

Col. William Lawrence

(- 7 Jan 1841)

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 Col. 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:

Lawrence, William. 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.