

Joseph T. Coldwell

(1832 – 8 Feb 1884)

Coldwell. On February 8, 1884, at 12:30 a.m., Joseph T. Coldwell in the 53d year of his age. Funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 469 Missouri avenue n.w. on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend.

The Evening Star, February 4, 1884

Knocked Down and Run Over

Mr. J.T. Coldwell, the Real Estate Dealer, Badly Injured

Mr. J.T. Coldwell, the well known real estate dealer, was yesterday afternoon knocked down and run over by a horse and wagon, driven by J.W Wallace, at the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and 11th street. Wallace was arrested by Officer Diggins, and a charge of assault and battery was preferred against him. Mr. Coldwell was taken to the station house, where he was attended by Drs. Bronson and Taylor, after which he was sent to his home at No. 469 Missouri avenue.

Wallace was charged in the Police Court this morning with assault, and the case was continued on account of the illness of Mr. Coldwell until next Saturday.

The Sufferer Not Yet Conscious

The condition of Mr. Coldwell had not changed up to 12 o'clock today. He has shown no signs of returning consciousness, and a consultation of physicians will be held sometime this evening as to his condition. Dr. Poulton thinks it a severe concussion of the brain.

The Evening Star, February 5, 1884

The Condition of Mr. J.T. Coldwell

Mr. J.T. Coldwell, who was run over on Sunday afternoon by a horse and wagon driven by J.W. Wallace, still lies at his residence in a precarious condition. The first sign of consciousness he has shown was this morning, when he seemed to recognize his wife. It is thought that his skull was not fractured, but that he received a severe concussion of the brain. His physicians consider his condition as critical.

The Evening Star, February 6, 1884

Serious Condition of Mr. J.T. Coldwell

The condition this morning of Mr. J.T. Coldwell, injured by being run over a day or two ago by a horse and wagon, was not cheering. Dr. J. Ford Thompson stated to a Star reporter that the case looked discouraging; the patient showed no symptoms of returning consciousness, and was weaker this morning than he had been.

The Evening Star, February 8, 1884

Death of Joseph T. Coldwell

Fatal Result of Street Accident--Sketch of Mr. Coldwell's Life—

The Knights of Pythias Celebration Postponed

Mr. Joseph T. Coldwell, who was run over by a vehicle driven by a man named Wallace, last Sunday evening, died at 12:30 o'clock this morning, at his residence, No. 469 Missouri avenue. Mr. Coldwell was

unable to speak from the time of the occurrence until his death. The only signs of consciousness he gave was on Tuesday morning, when he, by look, recognized his wife. Mr. Coldwell, who was a native of Petersburg, Virginia, was born in 1832, and came to this city about thirty years ago as a telegraph operator. He was known as one of the most expert operators in this section of the country. On the breaking out of the war Mr. Coldwell returned to his native state, and he was made chief of the military telegraph of the confederacy, serving as such till the close of the war. He was one of the first, at the conclusion of the war, to accept the situation, and returning to this city, he accepted the management of the Southern Express company, the office being at 4 1/2 street and the Avenue. Subsequently he engaged in the auction business, and afterwards, with Mr. B.H. Waner, in the real estate business. For the past few years he has been in business on his own account. He has been a prominent worker in the order of Knights of Pythias, having filled the highest offices in that organization. He was a P.G.C. or Excelsior lodge, No. 14, and was also a member of Federal City lodge of Odd Fellows. Mr. Coldwell leaves a widow, but had no children of his own. He had, however taken in his family the children of a deceased brother-in-law. The funeral will take place from his late residence Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

An Inquest to be Held

The coroner will hold an inquest on the body of Mr. Coldwell and inquiries into the causes which led to his death. Mr. J.W. Wallace, who was driving the horse and buggy which knocked him down on Sunday last, has given bonds to answer for the assault. The inquest will take place tomorrow at 11 o'clock, at the late residence of deceased.

The Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias has, in consequence of the death of Mr. C., determined to postpone the celebration of the anniversary of the order, which had been arranged for the 19th inst.

At a Meeting of the Real Estate Agents,

held this morning, at the office of B.H. Warner, representatives from some thirty five offices being present, B.H. Warner was called to the chair, and F.H. Smith elected secretary. A committee of five having been appointed to prepare resolutions expressive of the sentiments of the meeting relative to the death of the late Joseph T. Coldwell, retired, and subsequently reported the following resolutions, which, after remarks by man of those present, were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That we learn with deep sorrow of the sudden death of our friend and associate in business, Joseph T. Coldwell.

Resolved, That we will cherish the memory of our deceased friend for his unswerving business integrity, kindness and gentleness of nature, purity of life, and for all the qualities of mind and heart which have won for him the earnest friendship and esteem of all who knew him.

Resolved, That we extend to his family our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement, and that we will, in a body, attend his funeral.

Resolved, That these resolutions, duly attested by the chairman and secretary of this meeting, be communicated to the family of the deceased, and that the same be furnished the daily press of the city for publication.

The Evening Star, February 9, 1884

The Coldwell Inquest

Verdict of Accidental Death

A coroner's inquest was held this morning, at 11 o'clock, on the body of the late J.T. Coldwell, at the residence of his family, 469 Missouri avenue. The jury was composed of Messrs. John A. Goldin, Horatio Browning, Walter H. Wyvill, J.B. Kendall, Henry Larman and Richard E. Parker. The first witness that was

called was Henry S. Breslin, who testified that he was coming down Pennsylvania avenue about four o'clock Sunday afternoon. He saw Mr. Coldwell passing near 11th street, and a horse and buggy going along very near him, and someone called out, "Look out." At the same moment he saw Mr. Coldwell throw up his hands, and just then he was struck by the horse and thrown down violently, striking heavily on the pavement, and the buggy ran over him, striking him on the body. The horse was going on a brisk trot at the time, but not above the gait usually allowable for traveling.

Albert Stewart testified that the horse at the time was going very slow--just a dog trot.

Wm. Kelly testified that he was standing at the southwest corner of 11th street and Pennsylvania avenue, and noticed Mr. Wallace driving the horse and buggy. After he crossed the car-track on the avenue witness' attention was called in another direction, and in a moment afterwards he heard talking, and when he turned the driver was holding up, having driven over some one. The man was prostrate on the ground, his head about three feet from the curb, and his feet in a westerly direction. It happened about 20 minutes past 4 o'clock.

Dr. Hartigan testified that there was no fracture of the skull; there must have been great concussion.

Washington Finney (colored) testified that Mr. Coldwell had his back about half turned when the horse struck him. Witness stood about two steps from him, and was going towards The Star office.

Mr. J.W. Wallace stated that about 4 o'clock his wife wanted to go out, and he went to the stable, on 11th street, and got his horse and started up to cross the avenue, and the accident occurred when within about twelve feet of the northwest corner of the curb. He was a great friend of Mr. Coldwell, and belonged to several associations with him.

The case was given to the jury, who in a few moments rendered a verdict of death from being accidentally run over, and that Mr. Wallace was blameless.

The Funeral

The funeral will take place tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. The pall-bearers selected on the part of the Knights of Pythias will be G.J.L. Foxwell and Halvor Nelson, of Washington Division, No. 1, U.R.; M.C. Mitchell and Joseph Gibbons, of Excelsior Lodge, No. 14, and Richard Goodheart and W.T. Bailey, of the Grand Lodge.. Other gentlemen named as pall-bearers are F.H. Smith, B.H. Warner, E.A. McIntyre, Randall Hagner, and C.C. Duncanson. The Rev. Dr. Pitzer, of the Central Presbyterian church, will preach the funeral sermon.

At a meeting of the Washington division, No. 1, Uniformed Rank Knights of Pythias last evening, Sir Knight Jacob P. Smith announced the death of Sir Knight Commander J.T. Coldwell in appropriate terms, and eulogies were pronounced by Sir Knights Nelson, Foxwell and Glasscock.

The members of Hermione Lodge, No. 12, K. of P., will attend in a body tomorrow the funeral of P.G.C. J.T. Coldwell. See advertisement of meeting called.

The Evening Star, February 11, 1884

The Coldwell Obsequies

The funeral of Joseph T. Coldwell, which took place yesterday afternoon from the family residence, No. 469 Missouri avenue, was one of the most imposing private funerals ever witnessed in the District. The cortege was fully half a mile in length. A large number of floral tributes were displayed about the casket. The most conspicuous was a large floral chair, a double triangle of immortelles from the uniform rank, Knights of Pythias. The large attendance included representatives of the grand lodge K. of P., the uniformed rank, and all the lodges of the order in the city, Excelsior lodge, of which the deceased was a member, attending in a body. Deputations were present also from the Odd Fellows and other orders of which the deceased was a member. The remains were interred in the Congressional cemetery. The

pall-bearers were F.H. Smith, B.H. Warner, E.A. McIntyre, J.G.L. Foxwell, Randall Hagner, Halvor Nelson, C.C. Duncanson, Richard Goodhart and William Bailey.

The Evening Star, February 13, 1884

Obituary

In the sad death of that good man, Joseph T. Coldwell, the community has lost one of its noblest representatives; a large social circle a most honored link; the poor and distressed a loving, undenying friend. But alas! the anguish in that bereaved home! To lift the veil therefrom were almost too sacred a thing. Nearly thirty years of perfect happiness in married life had cemented a love the parallel of which is seldom seen. Such a devotion in these days of domestic strife was so beautiful as it is rare. Tender courtesies and delicate little mutual attentions were daily and hourly continued, with all the freshness and fervor of a union that might have counted only as many days as theirs were years.

If aught of business care perchance annoyed or vexed, it was left on the outside, and never brought within the door where ever awaited him his devoted companion. A modest, retiring gentleness, with a heart overflowing with charity, were his marked characteristics, and only those who knew him best fully appreciated his worth.

To God's mysterious inscrutable Providence the agonized widow bows in holy reverence, whilst from her broken heart she lifts a prayer of grateful thanksgiving for that last loving smile of recognition (the reward of her unceasing supplication); the same which awaits her at their meeting on the threshold of that Happy Home where their joyous union will abide forever.

A Friend