

## Thomas H. Gillis

(1768 – 14 Feb 1851)

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**Gillis.** In this city on Friday morning, February 14, in the 83d year of his age, Thomas H. Gillis, late and for many years Chief Clerk in the 4th Auditor's Office. His funeral will take place from the Church of the Ascension on Sunday next at 2 p.m.

*The National Intelligencer, January 22, 1851*

### **Obituary**

In the death of the late venerable Thomas H. Gillis, Esq., this city has lost one of its oldest and most respected citizens, and the Church of which he was a member one of its earliest, most active, and efficient friends. He was followed to the grave by the hearts of an entire community who were the witnesses of the daily beauty of his life.

Mr. Gilliss was born in Somerset county, Maryland, in December, 1768. In 1798 he received the appointment of Chief Clerk to the Navy Accountant, as he was then called, now the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury. He removed to Washington with the Government in 1800, and continued in the same office until June of last year, when the infirmities of his great age compelled him to resign.

On a visit to his native county last summer he met with the accident--the fracture of his leg--which occasioned the protracted illness which caused his death. The remainder of his life was patience, and the end of it was peace.

The prominent traits of the character of this venerable man were recognized at once by all who approached him. He was a man of a naturally equable, systematic, affectionate, and gentle character. From an early period a devoted and active member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, his whole nature was manifestly brought under the new creating power of the grace of God, and his heart, then "baptized in the pure fountain of eternal love," exhibited through his long life singularly winning and beautiful characteristics. Old age was, in his case, not only venerable, but lovely. It was the fragrant and beautiful blossom of youth, not withered but matured into mellowed fruit, no less fragrant and beautiful. He was devoted to the interests of religion, in the church of his choice, and occupied in succession an official and influential position in every Episcopal Church in this city, to whose extension in new positions he was always ready to give his means, and energy, and influence. In his family, and in the intercourse with the world, he was ever the Christian gentleman. Strong and peaceful in his confidence in God's overruling providence in all the circumstances of his life enjoying with great relish the privileges of the house of God, going out and coming in among his fellow citizens and neighbors with a blameless life and a uniform and exemplary discharge of all his duties as a Christian, a citizen, and a man. Sinking to his rest in peaceful resignation and simple faith, in the midst of his children, and relatives, and friends, we cannot but feel that our dear and venerable friend has accomplished the true end of human probation and as we meditate upon the even tenor of his honored and useful life, the resignation and tranquility of his death, and the career of glory, honor, and immortality upon which he now has entered, we realize how much better it is to be righteous than to be great, and exclaim, as we leave his body to its peaceful sleep, "Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!" C.M.B.