

John R. Murray

(- 5 Oct 1882)

Murray. On Thursday, October 5, 1882 at 12:30 o'clock a.m., John R. Murray in the 72d year of her age. Funeral from his late residence, No. 217, 4 1/2 street northwest, Saturday, November 7 at 10 o'clock a.m. Friends and relatives are invited to attend.

The Evening Star, October 5, 1882

Death of an Old Citizen

The death of Mr. John R. Murray, a well-known citizen of this District, took place last night about midnight, at the family residence, No. 217 4 1/2 street northwest, after a protracted illness. Mr. Murray was one of the old citizens of the District, being 72 years of age, and having lived here the best part of his life. He was formerly well known as an enterprising businessman. He was a native of Charles county, Maryland, but when quite young moved to Culpeper Courthouse, Virginia, where he lived till 21 years old, when he went to Texas and engaged in mercantile pursuits. He returned and came to this city in 1843, where he commenced business on the site where Mr. Frank Hume's store is now located, on Pennsylvania avenue, between 4 1/2 and 6th streets, under the firm title of Murray, Randolph & Semmes. This business firm lasted one year, when Mr. Randolph drew out, and the business was continued at the same place under the name of Murray & Semmes, the last-named being the well-known grocer corner 9th street and Louisiana avenue. In 1848 Mr. Semmes opened a branch at the place where he is now in business under the firm title of J.H. Semmes & Co., the old business continuing under the same name twenty-one years. The partnership was dissolved in 1864, when Mr. Murray retired from business. He has ever maintained the confidence and respect of the citizens of this District, many of whom will be pained to hear of his decease. The funeral will take place Saturday.

The Evening Star, October 7, 1882

The Funeral of Mr. John R. Murray

The funeral of Mr. John R. Murray took place this morning at 10 o'clock, from the family residence, 217 4 1/2 street northwest, and was largely attended by the friends of the family. The remains were laid in a casket and looked quite life-like. The coffin was covered with many floral tributes by the neighbors and friends of the deceased. Rev. Father Walter was the officiating clergyman. The pall-bearers were James L. Barbour, John H. Semmes, W.D. Wyvill, Joseph Shillington, J.H. Blackfan, and William H. Morrison. The interment was in the family vault, Congressional cemetery.

The Evening Star, October 16, 1882

John R. Murray's Will

The will of the late John R. Murray, filed in the register of wills office today, leaves to his son, R.J. Murray, and daughter, Ada Maria Bowers, as tenants in common, the title in the St. Marc hotel; to R.J. Murray, his writing desk, and to Mrs. Bowers the portrait of her mother and family bible; to Hugh T. Murray, he leaves lot 3, reservation A, southeast, corner of 4 1/2 street and Pennsylvania avenue; to Francis Edmund Murray, lot 35, reservation B (south side Pennsylvania avenue, between 4 1/2 and 6th streets); to Miss Annie White, lot 25, reservation 10, the family residence on 4 1/2 street, between Pennsylvania avenue and C street northwest. R.J. Murray is named as executor and is directed to expend \$200, or so much as may be necessary, in erecting head and foot, stones of pure white marble,

with base stone, and terrace about the graves of himself and wife. After the payment of all debts any personal property remaining is bequeathed to Francis Edmund Murray, and all the rest of the estate is bequeathed to the four children equally.