

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
Lawrence, (Son)	d. 11 Jul 1891		R93/277
Lawrence. Saturday, July 11, 1891 at 12:47 a.m., infant son of W.H. and L.V. Lawrence. Funeral private.			
Lawrence, Annie M.	d. 21 Oct 1891	47 yrs.	R92/D-2
Lawrence. On Wednesday, October 21, 1891, Annie M. Lawrence beloved wife of the late George L. Lawrence aged 47 years. Funeral from her late residence, 625 L street southwest, Friday, at 3 p.m. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend.			
Lawrence, Edna V.	d. 23 Sep 1890		R93/276
Lawrence. On Thursday, September 23, 1890 at 6:20 o'clock a.m., Edna V., only daughter of Edmund V. and Mary A. Lawrence. Funeral private.			
Lawrence, George L.	d. 28 Oct 1881		R92/D-3
<i>The Evening Star, October 28, 1881</i>			
<i>Terrible Explosion at the Navy Yard</i>			
<i>One Man Killed and Several Wounded</i>			
A terrible explosion took place about 2:30 o'clock today in the ordnance department, Washington navy yard, where the fulminate is made, by which one man, George Lawrence, was instantly killed and several wounded. The coroner was notified to go there at once.			
The wounded were George W. Gates and Marion Thompson. The explosion was accompanied by three reports which were at first supposed to be caused in torpedo experiments and were not generally noticed until the alarm bell in the yard had struck several times. Then the greatest excitement prevailed. The gates of the yard were closed and no one was allowed to enter or depart. The explosion occurred in a small brick house, in the west end of the yard. Lawrence was engaged in drilling or charging an old rocket, which, through some derangement, exploded under his hands. It is thought other fulminates exploded too. The interior walls of the building were demolished. The wounded men were removed to the medical department, where they were being treated when the Star reported visited the yard.			
Lawrence, who was killed, leaves a wife, two grown-up boys and several small children. Gates was very seriously injured about the back and face, and all his clothing was torn from his body. He presented a terrible spectacle, his flesh being blackened, torn and bleeding. It is thought his injuries will prove to be fatal. Thompson is a young man. His injuries are not so serious, apparently, as those with which Gates is suffering, but he was terribly singed, the hair being burned from his head. The hydraulic press room, where the accident occurred, is under charge of Capt. Howell. The accident will be thoroughly investigated by the officers of the yard. The news of the explosion spread very rapidly, and the precaution taken by the guard of closing the gates was found to have been a very wise one, as soon a struggling crowd was clamoring for admittance. Women whose husbands or sons were employed in the yard hastened in terror to the scene when the first exaggerated reports reached them. Within a few minutes there was a multitude at the gate. The officers of the guard were busied in quieting the fears of these anxious one. The excitement spread all along 8th street and the by streets in that quarter of the city, and little groups of men and women assembled here and there on the curb to discuss the terrible event.			
<i>The Evening Star, October 31, 1881</i>			
<i>The Navy Yard Explosion</i>			
<i>The Inquest Over the Remains of Lawrence</i>			
<i>Testimony of Naval Officers -- Something About the Manufacture of Rockets</i>			
At 11 o'clock today the jury empannelled on Saturday over the remains of George L. Lawrence, the victim of the accident at the Navy Yard on Friday last, met at the residence of Mr. E.M. Boteler, No. 735 8th street southeast. The jurors were J.D. O'Donnell, Adam Gaddis, M. McNelly, Jasper Scott, Gilbert Gannon and George Keil.			
<i>Lieut. Bohrer's Story</i>			
Lieut. Carl Bohrer, the first witness examined, testified that he was in his office engaged in writing at the time of the explosion (Friday at 2 1/2 o'clock); heard the explosion and saw smoke arising from the hydraulic press house; thought that there were one or more explosions after the first; ran to the fire hose in the west end of the machine shop, and called on the men, who seemed inclined to run out of the shop, to come back and help him. The hose was run out, and they commenced playing on the fire; saw the deceased lying as though he had fallen out the west door; his feet in the doorway and his body along side the steps; had the men pick him up. His clothes being on fire, the flames were smothered; did not know exactly how the accident occurred, not having been there. Witness explained that the rocket furnished the propelling power of the Weeks torpedo; the case is of boiler iron, four feet long and six inches in diameter, the inside is a case of sheet iron, in which the composition is placed, a small quantity at a time, and pressed under hydraulic			

pressure--20 tons to the inch--this process being continued until the rocket is finished. To prepare it as a propeller for a torpedo more surface than the simple face must be exposed to burning, and therefore a hole is drilled the length of the rocket. The composition is made of nitre charcoal and sulphur--the same ingredients as are in powder--but the proportion of nitre is much larger than in powder. Any work in explosives is dangerous. A large number of these rockets have been successfully made at the yard without accident, the persons engaged being very careful and taking every precaution. The hole may be made with a mandrel, but then there would be danger of foreign substances getting into the aperture. Witness did not regard the manufacture of these rockets as being as dangerous as the manufacture of powder.

Commander J.A. Howell

in charge of the ordnance department, testified that he was at his residence when he heard the explosion, and at once hastened to the scene. The matter of manufacture of these rockets had been considered by the ordnance bureau, and it had been determined to have them made at Newport. These were in no more danger of being fired than others, but in cases of accident the greater damage would be done by the largest rockets. The deceased, he understood, was perfectly reliable, and the fact that no accident had happened there under him before this was the best evidence of his capability. There had been 50 of these rockets made here, and had these four been finished, they would have in all probability been the last. There was no fulminate about this rocket, and while the ingredients were the same as those of powder, it burned much more slowly.

Lieut. R.D. Hitchcock

testified that he was about fifty feet from the building when the rocket exploded. He saw a flash, heard an explosion, and the rocket whizzing through the air. There were two other explosions and the whole thing occupied but a moment. The flash took place at the bottom--in the pan through which the auger passes--and in consequence this rocket went up. Two other rockets were lying down when they exploded and shot over a pile of timber. There was no way of accounting for this accident; it was one of those which will take place in the business, which, as is well known, was dangerous.

A Pyrotechnist's Testimony

Jeremiah Cross, a pyrotechnist, testified that there were three men engaged in drilling at the time. The business was dangerous, but there was no peculiar danger in the manufacture of this kind of rocket excepting that when an accident occurred--they being of larger size--the consequences would likely be more serious. He had been engaged in the business for years and never had a rocket to explode. The deceased was regarded as a skillful man in the business.

John W. Thompson,

who was in charge of the naval laboratory, testified that it was one of those unaccountable accidents incident to the business. Lawrence seemed to be more careful in handling these rockets than he had ever seen him before. He regarded these rockets less dangerous than the ordinary rocket, for it was not so explosive. A rocket made on a spindle was more dangerous. The pressure was about 5,000 pounds to the inch--100 tons to 5.35 inches. In no way is fulminating powder used in these rockets; they are fired by electric fuse. It is possible to turn the drill at such a speed as to ignite powder. It was usual to examine the drill as to its temperature about once a minute. The niter, sulphur and charcoal is passed through sieves both before and after mixing to be sure that no foreign substance had entered it.

Mr. Thompson explained, in detail, the manner of the work, showing the care taken; that after the ingredients are prepared, the mixing is made at a distance of 500 yards from the main buildings; that it is carried back and forth in covered pots, etc.

The Verdict

The jury, at 1:15 o'clock, rendered the following verdict: "That the said George L. Lawrence, came to his death at about 2:30 o'clock, October 29, 1881, at the press-house at the Washington Navy Yard, in the city of Washington, D.C. from puncture of the skull caused by the explosion of a "Weeks torpedo rocket" which he was engaged in drilling at the time. From the evidence addressed we believe that every precaution was taken to prevent accident, and that the cause of the explosion is unknown.

The Funeral of the Victim

The Funeral of Mr. George Lafayette Lawrence, the victim of the explosion at the Navy Yard on Friday last, took place from his late residence, No. 646 E street southeast, yesterday afternoon and was largely attended. The pall-bearers were from his fellow-workmen. The floral offerings were numerous, and many of them exceedingly beautiful in design and elaborate in finish. One was an anchor from the officers of the steamer Corroton. The remains were interred in the Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, November 9, 1881

The Navy Yard Explosion

Report of the Board of Naval Officers

Commodore Pattison, commanding the Washington Navy Yard, has submitted to the Secretary of the Navy the report of the board of officers ordered to examine into the recent explosion there. Capt. Semmes was chairman of the board making the investigation. The report says that the explosion was primarily due to the ignition of a rocket which was being reamed out. The ignition may have occurred from the reamer becoming heated, or from the possible presence of grit in the fuller's clay used to close up the tail of the rocket. The damage was the complete destruction of the hydraulic press house of the ordnance department of the yard, involving a loss of about \$600. It appears that three men--George Lawrence, M.C. Thompson and G.F. Gates--were engaged in reaming a Week's torpedo-rocket and were fully aware of the fact that the work was dangerous, and were exercising perhaps more caution than usual. A flash of fire was observed at the table where they were at work. This was followed almost immediately by an explosion. The south side of the house was blown out by the first explosion, which was followed at short intervals by two other explosions. Every known precaution had been taken to prevent accident. There were seven loaded rockets in the building at the time. Two were burnt outside the building and two completely shattered by the explosion of the first. The other two were taken out of the building by Mr. J.W. Thompson at the risk of his life. George Lawrence lost his life, probably by being struck by a part of the iron boar, which was used to center the rocket on the reamer. M.C. Thompson and G.F. Gates were burned, the former very badly. The board does not find that any one was to blame for the accident, and believe that the whole damage resulted from the ignition and partial explosion of the rocket upon which the men were working. This is the first explosion that has occurred at the yard in rocket manufacture since 1864. The rockets weigh, when loaded, 109 pounds, and after being reamed 107 pounds. The cases are of 3-16 boiler iron, with 1/2 inch steel head and tail plates.

Lawrence, James E.	d. 17 Mar 1888	32 yrs.	R11/196
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Lawrence. On Saturday, March 17, 1888 at 9 a.m. of consumption, James E. Lawrence of North Carolina aged 32 years. Funeral from 125 A street northeast, Monday 19th inst. at 10:30 a.m. Friends and acquaintances invited to attend.

Lawrence, James E.	d. 1 Apr 1901		R23/8
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Lawrence. At his parents' residence, No. 730 10th street southeast on Monday, April 1, 1901 at 2:30 p.m., James E. Lawrence, youngest son of Joseph H. and Mary N. Lawrence. Funeral Wednesday, April 3 at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

Lawrence, John CSA	d. May 1863		R89/68
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Lawrence, Joseph	b. 1786 - d. 17 Apr 1842	54 yrs.	R56/137-140
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See the on-line "Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress"

The National Intelligencer, April 18, 1842

Death of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence

The sad duty devolves upon us of announcing the decease of another Member of the House of Representatives, than whom that body possesses few whose death would be more lamented than his will be by those who have enjoyed the opportunity of knowing and appreciating his many titles to respect and esteem.

The Hon. Joseph Lawrence, one of the Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania, expired at his lodgings in this city yesterday morning, at a little after 11 o'clock. His illness had been of some two weeks' duration, and is supposed to have been induced by fatigue and anxiety of mind consequent upon his late painful attendance upon the deathbed of his eldest son and his son's wife, and upon the illness of other members of his family, from a protracted visit to whom he had but recently returned.

Mr. Lawrence was fifty-four years of age. For many years he had been in public service. Nine years, first and last, he served in the Legislature of his own State, during four years of which he occupied the post of Speaker of the House of Representatives. For four years, in the nineteenth and twentieth Congresses, he was a Member of the House of Representatives of the United States. One year he was Treasurer of the State of Pennsylvania; soon after retiring from which station upon a change of parties, he was again elected a Representative to Congress, and took his seat at the opening of the late Extra Session. His public duties he discharged with faithfulness, ability, and assiduity.

Uniting with great amenity of manners and kindness of heart, much experience in public affairs, and the most inflexible integrity, his influence was always great and salutary, and his death will be felt as a loss to his State and to the Public.

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
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To the family of which he was the affectionate and beloved head, his death is an affliction which no earthly power can relieve. But to them it will be some consolation to know that he died the peaceful and happy death of a faithful follower of that religion of which he had for a long time been an earnest professor.

The National Intelligencer, Tuesday, April 19, 1842

In Congress, yesterday, no business was done except the adoption of resolutions in reference to the lamented decease of the Hon. Joseph Lawrence, one of the members of the House of Representatives from the State of Pennsylvania. The Funeral is to take place, from the Capitol, at 12 o'clock today.

For details of the funeral and procession see "Pomp & Circumstance at Congressional Cemetery."

Lawrence, Joseph	d. 6 Jan 1911		R92/D-1
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Lawrence. On Friday, January 6, 1911 at 10 o'clock a.m., Joseph B., beloved husband of Susie Lawrence and son of the late George L. and Annie M. Lawrence. Funeral from Thomas B. Nalley and Sons undertaker establishment, 1231 11th street southeast, Sunday January 8 at 3 p.m. Interment private.

Lawrence, Joseph H.	d. 10 Feb 1910		R23/10
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Lawrence. On Thursday, February 10, 1910 at 4 p.m., Joseph H. Lawrence. Funeral from his son's residence east W street southeast, Anacostia, D.C. on Monday, February 14 at 2:30 p.m. Funeral private.

Lawrence, Joseph LeRoy	d. 6 Apr 1890		R93/276
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Lawrence. On Sunday, April 6, 1890 at 2:15 o'clock p.m., Joseph LeRoy, youngest child of W.H. and I.V. Larence. Funeral private.

Lawrence, Julia J.	d. 27 Jan 1860	21 yrs.	R75/92
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Lawrence. On the 27th inst., Julia J. wife of Joseph H. Lawrence in the 22d year of her age. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend her funeral on tomorrow (Sunday) afternoon at 3 o'clock from the residence of her parents on Garrison st., near G st.

Lawrence, Laura	d. 15 Mar 1898		R58/149
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Lawrence. On Tuesday, March 15, 1898 at the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs. Katherine Newmann, 2207 K street northwest, Laura Lawrence. Funeral from above residence, Thursday, March 17 at 2 p.m. (New York Herold please copy).

Lawrence, Laura	d. 31 Jan 1927		R84/141
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Lawrence. Monday, January 31, 1927, at her residence, 539 7th st. s.e. Laura Wilkinson Lawrence, beloved wife of Charles A. Lawrence. Remains resting at the W.W. Chambers funeral parlors, 14th and Chapin sts. n.w. Notice of funeral hereafter. Please omit flowers.

Lawrence, Mary A.	d. 20 Oct 1881	77 yrs.	R73/243
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Lawrence. On October 20, 1881 at her late residence, No. 428 11th street southwest at 11:30 a.m. Mrs. Mary A. Lawrence in her 78th year. Funeral from Westminster Presbyterian Church, 7th between D and E streets southwest, Sunday, October 23d at 2:30 p.m. Friends and relatives of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

Lawrence, Mary Ann	d. 20 Jul 1879	79 yrs.	R92/D-2
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Lawrence. July 20, 1879 at 12:20 o'clock p.m., Mrs. Mary Ann Lawrence in the 80th year of her age. Funeral Tuesday 22d at 4 o'clock p.m. from the residence of her son, Joseph H. Lawrence, 728 10th street southeast. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend.

Lawrence, Mary Julia	d. 23 Jul 1859	3 mos. 4 days	R75/92
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Lawrence. On the 22d instant, Mary Julia, infant daughter of Joseph H. and Julia J. Lawrence, aged 3 months 4 days.

Sleep Mary sleep in innocence
 Thou little guileless one
 For deeds of dark unrighteousness
 Thou never yet hast done
 May guarding angels o'er thee watch
 And whisper heavenly things
 And may the Lord thee early teach
 The song that Gabriel sings.
 (Baltimore papers please copy).

Lawrence, Mary N. d. 1 Jul 1908 68 yrs. 1 mos. 13 days **R23/10**

Lawrence. On July 1, 1908 at 9:28 a.m., Mary N., beloved wife of Joseph H. Lawrence, aged 68 years 1 month 13 days. Funeral from her late residence, 730 10th street southeast, Friday, July 3 at 3 p.m.

Lawrence, Phillip E. d. 3 Jul 1939 **R71/299**

Lawrence, Phillip E. Suddenly on Monday, July 3, 1939, at Chesapeake Beach, Md., Philip E. Lawrence, beloved husband of Annetta E. Lawrence (nee St. John). Services at the funeral home of Milburn T. Zirkle, 510 C st. n.e., on Thursday, July 6 at 2 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

Lawrence, Phillip E. Henry W. Lawton Camp, No. 4 United Spanish War Veterans, will assemble at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 6, 1939, at Milburn T. Zirkle's funeral parlors, 510 C st. n.e. for the funeral of our late comrade, Phillip E. Lawrence. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

Joseph O. Trout, Commander
A.A. Glaze, Adjutant

Lawrence, Sarah Bond d. 3 Dec 1848 **R32/2/5**

Lawrence. In this city on the morning of the 3d instant, Sarah Bond, infant daughter of Alexander H. and Jane Lawrence.

Lawrence, Col. William d. 7 Jan 1841 60 yrs. **R54/78**

Lawrence. On Thursday, the 7th at 3 o'clock p.m., Col. William Lawrence, formerly of the U.S. Army in the 60th year of his age. His Funeral will take place this day at 2 o'clock from the house of Mr. A. Butler on F street. His friends and acquaintances are respectfully invited to attend.

The National Intelligencer, Thursday, January 21, 1841

The Late Co. W. Lawrence

Col. William Lawrence, whose death in this city has been lately announced, was a native of Calvert county, Maryland, and entered the service of his country as a platoon officer in 1808, and by regular promotion attained the rank of Colonel. He commanded at Fort Bowyer, or Mobile Point, in September, 1814, with the rank of Major, when it was attacked by a British fleet in command of Commodore Nichols and a land force of marines and Indians, and succeeded in beating them off after a severe conflict of upwards of four hours, with the total loss of their flag ship, and two others so much crippled as not to be able to answer to their helms, and were towed off--the land forces was also compelled to fall back with considerable loss. For this gallant achievement, with a battalion not exceeding 200 effective men against fifteen hundred British troops and Indians, he received a brevet of lieutenant colonel. Again he was attacked, in February following, at the same post, by the whole British army and fleet soon after their defeat at New Orleans, and, after contending with indomitable energy for five nights and four days without a moment's cessation, being badly wounded himself as well as many of his men, was compelled to surrender to an overwhelming and exasperate enemy, and suffer the privations incident to a prison ship for fifty-three days, when an exchange was effected, and himself and battalion restored to their country at the mouth of the Mississippi just as the news of peace arrived. He was retained on the peace establishment, and served as colonel of the 5th regiment for some five or six years when he retired upon a pension granted him in consequence of a wound received in the last action at Fort Bowyer.

Heitman: Born Maryland, 2d Lt. 4th Infantry June 8, 1801; transferred to 2 Inf. April 1, 1802; 1st Lt. Oct. 12, 1804; R. Adj. Jan. 1807 to Jan. 1810; Capt. Jan. 1, 1810; Maj. April 19, 1814; transferred to 8 Inf. May 17, 1815; Lt. Col. 3 Inf. May 8, 1818; transferred to 1 Inf. Dec. 12, 1820; transferred to 2 Inf June 1, 1821; Col. 5 Inf. Aug. 20, 1828; Bvt. Lt. Col. Sept. 15, 1814 for gallant conduct in the defense of Fort Bowyer, Ala. Against greatly superior British land and navy forces and Col. Sept. 15, 1824 for 10 years faithful service in one grade; resigned July 15, 1831. Died January 7, 1841.