

## Seth Jewett Todd

(1807 – 25 Apr 1841)

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**Todd.** On the morning of the 25th April, 1841, at a quarter past 8 o'clock, after a painful and lingering illness, Mr. Seth J. Todd, Druggist, formerly of Newburyport, Mass. in the 37th year of his age. His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, without further notice, this day (Monday) at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, from his late dwelling on Pennsylvania avenue.

*The National Intelligencer, May 18, 1841*

If "it is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting," it may not be unprofitable to recur to such dispensations of Providence as may afford a useful moral.

In the death of Mr. Seth J. Todd, the community at large, as well as his relatives and friends, have met with a severe bereavement. Though his sojourn among us has been comparatively short, it has been a true commentary on the Prophet's grand injunction, "Do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God."

His mind was naturally of a retiring contemplative cast, which the voice of the poor and distressed never failed to arouse to a ready and efficient hearing. It might truly be said of him--

"Large was his bounty, and his soul sincere."

His friendships were somewhat singular, being stronger and more tenacious in the hour of adversity than of prosperity, as is verified, in several instances, by his proffering the facilities of his name and advice to unfortunate industrious neighbors, raising them from their embarrassments and sending them on their way rejoicing.

The writer of this once called on him in a case of death and destitution in the neighborhood. He observed, after a liberal contribution, that he felt obliged to any one for calling on him in such cases.

Death had no terrors for him--he met his approach with perfect composure; for he had done his work, and cast himself on the alone merits of his Savior, which he testified to inquirers were now unspeakably precious. He fell asleep with all that benignity of countenance brightened as though already mingling in the joys of the upper sanctuary.

"Sure the last end

Of the good man is peace. How calm his exit!  
Night dews fall not more gently to the ground,  
Nor weary worn-out winds expire so soft."

*Will of Seth J. Todd, of City and County of Washington, D.C.* (dtd. April 23, 1841, probated May 4, 1841; Book 5, pp. 201-203; O.S. 2273; Box 15)

Exrs. To rent out or dispose of estate, either by public or private sale; proceeds to benefit wife and children, including \$5,000 policy with New York Life Insurance and Trust Company; to be invested in stock of this or other incorporated city of stock of the U.S.; Exrs. Have control of all estate, including that which daughter Ellen Gilliss Todd now holds in her own right.

To my mother, Sophia Todd, interest accruing on \$3,000 in stock; at her death, to sisters Sophia Jones Todd and Mary Elizabeth Todd in qual portions; residue of estate to wife Ellen M. Todd, and after her death to children: Ellen Gilliss Todd and Thomas Gilliss Todd; should the children die before age 21, the estate to the two sisters.

Exrs.: Thomas H. Gilliss; father-in-law; William B. Todd, brother

Wits.: William C. Orme; Z.D. Gilman; James T. Davis