

## Franklin Theodore Howe

( - 28 Jul 1908)

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**Howe.** On Tuesday, July 28, 1908, at 11:50 p.m., at his residence, 1230 Quincy street, Brookland, D.C., Dr. Franklin Theodore Howe, of the editorial staff of The Evening Star, beloved husband of Maria Frances



DR. FRANKLIN T. HOWE.

Griffith Howe, in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Funeral from his late residence at 3 o'clock Friday, July 31, thence to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, corner of 14th street and Park road, where services will be held at 4 o'clock. Interment at Congressional Cemetery. (Boston, New York and Baltimore papers please copy.)

**Howe.** The members of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants, District of Columbia, are respectfully invited to attend the funeral services of our late associate. Franklin T. Howe, at the Church of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart.

Theodore W. Noyes, President

Benj. W. Reiss, R.S.

*The Evening Star, July 29, 1908, p. 1*

### **Dr. F.T. Howe Dead**

**Veteran Newspaperman Succumbs to Heart Disease**

**Twenty Years With Star**

**Distinguished Services as Soldier and Government Employee**

**Funeral Probably Friday**

### **Service at the Shrine of Sacred Heart -- Last Illness Began Tuesday Week Ago**

Franklin Theodore Howe, M.A., M.D., Ph.D., a veteran newspaper man of Washington and for many years news editor of the Star, succumbed to an attack of heart failure at his home, 1230 Quincy street, Brookland, shortly before midnight last night.

Gathered about him when the end came were the members of his family. While he seemed conscious of their presence until the last, he was unable to speak to them.

Dr. Howe was attacked by his last illness last Tuesday morning. While preparing to dress he was suddenly seized with a heart attack. His strength ebbed rapidly from that time. Twice before he breathed his last the end was expected.

The patient made a plucky fight, however, and seemed much better Monday. Early last evening the attending physician declared the end near. His family was summoned to the bedside.

Dr. Howe had suffered similar attacks on two previous occasions. Determination to regain his strength and return to his duties kept him alive.

The arrangements for the funeral have not yet been completed. Services will probably be held Friday morning at the Church of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, where he had been a regular attendant.

### *Native of Boston*

Dr. Howe, son of Caleb Howe and Sylvia Cheney Howe, was born in Boston Christmas eve, 1841, and was sixty-seven years old. He attended the public schools of the Hub and prepared for college at the

Boston Latin School. He entered Harvard University, but before he finished his course he felt a call to fight for the Stars and Stripes.

He enlisted in 1862 as a private in the 40th Massachusetts Volunteers and saw active service for two years. In January, 1864, after an examination before Gen. Casey's board, he received a commission as lieutenant in the 31st U.S.C.T. At the same time, however, he received a clerkship in the War Department and he accepted the post.

During the period of his work for the government Dr. Howe studied medicine in Georgetown Medical College and was granted the degree of doctor of medicine March 5, 1867, in August, 1869, he resigned from the bureau of military justice to accept a more lucrative post in the internal revenue department.

During the winter of 1869-'70 he began his first regular connection with a newspaper. From that time until his death he held many responsible positions on nationally prominent journals, getting more than his share of the exclusive stories for his papers and doing literary work which won him many compliments.

His first position was as dramatic and musical critic of the National Republican. During the following winter he held a similar position on the staff of the Washington Daily Chronicle.

#### *Manager of Newspaper*

To give his whole time to the newspaper work. Dr. Howe resigned from the internal revenue bureau July 16, 1871, and assumed the business management of the Washington Capital, a weekly newspaper published under the editorship of Don W. Platt. He resigned in November 1872 to become private secretary to Alexander R. Shepherd, then vice president of the board of public works of the District.

When Mr. Shepherd became governor of the District, Dr. Howe was made chief clerk of the board of public works, a post which he held until the territorial government of the District was legislated out of existence in June 1874.

Under the new government he became chief clerk and he organized the department now known as the engineer office of the District. He remained with the District government until May 1876.

At that time he again took up newspaper work as a correspondent of the New York Graphic at the centennial exhibition. Severe illness in his family here compelled him to give up the Philadelphia work and return to the capital. He became a clerk in the Treasury Department, and was promoted to be chief of the division of accounts in the bureau of engraving and printing.

He resumed his newspaper work in June 1881 when he became city editor of the National Republican. He remained with that newspaper as city editor, telegraph editor or managing editor until it was sold in March 1885. He then became correspondent for a syndicate of papers. Later he edited the Capital and was for a year managing editor of the Washington Post.

#### *Twenty Years With Star*

In October 1888, he first became connected with The Evening Star. He resigned shortly afterward to become managing editor of the Toledo Blade but returned to The Star within a year. He was advanced from the position to another, finally becoming news editor.

During the time the District of Columbia enjoyed the rights of suffrage, Dr. Howe actively engaged in politics. He was principal founder of the Young Men's Republican Club, and served as corresponding secretary. He was secretary of the citizens' committee in charge of the arrangements for the inauguration of President Hayes.

In musical circles of the capital Dr. Howe was a prominent figure for many years. As critic of many newspapers he made his technical knowledge of music count, and was active in many musical societies.

He was one of the organizers of the Washington Choral Society, an organization composed of American gentlemen after the plan of the German male singing societies and of the Philharmonic Society for mixed voices. He was for several years vice president of the present Choral Society.

His position in musical circles was such that he was several times chosen head of the committees to arrange musical programs for inaugurations and local celebrations of various kinds.

Besides his newspaper work, Dr. Howe did much special literary work. Of that the most extensive was a history of Georgetown University, published at the time it celebrated its centennial in February, 1889. Dr. Howe received the special commendation of the president of the university, Rev. J. Havens Richards, S.J.; that executive pronouncing it the most complete and accurate account that had ever been attempted.

#### *Degrees Conferred*

In recognition of his service the university conferred on him the degree of master of arts, the award being made by President Cleveland the last day of the centennial ceremonies. An additional honorary degree was awarded him the degree of Ph.D., the award being made at the same time to the Belgian minister to this country.

Dr. Howe was a past president of the Union Soldiers Alliance and a member of Burnside Post, G.A.R. He was for many years identified with the Harvard Club this city and was a member of the University Club. He was recently made a member of the Oldest Inhabitants Association.

At the time of the trial of Mrs. Surratt for the assassination of President Lincoln, Dr. Howe was employed by the War Department. He acted as clerk to Judge Advocate General Holt during the trial in which she was convicted.

Shortly after coming to Washington Dr. Howe married Miss Maria F. Griffith, daughter of William A. Griffith, an old and esteemed citizen. He is survived by his wife, two sons, four daughters and a sister.

The sons are George A. Howe and Franklin Theodore Howe, jr., who reside in this city. The daughters are Mrs. Maria Garzigila, who is in the south of France with her husband; Mary Helen Howe, Katie Lay Howe and Sarah Willard Howe, all living at home. His sister is Mrs. Helen A. Dunham of Athens, Vt.

*The Evening Star, July 30, 1908, p. 7*

#### **Last Rites For Dr. F.T. Howe**

#### **Obsequies Will Be Held Tomorrow Afternoon**

#### **Services at House Followed by Ceremonies at Church --**

#### **Remains to Rest in Receiving Vault**

The funeral of Dr. Franklin T. Howe, the veteran newspaper man, who died late Tuesday night, will be held tomorrow afternoon.

A short service will be held at the residence, 1230 Quincy street, Brookland, at 3 o'clock. At 4 o'clock the principal service will be held in the Church of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, 14th street and Park road. Rev. Joseph F. McGee, pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, and Rev. E.M. Southgate of St. Anthony's Church will officiate.

The remains will be placed in a vault at Congressional cemetery to await final burial services, which will take place upon the return home of Mr. and Mrs. Garziglia, son-in-law and daughter of he deceased, who are now in Europe.

The pallbearers at tomorrow's services will be representatives of The Star -- J. Walt Herron, Fleming Newbold, Richard A. McLean, G.A. Lyon, jr., A.J. Clarke and T. Howard Brooks.

The board of governors of the National Press Club of Washington held a special meeting last night to take action on the death of Dr. Howe, adopting resolutions which set forth "that the National Press Club of Washington has learned with deep sorrow of the death of one of its members. Dr. Franklin T. Howe of The Washington Evening Star. His career as a successful newspaper worker stands as an inspiration to the men of his profession. His ability as a writer, critic and editor was widely recognized. He rounded out his active years in continued devotion to the best ideals of journalistic effort. His decease removes one of the most highly esteemed of the newspaper elders of the National capital.

"That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the members of Dr. Howe's family."

*The Evening Star, July 31, 1908*

### **Funeral of Dr. Howe**

### **Services at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart**

### **Music That He Loved**

### **Rev. Father McGee Officiates at Solemn Services**

### **Remains Placed In Vault**

Oldest Inhabitants, Civil War Veterans, Newspaper Associates and Other Friends Attend With the solemn services of the Roman Catholic Church, made strikingly beautiful by the music rendered the body of Dr. Franklin Theodore Howe, the veteran newspaper man, was laid to rest yesterday afternoon. Many friends witnessed the last rites. A floral pall, sent by his late associates covered the casket.

Brief services were held at the Howe's late home on Quincy street, Brookland, at 3 o'clock. Father Southgate and Father Mark officiating.

The principal service was held at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, 14th street and Park road. Rev. Joseph F. McGee officiating. The music was a feature of this service, several of Dr. Howe's favorite solos being sung by prominent members of organizations with which he had been identified during his life. As the casket was slowly carried into the church Miss Mabel Lattimer sang "Lead, Kindly Light." Miss Mary King sang, "O, Divine Redeemer," and Sidney Lloyd Wrightson sang Come Unto Me, All Ye That Are Weary and Heavy Laden." The closing of the service was marked by the singing of "I Shall Meet Him Face to Face," by Miss Lattimer. The beauty of the music recalled the love which the deceased had for music, and the time and labor he gave to promoting its cultivation in the National capital.

### *Dr. Howe a Man of Deeds*

In speaking of the life of Dr. Howe, Father McGee commented on the several characteristics that had won him respect, admiration and love. For his text the pastor used verse 25 of John xi, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he be dead, yet shall he live." He said, in part:

"Your friend is not dead, but sleepeth. He was a man of strong faith. He realized that God could do things that he of mortal mind could not understand. He was a man of deeds. He believed that by his works he was to be judged. He was a devoted and loving husband, a devoted and loving father, a good neighbor, a friend to the poor, and helpless, a public spirited citizen, giving of his time to the projects that made for the benefit of the city, and did his share for the promotion of the public weal. So I say, he is not dead, but sleepeth."

Father McGee quoted from Tennyson's "In Memoriam":

"Our little systems have their day --  
Have their day and cease to be.  
They are but broken lights of Thee,

But Thou, oh God, art more than they."

#### *The Active Pallbearers*

The active pallbearers were representatives of The Star, who had stood shoulder to shoulder with Dr. Howe for many years. They were J. Whit Herron, Cornelius Eckhardt, Richard M. Leah, Howard Brooks, A.J. Clarke and G.A. Lyon, jr. The honorary pallbearers were veterans of the civil war, William J. Johnson, president of the Union Soldiers' Alliance, Dr. Clarence Lawrence, Maj. Alexander F. McMilian and E.A. Kriedler.

Members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, with which the deceased was identified for four years, attended in a body. Among the members present were B.W. Reiss, William A. Clarke, A.H. Ragan, Maj. George A. Armes, George W. Harvey, Louis P. Selbold and John O'Loughlin.

Among other attendants at the funeral services were Commissioner H.L. West and Mrs. West, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General P.V. DeGraw, Col. John S. Walker, department commander of the G.A.R.; Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Pepper and Attorney F.L. Siddons.

#### *The Floral Tributes*

Among the floral tributes were: Large white cross, by Mrs. Howe; lyre, by his children; pall, covering the casket, by associates of The Evening Star; white roses by Mrs. Alex. R. Shepherd, widow of ex-Gov. Shepherd of the District; bouquet of American beauty roses, from Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Noyes, bouquet of white roses from Mrs. Crosby E. Noyes; bouquet of blush white roses, from Maurice Splain, wreath of red leaves and palms, from Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Theodore Howe, jr. and children; piece of red roses, lilies and gladiolas, from Mr. and Mrs. J.H. Small, bouquet of blush roses from W.C. Haskell; bouquet of pink and white roses and gladiolas from Frederick L. Siddons; wreath of tiger lilies and white roses from engraving division of bureau engraving and printing; bouquet of pink roses from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Zollinger and Mrs. Alice Zollinger; shaft of wheat and white roses, from Mrs. Jost and daughter; bouquet of pink and white roses and yellow calleolas, from National Press Club; bouquet of pink roses from Martin McHugh; wreath of white roses, from Dr. D.D. Mulcahy; cut flowers of red and white roses from Dr. Collins Marshall; bouquet of pink roses from Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Griffith; white carnations from Mr. and Mrs. George Ferbershaw; wreath of white roses and pink tiger lillies from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph I. Griffith; white roses and palms from Mrs. Helen A. Dunham of Vermont, sister of the late Dr. Howe.

#### *Messages of Sympathy*

Among the letters of condolence on the death of Dr. Howe was one from Frank W. Hackett, York Harbor, Me., addressed The Star, in which he said:

"I read in the Boston Transcript the news of the death of Dr. Howe, of The Evening Star. The intelligence came as a shock, bringing that peculiar sense of sadness when one feels who is absent from town and realizes that things will never be quite as they were before when he shall return.

"Let me pay the passing tribute of my esteem and affection to the memory of his excellent man, so long identified with the daily life of Washington. He possessed in a remarkable degree qualities that singled him out as a rare man in his profession.

"My most intimate acquaintance with him was in the capacity of membership of the Washington Harvard Club. He was of the class of 1864. He took the lead, full of spirit of comradeship -- genial, happy and ready to do all in his power (and it was much) to make the Harvard Club successful and prosperous. He did a great deal more than his fair share of work, and he did it with a heartiness that made everybody like him. To his skill and labor was due in large measure the pleasure of the dinner at each recurring anniversary.

"No more loyal son of Harvard could be found in Washington.

"Frank Howe's friends will mourn with genuine sorrow his passing away -- a man whose kindly nature and cheery sympathetic voice made the day seem to you brighter, when you had the good fortune to meet him."

*The Evening Star, September 30, 1908, p. 20*

**To Inter The Remains**

**Body of Dr. Franklin T. Howe Will Be Buried Tomorrow**

The remains of the late Dr. Franklin T. Howe, for many years the news editor of The Star, will be removed from the receiving vault at the Congressional Cemetery at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon and be interred in the family lot.

The services will be in charge of Burnside Post, G.A.R., the Soldiers' Alliance, the Union Veterans' Union and the Association of Oldest Inhabitants. It is expected that many members of the organizations mentioned with which Dr. Howe was affiliated will be present.