

George D. Parker

(- 10 Dec 1876)

The Evening Star, December 11, 1876

Death of Mr. George Parker

Mr. George Parker, for a long series of years one of the leading grocers of the District, died quite suddenly, about 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, at his residence, corner of 4 1/2 and C streets, in the 77th year of his age, as is supposed from apoplexy. Mr. Parker was a native of Prince George's County, Md., having been born near Beltsville in the year 1800, and at 12 years of age he entered the store of the late Joseph Stettinius, and after a few years went into business for himself, on Market Space, and subsequently took in business with him his brother, Thomas Parker. Many of our now leading grocers -- Messrs. Jackson, Bryan, Browning, and others -- learned the business with this firm. The store, on Market Space, by the increase in business, became too small for them, and about thirty-five years ago they erected the fine property on the avenue, opposite the Metropolitan Hotel which was at that time regarded as the finest business place in Washington. The firm here, under the name of G. and T. Parker & Co., continued business until after the close of the war, when both the brothers being well advanced in years, they retired. Mr. Parker was identified with the business interests of the District generally, and for a long time was a director of the National Metropolitan Bank, and also a stockholder in the Alexandria Ferry Company. He leaves a wife and six children. He was a man of irreproachable character and a consistent member of Trinity (Episcopal) Church.

The National Intelligencer, December 13, 1876

The Funeral of the late George Parker, for many years a leading citizen of the District, who died suddenly on Sunday last, took place at 11 o'clock this morning from his late residence, corner of 4 1/2 and C streets. There was a very large attendance, especially of our oldest citizens, the Oldest Inhabitants' association being largely represented. The remains were encased in a handsome cloth-covered casket, with plate containing the name of deceased. There were on the casket many floral tributes of friends of the family. The service of the Episcopal church was read by Rev. Mr. Addison, of Trinity church, after which the remains were borne to the hearse and taken to the Congressional cemetery, where they were placed in the family vault. The pall-bearers were Dr. J.B. Blake, Col. J.G. Berret, Marshal Brown, ex-Mayor Wallach, Col. G.W. Phillips, J.W. Maury, Dr. J.M. McCalla and Lambert Tree. The funeral was under the supervision of Mr. R.F. Harvey.

Zevely: Old Houses on C Street,
Columbia Historical Society

What has been known as the Anderson House for several years, on the southeast corner of Four-and-one-half and C streets, was built by the late Jos. B. Bryan about 1843 for George Parker, whose residence it continued to be until his death in December, 1876. Mr. Parker will be remembered as one of the leading merchants, having with his brother, Thos. Parker, conducted a very extensive grocery business on Pennsylvania Avenue opposite Brown's (now Metropolitan) Hotel. Like the Coyle and May houses, it is built of brown stone -- i.e. the front -- with a width of 50 feet of more and three stories in height. Besides the main building it had many rooms in the extension, as also some in the basement. During recent years the eastern portion of it has been used for a separate dwelling.

The Parker family were numbered in past years among the wealthy residents of the city and their entertainment's were a feature in social circles. There are no doubt some living here now -- belles and beaux of those days -- who can recall the brilliant gatherings in that house. The two younger sons of Mr. Parker are still living in Washington; also one of his daughters.

It should be noted in this record that what was formerly Four-and-one-half Street has by recent Act of Congress been changed to John Marshall Place by title -- i.e., from the City Hall down to C Street. But I assume that the old designation for houses I mention is allowable.

The Evening Star, January 29, 1863

Robbing A Grave Yard

Some scoundrel or scoundrels on Saturday night last entered the Congressional Cemetery and robbed it of two beautiful marble figures--one from the family lot of Jacob Gideon, Esq., being a statue about three feet high, in a standing position, with the hands folded across the breast, representing, Meditation; the other from the family lot of George Parker, Esq., being the figure of an infant, about twenty inches long, reclining on its right arm and side.