

George W. Taylor

(- 28 Apr 1850)

Taylor. In this city on Sunday the 28th instant, Capt. George W. Taylor. His funeral will take place this afternoon at 4 o'clock from his late residence, corner of H and 8th streets. His friends and those of his family are invited to attend without further notice.

The National Intelligencer, June 14, 1850

Obituary

Died in Washington, the 28th of April last, Captain George W. Taylor, the well known submarine armor and diving bell man, aged 43 years.

Captain Taylor was remarkable for his perseverance and energy of character. The word "fail" was never in his vocabulary. If he could not succeed in one branch of business he left it at once, for the time being, and concentrated his energies upon some other.

His system of submarine batteries, for the defense of harbors and for blowing up the ships of an enemy, though believed to be capable of rendering great service in a time of war, was never contracted for by the Government, nor put into operation. With his submarine armor and his diving bell he made many successful experiments, and produced some highly beneficial results.

He furnished for the Government during the last Administration three sets of marine camels for lifting ships over bars, and for getting them off when aground or ashore, for which he received some \$22,000, per set. One set he took to our squadron near Vera Cruz, during the existence of the war with Mexico. At the taking of Tabasco he acted as volunteer, and behaved handsomely.

At the commencement of the present Administration, Mr. Secretary Preston, at the suggestion of some of the commanders in the service, contracted with Captain Taylor to go to Gibraltar and examine the condition of the war steamer Missouri, sunk at that point some five or six years ago. He made the examination, and reported his observations to the Department. While on this duty he lost his health, and, in the hopes of regaining strength, repaired to Madeira. But, failing in this, he next proceeded to Havana, and remained in that warm climate a month or two. But still being feeble, he concluded to seek a colder climate and left Havana for New York. This change he thought braced him up, and improved his health. Soon afterwards he came to the seat of Government. But here his lungs became more oppressed, and he kept on declining until the 8th of April, when he died, leaving a wife and daughter, and a circle of friends who knew him well, to mourn the demise in the prime of his life, of a man so full of enterprise and public spirit. H.E.