

John A. Smith

(- 8 Jul 1868)

Smith. On Thursday, the 8th instant, John A. Smith, Esq., The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 399 C street, on Friday, at 5 1/2 o'clock p.m.

The Evening Star, July 9, 1868

Death of John Smith

Mr. John A. Smith, a well and favorably known citizen of the District, died very suddenly this morning about one o'clock. Mr. Smith had been in bad health for several months past, but his death so soon was not looked for. He was about 76 years of age, and a native of Taneytown, Western Maryland, and came here when about 22 years of age, having, we believe, been previously employed in the office of the clerk of the court of Montgomery county. He filled the position of deputy clerk of the Circuit Court of this District for many years under Col. Brent, and at his death was appointed to the vacancy, which he filled until the reorganization of the courts in 1863. He was possessed of considerable property, and for years resided on and worked the farm on which Howard University is in course of erection, he having disposed of it to the University a year or two since, and was the owner of a fine farm over the Eastern Branch. He leaves a widow and six children--two sons and four daughters. He was emphatically a gentleman of the old school--plain, open, frank and accommodating, possessing other traits of character, which drew to him a large circle of friends who will sympathize with his family in their grief. His funeral will take place at 5 1/2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon from his late residence on C street, near 3d.

Zeverly, "*Old Houses on C Street*," *Columbia Historical Society*, Vol. ???, pp. ??-??

The next house to this -- No. 308 -- was built by Henry Weightman [R??/S??], a brother of Roger Chew C. Weightman, mayor of the city in 1824, 1825 and 1826. It dates back to 1835 or 1836. Originally (and until changes were commenced a year or two ago) the house set back from the side-walk some distance, with a stone wall about two or three feet in height on a line with the adjoining houses. Francis Scott Key owned and occupied it for a time prior to 1843, when it was sold by his widow to the late John A. Smith, who was for more than 20 years clerk of the Circuit Court, and who with his family formed part of the best society in the city. Mr. Key had a portion of the west side devoted to an office with a separate door, but Mr. Smith abandoned this and made it a part of the dwelling proper. The house had a plain brick front, was unusually wide, and had old-fashioned high ceilings. Mr. Smith continued to have his home there until his death in 1868, and his widow remained there until her death in 1883. A year or two after that a son and three daughters constituting the family, moved into a northwest section of the city, and with the exception of the son, who died in 1896, they are living there now; also two granddaughters. The changes lately completed have placed an apartment house on the site, which has its frontage on a line with the neighboring houses.