

John C. Smith

(- 23 Jan 1878)

The National Intelligencer, July 22, 1853

The Commencement of Delaware College took place on Wednesday, the 20th instant, at Newark, Delaware. ... The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on the Rev. John C. Smith, Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of this city.

The Evening Star, Nov. 13, 1854

Accident to the Rev. John Smith

The Intelligencer of this date has the following: The Rev. John C. Smith, D.D., Pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in this city, was among the passengers in a car which was thrown down an embankment on the Southside Railroad, between Petersburg and Lynchburg, Va., on Thursday last. He was brought home on Saturday last, where he lies in much pain from the bruises and contusions he received; but we are gratified in being able to state that no permanent injury is expected to result from them.

The Evening Star, November 13, 1854

Accident To A Pastor

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The railroad accident, which was noticed in Saturday's paper, seems to have been more serious than at first stated. One of the firemen was instantly killed. Among those severely bruised were Mr. Alfred King, coachmaker, of Richmond, Mr. and Mrs. Ely, Mr. Venable, the mail agent, Mr. Davis, the conductor, Mr. Jones, the engineer, Mr. J.B. Hilliard, Mr. Wood and Mr. Wilson, of Cumberland county, Mrs. Smith, of Prince Edward, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Bruce, of Lynchburg. Many whose names are not given were more or less injured. A number of the stockholders were returning home from the annual meeting at Petersburg. The engine and cars were crushed, and not a passenger escaped bruises.

The Evening Star, Monday, July 8, 1867

Fourth Presbyterian Church -- The pulpit of the Rev. Dr. Smith was filled yesterday afternoon by the Rev. Dr. Burdett. In the evening the Sabbath school Missionary Society held its regular monthly meeting, superintended by Dr. Smith, who leaves today for the South, to be gone two weeks. His pulpit will be occupied next Sabbath by the Rev. G.B. Smith, and on the Sabbath following by the Rev. Dr. Burdett.

Smith. At 2:50 p.m. on the 23d of January, 1878, Rev. John C. Smith, D.D., for thirty-eight years pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian church of this city. His funeral will take place from the church edifice on Monday, 28th instant at 11 a.m. Members of the Presbytery of Washington City, clergymen of other denominations, and friends, are invited to attend.

The Evening Star, January 24, 1878

Death of a Venerable Pastor

Rev. Dr. John C. Smith, the well-known pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian (9th street) Church for nearly 40 years, died at his residence on New York avenue, between 9th and 10th streets yesterday afternoon, aged about 85 years. Dr. Smith was a native of Baltimore, studied theology under the late Dr. Duncan, and graduated at Princeton College. We next hear of his journeyings as a colporteur in the neighborhood of Old Point Comfort in Va. where his labors resulted in the organization of a church which he served as pastor for a few years. About 1837 he received a call to the Bridge Street Church, Georgetown, which he served for a little over a year, when receiving a call to the Fourth Church in this city, he accepted it, and entered on his duties here September 10th, 1838, succeeding Rev. Mason Noble, who had followed Rev. J. Noble Danford. Dr. Smith was at that time apparently in bad health, and it was supposed by many that he would live but a few months. For years afterwards it was supposed that his death was near at hand. So certain were some members of his congregation that he would not live, that the late Anthony Preston, during a visit to Scotland, procured a handsome monument to be over the grave of his loved friend. Mr. Preston did not find Mr. Smith dead on his return, as he feared, and he himself, dying several years ago the monument was placed over his grave. Dr. Smith was, in some respects, a model pastor, and performed a vast amount of labor for one so weak as he was. He was social in the extreme and was universally loved and respected by young and old, both in his congregation and outside. For over a year past Dr. Smith has been confined most of the time to his home from the effects of a fall last winter, and it is said that this was the cause of his death. The funeral will take place at 11 o'clock on Monday morning next, from the church on 9th street near G.

The Evening Star, January 28, 1878

Funeral of Rev. Dr. Smith

The funeral of the late Rev. Dr. John C. Smith, for nearly forty years the pastor of the 4th (9th street) Presbyterian church, who died at his residence on New York avenue, near 9th street, on Wednesday afternoon last, took place from the church at 11 o'clock this morning, and was attended by a large concourse of citizens, the church being much too small to accommodate the assemblage. The pulpit was draped in morning as also the organ and the family pew. On one side of the pulpit there was a monument of flowers typifying unity and love, the base being two feet in depth, composed of flowers (contributed by the scholars of the Sunday School) and the shaft six feet (contributed by the congregation) surmounted by a crown with cross (contributed by the Young People's Association). The word "Rest," appeared on the monument in immortelles, and the whole stood ten feet one inch in height. On the Bible rest was placed a crown and a cross in front (gifts of Rev. J. T. Kelly and wife), a star by Mrs. Connolly, and an open Bible in flowers by Mr. and Mrs. Merchant. The remains, in an elegant casket, were brought in the church, followed by the family and immediate friends, about 11 o'clock, the associate pastor, Rev. J.T. Kelly, reading the burial service -- the following being the pall-bearers; Rev. Dr. T.D. Addison, Trinity (Episcopal) church; Rev. Dr. J.G. Butler, Memorial (Lutheran) church; Rev. B.F. Bittinger, Westminster (Presbyterian) church; Rev. Dr. A.H. Ames, McKendree (Methodist) church; Rev. Dr. J.H. Cuthbert, First Baptist church, and Rev. Dr. Westcott, of Howard University. As the remains were borne up the aisle, the choir sang "Rest, Spirit, Rest," (Rooke,) and during the services also sang. "Cast thy Burden Upon the Lord," (Mendelsohn,) and the Funeral March of Chopin. Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Shepherd, of Philadelphia, and Rev. Dr. John Leyburn, of the Associated Reformed Church of Baltimore (the church with which Dr. Smith first united,) each made short addresses. The remains were taken to the Congressional Cemetery, where the interment was made, and the floral monument which was at the church was placed on the grave.

The Washington Post, January 29, 1878, p. 4

The Old Pastor's Funeral

Strong Men Weep and the Young Bring Crowns of Flowers

The funeral of the lamented Rev. Dr. John C. Smith took place yesterday morning at 11 o'clock, from the Fourth Presbyterian Church, of which he had been pastor nearly forty years. Had the Church been twice as large, it could not have accommodated the immense assembly of people who come to testify their respect and affection for the memory of the good old man. The funeral decorations were mournfully beautiful. The pulpit, the pastoral pew and the organ were draped in mourning. By the side of the pulpit was erected a monument of flowers, two deep at base--the basal flowers the gift of the Sunday School, and the blossoms forming the shaft were contributed by the congregation. A crown and cross, the offering of the Young Peoples' Association of the church, rested on the apex of the column, in whose body the word "Rest" was in-worked with immortelles. Beautiful floral gifts rested on the Bible-stand, the offerings of sorrowing friends. Rev. Joseph Kelly and wife gave a cross and crown, Mrs. Connolly a star, and Mr. and Mrs. Silas Merchant contributed an exquisitely beautiful open Bible in front. At 11 o'clock the family and their most intimate friends followed the remains into the church, and the burial service of the Presbyterian Church was sadly and impressively read over the silent lips of one, who, on that very spot had so often read the same service over so many of his congregation that "had gone before." As the corpse was carried up the aisle the choir sang the beautiful funeral hymn, "Rest, Spirit, Rest," and during the services performed selections from Mendelssohn and the Funeral March of Chopin. The Rev. Thomas J. Shepherd, of Philadelphia, and Rev. Dr. John Leyburn, of the Associated Reform Church, of Baltimore, with which church the deceased had first connected himself, made addresses in memory of the departed. The pallbearers were Rev. B.F. Bittinger, of Westminster Presbyterian Church; Rev. Dr. J.G. Butler, of Memorial Lutheran Church; Rev. Dr. T.D. Addison, of Trinity Episcopal Church; Rev. Dr. A.H. Ames, of McKendree Methodist Church; Rev. Dr. J.H. Cuthbert, of the First Baptist Church, and Rev. Dr. Westcott, of Howard University. The remains were interred at the Congressional Cemetery, and the shaft of flowers which stood by the altar in the church was placed over the new made grave.

The Evening Star, February 7, 1878

Locals

The last will of Rev. John C. Smith, late pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian church, dated January 4th, 1878, was filed yesterday in the Probate Court. He leaves his property valued at \$20,000 to his wife, who is made sole executrix, and A.J. Falls executor.

[Note: Rev. Smith presided at the funeral of Tuck-A-Lix-Tah.]