

## General Walter Jones

(7 Oct 1775 – 14 Oct 1861)

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*The Evening Star, October 15, 1861*

Dead. General Walter Jones the oldest member of the bar in this District and distinguished for his professional ability died in this city yesterday afternoon at the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. Thomas



Miller at the advanced age of 85 years. There will be a meeting of members of the bar tomorrow to pay the customary tribute of respect to his memory.

### *Source?*

General Walter Jones was a descendant of Captain Roger Jones, who came from England with Lord Culpepper in 1680. He was born at "Mayfield", Northumberland County, Va.; his father was Dr. Walter Jones, an Edinburgh-trained physician of prominence, who was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of 1788 and a Congressman from Virginia in 1797-1799 and 1803-1811. He received a classical education from a Scotch tutor; read law in Richmond under Bushrod Washington; was admitted to the Virginia Bar in May 1796, before he was of legal age. He practiced in Fairfax and Loudoun Counties, Va. In 1802 he was appointed by President Jefferson as U.S. Attorney for the District of the Potomac, and in 1804, for the District

of Columbia.

In 1808 he married Ann Lucinda Lee, who was a daughter of Charles Lee (1758-1815), Attorney General under Washington and Adams, by his first wife, Anne, daughter of Richard Henry Lee, the Signer. After marriage, he made his home in Washington. He had a family of three sons and eleven daughters.

In 1821 he resigned his Federal Attorneyship, but continued to practice law with success before the U.S. Supreme Court and in the courts of Maryland and Virginia. In the case of *McCulloch Vs. Maryland* (4 Wheaton, 316), 1819, he was associated with Luther Martin and Joseph Hopkinson on behalf of Maryland, in opposition to William Pinkney, Daniel Webster and William Wirt, representing the Bank of the United States. In other cases he was at times associated with Daniel Webster, Francis Scott Key and Henry Clay. Rufus Choate spoke of his "silver voice and infinite analytical ingenuity and resources".

He took part in the Battle of Bladensburg in 1814. In 1821 he was commissioned by President Monroe as Brigadier General of Militia of the District of Columbia, and at the time of his death was Major General of the Militia of the D.C. In 1835 he supervised the quelling of mob incendiaries and riot in Washington (See *Daily National Intelligencer* of August 13, 1835 and *Daily Globe* of August 14, 1835).

Late in 1816 he was associated with Rev. Robert Finlay, John Randolph, Bushrod Washington, Henry Clay and others in founding the "American Colonization Society", "for the purpose of colonizing the free people of color in the United States of America, in Africa, or elsewhere", for which the Committee requested the support of Congress. He was also a member of the Washington Monument Society.

He was described as small of stature and eccentric in dress.

Newspaper comment: "He speaks slowly and in a low tone, but with great purity of diction and clearness of thought." "Arrival of Pinkney, Wirt and Webster, but excelled them all in depth and variety of learning". "He is universally respected, and by those who know him, warmly beloved." "Possessed of rare conversational powers and personal charm; generous and sympathetic to a fault."

Although a Virginian, he was devoted to the Union, and held secession in Virginia as a double treason, both to the United States and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

*The Evening Star, October 16, 1861, p. 3*

#### **Late Local News**

The Funeral Ceremonies of Major General Walter Jones, today, were of a very interesting character. Dr. Gurley was the officiating minister, and the funeral was attended by Gen. George C. Thomas, U.S.A., and Generals Hickey, Bacon, and Bradley, of the District of Columbia militia, and many other notable characters, military and civil.

A large number of D.C. militia officers were in the procession in uniform.

The pall-bearers were Judge Dunlop, Judge Crawford, Mr. Marbary, Mr. W.W. Corcoran, Gen. Force, Mr. Ogle Tayloe, Mr. W. Selden, Mr. Carberry, Mr. J.M. Carlisle, and Gen. R.C. Weightman.

Nearly all the members of the bar were present.

*The Evening Star, October 17, 1861, p. 3*

#### **The Meeting of the Bar Yesterday**

A large number of the members of the bar assembled in the room occupied by the Criminal Court yesterday morning, for the purpose of adopting resolutions of respect and condolence on the death of Gen Walter Jones. The meeting was organized by Richard S. Coxe, Esq., being called to the chair, and John A. Smith, Esq., appointed Secretary. Eulogies were delivered by Mr. R.S. Coxe and Mr. P.R. Fendall, and the usual resolutions were adopted.