

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
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Dennis, Archie C.B.	d. 6 Nov 1891	22 yrs.	R28/214
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Dennis. On Friday evening, November 6, 1891 at 11:05 Archie C.B. Dennis, beloved husband of Mamie Dennis in the 23d year of her age. Funeral from residence of his brother-in-law, 410 Eighth street southeast on Sunday at 2 p.m. Friends of family invited.

Dennis, John Bennett	d. 27 Sep 1868	67 yrs. 1 mos. 28 days	R28/215
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Dennis. On the 27th inst., John Bennett, son of Thomas and Sarah A. Dennis, aged 67 years 1 months 28 days.

Dennis, Manual B.	d. 1 Jul 1859	1 yr. 7 mos. 19 days	R28/215
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Dennis. On the 1st inst., Manual B., youngest child of Thomas and Sarah A. Dennis, aged 1 year 7 months 19 days. The funeral will take place from their residence, 386 G street south between 6 and 7th st. east. The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend this (Saturday) evening at 5 o'clock. (Philadelphia papers please copy).

Dennis, Littleton Purnell	b. 21 Jul 1786 - d. 14 Apr 1834	47 yrs.	R30/69
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See the on-line "Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress"

The National Intelligencer, Wednesday, April 16, 1834

In the Senate

A message was received from the House of Representatives by Walter B. Franklin, Esq. their clerk, notifying the Senate of the death of the Hon. Littleton Purnell Dennis, late a member of the House, from the State of Maryland, and that his funeral would take place from the Hall of the House of Representatives tomorrow at 12 o'clock.

The message having been read, Mr. Kent, of Maryland rose and said -- Mr. President: The message which has just been read, announces to you, and to the Senate, the death of the late Mr. Dennis, one of the Representatives from the State of Maryland, in the other branch of Congress. Already, Mr. President, our feelings have been repeatedly agonized by the sudden death of several of our associates, in the legislative labours of the session, and the one that has just been made known to us is little less sudden than those that have preceded it.

But a few days since, and the deceased was busily engaged in the attentive discharge of the duties of his station, and he is now numbered with the dead. He is gone to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns." Truly has it been said, "in the midst of life we are in death." The deceased was a native of Somerset County, in Md., a prominent member of a highly respectable family, in the 50th year of his age, and although of a delicate constitution, was justifiable in looking forward yet to many years of usefulness and happiness. He was a member of the Bar, justly esteemed in his profession, and always in possession of the confidence of his countrymen. His modest, unassuming, and retiring habits, could not conceal from them his good sense, and high attainments; and early in life he was returned a delegate to the General Assembly of Maryland, and has been continued in the discharge of his legislative labors, with but little interruption to the period of his decease.

Mr. Kent then submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted;

Resolved, unanimously, That the Senate will attend the funeral of the Hon. Littleton P. Dennis, late a member of the House of Representatives, from the State of Maryland, at the hour of 12 o'clock tomorrow; and, as a testimony of respect for the memory of the deceased, they will go into mourning by wearing crape round the left arm for thirty days.

On motion of Mr. Kent, the Senate then adjourned.

In the House

The Journal of yesterday's Proceedings having been read, on the opening of the House--Mr. Stoddert, of Maryland, rose, and addressed the House as follows:

Mr. Speaker: In announcing the death of Littleton Purnell Dennis, a Representative on this floor from the State of Maryland, I discharge a sad and solemn duty. Not a week has elapsed since he mingled in the deliberations, and cooperated in the active duties of this House; he now sleeps the sleep of death. What an impressive illustration of the instability of human life -- "of what shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue." The deceased stood to me, sir, in the double relation of colleague and friend. I knew him long and well. He was a useful, benevolent, and estimable man, and has finished his course in honor. He was no tame and ordinary character; and although his modesty may have delayed the development of his faculties for public service, during his brief connection with this House, his State is not left without proofs of his legislative prudence and skill. He served her in both branches of her Legislature for many years, with honor and ability. He was well gifted by nature, well educated, and well principled. His native sagacity, sound judgment and decision, and purity of purpose, made him what he was, a capable and honest public agent. The brave, generous, open, and manly qualities of his nature secured him the confidence and affections of the people among whom he lived, and made it their delight to honor him.

He is gone hence, sir, but his memory will survive, embalmed in the kindly regards of those who knew and appreciated his noble and manly qualities, and unembittered and untarnished by a single act of meanness, injustice and oppression. He died, as he had lived, deserving and possessing the warm-hearted esteem of many, the ill-will of none. As the last act of respectful duty which it remains for friendship to perform, I move you, sir, the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Members of this House will attend the funeral of the late Littleton Purnell Dennis, at 12 o'clock, tomorrow.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to take order for superintending the Funeral of Littleton Purnell Dennis, deceased, late a Member of this House from the State of Maryland.

Resolved, That the members of this House will testify their respect to the memory of Littleton Purnell Dennis, by wearing crape on the left arm for thirty days.

Ordered, That a message be sent to the Senate to notify that body of the death of Littleton P. Dennis, late one of the Representatives from the State of Maryland, and that his funeral will take place tomorrow, at twelve o'clock, from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The above resolutions and order were unanimously adopted, and then The House adjourned.

The National Intelligencer, Thursday, April 17, 1834

The funeral of the late Hon. Littleton P. Dennis, one of the Representatives in Congress from Maryland, was attended by both Houses of Congress yesterday at the appointed hour. In consequence of this melancholy engagement, neither House transacted business yesterday.

Dennis, Thomas

d. 23 Jul 1908

85 yrs. 9 mos.

R28/214

Dennis. On Thursday, July 23, 1908 at 5:30 a.m., Thomas Dennis, beloved husband of Frances E. Dennis and father of Mrs. R.A. Bennett and George E. Dennis, aged 85 years and 9 months. Funeral from Lee's chapel, Saturday, July 25 at 2 p.m. Interment at Congressional cemetery. Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The Evening Star, July 18, 1903, p. 23

Armless, But Happy

Uncle Sam's Cheerful Quartet of Employees

Capable and Adroit

Interesting Stories of Their Lives and Likes

Messrs. S.H. Decker, Thomas Dennis, W.B. Denny and L.A. Neur

Find Many Things To Do

In the vast army of Uncle Sam's hired help in Washington no more interesting characters can be found than four armless men -- S.H. Decker, Thomas Dennis, W.B. Denny and L.A. Neur -- each one happy and prosperous, and who, even in their seemingly helpless condition, have successfully accomplished undertakings almost past belief.

...

Mr. Thomas Dennis

"I am in my eighty-first year and expect to live out the full century," said Mr. Thomas Dennis, "and the report that I gave up my place in the War Department on account of old age is untrue. I simply want to live quietly and enjoy myself the remainder of my life, and I am going to do it."

Mr. Dennis is the "dean" of the armless men employed by the government in Washington, and until a few months ago was a watchman in the War Department. If vigorous looks and actions go for anything, this gentleman will be on this earth many years yet, for he does not look a day over sixty, and there is not a crow's foot on his smooth and round face, and he is the picture of health. "Mrs. Dennis is the best cook in eighteen states," he declared, "and I have an eat-up-everything appetite. I am able to buy what we want to eat; I take just a little bitters occasionally, smoke one good cigar a day, take three chews of tobacco; have always had a clear head and conscience and that is all there is to it."

When Mr. Dennis was a young man he enlisted as a seaman in the United States navy, being assigned to the Princeton. While cruising in the Mediterranean along the coast of Africa the accident occurred which caused the loss of his arms. Prince Demidoff of Russia, who married Napoleon's sister, Princess Matilda, was at Gibraltar and paid a visit to the American vessel. The prince enjoyed his visit thoroughly, and as he was leaving a salute was fired in his honor. Mr. Dennis had fired the first gun, and was ramming the second charge home when there was a premature discharge, completely tearing off both the young seaman's arms. Prince Demidoff was greatly shocked by the accident, and at once made the offer to have the sailor carried ashore and to provide liberally for him then and for all time. Of course this generous offer was declined by the officers, but Mr. Dennis was sent to one of the best hospitals, and as soon as the prince heard of this he had the most skilled surgeons and nurses employed and gave instructions that the young man was to receive the best attention.

Traveled With Demidoff

When Mr. Dennis was able to travel the prince carried him from city to city, furnishing him with the finest clothes and everything that money could buy, having false arms made for him at different times. After a time Mr. Dennis came back to the United States, but Prince Demidoff had a liberal allowance sent him regularly, and at his death it was found that an annuity of \$80 had been provided for him in the will of the young prince. This Mr. Dennis receives each year, and with the \$100 a month pension from the United States government and a snug sum saved from a liberal salary he has received for many years, he has plenty to live on the balance of his life.

Mr. Dennis has several grown sons and one daughter. One of the sons is in the real estate business in Chicago and another is in business in Philadelphia. Before coming to Washington, which was in 1893, Mr. Dennis had made his home in Chicago for a number of years, being in the customs house for nearly seven years and at the county building for four years. When President Cleveland took Judge Gresham into his official family Mr. Dennis came to Washington to pay his respects to the judge, as they had been life-long friends, and he was persuaded to remain here.

"I am out of the harness for good," said Mr. Dennis, "and I hope some deserving man will fill the place I could still keep. The government has been considerate and liberal with me, and as I have enough I thought I ought to get out. I shall not be entirely idle, for I have some interests to look after which will give me something to do. I can go about a good deal and do a great many things with the aid of the 'Decker tweezers,' which are worth a train load of all the false arms and hands ever made, and Prince Demidoff had the very best made for me. I only keep them around the house because the generous young fellow gave them to me. He was one of the

Name

Birth/Death

Age

Range/Site

best fellows in the world, and his unhappy marriage sent him to an early grave. I have a number of valuable presents and keepsakes he gave and sent me."