

## Thomas P. Plumsill

( - 27 May 1877)

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**Plumsill.** On Saturday, 27th May, 1877, 5:30 a.m. after a lingering illness, Thomas Plumsill, in the 86th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, No. 525, 10th street s.e. on Thursday, 4 p.m., 29th instant.

*The Evening Star, March 27, 1862*

### **High Old Time at the Navy Yard**

#### **Two Auctioneers at One Sale**

On Saturday afternoon quite an excitement took place on the Navy Yard, owing to the doings at an auction in that usually quite locality. On this afternoon constable Thomas Plumsill had advertised a sale of second-hand furniture to take place at the corner of Virginia avenue and Seventh street and at the appointed hour quite a number of persons, including some thirty or forty of "ye fair ladies" of that section, gathered about the long rows of "chattels."

The sale commenced, and the bidding was quite spirited for a time, the prices ruling higher even than had been anticipated by the efficient salesman and his clerk. But the fondest hopes sometimes perish, and in this case the fond expectations "quick sales and small profits," were incontinently knocked in the head, in the midst of the bidding, two soldiers, belonging to the 88th Pennsylvania Regiment, who were intoxicated, made their appearance in the crowd and took quite an active part in the bidding, and it was not long before one of them by the name of Nuneville, claimed that a lounge had been knocked down to him. Much to the discomfiture of the salesman, one soldier mounted the lounge and put it up for sale at the same time that a table sitting near by was being cried by the salesman, who being unable to proceed with the sale, expostulated with the men, and went to another portion of the stock and cried off several articles, in the hope that the soldiers would leave, but he was again mistaken, for when he returned and mounted a sofa and was about to sell it off, Nuneville jumped on the other end and commenced to rattle off in regular auction style, "Going at fifty cents, a half-a-dollar," etc. This was more than the patient auctioneer could stand, and to end the matter he gave Nuneville a heavy blow with his stick, knocking him into the street. Nuneville immediately was on his feet again, and put his hand to his breast, as if to draw a pistol, at which the crowd, auctioneer and all scattered suddenly in all directions.

The soldiers in the meantime had left the scene of the auction and proceeding to Justice Cull's procured a warrant for Plumsill's arrest, which they placed in the hands of officer Harbin. On the officer going to the place of sale to make the arrest the excitement commenced again, but after some little talk the case was ruled before Justice Murray for Monday morning, and the sale was concluded without further interruption.

On Monday morning there was quite a large crowd in attendance at the office of Justice Murray, anxiously waiting the result of the trial. After waiting some time the complainants not making their appearance, the case was dismissed.

*The Evening Star, March 2, 1874*

### **Father and Son**

Stephen B. Plumsill, threats of violence to Thomas Plumsill; an old citizen and county constable. The warrant charges that Stephen (son of Thomas) threatened to burn the old man's house, and to kill him,

and complainant has reason to believe that he will either kill, maim, wound or do him some great bodily harm. Thomas Plumsill, a very decrepid old man, took the witness stand, and in a very feeble tone of voice testified that he is 79 years of age, and that his wife had recently died, and his son Stephen had tried to get rid of him so that he could get possession of the property. He had made threats to kill him and drag him out of the house after the burial of his mother; that while his mother was laying a corpse in the house, Stephen had stolen the keys out of her pocket, and had told the grave-digger to dig his mother's grave two feet deeper, as he would have his father laying on top of her in less than two weeks.; that Stephen had laid his plans to take possession of the house during the burial of his mother. He had been a drag and torment to him for the last forty-seven years, and was the worst man he ever saw in his life. He had lately on several occasions threatened to burn every house he owned to the ground if the property was not given to him.

Judge Moore, counsel for defendant, called Mrs. Sumner, a colored woman, who testified that Stephen had been boarding at her house since last July, his father having driven him from home, and he was afraid to go home, except during the absence of his father, when he would go to see his mother; that the old man had threatened to kill him if he came to his house after the funeral.

Old man, (interrupting.)--"Judge, there's not a word of truth in it. I'm a minister of the gospel, and wouldn't tell a falsehood for the world."

Judge Moore, (to witness.)--"Did you ever hear Stephen use threats against his mother?"

Here Judge Moore made a statement that Stephen was afraid of his father and others, who were trying to prevent him from getting possession of property which had been deeded to him by his father long ago, and before he came to his dotage, and asked that protection be given to him.

Court.--"It is not possible that any danger can be apprehended from this feeble old man. If there are any other parties who defendant is afraid of, he can bring charges against them, but as the case stands, defendant must give bonds in the sum of \$200 to keep the peace to his father."

*The Evening Star, April 22, 1875*

### **Locals**

Mr. Thomas P. Plumsill, for many years a county constable and a well-known resident of the eastern part of the city, is lying very ill at his residence near the Navy Yard. Being about eighty years of age, and having been in bad health for several years, there is but little prospect of is recovery.