

Joseph W. Reed

(22 Apr 1837 – 18 Apr 1928)

The Evening Star, June 16, 1904, p. 8

The Wawaset Disaster

Potomac River Steamer Burns With Great Loss of Life

On Saturday, August 9, 1873, Washingtonians were shocked by the news as told in *The Evening Star* of that date of the burning of the Potomac river steamer Wawaset and the loss of fifty lives, which occurred on Friday at Chatterson's Landing, in Prince George's county, Md. The steamer was entirely destroyed and was beached on the Virginia shore.

The origin of the fire on the Wawaset, which started in the engine room, was never learned. She was making her regular trip to the various wharves along the Potomac with about 110 passengers on board. When near Chatterson's Landing flames were seen issuing from the hold of the vessel, and before anything could be done to extinguish them the entire steamer was consumed, and nothing remained of her but a broken shaft and smokestack to mark the place where she went down.

An incident of the fatality was the loss sustained by Policeman Reed of South Washington, who lost his entire family by drowning.

Reed. On Wednesday, April 18 of the Odd Fellows Home, beloved father of Warren Reed. Funeral from the chapel of A.J. Schippert, 2008 Pennsylvania avenue, n.w., on Friday, April 20 at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

Washington and its Environs, John C. Proctor

Congressional Cemetery, The Reed Family and the Steamer Wawaset

Joseph Reed, the stricken father, for many years following the death of his wife and children, conducted a cigar store at the northwest corner of Ninth and D streets northwest, and the writer had seen him here many times. He died a few years ago.