

Benjamin Lincoln Lear

(11 Mar 1792 – 1 Oct 1832)

Lear, Benjamin Lincoln. 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

Benjamin Lincoln Lear



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.

The National Intelligencer, June 22, 1816

Fourth of July

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.

The National Intelligencer, October 2, 1832

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.

Will of Benjamin L. Lear, of Washington Co., D.C. (dtd June 27, 1832, probated Nov. 9, 1832, Will Book 4)

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 to 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 property; lost 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