

## Mary J. Youngs ( - 11 Mar 1882)

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*The Evening Star, March 13, 1882*

### **Mrs. Theophilus Youngs Dead**

#### **The Curious Law Suit in Which She Was Involved**

Mrs. Theophilus Youngs, whose litigation in New York with the brother of her husband had brought her prominently before the public, died suddenly on Saturday evening, at her home, near Oxen run in the county. Mrs. Youngs was the granddaughter of the late Rev. Dr. Laurie, who many years ago was the pastor of the F street Presbyterian church, now Willard hall. She was at the time of her death about forty years of age. During the war the deceased was married to Theophilus Youngs, and lived with him a few years, having several children. Youngs then left the city, and Mrs. Youngs followed him to Baltimore, but he would not return here with her. In 1876 a man was drowned in Boston harbor, and it was claimed that this was Theophilus Youngs, upon which the property went into the hands of a brother of Theophilus as administrator. After a time Youngs (or a man claiming to be Youngs) returned, but Mrs. Youngs did not (or would not) recognize him as her husband. A law suit in New York followed, and is now pending. It is probable that the death of Mrs. Youngs will end the litigation. Dr. Patterson yesterday viewed the body of Mrs. Youngs, and decided that death was caused by heart disease.

*The Evening Star, March 17, 1882*

### **Theophilus Youngs**

One of the New York counsel in the Theophilus Youngs' case is reported by the New York Herald to have said Thursday: "Mrs. Youngs' death has put an end to the case, at least for the present. It can be revived, however, by the appointment of a new administrator and of a guardian for her children, who are all minors. Mrs. Youngs died on Saturday last, at the cottage of her son-in-law, Richard Goddard, at Ox Run, four miles from Washington, I regret to say in a state of complete destitution. On hearing of the death the alleged Theophilus Youngs at once proceed to Washington and defrayed the cost of the funeral. He was recognized and acknowledged by the friends and relatives of the woman whose husband he claims to have been. Goddard, who swore at the trial here, that he was an impostor, now professes to fully recognize him as Theophilus Youngs." The latest action in the case was a decision a few days ago by Surrogate Hollins, directing that Theophilus Youngs should give an account of himself from 1875 to 1880, which he had refused to do when the case was before Surrogate Calvin.

Mrs. James C. Laurie, wife of the brother of the late Mrs. Theophilus Youngs, stated to a Star reporter today that the above statement is incorrect; that the alleged Theophilus Youngs did not pay any of the funeral expenses except \$6 for the hearse. Mrs. Laurie produced a bill of the undertaker for the coffin, and one of the Congressional cemetery for the grave, etc., made out against her husband, (who is an employee of the Treasury printing bureau), to substantiate her statements. Mrs. Laurie also states that Mr. Goddard, son-in-law of the deceased, did not acknowledge the man present at the funeral as Theophilus Youngs.

*The Evening Star, March 21, 1882*

### **The Death of Mrs. Theophilus Youngs**

Owing, as it appears, to a mistake made by some papers in reporting the name of Mrs. Mary I. Youngs, the wife of Theophilus Youngs, whose death on the 11th inst. was announced in the papers at the time, the question has been raised as to whether it was Mrs. Youngs. The testimony of the death

certificate in the health office, and of relatives, who were present at the funeral, however, is to the effect that it was Mrs. Youngs who died. The funeral expenses, moreover, were paid by the alleged Theophilus, who is reported to be in the city at the present time.

*The Evening Star, March 22, 1882*

### **The Theophilus Youngs' Case Again**

Mrs. James Laurie, wife of the brother of Mrs. Theophilus Youngs, recently deceased, says that her husband paid all the expenses of the funeral, except \$6 for the hearse, which was paid by the alleged Theophilus. In support of her statement Mrs. Laurie exhibited to a Star reporter a card from the undertaker. Mr. John M. Mitchell, which said: "The alleged Mr. Youngs' statement is not correct. He has not paid the funeral expenses, except six dollars for a hearse. Mrs. Laurie's statement is correct." The members of Mrs. Youngs' family still decline to identify the "alleged" Mr. Youngs. Mrs. Youngs leaves five children, in whose interest, it is stated, the legal fight will be continued. Two of these children were by her first husband. If the "alleged" Theophilus should establish his identity, according to the terms by which his estate is held, his brother would enjoy the benefits of it.