

Jefferson Rives (- 20 Dec 1874)

The Evening Star, December 22, 1874

In Memoriam -- Fell asleep, after a few hours' illness, on the 20th of December 1874, in the 28th year of his age, Jefferson Rives.

It is seldom that one dies so young and so universally beloved. Nor is this wonderful, for death does sometimes wither the flower in the first blush of its beauty, and life rarely exhibits so much of loveliness to win regard. His heart was as broad as the humanity he bore, gentle in its sympathies and thoroughly unselfish. A truer friend never breathed; a more loving brother, husband, and son it has not been our privilege to see. Earnest in spirit, he was indefatigable in effort. He possessed in a remarkable degree long suffering, patience, while his temper was amiability itself. He was very like his illustrious father -- like him in physical frame, but more so in the largeness of his soul. We knew him well, and do not believe that he ever failed to alleviate the sorrows or the sufferings of others to the best of his ability. He has fallen asleep in the beauty of his early manhood, and the memory of his loving, gentle, and sympathetic spirit will linger near us long after the echoes of our footsteps, who bear him to his last home, have died away. He was a zealous Mason, and evinced his devotion to the order by a faithful discharge of duty. His Masonic virtues are fresh in the heart of the brotherhood; and now that his working tools are laid aside, they will throw the evergreen on his grave, and treasure with ceaseless tenderness his deeds of kindness to each and all of them.

A Friend.

The Evening Star, December 21, 1874

Sudden Death of Jefferson Rives

The many friends in the District of Mr. Jefferson Rives, were shocked yesterday evening to hear of his sudden death. He had been in his usual health up to yesterday, when, after a short drive, he repaired to his bathing room and took a cold bath. Feeling no bad effects therefrom, he, as usual, walked out and proceeded to Clark's drug store on Pennsylvania Avenue, between 4 1/2 and 6th streets, where he engaged in conversation with some friends, remaining in their company until the afternoon, when he returned to his home on C street between 3d and 4 1/2 streets. About 1 o'clock p.m., he complained of a slight pain in the stomach but thought nothing of it, remarking that it would soon pass away. About this time Dr. N. Lincoln, who had been attending Mrs. Rives for illness, called in on a professional visit, and a friend who was with Mr. Rives, advised him to call in the physician, but he laughingly replied that he would not trouble the doctor for so trivial a matter, at the same time, thanking his friend for the interest he manifested. After Dr. Lincoln left, conversation was resumed, but it was noticed that Mr. Rives was drowsy at intervals, his eyelids would drop, and he would doze a moment, then arouse and continue the subject of conversation as bright as if nothing was the matter. About 2 o'clock p.m. his friends left for home and an hour afterwards was hastily summoned by a messenger to see Mr. Rives, who was seriously ill. Servants were dispatched for physicians and for the relatives of the family. Drs. Wals and Briscoe arrived promptly, but found they were too late. When Dr. Lincoln came Mr. Rives was unconscious, and remained so until near 4 o'clock p.m., when he died. The report of his death rapidly spread on the streets later in the day, and caused general sorrow among his friends; many of whom having been with him in the early part of the day, could hardly credit the information. Mr. Rives was the youngest son of the late John C. Rives, and was a member of the firm of Rives & Bailey, proprietors of the Congressional Globe office. He was in the twenty-eighth year of his

age and about two years ago married the daughter of ex-Governor Vickers, of Maryland, and soon afterwards purchased the fine residence on C street, between 3d and 4 1/2, from Dr. J.C. May, where he has since lived. Deceased was of a noble and generous nature, which, with his endearing social qualities, won him hosts of friends. He was a member of Federal Lodge, No. 1, F.A.A.M.; Eureka Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., and Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templar, of the latter of which he was treasurer. The funeral arrangements have been placed in charge of Mr. A. Buchly, undertaker, and when completed will be announced to the public.

The Evening Star, December 22, 1874

The funeral of the late Jefferson Rives whose sudden death was mentioned in yesterday's Star will take place at 12 o'clock tomorrow from his late residence, No. 314 O street northwest and will be attended by representatives from Federal Lodge, No. 1, F.A.A.M., Eureka Chapter, No. 4, R.A.M., and Washington Commandery, No. 1, Knights Templare, of all of which orders deceased had been a member, being treasurer of the last named. The religious service will be conducted by Bishop Pinkney, of Epiphany church; assisted by Rev. Dr. Addison, of Trinity Church, and the remains will be placed in the family vault in Congressional Cemetery.

The National Intelligencer, December 23, 1874

The funeral of the late Jefferson Rives took place from the residence of deceased on C street, today at 12 o'clock p.m. The numerous friends of the family availed themselves of the propitious weather to be present, and the streets in the neighborhood, were thronged with visitors to take a last look at the remains, which were attired in a black suit of broadcloth and laid in the north parlor in the rich walnut casket covered with fine black cloth, and mounted with silver Masonic emblems and bar handles. On the top was a silver plate on which was engraved "Jefferson Rives, of the Congressional Globe, born July 4th, 1847, died December 20th, 1874." At the head of the coffin was a beautiful floral monument of white japonicas and roses, and on the foot was laid a large Maltese cross of the same kind of flowers, and wreaths were laid on the coffin with the lamb skin apron and the Knight Templar's sword, belt, and helmet, which belonged to the deceased. Many of the old resident friends of the family were present, among whom were the venerable Mr. Caton, so long connected with the "Globe" office as cashier; W.W. Corcoran, Wm. Gunton, Dr. Blake, Mr. Blair, Mr. Masi, and many others. At 12 o'clock Bishop Pinckney and Rev. Dr. John Elliot arrived, and soon after the family -- among whom we noticed ex-Governor Vickers of Maryland (father of Mrs. Rives) -- descended the stairway and took seats around the coffin. Bishop Pinckney, assisted by Dr. Elliott, then recited the beautiful burial service of the Episcopal church. Federal Lodge, No. 1; Eureka Chapter, No. 4; Washington Commandery, No. 1; with full delegations of Columbia, No. 2, and other commanderies; Matters Lodge of perfection, ancient and accepted Scottish-rite; and Evangelist Chapter, No. 1, Rose Croix Knights, A.A.S.R., were out in full numbers -- all in appropriate regalia peculiar to the several Masonic orders, of which deceased was an honored member. At the close of the service the coffin was removed to the hearse by the following pall-bearers: From Washington Commandery, K.T. - Thomas L. Hume, E.G. Davis, W.G. Brock, James P. Willett. From Eureka Chapter - Wm. B. Reed, E.B. McGrotly. From Federal Lodge - John Bartlett and John Crowley, under the direction of Mr. Anthony Buchly, the undertaker, the Knights being in line in front of the dwelling, and with swords at a present. Lieutenant Kelley, with his force of reserves preserved good order, and presented any unseemly pressure from the crowd. The chimes of the Metropolitan church played solemn dirges as the procession moved off towards the Congressional cemetery, where the impressive burial services of the Knights Templar's and blue lodge was recited at the family vault of the deceased.

At some future time the remains will be removed to the Rives family tomb at the country seat, and be laid by those of the father and mother of the deceased.