

## Frank Temple Browning

( - 23 Sep 1901)

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**Browning.** At his residence, ""Templeton"", Forest Glen, Maryland, on Monday Sept. 23, 1901 at 2:30 p.m., Frank T., aged 49 years, beloved husband of Sue E. Browning and youngest son of the late P.W. Browning of Washington, D.C. Funeral from his late residence on Thursday, September 26 at 11 o'clock a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, September 24, 1901*

### **Frank T. Browning Dead**

#### **Prominent Local Attorney Victim of Bright's Disease**

#### **President of Forest Glen Railroad Company and Ex-Member of Maryland Legislature**

Very unexpected to an unusually wide circle of friends and acquaintances was the death of Frank T. Browning, a leading member of the local bar, which occurred at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his residence, Templeton, near Forest Glen, Md. Mr. Browning became ill about a week ago, and rapidly grew worse, the illness and death being due to Bright's disease. Funeral services will be held at Templeton at 11 o'clock next Thursday morning, Rev. Mr. Baker of Silver Spring and Rev. Mr. Barr of Takoma Park officiating. The interment will be at Congressional cemetery about 1 o'clock the same day.

It is conceded that Mr. Browning was one of the most successful of the local practitioners. He was a man of exemplary habits and was highly regarded and respected. The deceased was the youngest son of P.W. Browning, who died in April of last year. His brothers are Henry Clay Browning, Sr., Theodore F. Browning, Livingston Browning, Arthur Browning and George Browning. The four brothers first mentioned, together with Messrs. Percival M. Brown, John W. Warner, Arthur M. Wheeler and P.R. Stansbury, will serve as pallbearers at the funeral.

#### *Native of the District*

The deceased was born in this city forty-nine years ago. He attended Rittenhouse Academy and later took the four years' course at Columbian College. After graduating, in 1872, he pursued the study of law and began practicing in 1875. For several years he was associated with the late Enoch Totten. The career of Mr. Browning was marked by his connection with a very large number of important cases tried in the local courts. He was a member of the legislature of Maryland about the year 1885, and organized and was president of the Forest Glen Railroad Company.

Mr. Browning, six or seven years ago, moved to Forest Glen, and his home there, which bears the name "Templeton," is one of the most beautiful places in that section of the country. The deceased married Miss Sue E. Kennedy, a daughter of George E. Kennedy. Mrs. Browning survives him. Announcement of his death will be formally made to the court tomorrow by Mr. R. Ross Perry.

*The Evening Star, September 25, 1901, p. 9*

### **As a Mark of Respect**

#### **Court Adjourns as Tribute to Frank T. Browning**

#### **Address by Mr. R. Ross Perry Upon Announcing the Death--**

#### **The Court's Comment**

As a mark of respect to the memory of Frank T. Browning of the local bar, who died last Monday afternoon, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia this morning adjourned until tomorrow. The death of Mr. Browning was formally called to the attention of the court by Mr. R. Ross Perry, who explained that he had known the deceased for thirty years. Mr. Perry paid a high tribute to the life and character of Mr. Browning, saying:

"If your honor please, it seems hard that, amidst the grief which has afflicted this whole people, a grief which has been shared, and so lessened, by the civilized world, the bar of this District should be called upon so frequently, as it has been within the last few days, to turn aside from the general sorrow to its own particular grief.

"Since the blow fell which deprived this nation of its beloved head there have been five deaths of members of this bar. It reminds us of the words of the universal poet, 'One woe doth tread upon another's heels, so close they follow.' But these sorrows, like all others, have their consolation. I think every one must have been impressed with what has been said by every mouth of our dead President. It was that his character made the world's loss--not simply his intellectual attainments, not the high position which he had achieved, but it was his character that taught the world a lesson and left a monument never to be destroyed.

"And so I say, we can turn with consolation, midst our own private sorrows, to the lessons which these lives that have gone from us, some so suddenly, teach us.

#### *Life Left a Lesson*

"Frank T. Browning, whose death it is my sad duty to announce to the court, was one of those men whose lives leave a lesson. Born nearly fifty years ago, his attention was early called to the profession of the law. His father had been in commercial pursuits, but, as so often happens in this American life of ours, his son turned aside from the ways of business, which had made the father wealthy, to a professional career. He began the study of law under Colonel Enoch Totten, whose recent death is yet fresh in our memories, and whose loss has left a wound not yet healed. It was to be expected that under the tutelage of such a man he would come to the bar as a good lawyer, and what is much more than that, as an honorable man--one recognizing that the profession into which he was to enter was honorable, and that it bound him to the highest duties recognized among men. Faithfully did Mr. Browning follow that out, attaining in more than twenty years at this bar a practice which has been equaled by few, realizing in the substantial rewards of that practice a competence which left him free in the last years of his life to relax somewhat his efforts and to spare himself from that labor which grinds most of us down the more we advance in life.

#### *Held in High Esteem*

"It was not only as a lawyer that he attracted the notice of the court and gained for himself its respect and the high regard of his fellow members of the bar. I have yet to hear anything but praise of him in all of the relations of life. Not one of his brother lawyers with whom I have talked has spoken of him save in terms of sincerest regard. All of his promises were kept. It was not necessary to have them in writing to bind him. It was his honor that was always the guide that controlled his actions.

"In the relation of a son, of which I happen to know much, he was most dutiful and respectful. Perhaps it is a fault with those of us who are in the decline of life that we criticize the younger generation too severely. Some of us are apt to think that there is less of reverence and of regard for parents and elders on the part of the new generations that are coming upon the stage, but certainly one had but to know Mr. Browning to feel that this was not true in his case. There was no son ever more dutiful to father and to mother than he. I know much also of his relations with his brothers, and there was never a more tender and devoted brother than he. I had no personal knowledge of him in that highest and sacreddest of all relations, that which he bore to his wife, but from what I have heard from

those who knew them and who had the good fortune to participate in their family circle, it was indeed a beautiful example that he set before us, and that he has left us.

*Each Man Doing His Duty*

"This is not the occasion, if your honor please, upon which to enter into any more detailed account of his life, but I could not refrain from saying, in view of the prominence that has been given to the subject in this national sorrow, that the character of all of us -- that which every man can achieve, that which does not depend upon extraordinary intellectual gifts, but which does depend upon the homely rule of each man doing his best in that station of life in which he is set -- is after all the chief thing of life. That rule of character has been so exemplified to us by the nation's loss as necessarily to strikingly command our attention. Of no one could it be more truly said than of Frank T. Browning that in going from us he has yet left that behind him which will serve not simply as his monument, because monuments to the dead are but little, but which will serve as an example and as an incentive to those generations which are to come after him at this bar.

"I move, if your honor please, that in respect to the memory of Mr. Browning, this court do now adjourn.

*Comment of the Court*

In granting the motion Chief Justice Bingham said: "After the very full tribute of Mr. Perry it would be almost a repetition to undertake to state the impressions of the court as to Mr. Browning. I became acquainted with him very soon after I came into this court, now nearly fifteen years ago, and I can very cordially and very sincerely indorse everything that Mr. Perry has said as being a faithful and just tribute to the character and professional standing of Mr. Browning, so far as it came under my observation.

"The court will grant the motion which has been made by Mr. Perry and direct that the court now adjourn out of respect to the memory of Mr. Browning.