

## Dr. Joseph Lovell

(22 Dec 1788 – 17 Oct 1836)

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**Lovell.** Yesterday evening at half past 3 o'clock, Joseph Lovell, M.D., Surgeon General of the U.S. Army. The officers of the Navy and Army and the friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral of the deceased at 4 o'clock this evening.

*The National Intelligencer, October 19, 1836*

### Obituary

It rarely falls to our lot to record the death of one whose loss to the community and the profession, both military and civil, of which he was a distinguished member, is so deeply and widely spread as the untimely exit of Dr. Joseph Lovell, M.D., late Surgeon General of the Army. Cut down in the prime of life, in the full career of great usefulness, he has left a void in society, and in the military service of his country, which but few who may follow can adequately fill.

Dr. Lovell entered the Army in 1812, on the declaration of war with Great Britain, as Surgeon of the 9th regiment of United States Infantry. He served in the memorable campaigns on the Niagara frontier in 1813 and 1814. His patriotic devotion to the public service, and the faithful discharge of his official duties, soon distinguished him in the camp and in the field, among his brother officers, and in his profession. Promoted to the rank of Hospital Surgeon, he eventually was selected by President Madison, in 1818, to fill the important station of Surgeon General of the Army; a post which his talents, medical skill, and, above all, his great experience as a tried officer of the Medical Staff, eminently qualified him to fill with honor and great advantage to the public service.

In his social duties, the domestic circle, and as father, husband--all the ties which bind the Christian and the man to the obligations of the world--Dr. Lovell stood conspicuous. His bereaved family--eleven motherless and now fatherless children--who will attempt to depict their woe! Let other hands, at a more appropriate season, fill up the outline of the character and services of the lamented Lovell, now hastily and so briefly sketched.

Every mark of respect was paid to his mortal remains last evening at 4 o'clock, by his numerous friends, both Officers and citizens. We also noticed the President's family (Jackson), the heads of Departments and Bureaus, and the principal officers of the Government now at Washington. The Pallbearers were:

Maj. Gen. Macomb,	Commodore Rodgers,
Brig. Gen. Jones,	Commodore Morris,
General Towson,	Colonel Twiggs,
Colonel Wainwright,	Major Cross.

The Clergy, Medical Faculty, and Officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, present at the Seat of Government, followed the relatives of the deceased as mourners. We understand it was the wish of several volunteer corps of the District to have participated in paying the highest military honors to the deceased, if time and circumstances had permitted.

**Will of Joseph Lovell**, of City of Washington, D.C. (dtd. Oct. 10, 1836, probated Oct. 20, 1836; Book 4, pp. 330-331; O.S. 1883; Box 13)

One third of estate to be divided equally between five sons: James Lovell, Mansfield Lovell Joseph Lovell, John MacPherson Berrien Lovell, and William Farley Storrow Lovell; remaining 2/3 of estate to be equally divided between six daughters: Eliza Ann Lovell, Sarah Augusta Porter Lovell, Harriet Mansfield Lovell, Floride Calhoun Lovell, Josephine Lovell, and Margaret Eliza Mansfield Lovell; if servant man Harry or Henry sold he have choice of master.

Exrs.: THomas G. Mower, surgeon in the U.S. Army; Nathan Towson, of City of Washington; Elisha Jenkins, of Hudson, Columbia Co., N.Y.

Wits. Thomas Miller; George Gilliss; B. King

*History of the Medical Society of D.C., 1811-1909*

Born Dec. 22, 1788, Boston, Mass. M.D., 1811, Harvard. Surgeon, 9th U.S. Infantry, 1812-1814; served on Niagara frontier; Hospital Surgeon, 1814-18; Surgeon General, U.S.A., 1818-36. Died Oct. 17, 1836, of pneumonia. One of the founders and a counselor of the Medical Assn., D.C. "Army and Navy surgeons were actively instrumental in the organization of the two medical societies in the District of Columbia; and the profession of the District owes to two army surgeons the inception, organization and successful defense of a society established in 1833 to define and prescribe the rules and regulations of ethical intercourse and relations of medical gentlemen and of the profession with the public at large." Furnished a transcript of the rules and regulations of a similar society in Boston as a guide to its formation. Member of National Institute. Married E. Mansfield, Sept. 1817. See Drake's Amer. Biog., 1872, p. 565; Brown's History, pp. 268, 282, 286; Powell's History, pp. 59, 80, 121, 441; Busey's Reminiscences, p. 204.

*Heitman*: Born Massachusetts, Surgeon 9th Infantry May 15, 1812; Hosp. Surgeon June 30, 1814, Surgeon General, April 18, 1818; died October 17, 1836.

*Who's Who*: Lovell, Joseph, Physician, army officer; b. Boston Dec. 22, 1788; son of James and Deborah (Gorham) Lovell; A.B. Harvard, 1807, M.D., 1811; married Margaret Mansfield, 11 children including Mansfield. Surgeon 4th Infantry, U.S. Army 1812-1814; director U.S. Army Hospital, Williamsville, NY, 1814-17; Chief Medical Officer, No. Dept. U.S. Army 1817; Surgeon General, U.S. Army, 1818-36, head of new Army medical department. Died Oct. 17, 1836.