

## John W. Maury

(15 May 1809 – 2 Feb 1855)

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*The National Intelligencer, September 29, 1854*

### A Handsome Testimonial



We have accidentally omitted a notice of the elegant testimonial about to be presented to John W. Maury, Esq., late Mayor of the city, by some of his friends who set a just value upon his official services and estimate truly his excellent qualities as a citizen. It was prepared at the well-known and tasteful jewelry establishment of M.W. Galt & Brother. This service of silver, we learn, consists of two massive, graceful and superb wine pitchers, twelve neatly-wrought gold-lined goblets, and one large and finely-executed salver -- the whole being tastefully embellished with wreaths, engraved in the richest most exquisite, and brilliant style of art, (known as the antique or bright style of engraving,) and producing a combination singularly uniform, beautiful, and substantial. The cost of this magnificent service is about one thousand dollars.

*The National Intelligencer, February 3, 1855*

On Friday, February 2d, at fifteen minutes before one o'clock p.m., at his residence in this city, in the 46th year of his age, John W. Maury. He closed his earthly career in the meridian of life and in the fruition of everything that could make life desirable. The ardent devotion of a large and most interesting family; the warm attachment of a very extended circle of friends; the admiration and confidence of a whole community; the recorded honors of high and delicate official trust, and a large fortune, the product of his industry and enterprise, were the rewards that blessed his years.

The life of this most estimable citizen was marked by a career so pure, active, unobtrusive, benevolent, and useful, that friendship, confidence, popularity, and every social tribute gathered around him and stamped him as one of our best and most valued citizens. He had a generous heart to appreciate and treasure up these testimonials, and most unostentatiously did he wear his good eminence. His only ambition seemed to be to make himself useful in his day and generation, and to preserve an unblemished reputation. Our city, in its prosperity and improvement, and the united voice of praise and commendation, bear testimony that he worked out most successfully the end and aim of his ambition.

The deep gloom that now hangs over our city at this sad dispensation is a tribute to his memory, and the profound sympathy that is everywhere expressed is proffered to his heart-stricken family.

The funeral of Mr. Maury will take place on Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, from his late residence.

*The National Intelligencer, February 5, 1855*

### Solemn Ceremonies

And yesterday a large proportion of our population and many strangers were in attendance at the funeral of the late Mayor of the city, John W. Maury, Esq. His remains were conveyed to Trinity Church in the afternoon, where the Rev. Dr. Cummings read the impressive funeral services of the Episcopal Church, and delivered an affecting and eloquent discourse; and the church services were closed by a most feeling and impressive prayer from the Rev. Dr. Smith, of the Ninth Street Presbyterian Church.

The church was crowded to overflowing and the streets thronged with sympathizing friends. Judging by the test thus given, it may be safely remarked that the death of no citizen within the last quarter of a century has created so general a feeling of sincere sorrow. Though but forty-six years of age, it was truly said by the pastor that the good man before him had not lived in vain.

*The National Intelligencer, February 7, 1855*

### **Tributes of Respect to the**

*Zevely, "Old Houses on C Street," Columbia Historical Society, Vol. ??, pp. ??-??*

The first house of note (No. 302) dates from 1837 as the home of the late John W. Maury, and it is where he died in February, 1855, at the early age of 46. It continued to be the family home for the remainder of his widow's life, and three of the daughters are still living there.

Mr. Maury became a resident of Washington about 1829 or 1830, his first residence being the house now numbered 325, which originally was a double house two stories in height, with a large front yard. In recent years a portion of it has been used for a small dwelling on the east side, but otherwise it has remained unchanged for more than 70 years.

Mr. Maury's first business occupation was that of a broker. Prior to 1846 he was one of the directors of the Bank of the Metropolis (now National Metropolitan) and upon the death of General Van Ness in that year he became president to the bank and was holding that position when he died. Mr. Maury was one of the representative citizens in those days and was Mayor of the city in 1852 and 1853.

His eldest son, Mr. Wm. A. Maury, the surviving son of the family, who is still a resident of Washington, tells me that he was born in the house above mentioned, where his father had his first home. He has been well known for many years as a prominent member of the bar, and was at one time associated with the late James M. Carlisle, in that profession. Mr. Maury was one of the Assistant Attorneys-General of the U.S. from 1882 to 1893.