

John F. Mudd

In last week's hurried announcement of the death of Hon. John F. Mudd, which occurred on Thursday, February 16th, 1950, we were unable to compile the details as to his career; and in justice to the memory of one who possessed the esteem and prominence in which Mr. Mudd was held throughout his native State and County this supplementary announcement is published.



The deceased was a son of the late F. DeSales Mudd and Catherine L. Bowling Mudd and was born near Bryantown, Md., on December 15, 1884. He attended the public schools of Charles County, later graduated from St. John's College and upon leaving college attended the Law School of the University of Maryland, from which he also graduated; returning to his native county for the practice of law.

In 1907, Mr. Mudd married Amelia Rebecca Turner, who with seven children survive. They are as follows: Mrs. Ann M. Gibson, Mrs. Louise Stem, Misses Dorothy and Mary Helen Mudd and Messrs. F. DeSales, John T. and Patrick C. Mudd.

A faithful and active member of the Roman Catholic Church, his funeral took place at St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, on Saturday last and was largely attended by friends from every section of Southern Maryland.

The numerous and beautiful floral tributes further attested to the esteem in which the deceased was held.

Rev. Father William Powell of La Plata solemnized the Requiem Mass and accompanying him in the service were: Monsignor Loughran and Fathers Driscoll, Benjamin Bowling and Russell.

The active pallbearers were: Messrs. George, Mortimer, William and Sinclair Bowling and Harry A. Turner, Jr., and Charles Mudd.

Honorary pallbearers comprised the membership of the Bar Associations of Charles and St. Mary's counties.

From the beginning of his professional career Mr. Mudd attracted marked attention as an advocate and as an orator and, in consequence, in the years that followed, his clientele spread throughout the counties of Southern Maryland and was retained until his death.

True to the traditions of the line of the Mudd family from which he was descended, Mr. Mudd affiliated with the Republican party, and at an early age represented Charles County in the House of Delegates and later in the Maryland Senate sessions of 1914 and 1916. In addition to the above public activities, he successively held by executive appointments, the Statewide positions of Racing Commissioner, Road Commissioner, and People's Counsel before the Public Service Commission.

It may be added with absolute good faith, that in all of the above public trusts, he served with conspicuous ability and formed contacts throughout this State with many prominent public figures, whose friendship and admiration toward him was genuine.

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Turning now to the human side of John Mudd's life, it can be truly said that he reached his enviable achievements without evidence in the slightest degree of self superiority or conceit. He was born and raised at a period not far distant from that of the Civil War, and at a time when the disastrous consequences of that conflict had leveled the economic status of this county and of all Southern Maryland to its lowest ebb. Along with his contemporaries of that day and time the pathway of luxury was denied him. In brief, the lot of the average boy or girl of the period of his childhood was one requiring real sacrifice and sturdy endeavor. But notwithstanding that experience, he developed a cheerful, jovial disposition and his presence dispelled anything resembling gloom or depression. His sight was high, he gazed upon the brighter side of life and was never discouraged or dismayed. In a word, his fund of common sense, his genial humor, his kindly nature and his "charity toward all" made him approachable by the humblest of men. Mercy, generosity and humanity were the dominant and outstanding traits of his character.

Finally and truthfully it may be added, that his home life approached the sublime in that he and his wife idolized each other, and that their children, in full measure and without exception, idolized them both. It was in that environment and at the old homestead he treasured so deeply; surrounded by his devoted wife and children that, "sustained and soothed by an unfaltering trust" in the infinite goodness of Divine Providence, he entered the realm of the Great Beyond.

To his bereaved family, we tender sincere sympathy, in this the hour of their deepest grief. And to a real friend of this newspaper, who served ably as its editor for a number of years, we bid a sad and fond farewell.