

George Page

(- 6 Jan 1873)

The Evening Star, March 11, 1852

Page's Steamboat Yard

A visit last evening to the busy establishment of Capt. Page, at the foot of Seventh street, disclosed to us evidence of the very gratifying advancement towards the maturity of the plans and aims of this truly enterprising and public-spirited citizen. Finished, finishing, partly built, and just commenced is the story of the four steamboats in and at Capt. Page's building yard and wharves. The pretty and fleet William Selden is lying at the wharf ready for a new service, to which, we learn \, she will be shortly put. The canny little spirits, the G.W.P. Custis, is very near completion; she bids fair to be a great favorite, and propelled, as she will be, by two powerful locomotive engines, one to each wheel, is supposed able to distance any thing of the moving kind in our waters. Her draught of water is only 19 inches. Next is the Union, a boat building with special references to the ferry business between Washington and Alexandria; she is to be able to accommodate farmers, marketers, travelers with horses, carriages, etc., as well as the ordinary passengers between the two cities. She will be ready for launching early in May. The Union has the decided advantage of not requiring to be turned each time her direction is changed. And lastly comes the boat for which the name of the Richard Bayler has been mentioned. She is building for a company formed along the Rappahannock river, and is intended for the trade between Baltimore and Fredericksburg. Her keel has been laid down two hundred feet with thirty feet breadth of beam. She will have capacity for four hundred tons of cargo, besides ample accommodations for passengers. Her draught of water, with a full cargo, will not exceed four feet.

Mr. Page intends running his ferry boat Union from his own wharf, at the foot of Seventh street, which is, in fact, more central than Eleventh. With this view he is newly fitting up the large storehouse for the temporary accommodation of passengers waiting for the boat, as well as for the general purposes of a respectable hotel, for which it is very well calculated.

We repeat that the enterprise, boldness, and spirit displayed by Mr. Page are admirable, meriting the cheerful acknowledgment and "God speed" of all our citizens. He has within a comparatively short space of time changed a dreary, deserted spot into a busy neighborhood, not only giving to numbers of worthy artisans profitable employment, but commencing a new branch of industry here that might, and we trust will, terminate in being permanent and important. Once more, we say, he serves, though he might not need, the friendly encouragement of this community.

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Death of Capt. George Page, The Well-Known Inventor

Many of the residents of the District will regret to learn that Capt. George Page, formerly a resident of this city, died at the residence of his son, in Baltimore county, on Saturday last, in the 74th year of his age. Mr. Page was the founder of the well-known firm of George Page & Co., founders and machinists, in Baltimore, about forty years ago. He possessed great energy, and through his ingenuity produced many machines, which he lived to see put into practical operation, and which have added very materially to the wealth of the country; among them the mortising machine, turning machine, envelope machine, and the circular saw mill. The latter was his greatest achievement and to its development and success the energies of his later business life were almost exclusively devoted. For many years he resided in South Washington, and carried on a windmill, as also machine works and steamboat building. The Virginia, Wm Selden, Champion, George Page, and Union were built by him. At one time he

represented the 7th ward of Washington in the city councils. His remains arrived here today, and were interred in the Congressional cemetery.