

Francis Clark (- 19 Oct 1811)

The National Intelligencer, October 21, 1811

On the evening of Saturday, the 19th inst. in the forty-second year of his age, Francis Clark, a native of Garragh, in the county of Londonderry, and kingdom of Ireland, but for many years a citizen of the United States, and the last eight a merchant of this city.

With the ardent spirit of enterprise, which difficulty served but to increase -- with an untiring industry, which toil could not lessen -- with a liberality of public spirit which prompted to earnest exertion in every work of public utility, Mr. Clark could not fail to be one of our most useful citizens, and his death must be considered as a public calamity. With a lofty spirit of honorable pride, which despised all meanness -- with an unbending integrity which scorned all guile -- with a noble candor that abhorred all duplicity -- with a glowing benevolence that never withheld the tear of sympathy from the distresses, or the hand of beneficence from the necessities of his fellow man, he must necessarily have held a high place in the heart of friendship, and the void occasioned by his early and unexpected demise must long remain unfilled. But when we consider him as the affectionate husband of an amiable woman, now stretched low on the bed of sickness -- as the father of four amiable, interesting girls and one boy, to provide for whom was the stimulus to never-ceasing exertion -- to educate whom was the object of his dearest parental solicitude, and to trace their progress the sweetest soother of his cares, we are lost in the listlessness of unutterable woe -- we are shrouded in the darkness of inspissated gloom. May that merciful God who "tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," have the lovely shepherdless flock in his holy keeping.

On the afternoon of Sunday, the 20th, his remains were interred with Masonic honors. They were also attended by the "Society of the Sons of Erin," of which he was a respectable member, and by a large concourse of citizens.