

Thomas Sim

(1770 – 15 Sep 1832)

The National Intelligencer, September 18, 1832

On the 15th instant, of the prevailing epidemic (cholera), after an illness of forty-eight hours, Doctor Thomas Sim, for many years a distinguished Practitioner of this city.

Doctor Sim was in the 63d year of his age. For scientific acquirement, professional experience, soundness of judgment, and practical benevolence, he has not left a superior.

The unlimited confidence reposed in his skill and judgment by many of our oldest and most respectable families, to whom his services have justly endeared him, would have rendered his death at any time, a subject of heartfelt regret in this community. At this juncture, when a frightful and desolating malady is stalking among us, unappeasable and almost unconquerable -- when confidence is shaken by the want of success in its treatment, the loss of such a man is a public evil, and his demise will have created a chasm not readily or speedily to be filled.

In the wise though mysterious dispensations of Divine Providence, the shaft of death not infrequently pierces a shining mark, and in this instance it is trusted that, as the good Samaritan to whom many of us have been accustomed confidently to look for succor in our distresses, has been so unexpectedly removed, we shall find incitement for preparation, in our bereavement, to render an account of our stewardship when the awful mandate of Jehovah shall summon us to the judgment seat.

History of the Medical Society of D.C., 1811-1909

Born 1770, Frederick Co., Md. Son of Dr. Joseph Sim. Removed to Washington about 1810. M.B., 1820; M.D., 1823, Univ. Pennsylvania. An incorporator of the Society under its first charter. Married Harriet Love, of Langley, Va. In 1813 (June 26) delivered a eulogy on Dr. Benj. Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence and sometime Physician-General of the Continental Army. Died of epidemic cholera, Sept. 13, 1832, while President of the Society. See Busey's Reminiscences, p. 138.

Sim, Thomas, Dr., of Washington, D.C. (dtd. 1832, probated Sept. 21, 1832, Will Book 4, O.S. 1594)

I desire that my remains may be decently interred in the site of the burial ground attached to St. John's Episcopal Church, in the City of Washington, parallel with the remains of my beloved wife, Hannah L. Sim, and that James Butt be employed to fix over it the same kind of monument as covers my dear wife, with the simple inscription of my name, birth and age.

Debts to be paid, and if necessary by collections from books for medical services

To Mrs. Margaret C. Mead, my plated candlelabras or branched candlesticks, and I get of her to accept them not for their intrinsic value but as an acknowledgment of the grateful recollections which I entertain of her uniform benevolent kindness to me, more especially at a time when I most required sympathy and attention.

By deed of manumission in Dec. 1831, and recorded in the Co. Court of Washington, D.C., I liberated former slave Laura, then aged 30 years, at expiration of 5 years from Dec. 1, 1831, and her infant son John at age 21 years.

A deed from Charles Goldsborough, Esq. of Shoe Creek, [Dorchester] Co., Eastern Shore, Md., to my late wife Hannah L. Sim, for term of service of negro girl named Dorothea, or Dolly Nicholls, which deed is recorded in Dorchester Co., Md.; term will not expire until 1839; Laura and her son John; Dolly and her infant daughter Rebecca shall be free, and \$25.

My elderly female servant Fanny Peters, for residue of her natural life, she has been the friend and protector of Laura; that Fanny and Laura live together and be provided for

To Ann Caroline Smith, youngest sister of Samuel Harrison, Esq., and now residing in his family, all residue of my estate

Exrs.: George Bomford, Sr., Esq. of Co. of Washington; J.B.H. Smith, attorney at law of City of Washington

Wit.: Arthur [Nelson]