

John Harris

Advertiser & Appeal; Saturday 10 May 1879; pg. 3 col. 2

DEATH OF JUDGE HARRIS

He is gone! He passed away about nine o'clock on Monday night last, calmly and quietly, though rather suddenly. He has been suffering for some time past with rheumatism, but was considered much better. At eight o'clock on Monday night he was seized with a convulsion, from which he never rallied, nor was he again conscious.

Of his noble qualities of head and heart we fain would speak, for none feel for him a warmer attachment than the writer, but language fails us, and we leave to abler pens this sad but loving duty. Our whole community is saddened by this unexpected blow, and bow in meek submissions to the 'hand that smites.'

TRIBUTE OF RESPECT

The Glynn County Agricultural Association met at 11 A.M., at office J.M. Dexter and was called to order by James M. Couper, President, and after the transaction of regular business, the following resolution was offered:

RESOLVED, that this Association have heard of the death of Hon. J.L. Harris, with deep sorrow and regret, and hereby express our sympathy with the bereaved family in their great affliction, and bow in submission to the will of Him who giveth and taketh away.

J.M. DEXTER, Sec'y.

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THE FUNERAL

On Wednesday afternoon last, our people turned out en masse to pay the last tribute to our esteemed townsmen, Judge John L. Harris, whose death is mentioned elsewhere in these columns. At 3:30 sharp the hearse containing his remains left his residence, followed by quite a procession, and wended its way to the Methodist Church, where was assembled an immense number of people. Here was read the usual burial service of the M.E. Church by the pastor, Rev. R.L. Honiker, in an impressive manner, which, interspersed with appropriate music by the choir, made that vast assemblage pause and think, and in many a heart, no doubt, came up the unwelcome thought, "I, too, must die."

The procession was then formed in the following order:

Brunswick Brass Band,
Oceanic Fire Company,
Mayor and Alderman,
Hearse, with the legal fraternity as pall-bearers,
Pastor,
Family and kindred of deceased,
Citizens generally.

Of this last class we might well say "their name was Legion," for it comprised scores from every class of society. From the highest to the lowest, all seemed anxious to add their mite in swelling this last tribute to the memory of one beloved by all.

As the procession moved forward, the Band played appropriate airs, and the vast assemblage moved silently on to Oak Grove Cemetery, where we laid him down to rest, waiting the last trump that shall wake his sleeping ashes.

In the death of Judge John L. Harris, our people have met a loss not yet realized. The rich and the poor alike will miss him, for he was a friend to all.

To that aged mother, now ripe for the better land, that fond and devoted wife and partner, that only daughter and child, and those sad brothers, all mourning because "he is not," we extend the heartfelt sympathy of one who has drunk of the cup of sorrow, and knows full well its deepest bitterness.

The deceased was fifty-six years of age.

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IN MEMORIAM

At a meeting of the members of the bar in the city of Brunswick, held on the sixth day of May, 1879, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, In the dispensation of a mysterious Providence, our esteemed brother, the Hon. John L. Harris, Judge of the Brunswick Circuit, has been taken from earth, its cares, troubles, trials, and duties, to another, and we trust and believe a better world, where sorrow and suffering and pain are unknown;

AND WHEREAS, It is fit and proper that we who were so closely associated with him in the daily walks of life, as lawyer, jurist and companion, should take some action whereby our respect for his memory may be placed on record, and our share in the last sad tribute of respect at his funeral be defined, therefore

Be it resolved, That in his death the community have lost a true and tried and able champion of their rights and interests, and able lawyer and jurist, a benevolent, kind hearted, genial man, whose failings, if he had them, leaned to virtue's side, whose loss leaves a blank in our community, and is a misfortune to the whole State of Georgia, and to us who were so closely associated with him by professional and business relations, a loss impossible of description.

Resolved, That the deepest sympathy is felt for each member of his family thus suddenly deprived of father, husband, brother, son and uncle, and that each of us hereby tender, as individuals and as a body, our heartfelt sympathy for them in this hour of deep gloom and sorrow, only relieved by the proud consciousness that his was a life well spent.

Resolved, That each member of the Bar will, for the space of thirty days from this date wear crape on his left arm as a tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased, and that crape be placed upon the outer door of each law office until after the funeral, and that we will attend the funeral in a body.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be furnished to the family of the deceased, and another cop furnished to the editor of the Advertiser for publication, with a request that other papers throughout the State will copy the same.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting, whose duty it shall be to draft for publication and presentation to the members of his family an article giving a brief resume of his life and services, expressive of our respect for his memory, and that the Savannah News, Telegraph and Messenger. Atlanta Constitution and Augusta Constitutionalist and other papers throughout the State be requested to publish the same as a matter of public interest.

M.L. MERSHON, Ch'm.
W.E. KAY, Secretary.

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TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF THE HON. JOHN L. HARRIS BY THE BRUNSWICK BAR

Death loves a shining mark, and when a man is stricken down by that grim power, who has exercised a large influence upon his section and his State, has formed a large circle of acquaintance, and is esteemed and loved for his many excellent qualities of head and heart, we pause and realize more deeply the old, old truth that all must die, and that the day, the hour, or the month, or year of Death's coming are mysteries which we cannot pierce and fathom and understand.

Where is Judge Harris? But three weeks ago he sat upon the bench in the exercise of all his intellectual faculties, strong, capable, earnest and conscientious in the performance of his duty as the interpreter of the law to the people, the arbitrator of their disputes, the head of that system of jurisprudence for his circuit, which in the civilization of the present day replaces the violent modes of settlement of barbarous times.

Home, from Ware Superior Court, with his family, he complained of a cold, contracted at Ware during the fearful storm of last month, which we all so well remember, and took his bed, no one dreaming (unless, perhaps, he may have had a premonition of the end) of any fatal result. Fever set in, but was kept under control.-His mind, with a few exceptions when the fever was upon him, remained bright and clear. The play of his genial humor enlivened the sick room. A table by the head of his bed was covered with the books of his favorite authors. Every year since he arrived at mature manhood he has renewed his acquaintance with Latin and Greek, reading the Greek Testament, Horace, Virgil and other authors, and those books had been read by him on the day he died, and lay upon his table, where he had laid them on the night of the 5th, when death came so suddenly into his peaceful home and took husband, son, father, uncle, brother, away from the cares of earth to another and a better world.

[See GlynnGen.com for rest of obit; would not fit here]

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