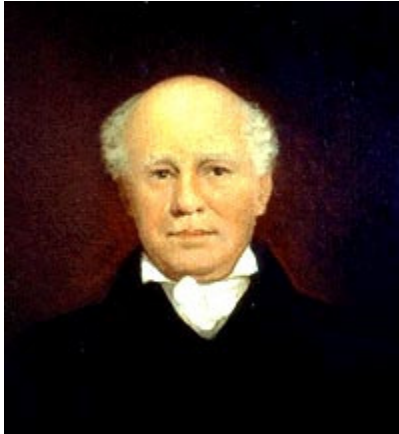


John Gadsby (- 15 May 1844)

Gadsby. On Wednesday evening, May 15, at half past 6 o'clock, Mr. John Gadsby long known as a respectable and useful citizen of this place. His funeral will take place on Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock from his late residence, President's square to which the friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend without further notice.



Feist, Christian F., "Lucas Vischer in Washington: A Swiss View of the District of Columbia in 1825," Records of the Columbian Historical Society, 1973-74, pp. 90-91

Second visit May 29-June 7, 1825

Gadsby's Hotel

This inn passes for the foremost in the metropolis. Gadsby formerly kept the Indian Queen Hotel in Baltimore and at that time his house is said to have been the best in the United States. Nevertheless he went bankrupt, and now truly starveling conditions reign in his house. All is aimed at pretense. Five chafing-dishes permanently decorate the table, butter and occasionally radish is put upon them. 'The lunch consisted of a poor soup and two main dishes, roast beef and ham, roast veal and fish, and so on vegetables scarcely sufficient for two or three persons, almost every day fried chicken which in fact are parched cocks with really not the least to gnaw off. What I liked best were the strawberries for dessert, they are eaten in this country with cream or milk. Gadsby is a scoundrel who wants to do it right by making empty compliments, his bar keeper is a rude, jovial Irishman, his servants are an unruly mob of Negroes. Since I had met with much ado about this house, I found it in reality even more miserable. They were impudent enough to charge me \$2 for the room, the same as the Count who had one of the best rooms, but I insisted on lowering it to the fixed price of \$1 1/2. Another inconvenience of this inn is its location so far up in the town, closer to Germantown than to the busy part of Washington. I had to hurry to get in three quarters of an hour from the Capitol to this place.

Will of John Gadsby, of City of Washington, D.C. (dtd. March 11, 1844, probated May 28, 1844 Book 5, pp. 352-358 O.S. 2479 Box 16)

To Exrs. And trustees, all real estate and all right, title and interest in any land, with buildings, improvements, rights, ways, privileges, with confidence that trustees of Exrs. will permit wife (third) Provey Gadsby, during her lifetime, to use, occupy and possess, all lots and real estate in City of Washington, in Square 167, with all buildings, improvements, etc.: after death of wife to two daughters, Augusta McBlair and Julia Gadsby.

To wife, all the following negro slaves: man Nace, or Ignatius Newton, aged about 50 yrs. man Henry King, aged about 40 yrs. woman Maria King, aged about 35 yrs. girl Celia King, aged about 16 yrs. boy Charles King, aged about 9 yrs. girl Sarah Jane King, aged about 4 yrs. boy George King, aged about 18 mos. woman Maria Williams, aged about 30 yrs. girl Martha Ann Williams, aged about 6 yrs. girl Mary Ellen Williams, aged about 4 yrs. boy James Williams, aged about 18 mos. woman Keziah Williams, aged about 28 yrs. Mary Frances Williams, aged about 7 yrs. boy William Williams, aged

about 5 yrs. woman Rosa Marks, aged about 48 yrs. Nancy Fairfax, aged about 45 yrs. James Long, aged about 25 yrs.

Also to wife, all household furniture, plate, pictures, library, groceries, liquors, linen, garden and other implements and utensils, horses and carriage, hay, grain, harness all rents due and owing subject to Exrs. allowing daughters Augusta McBlair and Julia Gadsby to receive rents and issues of real estate devised for their use, and after 12 mos. From my decease, rents and profits of following property: Lots 8 through 19 in Square 76, so as the same shall be used, occupied by said daughters Augusta and Julia.

Trustees to hold west half of Lot 15 in Square 491, with buildings and improvements, in City of Washington, in trust for daughter Margaret S. Chapman during her natural life, to possess and occupy the same at her death to daughter-in-law Mary Augusta Gadsby in fee simple without any control of her husband.

Trustees to hold east half of Lot 15 in Square 491, as above, for use of daughter Ann Sophia Newton, during her natural life, that she use, possess and occupy the same at her death to Margaret C. Newton, Maria Cooke Newton, Virginia Ann Newton, and Ann Augusta Newton, daughters of Ann Sophia Newton.

Exrs. to sell remaining real property, and proceeds equally divided among my five children: Augusta McBlair, Julia Gadsby, Margaret S. Chapman, Ann Sophia Newton, and William Gadsby.

Exrs.: Provey Gadsby, wife friends James Eakin and Alexander McIntire, trustees and Exrs. of will

Wits.: James Adams, William Noyes, S.B. Boarman