

Joseph Borrows Tate (- 2 Mar 1858)

Tate. On the 2d instant, at 10-1/2 p.m., Captain Joseph Borrows Tate, in the 40th year of his age. The funeral will take place from his late residence off M street north, second door east of Tenth; tomorrow (Friday) afternoon at 2 o'clock, to which his friends and those of the family are invited.

The Evening Star, March 3, 1858, p. 3

Dead -- Last night, at half-past ten o'clock, Capt. Joseph B. Tate, the founder of this paper--The Evening Star--and since the 3d of July, 1853, the manager of its financial affairs, died at his residence on M street, of a pulmonary affection, which had been gradually wasting him away for four years past. No man was better known to the present generation of the citizens of Washington; for no other among them--though making no pretensions--was more noted for active business habits and substantial usefulness in his sphere. In all of his dealings with everyone, he was strictly an upright man, and took no thought of aught but the conscientious discharge of his duties to his family, his friends, and the community. As a husband, father, son, and friend, his death will leave a void in many hearts that no changes of life throughout time can fill. He lived a bright example of the value to society of true public spirit, probity, industry, and temperance in all things; and, dying, has left behind him a consequent reputation which should be a consolation to his widow and two orphans, so mournfully bereaved in his death. His end was calm and peaceful. For thirty-six hours before it transpired, he was aware of its approach; and, after receiving the consolations of the religion of Christ, the Redeemer of Men, he arranged his worldly affairs with as much equanimity as though in perfect health. He was a native of this city and was aged thirty-nine years and nine months.

His funeral is to take place on Friday next, at 2 p.m., from his late residence (on M street, near the corner of Tenth) from whence his earthly remains will be escorted to their final resting place by the Washington Light Infantry and the Odd Fellows, and his friends and those of his family, who are invited to attend. We shall rarely look upon his like again.

The Evening Star, March 6, 1858, p. 3

The Funeral of Capt. Joseph B. Tate was very largely attended yesterday despite the weather, which was the most disagreeable of the season. The religious services at the house were conducted by Rev. Dr. Hall, of the church of the Epiphany, who attended the deceased in his last hours. The preacher gave an interesting and affecting account of his later interviews with the departed--of the patient resignation with which the sufferer bore his pains--of the calmness with which he arranged his worldly affairs, and of the childlike attention and simplicity with which he received religious teachings and prepared himself for his departure to another world.

Upon the conclusion of the exercises at the house a most touching scene was presented in the agonized leave-taking by the widow and orphans of the remains of the beloved deceased, and there was not a dry eye in the assemblage. The members of the Light Infantry company and Odd Fellows then passed by the side of the coffin to bestow a last mournful glance upon the pale yet pleasant features of the dead.

The escort, consisting of the Infantry, Capt. Davis, with Wither's Band, and Central Lodge and Columbia Encampment, I.O.O.F., under the marshalship of John W. Hodgson, and with Weber's Band, was formed into line, and the long funeral procession proceeded on its way to the Congressional

Burying-ground, passing down Tenth street and along the avenue. At the grave after the Episcopal service had been performed by the Rev. Mr. Hall, Chaplain Martin Johnson, of Central Lodge, performed the funeral rites of the Odd Fellows, and the volleys of the Infantry over the grave concluded the mournful ceremonies, and the lamented one was left "In the deep stillness of that dreamy state of sleep."

The funeral arrangements, we should add were conducted in the most satisfactory manner by the undertaker, Mr. Anthony Buchly.

The Evening Star, March 4, 1858

The Flags of the Franklin Fire Company and of the Washington Light Infantry were flying at half-mast yesterday and today for the death of Capt. Tate, and the feeling of sorrow for his loss and of sympathy with his family; is universal in the community. The funeral takes place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock from his late residence on M street and will, it is presumed, be very largely attended. In another column will be found calls for meetings on the part of Central Lodge and Columbian Encampment I.O.O.F., and of the Light Infantry, preparatory to attending the funeral.

Proctor, p. 382-383

The Star Looks Back Over Ninety Years of Growth

The Star will begin its 91st year of public service to the citizenry of the Nation's Capital when it celebrates its birthday next Wednesday. It was on the 16th day of December, 1852, when the first regular edition of this paper was issued.

Starting back when Washington was to all intents and purposes a real City of Dust and Mud, The Star has traveled along with the people of the District and at all times has been found in the front ranks fighting the city's battles and strongly advocating all that seemed best for its welfare, happiness and prosperity. Its record is one of the brightest spots in Washington history.

Through the years The Star, we believe, has lived up to this policy as expressed in its very first issue:

"The Star is designed to supply a desideratum which has long existed at the Metropolis of the Nation. Free from party trammels and sectarian influences, it will preserve a strict neutrality, and, whilst maintaining a fearless spirit of independence will be devoted, in an especial manner, to the local interests of the beautiful City which bears the honored name of Washington, and to the welfare and happiness of the large and growing population within its borders. To develop the resources of the Metropolis--to increase and facilitate its mercantile operations--to foster and encourage its industrial pursuits--to stimulate its business and trade--to accelerate its progress in their march to power and greatness--these shall always remain objects of the paper."

Capt. Joseph B. Tate, a printer, started The Star, or which was at first called "Daily Evening Star." He was a man with aspirations, and one of these was to own and edit his own newspaper. He had previously been associated with three other men in the founding of the American Telegraph, a political organ created to help Gen. Winfield Scott in the presidential campaign of 1852, but which soon went out of existence after Gen. Scott's defeat.

Capt. Tate was probably a good mixer, but not altogether a good businessman. But at least he was courageous in founding The Star, since during this period, particularly, papers were being born here, seemingly, most every day, and were dying here just as fast, and, indeed, two previous attempts to found a Star had resulted in a failure--the Columbian Star in 1852 and the Washington Star in 1841. But, according to an early account, "Mr. Tate knew his Washington and he thought that a neutral paper, which would take an interest in the development of the city, keep its skirts clean, refuse to be entangled with political parties and report the news fairly and decently, would succeed." And it did!

But he was a proprietor of the paper for less than a year, for in July, 1853, W.D. Wallach and W.H. Hope bought it from him, and Capt. Tate retired to the cashier's cage, continuing as cashier of the paper until his death five years later.