

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
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Varela, Catherine M. b. 6 Dec 1850 - d. 28 Dec 1939 89 yrs. **R50/1**

The Evening Star, December 29, 1939, p. A8

Mrs. C.M. Varela, 89, Sister of Sousa, Dies in Chevy Chase

As Schoolgirl Here She Attended Union Wounded During Civil War

Mrs. Catherine M. Varela, 89, older sister of John Philip Sousa, died yesterday at the home of her son, Osmund L. Varela, 18 Williams Lane, Chevy Chase, Md. She had been ill since Christmas Eve.

No musician herself, Mrs. Varela nevertheless followed with keen interest the career of her famous brother, four years younger. She had recently attended the ceremony at the opening of a portion of the new John Philip Sousa Bridge over the Anacostia River.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Mrs. Varela came to Washington when she was two years old. As a school girl she took food to the Union wounded brought to the Capitol during the Civil War. With the exception of six years spent in California, she had made her home here since 1852.

Mrs. Varela was the widow of Alexander C. Varela, War Department employe, who died some 25 years ago. For 84 years she attended Christ Protestant Episcopal Church, 622 G street S.E., taking a great interest in religious affairs.

Another son, Edmund A. Varela of Washington, and a sister, Mrs. James McK. Bower of Chicago, Ill., survive, as do eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow at Christ Church, with burial in Congressional Cemetery.

Paul E. Bierley, John Philip Sousa, American Phenomenon, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1973, p. 243

Catherine Margaret was the first of John Antonio and Marie Elisabeth Sousa's ten children and was born on December 6, 1850, in Brooklyn, New York. "Teeny," or "Tiny," as she was called, is the only one of Sousa's brothers or sisters mentioned in his autobiography, "Marching Along." This tends to strengthen the belief that she was his favorite. As the eldest child, she had to help bring up the younger children. One of her familiar sayings was "Mother had the babies, and I raised them." She was married to Alexander C. Varela, a chemist and photographer, in 1869. Except for six years in California, she spent most of her life in Washington, D.C. She died on December 28, 1939 and is buried in Congressional Cemetery.

Varela, Alexander C. d. 10 Sep 1915 76 yrs. **R50/2**

Varela. On Friday, September 10, 1915, Alexander C. Varela beloved husband of Catherine M. Varela in the 76th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 534 6th street southeast on Monday, September 13 at 2:30 p.m. Relatives and friends invited.

The Evening Star, September 11, 1915

A.G. Varela Succumbs After Brief Illness

Was Clerk in Surgeon General's Office, War Department--Long Time Resident of Washington

Alexander G. Varela, clerk of the surgeon general's office of the War Department, died last night at his home, 534 6th street southeast, after a short illness. Mr. Varela was seventy-six years old, and had been a resident of this city for the greater part of his life.

Born in Spain, Mr. Varela had just celebrated his sixteenth birthday when he came to this country. Shortly afterward he came to the District. He was a member of the B.B. French Lodge, F.A.A.M.; of Washington Chapter, No. 2, R.A.M.; the A.A.S.R. Consistory and George G. Meade Post, G.A.R. He will be buried with Masonic rites, the pallbearers probably being selected from the various orders with which he was affiliated.

Mr. Varela, who was a brother-in-law to John Philip Sousa, is survived by his wife and five sons, Osmund, Dr. Ernest, Edmund, Arthur and Alex Varela.

Mr. Sousa will be here for the funeral, which will take place Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. Dr. Thomas of St. Mark's Church will officiate.

Interment will be made in the Congressional cemetery.