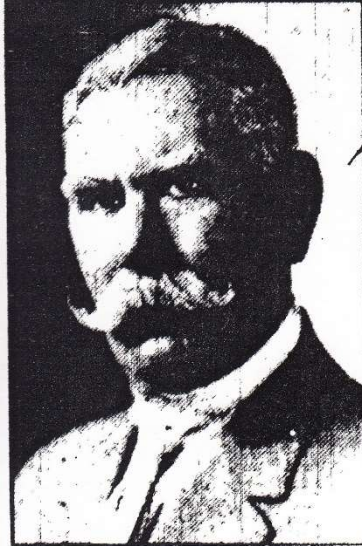


## William Edward Lockett

(29 Dec 1854 – 11 Jul 1929)

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**Lockett, William E.** Suddenly at his residence, 408 6th st. s.e., William E. Lockett, beloved husband of Blanche Adams Lockett. Remains resting at Gawler's funeral chapel, 1750 Pennsylvania ave. n.w. where services will be held Saturday, July 13 at 2 p.m. Friends and relatives invited to attend.



CAPT. WILLIAM E. LOCKETT.

*The Evening Star, July 12, 1929, p. 17*

### **Veteran Pilot Dead**

### **Capt. W.E. Lockett Claimed By Death**

### **Heart Attack Proves Fatal to Civilian Pilot of Yacht Mayflower**

The first serious illness of his 74 years, yesterday was fatal to Capt. William Edward Lockett, for more than half a century a pilot on the Potomac River, and official civilian pilot of the Mayflower, the presidential yacht from the time it was put into commission until it was retired. He died of a heart attack at his residence 408 Sixth street southeast, yesterday afternoon.

Capt. Lockett complained of feeling ill early yesterday, and was treated at home by a physician. He was listening to baseball scores over the radio when he died. Only a moment before he had asked his wife to bring him a glass of water and then fell over on a bed while she was in an adjoining room.

Known as the "Grand Old Man of the Potomac" Capt. Lockett was affectionately called Capt. "Bill" Lockett by rivermen and notables.

### *Knew Many Notables*

He became intimately acquainted with all Presidents from Roosevelt to Coolidge and knew President Hoover slightly. He also knew many visiting dignitaries who had been passengers on the Mayflower as he piloted it down the Potomac. Among them were King Albert of Belgium with whom he corresponded, Marshal Foch, Admiral Beatty and others.

A keen observer of men, Capt. Lockett could readily describe the personalities of the many famous persons with whom he was acquainted. King Albert of Belgium had been described by him as "very democratic and a royal good mixer." Likewise, he is said to have made comments on the traits exhibited by other notables.

During his many years of service Capt. Lockett had piloted practically every type of ship on the Potomac. He was pilot of the U.S.S. Olympic when it conveyed the body of the Unknown Soldier to Washington. He also piloted the cruiser Memphis when it brought Col. Charles A. Lindbergh here after the latter's famous transatlantic flight. Capt. Lockett several times had commented on the striking contrast of the two occasions, referring to the sadness and solemnity upon the occasion of the return of the Unknown Soldier and the gayety existing when Lindbergh came here.

Capt. Lockett was born here December 29, 1854, and had resided here all his life. He was educated in the public schools and soon after being graduated from high school began as apprentice pilot.

### *Service in Navy*

His knowledge of the river gained for him a pilot's license at the age of 20 years. His early service on the water included a brief period in the Navy.

He knew the river and its many landmarks so well that he never had to use a sounding-weight or a light of any sort in piloting ships on the darkest nights.

Capt. Lockett's first command of importance was the old excursion boat George Leary, which ran between Washington and Norfolk Va. Later he piloted the Mary Washington on her excrsion trips to Quantico. Afterward he was captain for a number of years of the Washington, which plied between here and Norfolk.

Capt. Lockett's services were immediately sought when the Mayflower was put in commission. President Roosevelt was the first of the Presidents to make trips on her and Roosevelt children became great favorites of the veteran captain.

In later years Capt. Lockett taught Quentin Roosevelt, who gave his life in France, many principles of piloting and navigation.

Capt. Lockett took the Mayflower down the river on her last trip after President Hoover had ordered the ship placed in retirement. His last official trip on the river was a pilot of the Nitro, bringing powder from the Virginia Capes to the Indian Head Proving Grounds about a month ago.

Capt. Lockett is survived by his widow, who was Miss Blanche Gertrude Adams, to whom he was married in 1895, and a sister, Mrs. William Grinder of Indian Head, Md.

Capt. Lockett was a member of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Society of Natives, was treasurer of the Southeast Washington Citizens' Association and active in the Masons, belong to the Andrew Jackson Lodge, Alexandria; the Knights Templar and Almas Temple of the Shrine.

Funeral services will be conducted in Gawler's chapel, 1750 Pennsylvania avenue, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Thomas Turkington will officiate. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, July 13, 1929, p. 7*

### **Lockett Funeral Rites Held Today**

#### **Veteran Potomac Pilot to Be Buried in Congressional Cemetery**

Funeral services for Capt. William Edward Lockett, veteran pilot of the Potomac, who died at his home, 408 Sixth street southeast, Thursday afternoon, will be conducted at Gawler's Chapel, 1750 Pennsylvania avenue, this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. Thomas Turkington will officiate. Interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Representatives of the Association of Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia and other organizations of which Capt. Lockett was a member are expected to attend., in addition to many other friends he had made during his lifelong residence here.

Capt. Lockett's death resulted from a heart attack, the first serious illness he had suffering during his 74 years. In his long career of more than 50 years a pilot on the Potomac, Capt. Lockett had piloted practically ever type of ship, including the presidential yacht Mayflower and at various times had served as captain of a number of them. He was affectionately known to both rivermen and many notables as Capt. "Bill" Lockett.