

## Adam Lindsay

( – 7 Oct 1844)

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**Lindsay.** On Monday, the 7th instant, Adam Lindsay, Esq. aged 80 years, a native of Scotland. The deceased migrated to this country in early life, and was amongst the first settlers of this city, in the prosperity and growth of which he ever manifested a lively interest. He represented with fidelity the inhabitants of the eastern section of this city in its councils for many years and is well known to amateurs in agriculture, horticulture, and the production of silk as one of the earliest patrons of these arts in this city.

The friends and acquaintances of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral on this evening, at two o'clock, from his late residence, near the Navy Yard.

**Will of Adam Lindsay**, of City of Washington (dtd. Dec. 15, 1838, probated June 4, 1853; Book 5, pp. 349-350; O.S. 2511; Box 17)

To wife Maria Amos Lindsay, all estate.

To Adam Lindsay Rose, of City of Washington, tract of land in Prince George's Co., Md., to possess the same after death of wife, tract being a part of land called "William and Mary."

A portion of my land set aside for use of the Columbia Horticultural Society, to be appropriated as an experimental garden, suitable piece chosen by wife.

Exrs.: Maria Amos Lindsay, wife

Wits.: James W. Roland; Robert M. Combs; James Bright

On June 4, 1853, appeared Maria A. Waterman, late Maria A. Lindsay, Exrx. Of will to attest to the instrument of writing.

### **The Navy Yard Section During the Life of the Rev. William Ryland**

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This gentleman had his residence on the southeast corner of Virginia Avenue and Seventh Street east, a very large brick building, formerly a store as well as dwelling, that is yet there. He was not a rich man, nor, for that matter, a very well educated one. But he was a member of the Board of Common Council of the city, and he was associated with William Prout, William Marbury, Samuel N. Smallwood, and Timothy Winn in the building of the Anacostia Bridge. Mr. Lindsay, however, was largely known throughout the city by his having been infected with what was called at the time the *Morus multicaulis* craze. This matter is hardly remembered now; but as it is in a small way the counterpart of some of those gigantic mistakes committed by people in all parts of the world in their eagerness to make money (the Tulip craze, in England, for example), it is not unworthy of mention here.

Some gentlemen in New Jersey and Connecticut, being interested or about to become interested in the manufacture of silk, suggested in the newspapers the desirability of having silk-worms raised in this country instead of importing them. This suggestion led to a discussion of the business of silk-making, and soon the public got the idea that all the silk used in the country was to be of domestic manufacture, and that, therefore, the raising of the silk-worm was soon to be enormously profitable. Then people began to plant the white mulberry tree--the *Morus alba multicaulis*--on which the silk-worm feeds, and in an incredibly short time the raising of these trees and the production of silk-worms got to be almost a craze. Thousands of people from Maine to Georgia were spending their money in this way, many of

them without any clear idea as to whether there was to be a market for their product or not, and wild visions as to the wealth that was to be thus acquired began to be everywhere prevalent. It is needless to say that many people suffered material loss from this delusion, some being even ruined by it.

Mr. Lindsay went into the thing enthusiastically; planted a large number of mulberry trees on the square bounded by Twelfth and Thirteenth and C and D Streets southeast, and seemed to seriously believe that he would soon be enormously rich. The net result of his venture, however, was a fine mulberry grove of no commercial value, and enough silk to be woven into a suit of clothes, which he always wore on extraordinary occasions with a great deal of pride. Mr. Lindsay left no children.