

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
<b>Lear, (Infant Daughter)</b> Infant daughter of Maria Lear	d. 24 Mar 1828		<b>R28/12</b>
<b>Lear, Benjamin Lincoln</b> Only son of Tobias and Polly Lear (Tobias' first wife). Born in Washington's early "white house" in Philadelphia, Benjamin was named after Portsmouth's Col. Benjamin Lincoln, but his godfather was President George Washington. Benjamin was only two when his mother Polly died and he spent most of his childhood either with his grandmother in New Hampshire or in boarding school.  <i>The National Intelligencer, October 2, 1832</i> This morning, after a very short illness, Benjamin Lincoln Lear, Esq. This sudden and melancholy event will cast a deep gloom over all who knew our esteemed fellow citizen.  Mr. Lear was a highly respectable member of the Washington Bar, where his talents and sterling worth had endeared him to all his professional associates, and secured to him honor and success.  In the various relations of life, as a son, a husband, and a citizen, Mr. Lear faithfully discharged all his duties. His amiable manners, his high-toned honor and benevolence, formed a character seldom surpassed, and placed him high in the confidence of his fellow citizens, who will long and affectionately cherish his memory.  His friends and acquaintances are requested to attend his funeral, which will take place this day, at 12 o'clock, from his late residence.  The Members of the Washington Bar are requested to attend at the City Hall this morning at 10 o'clock, to make arrangements to attend the funeral of their late lamented associate, Benjamin L. Lear, Esq.  <i>The National Intelligencer, June 22, 1816</i> <i>Fourth of July</i> At a meeting of the Committee of Arrangement for the celebration of the approaching Anniversary of American Independence, it was determined that Benjamin Lincoln Lear, Esq. be invited to pronounce a public Oration on the occasion; and that William S. Radcliff, Esq. be invited to read the Declaration of Independence, prior to the delivery of the Oration. The Committee have ascertained, that the gentlemen named will comply with the requests made of them.  <i>Will of Benjamin L. Lear, of Washington Co., D.C. (dtd. June 27, 1832, probated Nov. 9, 1832, Will Book 4)</i> To mother Mrs. Frances D. Lear, and to wife Louisa, equally, all furniture, plate, property and effects in my dwelling house excepting legacies stated.. To mother Frances D. Lear, all ground held by John and James Williams under lease, at rent of \$78/72/yearly; my pew in St. John's Church, and debt due to me from that church, being originally \$200; to her all debts due me from the estate of Capt. Robert Henley, and interest in deed of trust from him to William D. Henley and myself t secure that debt; \$760 debt of his estate from Jan. 1, 1819, and \$333 lent him while at Charlestown, as charged in my account Book B, with interest; with taxes paid on his lots (other than occupied by me, on which is the dwelling house), ever since 1817; I occupied the house on Lot 15 in Square 75; watch that was my honored father's with his seal and the watch he gave me, at her death to my cousin George W. Storer's children. To cousin Miss Mary Lear Storer, all property in Portsmouth, at her death to Lincoln Lear Storer, the son of my cousin George W. Storer; to her all articles of furniture and plate in my possession which belonged to my grandmother; to Lincoln Lear Storer the two lots of ground owned by me in Square 70 in City of Washington. To cousin George Washington Storer, my gold watch with chain and seal, to be worn by him and given to his son Lincoln Lear Storer. To Mrs. Lucy Chamberlain, the use and occupation of the dwelling house in Portsmouth which she now occupies ... as compensation for her kind and faithful services to my grandmother and all the family. My houses in Square 169, opposite the War Office, and house in Square 225 on Pennsylvania Ave., may be reserved from sale, because I consider them the most valuable part of my properly; last held by John and James Williams, after death of mother, to wife. To wife Louisa Lear, during her life, all residue of estate, and all rents owing. Exrs.: Col. George Bomford; Capt. John D. Henley; William D. Henley; George Washington Storer, cousin Wits.: William Brent; John A. Smith; William Redin	b. 11 Mar 1792 - d. 1 Oct 1832    40 yrs.		<b>R28/13</b>

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
<b>Lear, Frances D. Henley</b>	d. 2 Dec 1856		<b>R28/11</b>
Lear. On the 2d instant, Mrs. Frances D. Lear, the widow of the late Col. Tobias Lear, the private secretary of General Washington.			
<b>Lear, James J.</b>	d. 22 Sep 1899	39 yrs. 3 mos. 21 days	<b>R84/111</b>
Lear. Departed this life, September 22, 1899, at 12:45 a.m., James J., son of the late John P. and Mary D. Lear. Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral from his late residence, 1228 I street southeast at 3 p.m., Monday, September 25.			
<b>Lear, John P.</b>	b. 2 Oct 1806 - d. 26 Aug 1879	72 yrs.	<b>R84/111</b>
Lear. In this city, on the 26th August, 1879, John P. Lear, in the 73d year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 633 K street southeast at 3 o'clock p.m. tomorrow (Thursday). Relatives and friends are invited to attend.			
<b>Lear, Lottie</b>	d. 11 Mar 1911		<b>R42/129</b>
Lear. Departed this life at 6:20 p.m. on Saturday, March 11, 1911, Lottie, the beloved wife of Thomas B. Lear. Funeral from her late residence, 330 9th street s.e., Wednesday, March 15, 2:30 p.m. Relatives and friends invited to attend.			
<b>Lear, Mrs. Maria</b>	d. 22 Mar 1828		<b>R28/12</b>
Lear. In this City, on Saturday last, Mrs. Maria Lear, Consort of Benjamin Lincoln Lear, Esq., of this City -- a Lady of whom it is sufficient to say, that the whole community laments her untimely death.			
Lines On the lamented death of Mrs. Benj. Lincoln Lear			
List! 'Tis the dirge of a soul that is fled, And In! the processions, in solemn array, Moves slowly along to the place of the dead, With the relics of one that is passing away.			
But why should I weep? Perhaps it is one, Who has outlived each tie that Chad bound him; And cares worn and aged, Forsaken and lone, He joy'd that his feeble existence was done, To escape from the solitude 'round him.			
On no! -- 'Tis the hearse of Maria -- who died In youth, with her relatives near her, With husband, and mother, and friends, by her side, And all that to life could endear her. Beloved, and loving, with a youthful heart, How awful is the mandate to depart!			
But yesterday I saw her, newly wed, The smile of love and joy upon her brow, The lily garland twined around her head, As cold and pale as her poor body now.			
And now they bear her in funeral gloom, To her cold cheerless mansion -- to the tomb? But 'tis her anguish'd friends, not her I weep; The virtuous know of joys beyond the tomb; And she will waken from her transient sleep, To meet, in other worlds, a brighter doom.			
<b>Lear, Mary D.</b>	b. 14 Jun 1817 - d. 30 Jan 1895	77 yrs.	<b>R84/110</b>
Lear. Departed this life January 20, 1895, at 7:45 a.m., Mary D. Lear, widow of John P. Lear, in the 78th year of her age. Funeral will take place from the residence of her daughter, Mrs. F.A. Cummins, No. 818 K street southeast, on Friday, February 1, at 3 o'clock p.m., and thence to Christ P.E. Church, G street southeast. Relatives and friends invited to attend.			
<b>Lear, Mary Townley Bruce</b>	d. 11 May 1857	3 yrs. 3 mos.	<b>Vault</b>

Lear. On the morning of the 11th instant, Mary Townley Bruce youngest daughter of John P. and M.D. Lear aged 3 years 3 months. The funeral will take place from the residence of her parents on K street between 6 and 7th streets east on tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock (Marlboro paper please copy).

**Lear, Rosa B.** d. 5 Apr 1899 25 yrs. 8 mos. **R86/294**

Lear. On Wednesday, April 5, 1899 at 3 o'clock p.m., Mrs. R.B. Lear, wife of J.J. Lear and daughter of Henry and Lena Kuhn, aged 25 years 8 months.

Why feel so sad, why shed a tear  
 Even though he has taken from us one so dear?  
 Cut down like a lily, cut down to die.  
 Your beautiful temple to occupy.

Jesus himself has the messenger sent  
 That for a season our hearts might in anguish be rent.  
 We are sad, oh so sad, she has gone, but then,  
 Oh how happy we'll be when we meet again.

By Her Loving Husband and Parents.

Funeral from her late residence, 1228 I street southeast Saturday, April 8 at 3 o'clock p.m. Friends and relatives invited (Baltimore papers please copy).

**Lear, Tobias** d. 11 Oct 1816 54 yrs. **R28/14**

Tobias Lear was born in 1762. From 1786 he was the private secretary of George Washington and resided at Mt. Vernon as a member of the family and tutor to Mrs. Washington's grandchildren. He received \$200 per year. He published "Observations on the River Potomack, The County Adjacent and the City of Washington" in 1793. He was present at Washington's bedside on his death and arranged his funeral. He received 360 acres in the will of George Washington. In 1802 he served as U.S. Consul to Santo Domingo and in 1804 as Counsel General at Algiers. In his later years he was a clerk at the War Department. He committed suicide October 11, 1816.

*The National Intelligencer, August 2, 1814*

Tobias Lear, has, we learn, been appointed by the President to the office of Accountant of the War Department, vice William Simmons removed.

*The National Intelligencer, October 12, 1816.*

In this city yesterday, suddenly, Col. Tobias Lear, Accountant of the Department of War. His private life was exemplary and he had filled various public stations under successive administrations with deserved reputation. His loss is deeply lamented by his family and friends.

*Dictionary of American Biography*

September 19, 1762 - October 11, 1816. Consular Officer. Son of Colonel Tobias Lear and Mary (Stilson) Lear; born at Portsmouth, N.H. His father was a prosperous shipmaster, and later a farmer. Tobias Lear graduated at Harvard in 1783, and traveled and studied in Europe. This led to his engagement as Private Secretary to General George Washington after his retirement to Mount Vernon in 1785, which position he held seven years, endearing himself to Washington and his family and becoming a life-long friend. While at Mount Vernon he published "Observations on the River Potomack, the Country Adjacent, and the City of Washington" (1793), probably the earliest separate monograph on the District of Columbia.

In 1790 he married Mary (Polly) Long of Portsmouth N.H., who died in 1793. He then went abroad carrying letters of introduction from Washington and Jefferson; returned in 1794 and settled in Alexandria, Va. Was elected President of the Potomac Canal Company in 1795, and that year married Frances (Bassett) Washington, a niece of Martha Washington and the widow of George Augustine, Washington's nephew. After her death, he married Frances Dandridge Henley, another niece of Mrs. Washington. In 1799, when war was imminent, Washington appointed him his military secretary, with rank of Colonel, and Lear remained with him until his death, and received a substantial legacy from him.

In 1801 he was appointed by President Jefferson as Consul at Santo Domingo, a difficult and dangerous post at that time. After General LeClerc, sent by Napoleon, took possession of the island, Lear was forced to return to America. He was then named Consul to Algiers, with power to negotiate a treaty with Tripoli and adjust affairs with any of the Barbary rulers. He was tactful and well suited for this work. He made a treaty with Morocco, kept peace with Algiers, and adjusted affairs with Tunisia.

Since the loss of the "Philadelphia", 300 prisoners had been held at Tripoli. A treaty had been discussed for two years, when suddenly, in June 1805, Lear signed an agreement with the Pasha acceding ransom for those

American prisoners. This treaty was upheld by the Government, but became a political issue. Opponents of the administration felt that in view of the fleet being in the Mediterranean and land operations in progress under William Eaton, Navy Agent to the Barbary States, no money should have been provided. It is not known why he made this hasty treaty; perhaps because of seemingly groundless fear of the naval officers for the safety of the prisoners, because of his own "passion for peace", or because he felt certain of securing liberal terms at that time. He remained in Algiers until the beginning of the War of 1812, at which time the Dey, expecting the United States to be defeated by Great Britain, gave him summary orders to leave.

Arriving in Washington under the cloud of the ill-timed treaty with Tripoli, Lear found his diplomatic career at an end. He was made accountant for the War Department, and on October 11, 1816, he committed suicide, leaving no explanation of his deed.

*Ely, Selden Marvin, "The District of Columbia In The American Revolution and Patriots of the Revolutionary Period Who Are Interred in the District or In Arlington," Columbia Historical Society, Vol 21, pp. 128-154*

The remains of Tobias Lear, the private secretary of George Washington and foreign emissary, repose in Congressional Cemetery. Some reports include Lear as worthy of Revolutionary honors. He came of a patriot family and a "Tobias Lear" signed a petition to the State Committee of Safety from Portsmouth, N.H., May 5, 1777. Reliable biographies give the date of his birth September 19, 1762, and this would make his age such as to cast doubt on his signing the petition. The signature is probably that of his father, Capt. Tobias Lear, Sr. The career of Tobias Lear, Jr., seems to have begun after he was graduated from Harvard in 1783.