

John Dean

(16 Aug 1813 – 16 Oct 1863)

The Evening Star, October 17 1863, p. 3

The Funeral of Mr. Dean

The funeral of the late John Dean took place this afternoon from Mr. Queen's, on Sixth street, and was respectably attended, mostly by the officers and clerks of the Treasury Department. The corpse was carried in the Unitarian church, where an appropriate discourse was preached by the Rev. John Pierpont. The remains were followed to the Congressional Cemetery, where they were interred. They will, however, be ultimately interred near Utica, N.Y., where his family reside. The following acted as pall-bearers: Mr. Baker, Capt. Beardsley, Hon. J.C. Underwood, H. Warrington, D. Goodice, G.E.H. Day, Mr. Needham and Mr. Sanderson.

Baltimore Sun, Oct. 17, 1863 signed by a correspondent named "Potomac.":

"Mr. John Dean, who has become known to the Washington community in the past year or more, for his volunteer efforts in behalf of fugitive slaves, died here this morning, after only a few days' illness, of pneumonia. He was a clerk in the Treasury Department, and 59 years of age. He formerly resided in Oneida county [sic]." He is also described as "champion of the fugitive" in the Balto Sun, May 25, 1863. In the Balto Sun, June 6, 1863, he is described as "a clerk in the Internal Revenue Department, though a considerable portion of his time has been given to the fugitive slave business on several occasions." In the National Intelligencer, May 22, 1863, he is described as "John Dean, Esq., one of the attorneys on behalf of the defendant [Adam Hall]..." Boyd's 1864 lists Mary Dean, widow, clerk Treas Dept, h 28th 44.

Dean was involved in testing the enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Act, in particular, in the case of Adam Hall, who had escaped from George W.

Duvall, former PG Co. legislator (see John Clagett Proctor, vol. I, p.228, on the Hall case). Hall was apprehended by the force of DC marshal Ward Lamon. His lawyers John Jolliffe [or Joliffe] and Dean requested habeas corpus. Newspaper accounts identify him and John Joliffe (an abolitionist lawyer from Ohio involved in the Margaret Garner case -- the woman who murdered her daughter and inspired Beloved) as counsel for Hall (Balto Sun, May 11, 1863; Balto Sun., May 12, 1863 ;Balto Sun, May 13, 1863). It was presented to the judges of the new DC Supreme Court who, after consideration of the applicability of the Fugitive Slave Act, released Hall. A "commotion" occurred, Dean and John Joliffe grabbed Hall from his owner (Balto Sun May 23, 1863) and city police took him till the military came at Dean's instigation (Balto Sun, May 25, 1863). [National Intelligencer May 23, 1863; there's a longer barely legible article in the Evening Star May 23, 1863]. Eventually Hall enlisted in the USCT and died of disease soon after. Later Duvall via lawyer Joseph H. Bradley indicted Dean and Joliffe with hindering seizure of Hall by his owner (Balto Sun, Jun 2, 1863), but that case never went to trial; the National Republican, June 4, 1863, says the indictment by criminal court said Dean and Joliffe used guns!

In late May Dean continued his pro-"fugitive" efforts by contesting WS Cox's appointment as commissioner to issue warrants on the basis he had been counsel for Duvall in the case of Hall (Balto Sun, May28; Balto Sun, May 30, 1863).

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