

## William Galt

(8 Nov 1825 – 12 Jun 1902)

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**Galt.** On Thursday, June 12, 1902 at 5:35 o'clock a.m., William Galt in the 77th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 9th Street and Grant Place, N.W. on Saturday, June 14 at 5 o'clock. Interment private. Kindly omit flowers.



Wm. Galt

*Washington Evening Star, Thursday, June 12, 1902*

### **Wm. Galt Dead**

### **Passed Away at an Early Hour This Morning**

### **Long and Active Life**

### **He Took a Keen Interest in Washington**

### **Had Seen the Capital City Grow From a Village to Town and From Town to City**

Mr. William Galt died at an early hour this morning at his residence at the northwest corner of 9th street and Grant Place. He had been unconscious for several days. His last movements were unattended with pain and his life slipped away with the calmness of a child dropping off into slumber. About his bedside were his nephews and his physician and nurses. The end was not unexpected, as it had been realized for some days past that he could not last much longer. There was no organic trouble, only the weakness that comes when the machinery of the body is worn out, and Mr. Galt was in his seventy-seventh year. Funeral services will take place at his late residence on Saturday, the 14th instant, at 5 o'clock p.m. The services, which will be in accordance with the rites

of the church with which he was so long identified, will be conducted by Dr. D. J. Stafford and the interment, which will be private, will be in the family lot at the Congressional cemetery.

### *His Long and Active Life*

Mr. Galt was born November 8, 1825, at Alexandria, which was then included in the District of Columbia. He removed with his parents to Washington the year following his birth and has since continuously resided here. Through both parents he was of Scotch lineage, his father having been James Galt and his mother Eliza Veitch. His ancestors on both sides were among the early settlers of Maryland, his father having been born in Carroll county and his mother in Prince George's county, in that state, and it is a striking fact that while he was of Scotch lineage on both sides, all of his American ancestors were natives of Maryland.

His father in 1802 established in Alexandria the well-known jewelry house, which is now conducted by his nephew, Mr. Norman Galt, in the name of Galt & Brother. In 1846 on the death of the founder of the house, his sons, the late Matthew W. Galt and William Galt, the subject of this sketch, succeeded to the business under the name of Galt & Brother, in which name, as stated, the business is still conducted. Shortly prior to his illness, Mr. Galt referred with pleasure to the fact that he had lived to witness the one hundredth anniversary of the establishment of the house. He retired from active connection with the business in 1879, but retained a special interest therein until 1886 when his relation thereto finally ceased, but his interest in the house, which his father had established, and in which he so long took pride, never ceased, and until his last illness, he was a daily visitor to the establishment.

### *His Interest in Washington*

Although a man of very strong characteristics, he was unobtrusive in their assertion, but his interest in Washington and everything that pertained to its upbuilding and progress, was the deepest possible. He saw Washington pass from village to town and from town to city, and had the keenest interest in its future, now so much in the general public mind. He was especially attracted by the beauties of Washington in respect of its parks and trees, as he was by nature a devoted lover of both trees and flowers, as is shown by the care bestowed by him upon his beautiful home, in the grounds surrounding which are some of the most attractive trees and grasses in the city.

Mr. Galt was all his life in Washington a parishioner of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic parish and always manifested the liveliest interest in its affairs, as also in the affairs of all of the Roman Catholic Institutions in the District. Of an unusually charitable disposition, many stories are told of his charities toward the institutions, not only of his church, but also those of other denominations. The Children's Hospital, the Central Free Dispensary and Emergency Hospital, the Home for the Incurables, the Home for the Aged of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Providence Hospital, and, indeed, almost every benevolent institution in the city will long remember his many kindnesses and charitable deeds toward them, but the most striking feature of this phase of his character was that his many acts of private charity can never be known, owing to the unobtrusiveness with which he did them, and his almost shrinking from the thought of having them known of others.

Although indisposed by nature to exhibit himself in such a light, he was a man of large public spirit, and his wisdom and excellent judgment were often used on occasions to which he was known by but few to bear any relation. Although of decided views, and firm in their expression and maintenance, he was conservative in tone, a fact doubtless largely due to the racial characteristics which he inherited, and the fact already noted, of the small compass within which his American ancestors was born and reared.

### *For Forty Years in One House*

For forty years Mr. Galt lived in the home in which he died, and on the site of which as a boy he attended the once well-known McLeod's school, a fact to which he repeatedly referred with interest and pleasure. His long residence in the one spot was most appropriate to his characteristic conservatism, and it is interesting to note in this connection that the original homes of both his paternal and maternal ancestors in Maryland are still in possession of the respective families.

Mr. Galt was prominently identified with many local enterprises, among others the Arlington Fire Insurance Company and the Norfolk and Washington, D.C., Steamboat Company, of each of which corporations he was an organizing member and director. He was never married and was the last survivor of his generation. He has been preceded to the grave by his brothers, Messrs. Thomas J. Galt, Matthew W. Galt, George Sterling Galt and James Veitch Galt, and his sister, the wife of the late Henry S. Davis. He leaves surviving him as his nearest relatives nephews and nieces as follows: Miss Josephine Davis, Mr. Henry E. Davis, Mrs. Reginald Fendall, Mr. Wm. W. Galt, Mrs. Marion V. Elliott, Mr. Alexander H. Galt, Mr. Norman Galt, Mr. Sterling Galt, Mr. James Howard Galt and Mrs. Alexander H. McCormick, Jr.. Mr. Walter Allen Galt, who died last week, was also a nephew.

*The Evening Star, June 13, 1902, p. 2*

### **Funeral of William Galt**

### **Last Rites to Be Performed Tomorrow Afternoon**

Funeral services over the remains of the late William Galt will be held tomorrow afternoon at 5 o'clock at the family residence, corner of 9th street and Grant place. The interment will be private, will take place later.

During this afternoon all the children of St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum, in charge of the sisters, called at Mr. Galt's residence and held a short service of prayer about his bier. Representatives of all the asylums and Catholic institutions in which Mr. Galt was interested in his life also called at the residence.

These institutions will be represented at the funeral tomorrow. The services will not be private.

One of the last requests made by Mr. Galt, just prior to his death, was that no honorary pallbearers should officiate at his funeral, and this wish will be respected.

*The Evening Star, Monday, June 16, 1902, p. 5*

### **Will of William Galt**

#### **Bequests to Local Institutions--Medals for Pupils of Public Schools**

The will of William Galt, dated December 21, 1897, was filed for probate today. The Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum, St. Joseph's Male Orphan Asylum, St. Ann's Infant Asylum, the House of the Good Shepherd, the Washington Home for Incurables, to the Central Dispensary and Emergency Hospital, the Night Lodging House Association, the Children's Hospital and the Georgetown University Hospital, a legacy of \$1,000 each is bequeathed. The sum of \$2,000 is given to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to invest and to pay over the income therefrom annually to the board of trustees of the public schools of the District, to be used by the board or their successors in procuring medals or other suitable rewards for deserving scholars in the public schools, and for a like purpose the sum of \$1,000 is bequeathed to the president and directors of Gonzaga College. To the pastor of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Alexandria is left \$1,000 for the benefit of the deserving poor of that town. After payment of the above legacies, the estate is to be divided into three parts, one third to go to William W. Galt, Alex. Hunter Galt, Mrs. Virginia Elliot and the children of Frank T. Galt, a deceased brother of the testator one-third to Howard Galt and Mrs. Eliza M. McCormick, children of James V. Galt, and the remaining third to Charles E. Galt, Norman Galt, Walter Galt, Sterling Galt and Annie Fendall, children of Matthew W. Galt.

Reginald Fendall and R. Ross Perry are named as executors under the will, but by a codicil dated March 18, 1898, this appointment is revoked, and William E. Edmonston and John D. Coughian are substituted as executors.

*The Evening Star, June 5, 1902*

### **Mr. William Galt's Illness**

Mr. William Galt is quite sick at his residence, 9th street and Grant place. Disorder of the stomach is the principal cause of his present condition of weakness, but it is also thought that his advanced age and the consequent failure of powers has an influence. His friends feel apprehension as to the outcome of the present attack.

*The Evening Star, February 11, 1884*

### **Locals**

Saturday afternoon a man in a herdic made an indecent exposure to a little girl, who was the only other passenger in the coach. Mr. W.M. Galt, happening to enter the coach, near Lafayette square, the little girl began to complain to him of the man's conduct, when the fellow jumped from the vehicle and fled. Mr. Galt followed him but was unable to overtake him.

*The Evening Star, April 12 1880*

**Locals**

Mr. William Galt, the well-known jeweler, is having the yard of St. Joseph's Orphans' asylum nicely paved in order to furnish the little people with a playground in bad weather.

*The Evening Star, Saturday, September 14, 1867*

**Galt's New Building**

The Messrs. Galt Bros., jewelers, are having erected on Pennsylvania avenue, between 11th and 12th streets, a handsome iron front building, which will add greatly to the appearance and business importance of that part of the avenue. It will be built of the best brick, with an ornamented iron front of circular crown and crescent-shaped window caps the height, four stories, (sixty-five feet), depth, ninety feet, and having a front of thirty-five feet. The building was designed by Mr. Wm. H. Baldwin, architect, who, in conjunction with his brothers, have the entire work under their charge. Messrs. Bartlett, Robins & Co., of Baltimore, are the contractors for the iron work. By the 1st of November the structure will be finished and ready for occupancy. The lower story is to be used for mercantile purposes, and the upper stories for halls and offices. It is gratifying to observe such improvements going up in our midst, and nothing affords greater evidence of the growing prosperity of the country's metropolis.