

November 2018

Mystery Photo

Turns out that this was only a mystery to some. Others did a little research and found information on George Williams, 1873-1927. Thank you to all who emailed a response.

A quick search on Google brought up George Williams' obituary originally printed in the Burlington Gazette, 1 June 1927, Page 5, Column 3:



Photo by Alan Harrington

and was a prominent member of the Doherty Men's Fraternity club. He was the originator of the lighting effect on the Statue of Liberty in the New York Harbor. He is survived by his wife, a sister, Mrs. Thos. Paterson of Port Nelson, and a brother, Dudley Williams, of Detroit.

The funeral of the late George Williams, a native of Bronte, who died at Portland, Maine, on Wednesday last, took place to the Appleby Cemetery on Sunday morning last. The remains were brought from New York in a private car, and were accompanied by over 50 American friends. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. R.H. Somerville, pastor of the Appleby Church. The deceased was 54 years of age, and the son of the late Squire Henry Williams of Bronte. He left that village when quite a young man and located at Detroit. Later he went to Chicago, and afterwards settled at Cleveland, where, when the Spanish-American War broke out, he organized the Ohio National State guards. He served in Cuba, and contracted the yellow fever. He returned to Bronte, where he spent several months, returning to the States again, and taking up residence at Denver, Colorado, where he was employed with the Denver Gas Company. He later accepted a position with the City Services in New York City



Photo by Alan Harrington

To add to the non-mystery status of our “Mystery Photo”, in early November, the Burlington Post printed an article on Appleby Cemetery which can be read on www.insidehalton.com. I quote portions of that article:

As trucks rumble past and drivers hustle by on a busy stretch of Appleby Line, there is a small cemetery nestled north of a popular local business.

Unknown to most locals, with the exception of those who have loved ones interred there, is the Appleby Pioneer Cemetery. Located on the west side of Appleby Line, just north of Harvester Road, it’s easily missed by passersby, especially since it’s between Alexanian Carpet and the QEW off-ramp.....

Some gravestones are historic: George Williams 1873-1927, was the founder of Doherty Men’s Fraternity and was remembered as “an unselfish man, a loyal friend”.....

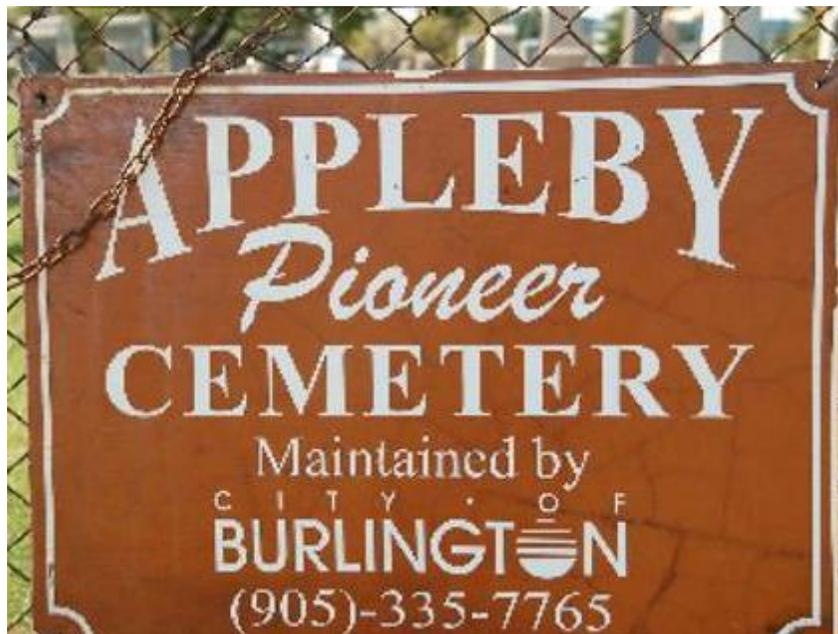


Photo by Pat Taylor



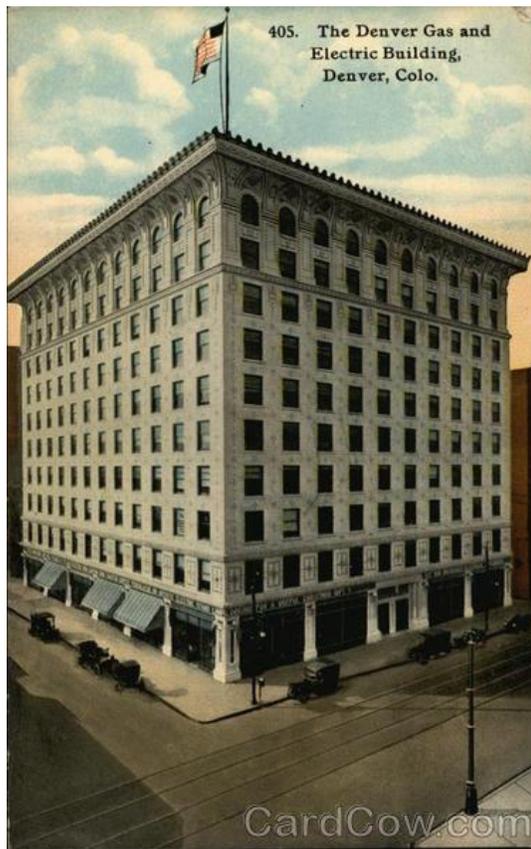
[www.insideHalton](http://www.insideHalton.com)

As the 1800s turned into the 1900s, cities wanted to become electric instead of using gas for lighting. This was a NEW THING with scarce number of people to work at it so Henry L. Doherty set up a fraternity. He seems to have been in Denver where George Williams worked. The fraternity is mentioned in the book Cities of Light and Heat (available on Google Books). However, this book makes no mention of George Williams.

It appears that Doherty's Men's Fraternities were like other service groups like YMCA and Kiwanis.



Built in 1910 to house the newly consolidated Denver Gas & Electric Company, the Gas & Electric Building provided visual evidence of the new prominence of electrical technology in American life and of Denver's status as a modern city.



It is not confirmed, however, since George lived in Ohio and served in Cuba, he may have been a member of this group:

6th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Mustered In: 12 May-2 July 1898 at Columbus, Ohio
Mustered Out: 24 May 1899 at Augusta, Georgia
Service Beyond the United States: Cuba
 Leaving the United States: 30 December 1898
 Arrival in Foreign Country: 3 January 1899
 Leaving Foreign Country: 21 April 1899
 Returned to United States: 26 April 1899
Total Number Accounted for on Muster Out Roll:
 Officers: 65
 Enlisted Men: 1,330

Thank you to Alan Harrington for research assistance. You now know who George Williams was and why he is buried in Appleby Pioneer Cemetery.

