

John Purdy (- 22 Jul 1881)

The Evening Star, July 23, 1881

Another Old Citizen Passed Away Death of Mr. John Purdy

Mr. John Purdy, for over 50 years past a resident of this District, died last evening at his residence on 4 1/2 street, near the City Hall, in the 78th year of his age. Mr. Purdy was born in Annapolis, Md., December 27, 1803, and learning the trade of house painter in Baltimore, he came to this city in 1823. He was soon on the road to affluence and became one of the leading men in his business in the District. He invested largely in real estate, purchasing nearly the entire square bounded by Pennsylvania avenue, 1st, 2d and B streets northwest, in which is Purdy's court. He, in early life, became connected with the old Patriotic Bank on 7th street. Finally he bought all its stock and property and for some years was the president of the bank. Some fifteen years ago he became interested in the manufacture of glass, and erected the works on 25th and N streets, but this enterprise was a failure. Under this reverse his mind gradually gave way, and his health commenced to fail. For years he has needed the constant attention of someone, and has been frequently seen in our streets on the arm of a colored servant. Mr. Purdy was married twice, first to Miss Christopher in 1824, and second to Miss Sarah Crane of this city, in 1864. He leaves three children, all by his first wife, viz.: Mrs. Dr. W.F. Wallace, Mrs. Jas. E. Thompson of this city, and Mr. John Purdy, jr., who lives in Pensacola, Fla. He was a member of Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, F.A.A.M., Columbia R.A. Chapter, No. 1, and the Masonic Relief Association. He was also vice president of the Oldest Inhabitants. His funeral will take place next Tuesday.

The Evening Star, July 27, 1881

The Funeral of John Purdy took place yesterday afternoon from his late residence, on 4 1/2 street, near the City Hall, and was attended by many of the oldest residents of the District, including the Oldest Inhabitants' Association, Lebanon Lodge, No. 7, Columbia R.A. Chapter and Washington Commandery of Masons. The services of the Unitarian church were conducted by Rev. Rush R. Shippen, who delivered a brief eulogy on Mr. Purdy, and the Templar services followed, conducted by W.J. Stephenson, E.C. of Washington Commandery--the Masonic choir, led by Mr. Robert Ball, furnishing the music. The remains were borne to the hearse by Mr. J.J. Barnes, on the part of the citizens; Mr. George B. Clark, on the part of the citizens and Columbia Chapter; Robert Ball and Dr. J.B. Blake, of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association; Peter H. Hooe and C.C. Duncanson, of Washington Commandery, Knights Templar, No. 1, and Past Masters Wm. Middleton and Andrew Glass, of Lebanon Lodge. The cortege proceeded to the Congressional cemetery, where the remains were interred in the family vault.