R.R. Garrett obituary. From CW Rockefeller Special Collections

Died at Marlebanks, in the county of York, on the 14th day of January, Mr. Richard R. Garrett, in the 46th year of his age.

It is not often that friendship is called on to mourn the death of a more useful citizen, or to pay a tribute to the memory of one more universally esteemed.

The deceased was born in the city of Williamsburg and educated at William and Mary College, where he graduated with credit and distinction in the academic course. He afterwards studied law, but did not long continue the practice of his profession; being of an active and enterprising character, he preferred the pursuits of agriculture. When quite young he removed from Williamsburg to his estate on York River, three miles below Yorktown; and it is but justice to add that he was one of the best and most successful farmers in his county. Shortly after his removal to York, he was made a magistrate of the county, and some two years ago was elected the presiding justice of the Court, which appointment he held at the time of his death. His neighbors and friends can testify how faithfully he discharged his various duties, for there was scarcely any business transactions among his associates in which he was not consulted. In 1845 he was elected by the Accomac district to the Senate of Virginia, and served out his term of office in that body; and so satisfactorily did he represent his constituents, that they solicited his services for re-election. He declined, however, their offers, and never afterwards took an active part in politics, but devoted all the energies of his intellect to agriculture and the improvement of his estate.

The mind of the deceased was remarkable for its grasp and clearness; the excellence of his judgment answered his opinions to be sought for and respected by his friends and neighbors. He was eminently a practical man, thoroughly versed in business transactions, and ready and willing to give advice to those who asked it. As a friend and neighbor, he was kind and obliging. In that nearer and dearer relation of husband and father he was devoted and affectionate. But, alas! He has been cut down in the prime of manhood [and] in the midst of his usefulness. His friends have, however, the consolation of believing that Death had no terrors for him. In early life he became a member of the church and continued a pious and humble follower of the Saviour till the close of his earthly pilgrimage. Such was the estimation in which he was held by his Christian brethren, that at the two last meetings of the Baptist Association he was made “Moderator” of that intelligent body. The last time the writer saw the deceased, was at the State Fair in Richmond, and little did he think when they parted, they were to meet no more on earth. The ways of Providence are, indeed, mysterious, but it is the duty of the humble Christian to bow in pious resignation to “His Decrees.” The associates of the deceased will recognize this tribute to departed worth, and while meditating on the solemn lesson it teaches, may thank God for the hope, the joyful hope, that their friend has put on “immortality,” and been transplanted to a brighter and better world.