



Gilbert Rodman Fox

Born: March 27, 1817 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Died: December 4, 1892 in Norristown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Clerk of Court: 1860-1875

Education:

Princeton University, B.A., 1835

Princeton University, M.A., 1837

Mr. Fox served as the Clerk of Court for a period of fifteen years from 1860 to 1875.

At the time of his death, the following obituary notices appeared about him that summarize his life and career:

Gilbert Rodman Fox Dead.¹

Gilbert Rodman Fox, the senior member of the Montgomery county bar in active practice, died Sunday morning at his home on Swede street, Norristown, of bronchitis, following an enfeebled condition generally. Mr. Fox has not been at his office since February last, when he was stricken with grip, which left him shattered in bodily health. He was a cripple from childhood, a result of hip disease.

Mr. Fox was born at Doylestown, Bucks County, March 27th, 1817. His father was John Fox, who was judge of this, the Seventh Judicial District, from 1830 to 1838, whose opinion from the bench upon the negro suffrage question gave him a

¹ *Gilbert Rodman Fox Dead*, THE REPORTER (LANSDALE PENNSYLVANIA) (Dec. 8, 1892), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/919572440>

reputation not only in the United States, but in Europe, and was cited by de Toqueville in one of his works. G.R. Fox graduated from Princeton in 1835, and two years later received his diploma as Master of Arts. He was admitted to the Bucks county bar in 1838, and the same year removed to Norristown and was admitted to the bar of Montgomery county. In 1839 Attorney General Ovid F. Johnson appointed him Deputy Attorney General for Montgomery county, an office that he filled for six years. In January, 1860, he was appointed clerk of the District court of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and resigned the office April 19, 1875. During his term of office he continued to reside in Norristown and remained in active practice until overtaken with feeble health. Of late years Mr. Fox was seldom seen in the criminal courts, and his was not a frequent figure in any of the courts. He, however, enjoyed an extensive and lucrative practice of a character that seldom called him from his office. He was regarded as a careful and safe counsellor, and was brought into many cases as consulting attorney.

He was descended from Democratic stock, and never forsook the political principals of his forefathers. In religion he was a Presbyterian, being one of the leading members of the First church, of Norristown. In private life he was modest and unassuming, and enjoyed the comfort and surroundings of his own fireside. He leaves a widow, formerly Miss Catharine Cruger, of New York, one son, Gilbert R. Fox, also a member of the bar, and two daughters, Mrs. Martha Genett, of New York, and Miss Frances M. Fox, who resides with her parents. He is also survived by a brother, Rev. Louis R. Fox, and one sister, Miss Mary R. Fox, of Philadelphia. He was also a brother of the late Mrs. John B. Pugh, of Doylestown.

Our Montgomery Neighbor.²

Norristown, December 5, 1892.

Gilbert Rodman Fox, the senior member of the Montgomery County Bar, and one of the best lawyers in the State, died yesterday at his residence, 905 Swede Street. His illness was short, although he has not been at his office since last February, when an attack of the grip made him extremely weak. His last illness was bronchitis. Mr. Fox was born in Doylestown in 1817. His father was John Fox [who] was President Judge of this Judicial District from 1830 to 1838. He leaves a widow who is an invalid, one son, G.R. Fox, Jr. and two daughters. One brother and sister also survive him. His funeral will take place on Wednesday afternoon. On the fifteenth anniversary of his admission to the bar, his associates tendered him an elegant banquet, in which thirty-five members participated. B.E. Chain was President on the occasion. Mr. Fox was a man of solid attainments and was

² *Our Montgomery Neighbor*, NEWS HERALD (PERKASIE, PENNSYLVANIA) (Dec. 8, 1892), <http://www.newspapers.com/image/229540609>

loved and respected by all who knew him. He was a wise counsellor, a careful preceptor, and many of his pupils are now in the front rank at the bar.