.)

d. 29 Mar 1909

81 yrs.

R19/180

Buckingham. On Friday, March 26, 1909 at 8:50 a.m. at the residence of his son, 716 8th street northeast, John E. Buckingham, Sr. Funeral on Monday, March 29 at 2 p.m. Interment private.



J. E. Buckingham.

The Evening Star, Friday, March 26, 1909

Familiar Face Gone -- Death of John E. Buckingham the Veteran Doorkeeper

Enfeebled for a Year

Known to Thousands of Theater-Goers of the City -- Last One to Talk to Booth

Conversed With Lincoln's Assassin Shortly Before the Tragedy on 10th Street Occurred

John E. Buckingham, who was a doorkeeper at the old Ford's Theater, on 10th Street the night of President Lincoln's assassination, died at the home of his son, John E. Buckingham, jr., 716 8th street northeast, at 8:50 o'clock this morning. Mr. Buckingham was eighty-one years old.

His death, although expected, was a great shock to the members of his family and the large number of friends both in this city and Baltimore. He had been practically confined to the house, because of his enfeebled condition, for the past year.

Mr. Buckingham married in 1851 in Baltimore, Miss Jemima Young, who died about eight years ago at her home in this city. In addition to a number of grandchildren, Mr. Buckingham's four sons, John E. Buckingham, jr.; Charles Buckingham, George Buckingham, and William Buckingham, survive him. A fifth son, Henry Buckingham, a successful actor, lost his life to a theater fire in Baltimore about fourteen years ago.

The Veteran Doorkeeper

John E. Buckingham was born in Baltimore. He learned the trade of woodmaker and served an extended apprenticeship. Mr. Buckingham came to Washington in 1861 to take a position as expert woodman at the Washington navy yard. There he labored continuously until 1887, and then entered the service of Edward Clark, then Architect of the Capitol.

While he was employed by Mr. Clark he constructed the portable scaffolding in the rotunda of the Capitol from which the artists worked in decorating the interior walls. After being employed by Mr. Clark about ten years he retired from active pursuits and made his home with his eldest son, John E. Buckingham, jr., at 716 8th street northeast.

Mr. Buckingham soon after his arrival here devoted his evenings to the theaters, having had a previous experience in Baltimore as doorkeeper at the playhouses there. He was employed at different times as doorkeeper of several theaters in Washington.

During Mr. Buckingham's experience as doorkeeper in this city and Baltimore he compiled a continuous record of events covering a period of more than thirty-five years. At the time of the assassination of

President Lincoln in April, 1865, Mr. Buckingham was the doorkeeper of Ford's Theater, and conversed with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin, about ten or fifteen minutes before the crime was committed.

Recollections of Booth

In speaking of the incident recently, Mr. Buckingham said:

"About ten minutes or more before he shot Mr. Lincoln Booth came to me at the front door and chatted over some trivial matters, during which he asked me for a chew of tobacco -- I recollect that as though it were yesterday. Suddenly he looked up and asked me what time it was. I didn't have a watch, and directed him to go to the box office, where he could see the clock on the inside.

"He glanced at the timepiece, then returned to where I was standing and talked a minute or so more before entering the theater. He walked down the aisle opposite the box occupied by the President, looked about him, and then left. A very short time after that he fired the fatal shot. Throughout the whole time he talked to me there wasn't the slightest indication of nervousness or suppressed excitement. He was about the coolest man I ever talked with."

Immediately after the shooting, Mr. Buckingham, with a large number of others who were about the theater at the time or were rounded up in different sections of the city, was taken to the navy yard and confined until the preliminary investigation into the murder had been concluded. It was proven conclusively to the inquisitors that the doorkeeper had nothing to do with the assassination plot, and in the course of several days was released.

Career as Doorkeeper

Subsequent to the assassination of President Lincoln and the closing up of Ford's Theater, Mr. Buckingham was employed as doorkeeper at Watt's, afterward Ford's Opera House, now the Majestic Theater, also at the old Washington Theater. Albaugh's Grand Opera House, the National Theater and the Lafayette, now the Belasco. His active work as a theater doorkeeper ended when he retired from the gates of the Lafayette entrance because of physical disability.

Prior to coming to Washington he was employed as doorkeeper at John T. Ford's Theater, in Baltimore, and in his youth acted as call boy in the same house. In this capacity Mr. Buckingham met many of the leading actors and actresses of that day, including Edwin Booth.

Because of his long association with various theaters Mr. Buckingham enjoyed an extensive acquaintance among actors of the old school, and delighted to talk of his theatrical experiences.

The Evening Star, Monday, April 15, 1889

Twenty-Four Years Go

Today the Anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Death

Some of the Circumstances Connected with His Assassination Recalled by Men who Witnessed the Occurrence and Who Remember the Incidents

Doorkeeper Buckingham's Memory

"You were keeping door at the theater on that fatal night were you not?" said a Star reporter recently to Mr. John Buckingham, now the doorkeeper at Albaugh's, when the conversation had turned upon the tragedy, after speaking of Edwin Booth's oath never to play in Washington again.

"I was, indeed," was the reply, "and I don't want ever to go through such an experience again. Booth came up to the door and looked into the house two or three times during the evening before he went upstairs to go around to the President's box. He made some pleasant remark to me, and wanted I should leave the door and go into the adjoining saloon with him, and take a drink; but I declined to do so. He had the run of the house and could, of course, go where he pleased. I never once thought of his having any particular motive in his frequent visits to the door and glances about the house. It was late when the President arrived, and there had begun to be a fear that, after all the preparations that had been made, such as decorating the boxes, etc., he would not put in an appearance. He did come, though, and I remember he had the same kindly smile, though tinged with sadness, that I had always noticed when he came to the theater. I was not looking at the stage

when the shot was fired, but the moment I heard the sound of the pistol I turned into the house just in time to see Booth jump from the box and rush back of the scenes. No one realized at first what had happened, until there was one piercing shriek from Mrs. Lincoln, and then the cry from some one, 'He shot the President,' told of the terrible crime that had been committed. Harry Haw and Laura Keene were on the stage, for you remember it was 'Our American Cousin' that was being played, and they appeared perfectly paralyzed with terror. Billy Withers, who was leading the orchestra and big Joe Stuart, were the first to get upon the stage and make a rush for Booth, and the former had a slit or two cut in his coat by the knife which Booth had in his hand. Neither of them could stop him, however, and he got away. You know all the rest. I had a light overcoat that I had put under the rack where I kept my checks, and I forgot, all about that until a month afterward, when I found it just where I had left it."

Buckingham, John Edward (Jr.)

d. 4 Jan 1927

72 yrs.

R19/179

Buckingham. Suddenly on Tuesday, January 4, 1927 at 2:55 p.m. at Union Station, John E. beloved husband of Eva Buckingham of 478 Massachusetts Avenue northwest. Services will be held at the residence of his brother, William C. Buckingham, 213 8th street southeast on Friday, January 7 at 2 p.m. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.



The Evening Star, Wednesday, January 5, 1927

John E. Buckingham is Called by Death

Retired Interior Department Employee Fatal Stricken When Parting With Brother at Station

John E. Buckingham, 72 years old, retired Interior Department cabinet maker, and well known Potomac fisherman, of 478 Massachusetts avenue was fatally stricken yesterday with a heart attack at a Union Station train gate as he was saying goodbye to his brother, Charles W. Buckingham, of Sparta, Wis., and died within a few minutes in the emergency room at the station. His sudden illness

and death were unexpected, as he had been in robust health all his life. He and the brother had just enjoyed their first reunion in 20 years.

Mr. Buckingham was born in Washington, the son of the late John E. Buckingham, who was doorkeeper at Ford's Theater on the night President Lincoln was assassinated. He entered the employ of the navy yard as an apprentice and worked for many years there as a journeyman cabinet maker, later serving the Interior Department for 15 years until his retirement in 1924. Since then he had been employed keeping in repair the apartment properties of Alonzo O. Bliss.

A familiar figure among local anglers, Mr. Buckingham, it was said, "knew every hole in the Potomac," where his leisure hours were spent fly casting and trolling. His hobby was to fashion fishing rods and tackle. The late President Harding was the recipient of a fishing rod of Mr. Buckingham's handiwork. Postmaster Mooney was a frequent companion angler on his fishing expeditions, which were noted for the elaborate equipment of fishing tackle. He was a member of Osiris Lodge F.A.A.M.

Mr. Buckingham is survived by his wife, Mrs. Eva Buckingham; a son, William E. Buckingham, advertising manager Telegram-News, Lynn, Mass.; a daughter, Mrs. Mildred A. Nicholson of Peoria, Ill., and two brothers, Charles W. Buckingham and William C. Buckingham, of this city, all of whom will be present at the funeral services Friday at the latter's residence, 213 Eighth street southeast at an hour to be announced later. Interment will take place in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, January 6, 1927

Buckingham Funeral Set for Tomorrow

Osiris Lodge to Conduct Services for Son of Former Doorkeeper of Ford's Theater

Funeral services for John E. Buckingham, 72 years old, retired Interior Department cabinet maker and well known Potomac angler, of 478 Massachusetts avenue, who died Tuesday at Union Station, will be conducted tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at the residence of his brother, William C. Buckingham, 213 Eighth street

southeast, followed by interment in Congressional cemetery under the auspices of Osiris Lodge, No. 26, F.A.A.M., of which he was a member.

Mr. Buckingham, the son of the late John E. Buckingham, doorkeeper at Ford's Theater on the night President Lincoln was assassinated is survived by his widow, Mrs. Eva Buckingham, a son, William E. Buckingham, advertising manager, Telegram-News, Lynn, Mass.; a daughter, Mrs. Mildred A. Nicholson of Peoria, Ill., and two brothers, Charles W. Buckingham of Sparta, Wis., and William C. Buckingham of this city, all of whom will be present at the funeral services.

Buckingham, Leona	d. 30 Apr 1877	46 yrs.	R76/322
Buckingham. On Monday evening, April 30, 1877, after a brief illness, Leana, wife of Franklin L. Buckingham, aged 46 years. Friends and relatives invited to attend the funeral, from her late residence, No. 424 8th street southeast, tomorrow (Wednesday), May 2, at 2 o'clock p.m.			

Buckingham, Mrs. Lydia Farrell	d. 18 Nov 1870	78 yrs.	R72/D-3
Buckingham. On Friday morning, November 18 after a lingering illness, Lydia Farrell Buckingham, wife of Caleb Buckingham in the 79th year of her age. Her funeral will take place from the residence of her husband, No. 929, E street on Saturday afternoon the 19th inst., at 2 o'clock to proceed to Congressional Cemetery. The relatives and friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.			