

John Smallwood

(1800 – 6 Feb 1882)

Smallwood. At his late residence, No. 1014 Seventh street southeast, on February 6, 1882, John Smallwood, aged 82 years. Funeral services at Odd Fellows' Hall, Eighth street southeast, Wednesday, the 8th instant, at 2:30 o'clock p.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

Written by: Patricia Smallwood Sheetz, Huntingtown, Md.

John Smallwood

Navy Yard Shipcarpenter

It has been extremely difficult to discover facts about John Smallwood, for although he lived eighty-two years, he left little paperwork behind. I have researched the Census Records, Boyds' Directories, and historical data to unravel a few facts. John was born in 1800, just as the city he lived in was becoming known as Washington, DC. In 1800, one historian wrote, "Washington the new Capitol has been recently occupied. It was hardly a village, except on paper, and contained only the Capitol, the White House, two departmental buildings, and a few boarding houses. The public buildings were still uncompleted. Mrs. Adams, the wife of President John Adams, found the audience room of the White House convenient for drying clothes, and the representatives met in a temporary building erected in the middle of the unfinished Capitol."

John first appeared in the Boyds' Directory in 1827. He was listed as working for the Navy Yard as a ship carpenter and living at the NW corner of 10e and K Street. I have verified through, the District of Columbia's Marriage records that he was married three times. His first wife, Mary Mills bore him nine children. At present, I have determined that two of these children had children. I believe also that I have evidence of at least two sisters of John.

John was a hardworking individual. At various times he had his grandchildren and their children living with him. He arranged for many people to be buried, I think possibly they were church members who were the last in their families. John was a member of the Odd Fellows Organization in SE Washington, DC. And served as their Grand Noble for several years.

At this time I am unable to positively identify John's parents, but from the data I have on hand it leads me to believe he is a child of a Charles County Smallwood family. Mary Mills Smallwood is buried at Congressional Cemetery, along with her daughter Catherine and son Samuel, Range 46, Site 35. Their grave is unmarked. John died 6 February 1882 and is buried at Congressional Cemetery, Range 40, Site 195.

Sources:

- Census Records
- Boyd's Directory
- Family History
- Congressional Cemetery Records