

Levin Handy

(- 14 Seo 1842)

The National Intelligencer, January 17, 1843

On board the U.S. frigate Constellation lying in Hong Kong bay (China) in September last, Lieut. Levin Handy, U.S. Navy, in the 29th year of his age.

The National Intelligencer, January 20, 1843

Cut off in the meridian of a promising life, and before he had quite terminated the early age of twenty-nine, in the midst of a career foreshadowing the brightest rewards to fidelity and honor, and in which he so fortunately excelled, Levin Handy, a Lieutenant in the Navy of the United States, has been gathered to his fathers, and summoned before the judgment seat of his Creator, as was briefly conveyed by the annunciation of his decease in the paper a day or two ago.

Levin Handy, the subject of this sketch first opened his eyes to the sunlight of Heaven at Snowhill, in the county of Worcester, Maryland; and shortly after attaining his ninth year was removed to this city with his father, Samuel Handy, Esq., who had then recently become associated with one of the Departments of Government, in which period he derived all the advantages which the best elementary teachers of our academies afford, and becoming, at the same time, well known to most of our respectable citizens as a young gentleman of high promise, and whose subsequent usefulness and distinction has been an ample reward for all of the friend's solicitude, the mother's ever-watchful care, or the father's guiding and controlling counsel.

Descended from a line of Revolutionary ancestry, on both sides, of high rank, and distinguished for their active and patriotic service during the darkest periods of our country's history, Levin Handy appears, from an early and tender age, to have been wisely impressed with their virtues, and to have been fully inculcated to their exemplary conduct; and, at the usually boyish age of fourteen, we find him fortunately obtaining, through the kind regard of the lamented Southard, an appointment as acting Midshipman in the Navy of the United States.

From this entrance to the right arm of our defense, so enshrined in the proudest affections of our countrymen, by his attentive concern to all the high and honorable duties devolved upon him, he gradually rose to the grade of passed midshipman, and from thence was enrolled as lieutenant, with the entire approbation of all his immediate superiors in command; and without having, also, so far as is believed or can be ascertained, given rise, on a single occasion, for the interposition of the Navy Department, during a checkered service of fourteen years, commenced in the Pacific, now on the Brazils, then with the coast survey, again on the Florida's, or that last, which has so unexpectedly and fatally terminated in the China seas.

Truly, these multiplied evidences of his moral worth as a man, and exemplary efficiency as an officer, should be esteemed an overflowing fountain of solace to his bereaved friends, his sorrowing brothers, his almost heart-broken wife, and come home with peculiar pride and satisfaction to the disconsolate and aged father.

And thus, it may now be said, has Levin Handy been gloriously entombed; distant, it is true, from the hand of any relative, which would have added some consolation for the pains of sickness and disease; the wife, whose cheering and resigned affections might have alleviated, or served him to endure the death-bed pang; or the father, whose manly benediction might have stripped the flight of his spirit to the bosom of eternal rest of that agonizing dread which so overpowers the body of humanity.

But, ordained to occur, as it appears to have been, let them all bow down to the afflicting dispensation with a contrite obedience; while, through the coming eras of time, shall Levin Handy, to his surrounding kindred and friends, live unfadingly in their cherished remembrances, as the dutiful son, the kind brother, the tender husband, the high spirited, yet humane and courageous officer, and as him whose decease has demonstrated, the source of a regret as universal as his exemplary conduct, virtues, and intelligence are calculated still more to adorn, distinguish, and endear the gallant navy of the United States. I feel that the merits of the deceased are not exceeded by the eulogy here pronounced, and do not doubt that it will meet a grateful response from all his brother officers. J.M.B.