

Roy Talford Fowkes

(- 11 Mar 1945)

Fowkes, Roy Talford. On Sunday, March 11, 1945, at Alexandria, Va., Hospital, Roy Talford Fowkes, beloved father of Elsie Jackson. Funeral from the W.W. Deal funeral home, 4812 Georgia ave. n.w., on Tuesday, March 13, at 3:30 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

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Capt. Talford Fowkes, Potomac Skipper for Many Years, Dies

Capt. Talford Fowkes, 83, one of the last of the old-time Potomac River steamboat captains, died yesterday in Alexandria Hospital after an illness of one week.

For more than 45 years, "Capt. Tallie" sailed the Potomac and its tributaries, first as an apprentice to his father, Samuel Fowkes, and later as master of his own ship on excursion and ferry boat lines.

He first sailed in 1875 on his father's three and four masted schooners which carried oysters, fish and lumber from Norfolk and the Chesapeake Bay ports to Washington. Later he was skipper of the old excursion boats which made trips to Virginia points.

For many years he was captain of ferry boats plying the Potomac between Alexandria and Washington. Besides his passengers he carried horses and wagons and market produce. During this period he experienced the only fire aboard his ship during his many years on the Potomac. The ferry Mary Washington caught fire one evening after it had docked and Capt. Fowkes rushed back on the deserted ship to get his license and personal mementoes.

After the Washington and Alexandria Ferry Boat Co. discontinued service Capt. Fowkes joined the A.J. Taylor Co. dredging firm as captain of the tug Mitchell Davis. In 1920 he became connected with the American Dredging Co. of Philadelphia. Failing eyesight caused his retirement in 1928.

His daughter, Mrs. Leonard Jackson, sr., with whom he made his home at 2601 Davis avenue; Alexandria, recalled that her father was commended when during the World War he detected a small fire on an ammunition boat.

Funeral services will be at 3:30 p.m. tomorrow at the Deal funeral home. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.