

Schell, Francis Marion	d. 7 Jan 1903	75 yrs.	R55/278
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Schell. At Providence Hospital, on Wednesday, January 7, 1903, at 10 a.m., of diabetes, F.M. Schell, aged 75 years. Funeral private.

The Evening Star, January 8, 1903, p. 16

Death of a Veteran

Served in Mexican War with Kentucky Legion

Close Friend of the Late Justice Field--

Pioneer of '49 in California

Francis Marion Schell, one of Washington's few survivors of the Mexican War, and who has long been a familiar figure in this city, died yesterday at Providence Hospital after a short illness of diabetes. The disease took a form that necessitated the amputation of one of his limbs, which he endured with the fortitude which was a characteristic of his long life. The operation was, however, unavailing, and, after lingering for a day, he died. He was conscious up to a moment or two before death.

Mr. Schell was born at Frederick, Md. in 1827, but early went to the west. He served in the Kentucky legion through the Mexican war, and was a member of the small and ever-decreasing band of Mexican veterans which yearly called on the President New Year day. He was also a member of the local society of California Pioneers, who some years back made annual trips to Marshall Hall. He went to California after the Mexican war, and drove two wagon trains "the plains across." He was an active spirit in the stirring times in San Francisco, which culminated in the vigilance committee's work of ridding that city from a reign of lawlessness. His influence and active co-operation were given to the supporters of law and order. Mr. Schell was a close personal friend of the late Associate Justice Stephen J. Field, their friendship dating back from early times in California.

Returning from California to the east after the civil war, Mr. Schell settled in Indiana, and resided there a number of years. He came to Washington as an attache of the House of Representatives under the administration of Speaker Michael C. Kerr of Indiana. Since that time he has made Washington his residence and had many warm friends here. He was a Knight of Pythias for more than thirty years, and took particular interest in the work of Ascalon Temple, Knights of Khorassan, of which he was a charter member and Rathbone Temple of the Rathbone Sisters.

Mr. Schell was a man of large stature and fine personal appearance, and until very recently was in robust health for one of his age. He had been married more than half a century. His wife, three sons and three daughters survive him. His funeral will be held next Monday, the delay being occasioned by the desire of the family to await the arrival of his sons, E.P Schell and A. Pearl Schell, from San Francisco and Frank M. Schell, jr. from Chicago.