

John Davis of Abel

(- 22 Jan 1853)

Davis. On Saturday, the 22d instant, in the 79th year of his age, John Davis, of Abel, a native of Newark, State of Delaware, but for the last forty-eight years a resident of this city. Mr. Davis has been in the service of the Government during his entire residence in this city, and discharged his duties skillfully and faithfully; and he lived and died an honest man. His death will be regretted by his many friends. The friends of the family are invited to attend his funeral, from his late residence, near the Marine Barracks, on Tuesday next, the 25th instant at 2 o'clock p.m. (Evening Star, January 24, 1853)



Biography

John Davis of Abel was born in Newark, Delaware, September 27, 1774; engaged for a time in business in Baltimore, and established his permanent home in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of the last century. He was employed in the Navy Yard for many years, from 1830 to within a few years of his death holding the position of Master Workman, being the second incumbent of that office in the local Yard. He is described as of medium height and build, and although having suffered the loss of an eye, is said never to have worn glasses. While in this city he resided on Capitol Hill--for some years at 1, between 10th and 11th Streets, S.E., and later near the Congressional Cemetery. Domestic and retiring in his disposition he yet took an active interest in religion and public movements, being a leading member of the Baptist Church all his life and prominently identified with every measure of municipal progress. He was a member of the old Volunteer Fire Company of Anacostia, D.C., and for many years its treasurer. In addition to serving his Lodge seven years as its presiding officer, and subsequently in other positions of honor and trust, he was the first Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and was one of the most influential members of that body during its formative period. He was twice married and left five children. Full of years and honors he was called from labor to refreshment, January 22, 1853. A strong, virile character, gentle yet firm, of simple life and faithful, yet withal strong and effective in all movements looking to the advancement and uplift of his brother man. Such was the master spirit who first stood at the head, and for a long period helped to shape the destiny, of Naval Lodge.

History of Naval Lodge, No. 4, F.A.A.M.

John Davis, of Abel, the first Master of the Lodge, was born in Delaware, September 27, 1774; engaged for a time in business in Baltimore, and established his permanent home in Washington, D.C., at the beginning of the last century. He was employed in the Navy Yard for many years, from 1830 to within a few years of his death holding the position of Master Workman, being the second incumbent of that office in the local Yard. He is described as of medium height and build, and although having suffered the loss of an eye, is said never to have worn glasses. While in this city he resided on Capitol Hill--for some years at 1, between 10th and 11th Streets, S.E., and later near the Congressional Cemetery. Domestic and retiring in his disposition he yet took an active interest in religion and public movements, being a leading member of the Baptist Church all his life and prominently identified with every measure of municipal progress. He was a member of the old Volunteer Fire Company of Anacostia, D.C., and for many years its treasurer. In addition to

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