

## John T. Towers

(21 Feb 1811 - 11 Aug 1857)

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**Towers.** On the morning of the 11th instant, John T. Towers, in the 47th year of his age. The funeral to which the friends of the family are invited will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock moving from his late residence on K street between 8 and 9th streets to Trinity Church on 3d street where the funeral service will be performed.

*The National Intelligencer, August 12, 1857*



In the demise of this excellent citizen after a painful illness of several weeks duration, we are sure our whole community will feel more than an ordinary share of grief. Mr. Towers was a native of Alexandria, but for the last 30 years a resident of Washington, and one of our most popular and useful men. Possessed of excellent natural powers, cultivated through years of toil in a round of public and private duty, with a disposition at once manly, generous and true, he won early in life the respect and esteem of the people and served them faithfully many years in both branches of the City Councils and very recently for one term as Mayor. In all the relations of life he acted well his part, and has descended to an honorable tomb, leaving to the young men of the day an example of how much may be achieved by well-directed industry and ambition Mr. Towers was in the 47th year of his age.

At his death lived on the North side of K street between 8th and 9th. Funeral from Trinity Episcopal Church.

*The Evening Star, August 11, 1857*

### **Death of John T. Towers**

The Washington public will grieve to learn that ex-Mayor John T. Towers died yesterday at the residence of his father-in-law, in Montgomery county, Md., of the disease under which he had been wasting away for some months past.

We knew him intimately since the boyhood of both of us, and rarely knew a man in whose nature there were combined more substantial and valuable qualities. He was distinguished for public spirit, frankness, liberality and good sense as a citizen, and for all the personal qualities which secure for a man the ardent love of his own family and of those even remotely depending upon him for happiness or success in life. Few men of his age have been of more substantial service to Washington city, the improvement and prosperity of which were always the subjects of unflagging solicitation on his part.

*The Evening Star, August 13, 1857*

### **The Funeral of Mr. Towers**

Between 4 and 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the funeral procession left the late residence of Mr. Towers, headed by the Grand Lodge I.O.O.F. of the District Central Lodge, and members of the Patriarchal branch, accompanied by Prosper's band and a band of martial music.

The pall-bearers on the part of the Corporation were—Gen. R. Weightman, J.H. Bradley, James F. Halliday, Samuel E. Douglass, Jonathan T. Walker, Dr. A. McD. Davis, A.G. Seaman, Samuel Bacon. On the part of the Odd Fellows--P.G.M.'s John Mills and John Sessford, and P.G.'s William Cooper and William Hoover.

The line of march was down Massachusetts avenue and Third street to Trinity Church, (Episcopal) in which the deceased was a pew holder.

The bells of the Fire Company No. 6 and of the Fifth Presbyterian Church were tolled during the march.

On receiving the corpse at the house a solemn and affecting dirge, the composition of the leader, Mr. F. Prosperi, was performed by the band.

The services at the church (in the absence of Rev. Mr. Cummins) were performed by Rev. Mr. Pinckney, and Rev. Mr. Hutton, of Brookville, Md. Who ministered by the bedside of Mr. Towers during his illness, and who delivered an instructive and impressive funeral sermon.

At six o'clock, the procession, which was a long one, numbering some sixty carriages containing the family and friends of the deceased, Corporation officers, etc., left Trinity Church for the Congressional Cemetery. At the grave the concluding rites of the Episcopal Church were performed by the Rev. Mr. Hutton, and the impressive service of the I.O.O.F. was performed by P.G.M. John T. Clements, who officiated as chaplain.

Credit is due to the undertaker, Mr. A. Buchly, for the very perfect manner in which the arrangements of the funeral were carried out, especially in view of the length of the cortege.