

Joseph Edward Smoot (- 13 Mar 1857)

Smoot. On the 13th, Captain Joseph Smoot, U.S. Navy.

The Evening Star, March 16, 1857.

Funerals Yesterday

A large concourse of friends including officers of both the Army and Navy attended the funeral of James Smoot, U.S. Navy from his late residence.

Midshipman December 1, 1809; Lieutenant April 27, 1816; commander March 3, 1835; Captain September 8, 1841. Was assigned as Midshipman on U.S.S. Hornet, September 1, 1811, and served thereon throughout the War of 1812, the Hornet capturing a number of valuable prizes. On February 24, 1813, she engaged the H.R.M.S. Peacock and took her into New York. Later was blockaded in New London, Conn., by a British squadron; succeeded in getting out on November 13, 1814. On March 23, 1815, captured H.R.M.S. Penguin after an engagement of twenty-two minutes. The Commander, officers and crew were commended by Congress in a Resolution of February 22, 1816, and the commander was presented with a gold medal and the other officers with silver medals. Served on the U.S.S. Hornet, Nonsuch, Dispatch, Macedonian, United States, Grampus, Erie, Levant, and other vessels.

Newman, Harry Wright, *The Smoots of Maryland and Virginia, Washington, DC: 1936, p. 31-32*

Captain Joseph Smoot (1792-1857)

Joseph Edward Smoot, son of John and Elizabeth (Parker) Smoot, was born 1792 in Dorchester County. From Maryland he was appointed a midshipman in the United States Navy on December 1, 1809, and rose successively to the rank of captain.

As midshipman he served on the U.S.S. Hornet with Captain James Lawrence and participated in the engagement with the H.B.M.S. Peacock and her capture on February 14, 1813. Other vessels on which he saw sea service were Nonsuch, Macedonia, Peacock, Grampus, Erie and Levant, and had duty at the following Navy Yards -- Norfolk, Washington, and Portsmouth. His last command was at the latte station from 1852 to October 1, 1855, from thence he retired to his residence on K Street in the National Capital.

He was one of the three Marylanders who received by an act of the Maryland Legislature a sword at the conclusion of the War of 1812 "for the gallant and good conduct of Joseph Smoot a native of this State and now a lieutenant in the Navy of the United States in the actions between the Hornet and Peacock and Hornet and Penguin."

Resolution number one of the Acts of 1858 relates that the late Captain Smoot felt himself aggrieved by the action of the Government of the United States undner the act entitled "an act to promote the efficiency of the Navy" and that while suffering under what he conceived to be the wrong and injustice done to him, he departed his life in sorrow and sadness, and Mrs. Anne E. Smoot, his widow, feeling on her part that it would not be proper to retain the sword, returned it to the State of Maryland.

The Governor of Maryland presented the sword which had thus been returned to the State to Algernon Sydney Smoot, son of the late Captain Joseph Smoot, with the charge that he shall cherish it as

a testimonial of high appreciation of the State of Maryland for the distinguished service of his late father and that it shall never be drawn from its scabbard for use except in defense of his country, her rights, or her sacred honor.

Joseph Smoot married first Margaret ____, born 1813. She died January 15, 1838, and was interred in Congressional Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

The only child, Virginia, was born 1826 and died 1851. On March 14, 1844, according to license issued in Montgomery County, Maryland, he married Anne, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Gassaway) Darne.

Children of Joseph and Anne (Darne) Smoot

1. William Algernon Sydney Smoot married Mary Head

Captain Joseph Smoot died on March 13, 1857, and was interred in Congressional Cemetery, Washington. His will, dated September 25, 1851 was probated in the District of Columbia on April 10, 1857. He bequeathed his entire estate to his widow for the support of his "only child Sydney". His widow survived until the year 1887.