

## James D. Barry ( - 15 Aug 1849)

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**Barry.** At his residence, near this city, on the 15th instant, James D. Barry, aged 75 years. The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral this day, at 3 o'clock p.m., from St. Peter's Church, Capitol Hill.

### **The Navy Yard Section During the Life of the Rev. William Ryland**

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Equally conspicuous with Griffith Coombe was his son-in-law, James D. Barry, whose residence was on Third Street, nearly opposite the Coombe house. He was a man of very pronounced ability, and, like his friend the celebrated Thomas Law, he had large conceptions of public duty, particularly with regard to what affected the interests of East Washington. After he had resided many years in the neighborhood of his father-in-law, he became possessed of the farm previously owned by his uncle, James Barry, at what was then called Poplar Point--just across the Anacostia River from Third Street, and moving to it with his family, lived there until he died. The village built on the land around Poplar Point is still frequently called Barry Farm. He married Juliana Coombe in 1811, and had a large family, some of his descendants being still residents of Washington. He died in 1849.

Mr. Barry was largely interested in business, both foreign and domestic, and he was very zealous as an advocate of the interests of the eastern section of the city, in opposition to the claims of the western section. He was one of the incorporators of the Washington Canal Company, an enterprise planned by him in association with Thomas Law, and from which great expectations were formed. In connection with the business of this Company, the furnishing of office for it, etc., he erected a large double brick building near the eastern basin of the canal, in which for many years a very considerable business was transacted part of which structure, now called Castle Thunder, is still standing, and which, on account of its situation, and from its manifest claim to past respectability, excites the surprise of nearly every one who has occasion to visit that now benighted spot. Mr. Barry was also one of the projectors of the Long Bridge across the Potomac, and was one of the incorporators of the company which built and owned it.

The immediate neighborhood of Mr. Barry's city residence was a very busy one in his day, made so largely by his example and energy. In that day the foot of New Jersey Avenue was one of the termini of the authorized line of hackney carriages in the city. It was the site of a sugar refinery largely owned by Thomas Law, and also of a brewery, then the only one here, of which the proprietary was Mr. Clement T. Coote. Much of the lumber and wood consumed in the city was brought there and sold; also most of the product of the Potomac River fisheries. The public tobacco inspection warehouse was likewise in this part of the city, being on Third Street above N--the site of what is now called the McCormick public school--and very many well-to-do people resided there. The locality still presents unmistakable evidences of past prosperity.