

Thomas Croft Wright

(31 Dec 1771 – 23 Jul 1847)

Wright. In Georgetown on Wednesday evening last, Thomas C. Wright, Esq. aged 70 years, one of the oldest inhabitants. His funeral will take place this afternoon at 5 o'clock from his late residence on High street.

The National Intelligencer, August 2, 1841

The death of Mr. Thomas C. Wright, of Georgetown, has been already briefly noticed in the columns of the National Intelligencer. It is due, however, in the estimation of the present writer, a friend and fellow countryman of the deceased, to pay this additional tribute to departed worth. The memory of Thomas Croft Wright is justly endeared to a number of his surviving countrymen in the United States, to whom he was a kind friend and faithful adviser under many trying circumstances and vicissitudes of fortune; and by none of those fellow-countrymen are the excellent qualities and sterling virtues of the deceased more fully appreciated than by him who writes this obituary.

Thomas C. Wright, who departed this life at Georgetown, D.C. on the 24th instant, was born at Blakeney, in the county of Norfolk, England, in the year 1771. He emigrated to the United States in the year 1800, and settled himself as a merchant at Georgetown in the spring of 1801. During Mr. Wright's residence in Georgetown, which continued during the long period of forty years, he was esteemed for his frankness and probity; and although unfortunate in some extensive commercial enterprises, (through the failure of others in whom he placed too much confidence) and greatly embarrassed during the latter part of his life, Mr. W. continued to enjoy the esteem and respect of a numerous circle of friends, acquaintances, and fellow-countrymen—even of those who were sufferers by his unexpected and undeserved reverse of fortune.. In the year 1818 Mr. Wright paid a visit to his native country, and through his favorable representations of the political, agricultural, and general prosperity of this thriving Republic, many English families, now residents in the District of Columbia, and in other parts of the Union, emigrated to the Western World, and bade a final adieu to the land of their nativity. In his political feelings and opinions Mr. Wright was a decided republican. No man who was born and raised in a limited Monarch ever cherished a more ardent attachment to the form of Government which had been so gloriously and happily established in the country of his adoption. Indeed, it may be truly asserted, that no individual in private life was ever more sincerely attached to the cause of civil and religious liberty all over the world than was Thomas Croft Wright.

To his fellow-countrymen who emigrated to this country by the inducement of his valuable and friendly advice—to those who were introduced to him by letter, or who had become casually known to him in the course of his extensive mercantile dealings, Mr. Wright was uniformly kind and affable—often aiding them in the hour of need and difficulty, not only with his purse, but with that sage and prudent counsel which, as they have since acknowledged, has conducted to their permanent prosperity and happiness. To such individuals the memory of Thomas C. Wright is peculiarly dear; but it is not to his fellow countrymen alone that Mr. Wright's memory is endeared by the most grateful and pleasing recollections. Thomas C. Wright was an upright and worthy man, highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was, indeed, a citizen of whom any country might feel proud, and whom any citizen might delight to honor. Peace to his ashes! W.T.